



**SAINT TIMOTHY**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



## “Each of Us Is Called to a Vocation by God” Vocation Enrichment at St. Timothy Catholic Church

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, recognizes the need for priests and religious in the Catholic Church. Speaking recently to a group of young people who are beginning religious vocations, the pope said, “We need priests, sisters, and other religious. The Lord is calling, but it is not enough. Sometimes I think people in our society are afraid of the definitive. To choose a vocation, any vocation, including vocations to marriage, one must choose with a view to the definitive. We live in a

culture of the provisional, where nothing is definite.”

Recognizing the need to which the pope makes reference, some time ago, we established a Vocation Enrichment Team here at St. Timothy.

“It all begins with prayer, and we recognize that,” says Parish Life Director Deacon Peter J. Burns, who oversees this ministry. “Much of what we plan and much of what we do involves prayer – prayer for vocations, and prayer for those in formation. However, we need to understand that we are talking about more than vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We are talking about an attitude, a goal which each of us should have to be and to do what God wants from us.”

Throughout the year, efforts are made to make people aware of our diocesan seminarians and to provide the people with an opportunity to offer various kinds of support to them.

“We want people to come to know the young men preparing for the priesthood,”

*continued on back cover*

May 2016

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*Wayne and Sandy Hay, active on the Vocations Enrichment Team, show the poster they made to support seminarians.*

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# The Bible

## The Textbook of Stewardship

Have you ever wished that life came with an instruction manual? What a valuable resource that would be! Whenever you find yourself running in circles, this instruction manual would give you step-by-step instructions on how to fix the problem and re-route your course.

Well, here's some good news. For those living a Christian life, there is such a manual — the Bible.

Sometimes referred to as the “textbook of stewardship,” the Bible is a bountiful resource for the present-day Christian. Written by anointed prophets and sages, this collection of divinely inspired parables, poems and letters is full of testimonials that express the blessings that come from true discipleship, expressed through lives of stewardship.

Stewardship is not a new concept. The Bible gives proof to this claim through passages such as the 26th chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy. We read Moses' words, as he tells the Israelites to offer the choicest portions of their harvest to God: “When you have come into the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you as a heritage, and have occupied it and settled in it, you shall take some first fruits of the various products of the soil

which you harvest from the land which the Lord, your God, gives you, and putting them in a basket, you shall go to the place which the Lord, your God, will choose for the dwelling place of his name... ‘Therefore, I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O LORD, have given me.’ And having set them before the LORD, your God, you shall bow down in his presence” (Dt 26:1-2, 10).

St. Paul briefly touches on the essence of stewardship when he said, “In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

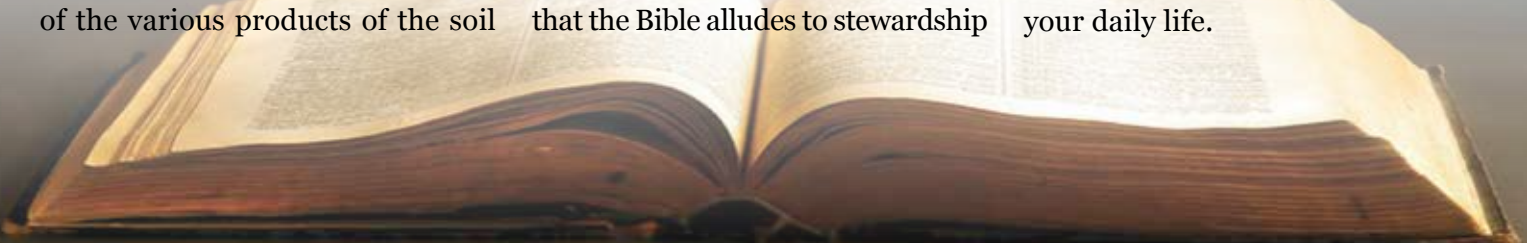
Again, in St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, we read about living a life of Christian stewardship: “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:6-7).

While this is well and good, what does it mean for the present-day Christian? Why should it matter that the Bible alludes to stewardship

in various passages? It shows us that Christians and Jews have struggled with and benefited from the concept of stewardship for thousands of years. It ties the message of stewardship to the role of a Christian disciple. It gives proof that stewardship and discipleship go hand-in-hand. It offers encouragement to us, that stewardship is in fact a foundational component of the Christian life, a way of life that one of the founding fathers of the Church — St. Paul — preached about and advocated.

The Bible is indeed the textbook of stewardship. It lays out the steps we must take to become true disciples of Christ. Reading and meditating upon God's Word is always a fruitful exercise. Those who regularly delve into Scripture often develop a deeper understanding of who God is, how and why He loves us, and how we can show Him our love in return — all most certainly important topics of discussion for any steward-in-the-making.

As you strive to become a grateful steward and live the life of Christian discipleship, develop a love for Sacred Scripture. Allow God's Word to nourish your soul regularly, and watch as stewardship changes from a foreign concept to an integral component of your daily life.



## We Are All Part of the Ministry of Hospitality

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is a time of many celebrations in the Church. The list is almost endless at this time of year – First Communions, Confirmations, graduations, and weddings. There are so many events that bring people who are not from the parish, or even members of the Church, into our parish.

You may recall that we speak of the Four Pillars of Stewardship – Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. I want to particularly speak of that pillar of Hospitality this month. It is important every day of every year and at everything we do as a parish community. However, at this time of year, when there may be strangers and newcomers in our midst, it becomes even more important.

Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith. In Matthew 25:35, the Lord speaks to us in terms of expectations when He says, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” He makes it clear to us that whenever we welcome any of His brothers and sisters, we welcome Christ Himself. Sometimes, we may think that this concept of hospitality is the responsibility of a committee, ministry or group of people assigned that task – but the truth is that we are all part of the parish hospitality effort.

If we are going to be a stewardship parish, and if each of us is going to be a good steward, we need to be aware that we need to seek and find Christ in everyone around us, everyone we meet, and certainly everyone who enters our church or other parish facilities.

Hospitality is a parish priority that each of us must take to heart. It is not so challenging to greet someone, smile at them and welcome them – yet, it may require a little extra effort on our part. That means we must have an awareness of those near us, of those who may appear to be alone or new. We may not always think of Christ in this way, but if we carefully listen to Holy



Scripture, we must realize that He was a caring, welcoming and friendly person. If we are to be His disciples, we need to be the same.

As stated, Jesus assures us that when we welcome others, we are welcoming Him, as well. St. Paul once said that people who are hospitable sometimes entertain angels. For us, parish hospitality is not an option. It is our way to model the Kingdom of God right here and right now.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Kenneth J. Malley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley







## Providing a Solid Foundation Th

Most of us cannot remember our Baptism, having received this life-giving sacrament when we were just infants. We were unaware when the waters were poured over our heads, and it was our parents and godparents, not us, who made the Baptismal promises. This is why the next two Sacraments of Christian Initiation – the Eucharist and Confirmation – play such crucial roles in an individual’s faith journey. Through these sacraments, the foundation of Christian life is strengthened as children and teens alike enter more deeply into the sacramental life.

“They were babies when they received Baptism in most cases,” says First Holy Communion catechist Daisy Cintron. “When they receive their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion it is the first sacraments that they really understand and enter into.”

Here at St. Timothy, children meet weekly in a classroom environment for two years to learn about the sacraments, as well as what it means to be Catholic. Working in conjunction with parents, catechists try to tap into each child’s natural thirst for truth, helping them encounter the person of Christ.



*First Communion catechist Daisy Cintron and some of her students who will receive their First Holy Communion this May.*

“I love being a part of instilling that love for Christ and witnessing how much they grow in their knowledge and reverence during the First Reconciliation and First Communion preparation,” Daisy says. “They hunger to learn more and to understand why things are a certain way. We have some really great conversations – when I see how much they get it, it truly touches my heart.”

Although the children preparing for the First Holy Communion are still young, Daisy’s hope is that their preparation will help “plant those seeds that will continue to grow throughout their life.” This way, even if the path of life “twists and turns,” the children will always be able to come back to their faith for strength and support.



*Sponsors and candidates gather monthly in order to learn about the Sacrament of Confirmation itself while also gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Church’s teachings. (From left) Kevin Sarmiento and his mother, Rossana Sarmiento, Anthony Seguiti and sponsor, Martin Girling, Hailey Stewart with sponsor, Gabrielle Stewart, and Emily Ryan and sponsor, Laura LoPresti.*



## through Sacramental Preparation

Parishioner and former First Communion catechist Ludi McClemdon understands how those seeds planted early on come to fruition years later, having served as catechist and mentor to Confirmation candidate Kevin Sarmiento.

“I met Kevin when he came to my First Communion class,” Ludi says. “Kevin has always been very inquisitive and happy – he likes to talk and answer questions, he likes to learn everything that there is to learn.”

Having witnessed Kevin’s participation in the Church blossom and grow, Ludi was honored when he asked her to become his Confirmation sponsor – as a sponsor, Ludi has been attending monthly sacramental preparation classes with Kevin. During these gatherings, a wide variety of material has been covered from learning about the Sacrament of Confirmation itself, to general instruction that provides a deeper understanding of the Church and Her teachings.

“Attending these classes with Kevin has been a kind of refresher for me, as well –providing an opportunity to really learn about the sacraments,” Ludi says. “Every day is a learning process, and the more involved you are in the Church, the more you learn, drawing closer to Christ. It helps me keep my own



*Ludi McClemdon is proud to be the Confirmation sponsor of former First Communion student Kevin Sarmiento, whom she describes as always desiring to "learn everything that there is to learn" about God and His Church.*

faith growing, and I enjoy seeing all of these kids learning about their faith in Jesus.”

In addition to their monthly preparation classes, Confirmation candidates are also required to complete service hours throughout the year and to attend a retreat. All of this is intended to help the teens truly take ownership of their faith.

“It is so important to form our youth in the faith because they are the young church,” Ludi says. “They are the future – the ones who are going to keep the light of Christ alive. It is very important that they have a strong faith foundation that will help them hold on later in life.”

This year, our children will receive their First Holy Communion either at a private Mass for family and friends only on Saturday,

May 14, at 11 a.m. or during the Sunday 9 and 11 a.m. liturgies on May 15. Confirmation candidates will receive their final Sacrament of Christian Initiation on Sunday, May 15 during the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Parishioners are invited to attend these liturgies, supporting the young people while also renewing their own commitment to Christ and His Church. As our youth conclude their final preparations, please continue to lift them up in prayer!

*For more information about our Sacramental Preparation programs here at St. Timothy, please contact the Parish Office at 813-968-1077.*





*For last year's program, Lisa Gaspar led the "summit session" at the end of each day.*

## Summer at St. Timothy is Exciting for Our Kids

If you've noticed a buzz of excitement among our young people in the parish, there is plenty of good reason!

On July 21, 12 of our teens will be traveling to World Youth Day in Poland where, among other activities, they will have an audience with Pope Francis, and celebrate Mass with him.

And on June 13, the first week of our Vacation Bible School, "Cave Quest" will open for the younger set.

Jen Linder, Youth Ministry Coordinator, is among the adults taking our 12 teens from the parish's high school youth group to World Youth Day, along with about 60 others from the diocese.

"We leave July 21 and come back Aug. 2," Jen says. "The actual World Youth Day in Poland runs from July 25 through July 30. The pope will meet with us and we'll have Mass with him. He'll also speak to the masses."

The group will tour Krakow and Warsaw, where they will visit the spiritually significant sites of several saints.

"World Youth Day serves the young adult Catholic population," Jen says. "Many young adults attend them. The kids are excited about the pope. We've been watching the videos of his Washington, D.C., visit – of him greeting the crowds. The kids are saying, 'That will be us!' They're so excited to be close to him and

excited about how holy the area is. It should be a huge experience for everyone and for all the pilgrims attending. The kids definitely see this as an opportunity to grow in their faith."

Our younger parishioners are counting down the days until Vacation Bible School begins. Pam Burke, Coordinator of Religious Education, and volunteer Lisa Gaspar are preparing for the two sessions that run from June 13-17 and June 20-24. Vacation Bible School hours are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"The theme is 'Cave Quest,' and it's an underground adventure that teaches the kids that God's love takes them through the dark times," Pam says.

The program is for children who are in PS4 and are going to PK, and up to fifth grade. Registration began in March and Pam anticipates that both sessions will be full. The fee per week is \$50 for the first child and \$45 for the second child and up. The children will receive a CD with all the songs they sing during VBS, a T-shirt, and each day they take home a "sciencey-fun" gizmo to share with their family and tell them what they learned at VBS.

"We do give a discount for the parents who volunteer, which is a nice connection if they want to share the day with their child," Pam says.

*continued on page 7*

## Summer at St. Timothy *continued from page 6*

Each day begins with songs, an introduction to the Bible buddy and a Bible verse. The overall theme of “Cave Quest” is to “follow Jesus, the Light of the World.”

“Through the fun activities, the Bible points are reinforced,” Pam says. “The program brings in fun characters each day, and the children get to know each character.”

Lisa says she can see how Vacation Bible School deepens the children’s faith.

“What’s so neat about it, the kids don’t realize how the stories are in these Bible expeditions that are acted out,” she says. “The material is a different way to bring the stories to the children. The songs engage the kids about God and how He loves them. It gets the kids involved and it brings it to life for them.”

The schedule during each day’s session makes sure the kids are kept moving and therefore, engaged.

“I’m the emcee,” Lisa says. “I open the program and close the program. I introduce each message to the kids, and keep it short. I have a lot of energy, and I get a little goofy! I get excited! I’m passionate about my faith, and I like [that] I can share with the kids.”

During the day, when she is not leading the music portion, Lisa walks around and engages the children she meets with one of the lessons.

“I’ll say, ‘Jesus gives us hope!’ and they say, ‘Follow Him!’” she says. “They’re building a foundation for forever.”

Of course, both Pam and Lisa agree that Vacation Bible School would not be possible without the volunteers, both parents and older students.

“We serve 100 kids each week and we have about 50 volunteers each week who help directly with the crews and stations,” Pam says. “There are additional people in the parish who help with donations and decorations over the two-week period.”

“The kids who are older are volunteers now,” Lisa says. “That is so neat. They want to help out. The program doesn’t happen without so many volunteers. Some volunteer one week and some for two weeks. So many volunteers – it takes a village to run Vacation Bible School!”



*Fr. Malley even joined in the fun!*

*If you have questions about Vacation Bible School, please call Pam Burke at 813-961-1716. If you have questions about World Youth Day, please call Jen Linder at 813-968-1077, ext 240.*



# SAINT TIMOTHY

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## Vocation Enrichment *continued from front cover*

Deacon Peter says. “In our narthex is a framed photo of all those seminarians in formation. Each summer, we try to have a seminarian assigned here so people can meet and become acquainted with a seminarian firsthand. We do special prayers at Mass on Wednesday, and the diocese provides us with a list of priests and seminarians for whom we can pray each and every day.”

Families have always been at the heart of journeys to vocations. We may not all be called to a religious vocation, but we are all called to a vocation in service to God and others. Commitment to vocations begins in the home and radiates outward to the various small communities in which families are involved – their parishes, clubs and schools, to name a few.

As Pope St. John Paul II stated, “The family is the primary and most excellent seedbed of vocations to a life of consecration to the Kingdom of God.” It is important for families to embrace the idea of a vocation for each person. A vocation is the sincere gift of self, an ardent love that allows each person to seek and find his or her vocation in life. If the Gospel is not taught and lived in the

home, it is difficult for children to grow up with a sense of mission, with the idea of being called to a vocation.

“When the parents are raising their children in an atmosphere which produces a trust in and a relationship to God, children are more likely to see the importance of them discerning their place in the world, including perhaps through a religious vocation,” Deacon Peter says. “Strong spiritual priests and sisters and religious come from strong spiritual families. Each of us is called to a vocation by God. Our task is to identify that vocation and then pursue it.”

Deacon Peter points to St. Catherine of Siena for inspiration relating to vocations. St. Catherine said, “Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.”

*For more information on religious vocations or to learn how you can be part of the effort to support them, please contact Deacon Peter Burns at 813-968-1077 or [deaconpeter@sainttims.org](mailto:deaconpeter@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.