



SAINT TIMOTHY CATHOLIC CHURCH



“Leave Something Behind for the Church to Build On” **Legacy Giving**

When the friends and family of Jan Schinsky spend time in our day chapel, the colorful stained glass windows remind them of her inspiring life and faith. The windows, which brighten and beautify the entire chapel, are a legacy that Jan left our church upon her passing in 2010. This kind of gifting – called Legacy Giving – is a wonderful opportunity offered by our parish and the Diocese of St. Petersburg through the Catholic Foundation. While many parishioners are not aware of the various ways that giving to the Church can be included in one’s end-of-life planning, Larry Schinsky is hoping to change that by spreading the word about the importance of Legacy Giving.

As Larry explains, deciding to leave a legacy gift to the church is no different than planning how to pass gifts down to family members.

“The word ‘legacy’ generally implies to leave something behind for somebody, like an heirloom piece of furniture you

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The stained glass windows depicting the Holy Family in the St. Timothy day chapel are a legacy gift left to our parish by Jan Schinsky.

January 2017

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Legacy Giving *continued from front cover*

give to someone as a gift,” he says. “So here, the idea of legacy is to build something for your church and your community. My parish is simply an extension of my family. When you go to church every week, sit in the same pew, and shake hands with the same people – you’re laughing and talking and patting kids on the head – those people become family if you are a truly giving Catholic person.”

One of the ways Larry is working to increase awareness of Legacy Giving is by presenting information on this important topic at two evening sessions designed to help parishioners deal with end-of-life issues. The sessions, organized by the St. Timothy Funeral Ministry, are offered twice a year usually in May and November. At these gatherings, parishioners are encouraged to plan ahead when it comes to making end-of-life decisions.

“We emphasize how you should never put the burden on your family to do something that you could have done yourself [when it comes to planning],” Larry says. “We ask people to think about what they would like to be done, how they would like to be remembered. We have an attorney who addresses wills versus trusts and all the legal issues, a funeral director that talks about what needs to happen for burial and now also the reintroduction of cremation. Towards the end of our conversation, we talk about legacy giving and get people to consider St. Timothy as part of their family”

So far, the response to this giving opportunity has been positive – after one session, a parishioner gifted her \$25,000 insurance policy to the church, and another gave \$100,000, to be divided between

two parishes. Not all gifts need to be on a grand scale. Larry emphasizes that there are numerous ways of donating. For example, parishioners can choose to leave a house to the church or their IRA. A system can be set up in which the giver continues to earn the interest from an investment with the church ultimately receiving the principal. Monetary gifts can either go into a savings nest egg maintained by the parish, or be used to fund a specific request, as in the case of the stained glass windows sponsored by Larry’s wife, Jan.

Indeed, when it comes to Legacy Giving, the possibilities are almost endless and there is no gift too big or too small.

“There are lots of different things you can do – you just have to think about what you want to do at the end to give it away,” Larry says. “Everybody seems to think you have to give \$100,000 – or a million dollars – and it doesn’t have to be that way. After giving to your children, just carving out six percent for the church is a windfall for the church.”

Through Legacy Giving, we are given a wonderful opportunity to give to our parish family and let our faith live on in the Church. In recognition that all we have comes from the Lord, we can give thanks for blessings received by continuing to share of our treasure, even at the end of our earthly lives.

“When you think about leaving something behind for your children, shouldn’t you think of doing the same for your church?” Larry asks. “This is really leaving something for your family – something behind that the church can build on.”

*“When you think about leaving something behind for your children, shouldn't you think of doing the same for your church? This is really leaving something for your family – something behind that the church can build on.”
– Larry Schinsky*

*Are you interested in learning more about Legacy Giving at St. Timothy?
If so, please contact Larry Schinsky at 813-926-6667.*

A New Year, New Challenges, New Opportunities

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is a new year, and it is my prayer for all of you – and for me, as well – that we can take new steps on our faith journeys, and seek new ways to live out discipleship and stewardship.

Pope Francis once commented on his perspective of our modern approach to life. He said, “Certainly, possessions, money and power can give a momentary thrill, the illusion of being happy, but they end up possessing us and making us always want more, never satisfied. I have learned that the most important thing is to put on Christ in your life, place your trust in Him, and you will never be disappointed.”

The pope has been called “the world’s parish priest.” As we pray for one another in this New Year, may we all ask the Lord to help us appreciate Pope Francis’ approach to life, his simple way of seeing things, and his very basic way of appreciating things. I would hope that we see this year as a time for opportunity, a time to deepen our relationship to Christ, and for that matter to one another.

If we really wish to change our lives and the lives of others, there are two easy ways to do it. We are blessed with many opportunities in this parish to pray, but as much as it is important for us to take advantage of those, we also need to develop a strong



personal prayer life. Recall the young Samuel, who was not quite sure what to do with his life, or what direction to go. When he finally settled on that one important prayer, “Speak, Lord, for I am listening,” Samuel gave us the hint as to what we need to do. Prayer is a two-way street, and part of that is taking the time to listen to God.

The second important way is to exclude joy. Christ certainly called us to do that. Pope Francis has had much to say about joy, as well. The Holy Father says, “Joy cannot be held at heel; it must be let go. Joy is a pilgrim virtue. It is a gift that walks – walks on the path of life, that walks with Jesus... proclaiming joy, lengthens and widens that path.” We must seek that joy and then we need to share it. That is truly our call. Joy translates quite easily into “love your neighbor.”

Yes, there may be challenges ahead in 2017, but we must focus on the opportunities, and then exert the effort to benefit from those opportunities. Happy New Year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





Nurturing Mind, Body and Spirit

For the past two centuries, Catholic schools have shaped educations across the United States, forming minds and hearts to become leaders of our country and Church. Many of us ourselves have benefitted from Catholic education. We can remember being taught by nuns or faithful laypeople, learning the basics of our faith and being enveloped in an environment where we learned to ponder life's big questions. This, explains St. Timothy's Parochial Vicar Fr. Kevin Yarnell, is what Catholic education is all about.

"As kids grow up there are three main areas of development – mind, body and spirit," Fr. Kevin says. "In a Catholic school, all three of these elements just naturally flow together, and I think that is the great advantage of Catholic education."

Seeking to celebrate the uniqueness and importance of Catholic education, each year beginning with the last Sunday of January, Catholic schools all around the country celebrate National Catholic Schools Week. This year's celebration is from Jan. 29 through Feb. 4, and centers on the theme "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service."

"It is a week to highlight the uniqueness and mission of Catholic schools," Fr. Kevin says. "I would think

of it as a week of celebration of all that is good about Catholic schools."

Having spent 28 years teaching at a diocesan high school prior to entering the seminary, Fr. Kevin has witnessed first hand the importance and lasting effect of Catholic education. When people are surrounded with the beauty and richness of their faith, they are better able to understand the beliefs they were raised with and to take ownership of them as they mature to adulthood.

"It is such a good way – a natural way – of passing on the faith," Fr. Kevin says. "School is such a big part of a child's life. So if faith is not present there, it is easy for it to become compartmentalized as something that only happens when we are at church, rather than something that is lived."

With this in mind, Catholic education becomes an excellent vehicle for teaching our children the real meaning of stewardship. Embracing the concept "much will be required of the person entrusted with much" (Luke 12:48), one of the core aspects of Catholic Schools Week is helping our students appreciate the gift they are receiving, oftentimes through great sacrifices on their parents' part. That is why one of the



During last year's Catholic Schools Week Mass, teachers and students brought up the gifts together.



Mother Teresa of Calcutta students are proud to share in the gifts of Catholic education.

Spirit — Catholic Schools Week

traditions at Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School has been writing “thank you” letters to their parents for sending them to a Catholic school.

Other activities held in honor of the week long celebration include a special field day where the kids can dress down and compete in various games, a special grandparents’ breakfast and a pep rally for Jesus. Service is another key component of the week, teaching our children to share the blessings they have received, with others.

“I think that concept of stewardship really is the heart of it,” Fr. Kevin says. “We’re trying to instill in them a bit of responsibility. That concept of, ‘you’ve been given this, so what are you doing with it?’”

Finally, Catholic Schools Week is a reminder for us, as Catholics, to support the good works that are being accomplished within our own school in whatever ways that we can. In doing so, we are able to ensure that the

beauty of our faith continues to be passed on – to ensure the future success and happiness of our own parish family.

“Years ago, I had a principal at a high school where I was working, who would always ask the question, ‘What happens if we suddenly don’t exist?’” Fr. Kevin says. “I think those words are worth pondering, reminding us of the widespread effect of our own Catholic school. Catholic education isn’t meant to be exclusively for the children – it is meant to be shared with the whole world in the fruits it produces.”

As Catholic Schools Week approaches, parishioners are invited to join in the school’s festivities when appropriate, and more importantly, to unite their hearts in prayer of thanksgiving for the gift that Catholic education has been and continues to be to our country and community.

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Students and grandparents enjoy time together, celebrating the gift of Catholic education



Students during the Extreme Spirit Day, one of the special festivities of National Catholic Schools Week



Looking at New Year's Resolutions Through the Lens of Stewardship

Every January, we all step forward into the New Year with new ideas, goals and resolutions. But after the initial sparkle of the New Year has faded, it can be easy to forget our once-fervent resolutions. However, we might find that it's a bit easier to keep our New Year's resolutions if we look a bit beyond our physical selves. By also involving our spiritual lives, as well as the lives of others, we can add a lot more meaning to our resolutions.

Renowned Catholic author Matthew Kelly says, "We're all trying to be better versions of ourselves," and that's basically what any resolution is about. Stewardship is essentially the same thing – if we embrace living a stewardship way of life, we become better versions of ourselves. We can use our time and talent to make improvements in our lives, in the lives of others, and in the life of the parish. It all comes down to one basic point – if we acknowledge that everything we have is a gift from God, then we are supposed to be good stewards of those gifts, use them for the benefit of others, and return our talents tenfold to the Lord.

One idea to help incorporate stewardship into your New Year's resolutions is to make two distinct resolutions each year – one at the beginning of the liturgical year, and one at the beginning of the calendar year.



We can think of the first Sunday of Advent as the Church New Year, and we can make our own spiritual resolutions at this special time each year. Then, for the new calendar year, we can make resolutions for our health and well-being. In both cases, we can commit to these promises much in the same way we make our commitments during our annual Stewardship Renewal. We can make these resolutions, write them down, and share them with someone. Once you've written it down and shared it, you are now holding yourself accountable.

We are both physical and spiritual beings. Taking care of the physical side of things is a good start, but if we ignore the spiritual side, what kind of progress are we truly making? Even if you already regu-

larly pray, you can add five more minutes to your prayer time each day to take a step forward in your faith. Even if you read the Bible once a week, you can take a spiritual leap and make it twice a week. One way to make a good resolution is to consider joining or increasing your involvement in one of the parish's prayer, faith formation or outreach ministries.

Making resolutions requires us to truly reflect on the areas in our lives that we'd like to improve, while also ensuring that our priorities are in order. Remember, there is no need to take a giant leap all at once. So, as we begin a new calendar year, remember that even the smallest steps forward in faith can go a long, long way as you continuously renew your relationship with Christ.

New Hybrid Organ Enhancing Worship

With our new hybrid organ installed – and waiting only for the arrival of its pipes this summer – Music Director Chase White can now literally pull out all the stops.

This new instrument will not only be a joy for him to play, but it will also enable him to enhance our worship with the majesty of rich organ music.

“I can be more creative in my hymn playing and liturgical playing, and make it more interesting,” Chase says. “My playing has already improved. This organ is so much easier to play even though it is so much more complex.”

The organ is a Rodgers Infinity 484, meaning it is a combination of digital keyboards and organ pipes. Once the pipes are installed in June or July, there will be a dedication concert.

“The old organ, which I began playing here 15 years ago, was dying a slow and painful death,” Chase says.

A new organ was in the planning stages at that time, but the slowdown in the economy a few years later put those plans on hold. Finally, however, a fund drive was started. Several large gifts helped put the purchase within reach and the new organ was ordered.



The range of voices available to Music Director Chase White is apparent here in a close-up view of the new organ's keyboards.

With the new sounds of the organ filling the church during Mass, Chase has noticed that more parishioners are singing.

“This new organ is a symphony in a box,” Chase says. “The organ, to me, should be the central instrument for worship. It creates a firm foundation for the ceremony. The instrumental possibilities with this organ are endless.”

The new organ has a MIDI module that gives Chase access to 5,000 different instrument samples that he can link to keys on the organ.

“I can do any number of instruments,” he says.

The organ music will add to the solemnity of worship, Chase says. The music can take the listener back to a nostalgic memory, while maintaining a high quality of sound.

“It helps folks transcend the world they're in,” he says. “Music directors are here to help draw people closer to God. Beauty is the path to that. The new organ helps me to help our parishioners pray and find God, and it seems to be working.”

Chase says the new organ also enables him to play pieces that he had not been able to perform on the old organ.

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– Chase White, Music Director



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New Hybrid Organ Enhancing Worship *continued from page 7*

“Bach and other classical pieces were written for Catholic liturgy,” Chase says. “On the other organ I couldn’t play most of it. Now, I’m already back to playing a lot of Bach, the preludes and fugues, and other good stuff. I can pull out all the stops! This is one of the things I kept explaining when I was campaigning for a new organ. There’s a lot I haven’t been able to play for 15 years. We’re one of the biggest Catholic churches in the diocese and we need an instrument worthy of the space.”

Chase is looking forward to Easter when he traditionally has had a brass quartet accompany the organ. In the past, it was difficult to balance the organ with the brass, but with the new organ, the blending of the instruments will be much improved!



The new hybrid organ has been put into play. The pipes that will supplement the sound will be installed this summer.

*If you have any questions about the new instrument, please contact
Chase White at 813-968-1077, ext. 235.*

• **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.