



**SAINT TIMOTHY**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



## The Burns Family Celebrates Son's Ordination to the Priesthood

This month, one of St. Timothy's own is to be ordained to the priesthood! Deacon Peter Burns' son, Andrew, is one of 16 men to be ordained at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, N.J., on July 1.

"It is really exciting!" Deacon Peter says. "It's humbling, and we're kind of awestruck. We really feel we're truly blessed by God in so many ways, and this is another one of God's special gifts for which we give thanks."

"He's always been a good kid, and I was elated when he told us," says Andrew's mother, Charlotte Burns. "I'm very proud of him, and I'm so glad that he felt God's call and answered Him. I know this is the happiest he's ever been, and in my heart, I know this is right for him."

As a student at Florida State University, Andrew was active in the school's campus ministry program, which was run by the Brothers of Hope. After graduating in 2007, he lived with the Brothers while discerning a call to the religious life. He ultimately discerned that he was not called to the Brothers of Hope and accepted a job at a New Jersey hospital. While there,



*Charlotte (left) and Deacon Peter (right) with Andrew as a newly ordained deacon.*

however, he realized that God was calling him to the priesthood.

Andrew studied for two years at the Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University, before being assigned to the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy. He completed four years of seminary study in

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July 2017

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17512 Lakeshore Road  
Lutz, FL 33558  
[www.sainttims.org](http://www.sainttims.org)



## Service

# The Fourth Pillar of Parish Stewardship

Throughout Sacred Scripture, there are numerous references to service. There is the parable of the vigilant and faithful servants who await their master's return from a wedding, "ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks" (Lk 12:35-40). There is the story of the good Samaritan who was moved with compassion to help the victim of a violent robbery (Lk 10:25-37). And there are several examples of Christ serving those around Him – feeding the multitudes, healing the sick, and even turning water into wine at a wedding banquet.

Why is service a running theme throughout the Gospels? Because service is at the root of living in imitation of Christ. Christ served others throughout His life on Earth, and His death on the cross was the ultimate act of service to mankind. And when we serve others, we are not only following in Christ's footsteps, we are also serving Christ Himself: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt 25:40).

As a stewardship parish, service must be at the heart of everything we do. The parish community is the bastion of service within the Catholic Church, as we serve one another and are also served by our brothers and sisters in Christ. As the Diocese of Wichita's document, *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*, states, "Like a blood family, the parish family stands ready and eager collectively to wrap their arms around their brothers and sisters when they suffer in trial and/or celebrate special events in their lives."

It is good to recognize the parish community as a place where service is appreciated and can be utilized for the good of the Church. However, it is not enough for us to simply serve other members of our parish family. As disciples of Christ, it is our obligation to serve people in need everywhere they exist – in our families, our greater community, our country, and throughout the world. This can be a challenging concept, as it is often much more comfortable and convenient to serve those who are close to us than it is to reach out to "outsiders." But, as *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship* eloquently points out, "Failure to have this understanding leads to a selfish parochialism, which is life draining to a parish stewardship way of life."

Think of ways that you can serve others around you, both within our parish family and in the greater community. Our many parish ministries offer a great place to begin offering your time and talents, but the opportunities for service don't end there. There are many civic and nonprofit organizations that do an immense amount to serve others across the globe and are always looking for volunteers.

Once you serve, you will find that you will reap numerous rewards in return, much like the faithful servants who doubled the talents their master had entrusted to them: "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy" (Mt 25:21).

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## We Are Blessed as a Church and a Nation

Dear Friends in Christ,

The month of July may seem like a bit of an “in-between” month. Of course, it sits in the middle of summer. During this last month of June, we shared in a number of solemnities and celebrations – these served to remind us of the incredible gifts we have received as Catholics, from the Holy Trinity to the Body and Blood of Christ.

Now, a look at the calendar shows us that all of the Sundays this month are in Ordinary Time. We know that Ordinary Time is anything but “ordinary,” even though it might seem that way – especially after a month of celebrations.

However, one thing happens this month that is certainly unique to us as Americans – Independence Day. We are Catholics, but we also are Americans, and we should be proud to be both – grateful for the gift of faith, and equally grateful for the gift of liberty we receive as American citizens.

Yet, to be Catholic and American should not mean choosing one over the other. These allegiances should be complementary. Our Catholic faith states that we need to work together as fellow citizens for the common good of everyone in this great country. Through the Constitution, our Founding Fathers guaranteed us of religious rights to contribute to our common life together.



Freedom is a special inheritance we have received, fought for by many at a great price, and it is a heritage that must be guarded – we are truly stewards of the gifts of freedom.

In 1886, just over 140 years ago, Bishop James Gibbons of Baltimore was made the second American Cardinal. He attributed the progress of the Church in America to the “civil liberty we enjoy in our enlightened republic.” He continued to say that “in the genial atmosphere of liberty, the Church blossoms like a rose.”

July is not just a time for us to celebrate – it is also a time for us to blossom. It is not a time to cease praying or working to build the Kingdom of Christ. Rather, it is a time to work even more diligently to express our appreciation for our many gifts, and to share them with others. We are blessed – by the gifts of our faith and the gifts of freedom – and we must always remember to thank God for that.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Kenneth J. Malley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light, rectangular background.

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





## Eagle Scouts Guy Alfano Serving Others and Giving



*Eagle Scout Jimmy Greene at his Eagle Court of Honor.*



*Jimmy Greene with others as they worked on his project.*



*Guy Alfano constructed a chicken coop for the parish with help from other scouts.*

If you have ever been a Boy Scout, you are familiar with the Scout Oath: “On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and to my country, and to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.” This can also be understood as a stewardship statement, since it represents what we as Church believe in terms of recognizing and using our gifts and serving others. And here at St. Timothy, two of our young parishioners – Guy Alfano and Jimmy Greene – have recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Fewer than four percent of Boy Scouts are granted this rank after a lengthy review process, and the requirements necessary to achieve this rank take some years to fulfill.

Requirements for the Eagle rank include earning at least 21 merit badges. The Eagle Scout must demonstrate Scout Spirit, an ideal attitude based upon the Scout Oath and Law, service, and leadership. This includes an extensive service project the Scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages. Eagle Scouts are presented with a medal and badge that visibly recognizes the accomplishments of the Scout.

Guy Alfano, a member of Troop 21, has just completed his senior year at Jesuit High School and graduated. He has enrolled at Florida State University with a major in engineering beginning this summer.

“I have greatly enjoyed being a scout,” Guy says. “I love the outdoors, and scouting allowed me to pursue that while achieving much through scouting. The Eagle rank is something of which I am proud and it is helpful to me in many ways. However, I have developed many useful skills through scouting, as well as gaining a real understanding of

## Guy and Jimmy Greene Giving Back to the Parish

safety. From the beginning, being a Boy Scout was an opportunity to learn and lead.”

A member of Troop 68, Jimmy Greene has just completed his freshman year in high school at Steinbrenner High School here in Lutz.

“I take pride in being an Eagle,” Jimmy says. “Scouting is an important part of my life. I have received so much as a Cub Scout and a Boy Scout. Now, having achieved my Eagle rank, it is time for me to give back, to serve and to help others who are scouts, as well as the community.”

Each young man was required to complete an Eagle Scout Project to complete prerequisites for the rank. Per the official Boy Scout requirement, “While a Life Scout, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or your community. The project idea must be approved by your Scoutmaster and troop committee and by the council or district before you start.”

Both boys thought of their parish as they considered what to do as a project and both approached Fr. Kenneth Malley to discuss ideas. Father’s approval and blessing was also needed, of course, for them to continue.

Guy’s project was the construction of a new chicken coop for our parish chickens. Children of all ages love to visit the “girls” in their new coop after school and Mass. At the request of Father and the parish Green Team, Jimmy developed six large garden boxes, which are located adjacent to the preschool. Tended by several gardeners, they plant, care for and harvest mainly vegetables and herbs.

“I am so happy to see them using these gardens, and as I observe, I am really impressed by the size of the yields, as well as how they distribute and use the vegetables,” Jimmy says.

The boys’ parents share in their pride and in their accomplishments.



*Eagle Scout Guy Alfano.*

*The parish does not officially sponsor a Boy Scout Troop, but anyone who would like to learn more about scouting in our area may contact the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council at 727-391-3800. Congratulations to Guy Alfano and Jimmy Greene on an outstanding accomplishment!*



## Jim Magee and Family



*Daria and Jim Magee have turned to God in difficult times, finding strength and comfort in trusting Him and serving others.*

**B**y all accounts, Jim Magee would have considered himself a good Catholic.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, he attended Catholic schools all the way through college. He and his wife, Daria, relocated with their children to Florida in 1988, and joined St. Timothy in 2002, after moving to the area.

But 15 years ago, he began to struggle. One of the Magee's three children began to battle addiction, and not only did this struggle wreak havoc on the family, but also, their faith.

"We got separated from the faith and weren't going to church for four years," Jim says. "I did the 'woe is me' thing – I gave up going to church, I gave up sports. I just didn't care."

But help came in an unexpected way. Jim became involved in Nar-Anon, a 12-step program designed to help the family and friends of those struggling with addiction.

"They pushed the idea that you can't control everything – God's in charge," Jim says of the Nar-Anon program. "That stuck with me and I decided, I need to get back to church."

Upon returning to St. Timothy, Jim immediately felt that he had made the right decision.

"I go to Mass that first time, and the lady in front of me turns around and says, 'I just want to welcome you,'" Jim recalls. "It almost brought me to tears because it was hard going back to Mass, because I felt bad about not going for a long time."

But if Jim thought it was going to be smooth sailing from there, he was wrong. It wasn't long before a change in the management of his company, at which he'd served many years as President, left him with the choice to leave Florida or retire. Jim made the sudden and difficult decision to walk away from his career.

Again, in the midst of difficult circumstances, Jim chose to put into practice the lesson he had

## Choosing Faith in the Midst ..... ..... of Struggles and Challenges

learned – trusting God. And that’s when his involvement at St. Timothy and the local community really took off.

“Looking back, it’s the best thing that ever happened to me, and I think that was God’s plan,” Jim says. “I realized I have a good life, a great wife, and it’s time for me to start giving back.”

And start giving back he did. Jim joined the Men’s Club, became active in the Knights of Columbus and the St. Vincent de Paul Society and their food pantry. He also began running the meal program at Liberty Manor for Veterans, took on the shopping for the parish’s weekly Bingo night, began serving with Helping Hands Ministry, and got involved cooking for parish picnics.

And his wife, Daria, was certainly not to be left behind in all of this.

“Now, she’s involved in decorating the church, the Choir, the Women’s Club and Bible study,” Jim says with a smile. “The parish has kind of become the center of our life.”

From volunteering, to spending time in prayer each day, to intentionally building relationships with others in the parish community, Jim has found that his faith has become integrated into every aspect of his life.

“I always thought I was a good Christian, but I was a once-a-week Christian,” Jim says. “Now that I’ve gotten back into it and really let God be in charge of my life, I’m a 24-7 Christian. I feel like it affects everything I do.”

Jim also finds comfort and strength in the fact that even when he walked away from God, the Lord never left his side.

“I pray, ‘Thank you for being with me, even when I wasn’t paying attention,’” he says. “When I was going through all this, I wasn’t paying attention to Him, but He’s always there.”

He encourages others who may be going through difficult situations to turn to the Lord, instead of away from Him.

“Don’t give up, because God really never gives up on you,” Jim says. “I truly believe there are no coincidences in life. Everything happens the way God plans it for us. We don’t always understand the plan. Some of the most horrible things have happened during this addiction, but when I look back, with God’s involvement, things turned out better than I thought it

could ever be. Even though it was traumatic at the time, being pushed out of that job now for five years, I’ve had the privilege of being available to help so many people. I have given up control, I know I’m in charge of me and God’s in charge of anything else. What a relief!”

He also invites those who may have been away from the faith to be courageous, and come back to church.

“It’s hard to go back that first time, having the courage to re-engage,” Jim says. “But it doesn’t matter if you’ve been away for two weeks or 30 years – you’re welcome here.”

*“Don’t give up, because God really never gives up on you. I truly believe there are no coincidences in life. Everything happens the way God plans it for us. We don’t always understand the plan.” – Jim Magee*



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17512 Lakeshore Road  
Lutz, FL 33558  
813-968-1077  
[www.sainttims.org](http://www.sainttims.org)

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## The Burns Family Celebrates Son's Ordination to the Priesthood *continued from front cover*

Rome, and is currently on a summer assignment to various U.S. parishes before returning to Rome in September for his final year of study. However, before returning to Rome, Andrew will come back to Florida to spend part of the summer with his family, and enjoy time here at St. Timothy, his home parish.

"This is the parish where he was confirmed, and he was an altar server here," Deacon Peter says. "We're hoping to have a special Mass of Thanksgiving when he's here. It will be a big honor to assist him at Mass the first time we're able to do that together!"

Deacon Peter and Charlotte have three other children as well as Andrew, and four young grandchildren.

"I think we have always been a family where faith is important, passed on from our parents, and then Charlotte and I wanting to pass that on to our children and grandchildren," Deacon Peter says. "Andrew's siblings are really excited for him, and they've definitely shared their joy when they've talked to him. They even use him as a reference

when it comes to the faith, especially his knowledge of Scripture."

Deacon Peter recalls how, when raising their children, they worked to instill a sense of obedience to God's will.

"When [the kids] would talk about what they wanted to be when they grew up, the message that Charlotte always gave was to find out God's deepest desire for them," he says. "We really tried to teach them that if you do what God asks of you, you will be the happiest. If God puts it in front of you, then that's where you're supposed to be. We are proud of all of our children!"

"I just remember when they would have disappointments or tough decisions, I would always tell the kids to pray about it and to see what God wants," Charlotte says. "I'd tell them that God has a plan, and that they're here for a reason, and to think about what He wants from them. I'm just so happy that my kids have turned out so well – we put them in God's hands! I'm very grateful that Andrew is where he is."

### • *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.