



SAINT TIMOTHY CATHOLIC CHURCH

"It Has Opened Windows on My Faith and My Understanding of It that I Never Knew Existed" *The RCIA Process at St. Timothy*

Ten years ago, Phyllis Hachey agreed to serve as a sponsor for someone who wanted to become Catholic and a member of our parish through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, or RCIA, here at St. Timothy. Phyllis found that although the candidate she was sponsoring gained much from being a part of the program and did indeed come into the Church at the Easter Vigil, she may have gained even more herself.

"A family member convinced me to be her sponsor," Phyllis says. "However, I think I may have learned more about my faith than she did. I was so impressed with the program that I became part of the team, and I continue to be so to this day. Although one might think that the RCIA program benefits those who are going through it as candidates the most, I have grown more in my own faith by being part of it. It has opened windows on my faith and my understanding of it that I never knew existed."



A lifelong "cradle Catholic" who not only grew up in the faith, but also was educated in Catholic schools, Phyllis is proud and very appreciative of the opportunity to be part of RCIA. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, promulgated by the Church in 1974 and revised in 1988, is a ritual process, not an automatic process, through which those desiring to be in full communion with the Catholic Church are formed as disciples of Jesus Christ through evangelization, catechesis, and the Sacraments of Initiation.

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The RCIA Process at St. Timothy *continued from front cover*

Here at St. Timothy, Deacon Jerry Crall heads the RCIA process, and he is supported by some 10 team members, of which Phyllis Hachey is one. Throughout the year, the team and candidates meet on Tuesday nights for Inquiry classes (for those in the early stages of the process) and on Thursday nights for the catechumens (those in active formation). Although it may vary with each candidate – as they move through the process at a pace of their choosing, and they decide when they are prepared for the next step – many officially come into the Church at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, the night before Easter Sunday.

Throughout the year, six retreats are offered to those in the RCIA process. Phyllis works on planning and preparing for the retreats.

“I do a lot of the leg work to make sure everything is ready, but it is Deacon Jerry Crall who is responsible for the content,” she says. “He also arranges for other witnesses and presenters, not only at the retreats, but at the weekly sessions through the year which give the program so much meaning and so many spiritual contributions. Sometimes, I think we all need to experience something like this,

no matter how long we may have been Catholic. It is not just a question of understanding what it means to be a Catholic, but also what it means to live as a Catholic Christian. We have opened up much of our program to the members of the parish. Many begin with us and then advance into one of our Bible study programs at St. Timothy.”

Phyllis also notes how RCIA fits in with St. Timothy’s efforts to be a stewardship parish.

“One of the key words in the stewardship process is ‘conversion,’” she says. “That is what we are trying to do in RCIA. We like to say that transformation is more important than information. It is not just what happens in your mind, but what happens in your heart. Those who have been in our RCIA program tend to be involved and active in the Church in many ways, because they understand that unless you use your faith, knowledge of it does not mean much.”

For more information on our RCIA process here at St. Timothy, please contact Deacon Jerry Crall at 813-968-1077.



Make Prayer and Hospitality Pillars of Your Lenten Journey

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the coming weeks, we will conclude our Lenten observance, experience Holy Week, and celebrate the joy of Easter. Of course, I hope that you have made some effort to make this Lenten season special and significant, but if you have not, it is never too late to accomplish that goal.

With thoughts of Lent, Easter and the Year of Mercy at the top of my mind, I offer a couple suggestions to help carry you to the end of your Lenten journey.

As you know, prayer is foundational to stewardship, as it is one of the Four Pillars of a stewardship parish — along with hospitality, formation and service. With this in mind, here are some suggestions on how you might make your prayers even more consequential.

Pick someone to pray for, perhaps even someone you don't get along with. Just pray for them. You do not have to tell them you are praying for them, but the exercise is good for you, and for them, as well. If possible, find a time this month to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, especially if this is something you do not normally do. Pray every morning shortly after you get up, and again each evening before you turn in. It does not have to be a long prayer, but it does need to be done consistently.

In terms of the pillar of hospitality, there is also much we can do in this area, both as a parish and as individuals and families. Here is a suggestion that involves hospitality — one that is also connected to gratitude and even the Year of Mercy. Many of us spend time at a computer. It is a way for us to stay connected to those who are close to us, and to the world around us. Why not begin and end each week emailing someone a



note of thanksgiving? Again, it does not have to be lengthy, but when we think about it, each of our lives is filled with people to whom we should be grateful.

Just send that someone a note thanking them for something specifically, or in general. By starting and ending each week like that, our minds are in the right place for prayer and for having the attitude that Christ asks us to have.

I thank you for all you do, for our parish, for the Church, for one another, and for me personally. I am blessed. Like most, I may not express it often enough. I pray for you, and I ask you to pray for me during this holy time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Kenneth J. Malley".

Rev. Kenneth Malley





Upcoming Green Team Workday Promis



Green Team Coordinator Diane Tousignant and Fr. Ken Malley take a break during a past Community Work Day.



JUNE 2016

St. Timothy Catholic Church in Lutz
"A Place of Rest Where Life is Always in Bloom"
by Diane Tousignant

This photo was chosen by the Hillsborough County Stormwater Environmental Programs for their 2016 calendar. The St. Timothy Green Team has worked hard to create and maintain landscaping around the parish pond.

In the Bible, we're told that all creation praises God, and even the rocks cry out to Him. Here at St. Timothy, there's no shortage of the beauty of that creation to take us out of our busy world and bring us back to the peace of His presence.

From dozens of rose bushes, to inviting benches that give a place for pause and reflection, to a pond featuring plants native to Florida, none of it would be possible without the hardworking parishioners who come together to form the Green Team.

"As soon as people drive onto the property, we want to nurture not just the spiritual side, but the aesthetic, as well," says group coordinator Diane Tousignant. "You can drive in and appreciate the beauty of God's nature. It enhances the worship by having the grounds looking so beautiful."

Diane and her fellow coordinator, Chris Caneidy, head up the Green Team, an organization whose mission is to maintain and improve the grounds around the St. Timothy campus. By working with local landscapers and hosting community workdays, the team works to gradually extend a sense of reverent worship to our parish campus through sustainable and native plantings.

"What we try to do is to maintain an atmosphere of welcome for all the people who come onto the property," Diane says. "Chris and I do most of the planning, but it's the parishioners that really make the big difference, because they're the ones who do the actual work when we have our workdays."

The best part? Nearly anyone of any age can get involved in some way.

"I started when I was 5, working with my German grandmother on all fours planting bulbs for her," Chris says. "That was where I began to develop an interest. I never lost that desire, and I knew as soon as I retired, I would be plunging right back into gardening. As those plantings grow and change from season to season, it just compounds the posi-

es Stewardship Opportunity for All Ages

tive feedback and the feeling you get. Ninety percent of the reason I garden is to go out and see what I did and watch it change. That's when I'm close to heaven."

Green Team workdays take place twice per year, in March and October. Parishioners of all ages and backgrounds, whether they possess a "green thumb" or not, are invited to lend a hand wherever possible helping plant, weed and mulch.

"Our next workday is March 12," Diane says. "We invite the parishioners to come out and join us. We assign them different areas and we basically guide the parishioners and work alongside of them. It creates a sense of community and a sense of ownership for the parishioners who come out. We pre-order all of the mulch and plants, and we have a list of projects that we're trying to accomplish that day. The workday is from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., followed by a luncheon. That helps to foster a sense of community, too, for the prayer of thanksgiving and lunch and time to socialize and get to know each other a little bit more."

Chris encourages families to get involved in the workdays to-



A team of girls clearing away brush during a recent Green Team Community Work Day. Green Team Coordinator Chris Canedy says he would like to see more families get involved with the team as a way of teaching young parishioners about being good stewards of God's creation.

gether as a way of teaching our youngest parishioners about being stewards of the natural world God has provided for us.

"Fr. Malley is hugely interested in educating the youth about planting and farming," Chris says. "We're in the midst of putting in an edible garden with trees and shrubs, and everything will be edible. We're

thinking of doing a little educational seminar for the kids. Our need is for youth. We want to try to get them interested in coming out to the parish to plant a tree. We have a great time and when the youth do come, we really try to give them as much in the way of positive feedback in the way of what they're doing as possible."

Make plans to come out for the next workday, Saturday, March 12, at 8 a.m. on the parish grounds! Please contact Diane Tousignant at 813-784-3074 or dianetous@hotmail.com, or Chris Canedy at 813-416-3622 or ccanedy@verizon.net to express interest, or simply show up that day to join in! All are welcome.



Stewardship The Wise Men's Gifts Symbolize Our Lenten Obligations

We experience great joy when we celebrate the coming of the Magi at Epiphany each year. For many of us, it is the completion of Christmas. Yet, the gifts offered by the Magi — gold, frankincense and myrrh — can serve to guide us as we observe Lent this month.

It may seem strange to connect the joyful celebration of Epiphany with the penitential season of Lent. Yet, our spiritual life should not be divided into separate bits having no connection with each other. In the same way, the Church's liturgical year should also flow from one season to another. The different feasts and seasons certainly have different emphases, but they are intended to build on each other. So let's see if we can connect what the Magi gave Jesus with what we're going to offer Him this Lent.

The basic ingredients for our Lenten rule normally come from what are termed the Three Notable Duties — prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These in turn come from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).

How do we connect the wise men's gifts with the notable duties? Actually, what the gifts symbolize matches up surprisingly well.

Frankincense is the basic ingredient in the incense used in the worship of God, in the ancient world and in the Church today. Offering it to Jesus points out His divine nature, and so it symbolizes prayer. Our Lenten rule needs to include prayer and worship. Of course, we are bound to worship at Sunday Mass year-round. Maybe during Lent, we might add a weekday Mass. Perhaps we can increase the time we devote to private prayer at home or at adoration. Devotional reading from the Bible or another appropriate book can be added. In addition, don't forget the possibility of adding family devotions during Lent, so that the whole family prays together.

When we offer our gold to Christ to build His Church and to help His poor, we are engaged in almsgiving. While giving from the treasure God has entrusted

to us is a duty throughout the whole year, maybe this Lent we can practice being a little more generous than usual. If our giving is a thankful response to the gift of eternal life that God has given us, we will find that the giving is indeed a means of grace.

For centuries, myrrh has been associated with fasting. Although myrrh comes from the same family of plants as frankincense, it has a more pungent scent and bitter taste. In the ancient world, it was regularly used in embalming. Generations of theological writers have seen the gift of myrrh as a foreshadowing of Christ's sufferings. And fasting strengthens us in holiness and prepares us to come into God's presence after our own deaths. St. Thomas Aquinas himself linked myrrh with repentance and fasting when he wrote that myrrh represents the penance by which we preserve our souls from the corruption of sin.

Fasting may be the most difficult of the three notable duties for modern Americans. After all, most of the advertising and many of the magazine articles we see are devoted to making us more, not less, comfortable. We usually think of fasting only under the heading of dieting to lose weight. Instead, try to think of fasting as a way to become more spiritually fit. Body and spirit affect each other. The whole sacramental system is built on the truth that we can receive spiritual grace through material things and physical actions. Our specific requirements of fasting are limited — abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, and a reduction in the quantity of food we eat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. But discipline of our physical bodies for our spiritual well-being does not have to be limited to Lent!

Gold, frankincense and myrrh were indeed valuable gifts for the wise men to present to the Child Jesus. When we look at their symbolism, we can see their relationship to the three notable duties of almsgiving, prayer and fasting. What gifts are we going to offer to Jesus this Lent?

Music Enhances Parishioners' Experience of the Mass

Our Music Ministry

Isn't the gift of music a wonderful thing? It can be at once powerful, moving, and often brings about deep emotion – and this is *especially* true of music used for worship or prayer. For those who offer their musical talents to our St. Timothy Parish Choir, singing or playing music at Mass is a means to a deeper experience of the Mass, and fosters a deeper relationship with our Lord.

“To me, music is a tangible part of our soul,” says Chase White, who has been our Music Director for 13 years. “You may not be able to see it or touch it, but you can hear it and feel it, and that makes it tangible. If music is done well, it ties everything together, gives the Mass a rhythm and a flow and a purpose, and gives it beauty. The Mass itself, the sacrifice that we celebrate in the consecration every Sunday, is beautiful in itself. But when you add beautiful music, it helps people to recognize the beauty in Christ's death and resurrection. The Mass is full of symbols. Everything that we do is so thought out and well placed. Music adds to that by giving it a flow – a highway on which to travel.”

The Music Ministry is made up of ensembles that sing and play at each of the weekend Masses. The Vigil Mass on Saturday begins each weekend with a unique Folk Ensemble, made up of Chase and a married couple, parishioners here at St. Timothy. Chase plays the 7:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. Masses on his own, and the 11 a.m. Mass features the adult choir.

“It's a big choir, usually staying just under 50 members,” Chase says of the adult choir, which has made pilgrimages to Paris and to Rome to sing Mass at the Vatican. “I want to see a choir with 100 people in it. We have room for that many, and we can always make room for more people. If the people want to come, I want them. Anyone can join, high school age and up. My belief is that everybody can learn to sing better, and it's my job as music minister to make my choir members sing well. It's not their job to come to me as beautiful singers – it's my job to help them sing better. It's their job to show up!”

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CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Our Music Ministry *continued from previous page*

There is also a teen and young adult band that plays at the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Sundays, as well as a Bell Choir that plays at the 9 a.m. Mass once or twice a month.

For Chase, singing in Mass is a wonderful way to experience the Mass on a personal level, but he has a greater goal – to encourage participation in the music from the congregation, and to foster deeper relationships between our parishioners and our Lord.

“My goal for the parish is that we all become a singing parish – that’s very important to me,” Chase says.

“There are a lot of different philosophies about singing in the church. Some people think the choir is only there to support the singing of the congregation, while others believe that yes, that’s their job, but the choir can also sing some anthems or songs that just the choir sings, and the congregation participates by listening. Usually during the offertory, I’ll have the choir sing an anthem that’s appropriate. To me, the opportunity there is for people to become engaged by listening. I believe the Music Ministry’s job is to aid worshipers in drawing closer to God.”

“The Mass itself, the sacrifice that we celebrate in the consecration every Sunday, is beautiful in itself. But when you add beautiful music, it helps people to recognize the beauty in Christ’s death and resurrection. The Mass is full of symbols. Everything that we do is so thought out and well placed. Music adds to that by giving it a flow – a highway on which to travel.” – Chase White, Music Director

If you would like more information on our wonderful Music Ministry and all that is planned for the year, or if you are interested in joining your voice to the Choir, please contact Chase White via email at chase.white@sainttims.org.

• **Mass Schedule** •

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m. • Sunday: 7:30, 9, 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. • Daily: Mon-Sat 9 a.m., Wed 6:15 p.m. • Holy Days: 9 a.m. & 7 p.m. Vigil: 7 p.m.