



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



"An Opportunity for Us to Enjoy Ourselves and Enjoy One Another's Company" *Our St. Timothy 55 and Up Club*

According to President Dandy Lindquist, the 55 and Up Club here at St. Timothy has been in existence for more than 10 years – and it continues to foster fellowship within our community.

"I know it was here before I got here," Dandy says. "I have served as President for three years now. It really is a wonderful ministry. About 35-40 people gather each month at our meetings. I believe that our members, our people, really like to come to our monthly meetings and activities. First of all, we have a good time. However, it is also an opportunity for us to enjoy ourselves and enjoy one another's company."

The 55 and Up Club was established for the express purpose of providing an opportunity for older adults to engage with others in a similar stage of life – its mission statement declares, "To serve the spiritual, social, and personal needs of senior citizens in the parish."



"Our real goal, in addition to providing an outlet for our seniors, is to foster and encourage love and faith in God, to promote friendship, fellowship, and activities which provide both information and recreation to all members," Dandy says.

From September to May, the club meets on the first Wednesday of each month, from noon until 3 p.m. in the Church Hall.

"We always begin with prayer, and then we share a meal," Dandy says. "Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass, and the food is wonderful. No one goes hungry – that is

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June 2016

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Stewardship

Keeping Our Stewardship Commitments in the Summertime

The kids are out of school and our fast-paced lives centered on school and youth sports activities have slowed down. Our own internal clocks are now on summer time. We're ready for a break from our hectic lives.

And while we take vacations and enjoy the leisurely pace of the season, we need to remember that summer is not the time to take a vacation from God. In fact, summer can serve as the perfect opportunity to grow in our relationship with God, especially since most of us have considerably more free time.

So, instead of neglecting our faith due to busy days and late nights, try these simple steps to embrace God during the quieter summer months and during your vacation.

Get More Active in a Parish Ministry

The summer is actually a perfect time to get more involved in a parish ministry. Because we no longer have to get the kids to and from school, or get them to sporting events or other activities that normally occur during the school year, our schedules are a bit less cluttered. Summer is indeed a perfect time to fill some downtime with service to God through ministry and giving of your talents. Take a look through the parish ministries to find something that suits your particular interest or talent.

Vacation Bible School, for Kids and Adults

Vacation Bible School is a great way for younger children to learn about God through songs, activities and fellowship. The fun-filled lessons build upon Gospel teachings while keeping kids' attention. For older children, it is a great opportunity to offer service by being a team leader or assistant. Adults can also help plan, decorate, organize, and teach during the week. It's a wonderful activity for the entire family!

Give Thanks for the Sun

Praise God for the sun, time off from school, and easygoing days by visiting the Reservation Chapel to say a quick prayer. Bring a journal or rosary along to help stay focused. Little children can even bring a religious coloring book to give thanks to God on their terms. Or, before heading to the pool, why not attend daily Mass with the kids? It's a perfect way to start the day and set the tone that – vacation or not – God is still an important part of your family life.

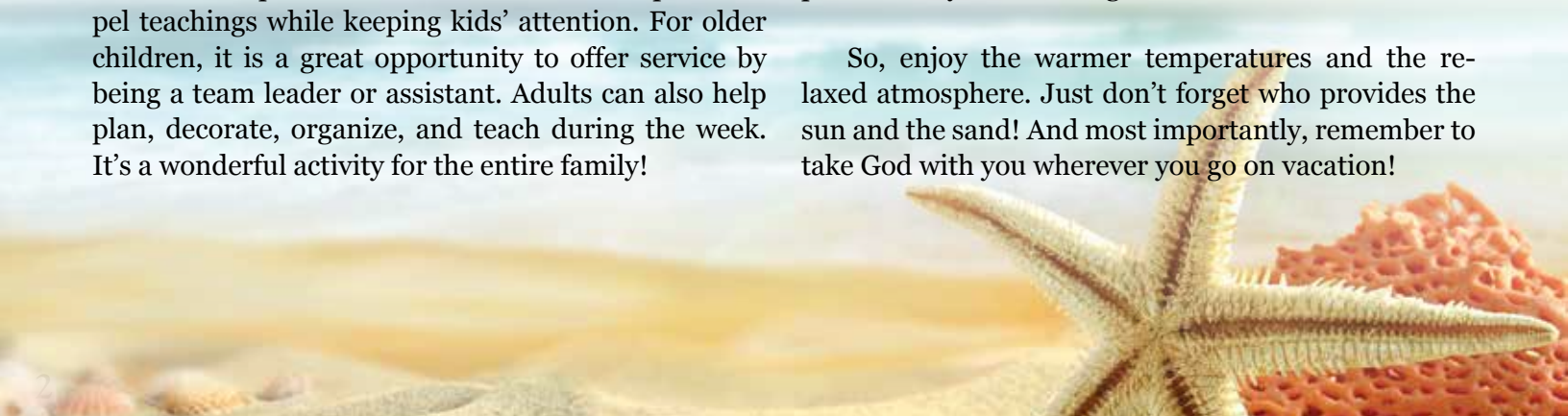
Don't Take a Vacation from Mass

Often while on a vacation away from our parish family, we are not familiar with where to attend Mass. Don't let that be an obstacle for you. Check out masstimes.org in order to find out where and when to go to Mass. In addition, if you are lodging at a hotel, the concierge will assist you with directions to the nearest Catholic Church.

Summertime Stewardship of Treasure

The prime reason for keeping up our pledge all summer is that God doesn't go on vacation. He continues to sustain us throughout the summer months. He persists in pouring out blessings on us, even during the hottest weather. He keeps on meeting us in His sacramental presence when we go to Mass wherever we travel. As God remains faithful to us during the summer, we are called to be faithful in our commitments to Him and our parish family, even during our vacation time.

So, enjoy the warmer temperatures and the relaxed atmosphere. Just don't forget who provides the sun and the sand! And most importantly, remember to take God with you wherever you go on vacation!



Prayer – By Us and For Us

Dear Friends in Christ,

Pope Francis has certainly had an impact on our Church, and maybe even on each of us individually. Do you recall his first words to the world and to us when he appeared on the balcony following his election as pope? He said quite simply, “Pray for me.” That is a feeling I share sometimes when I consider what needs to be done, and what I personally need to do. It may be a feeling each of us has – not just now and then, but relatively consistently.



Prayer – one of the four Pillars of Stewardship – is foundational to our faith and the practice of it. It is through prayer and the sacraments that we prepare ourselves to accept God’s plentiful gifts and blessings.

Each of us needs to develop a consistent prayer life. We should set time aside each day to pray. It is through prayer that we cultivate our personal relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We provide many opportunities for prayer as part of our parish life. This includes time for us to pray as individuals and time to pray as a community.

Our prayer lives culminate at Mass in the Eucharist. The Eucharist, prayer and stewardship are interconnected. In *Lumen Gentium*, we are reminded that the Eucharist is the “Source and Summit” of our Catholic faith. With the gift of the Eucharist and an active prayer life, we are better equipped to carry out the other three Pillars of Stewardship – Hospitality, Formation and Service. You might say we pray to help us seek and find how to serve the Lord and others.

This is a time of year when we enjoy numerous opportunities to kick back and relax. One of the best ways to spend time is in prayer. In both our individual and communal prayer, we turn to God to

perceive our gifts and talents – and then, as stewards, we need to place those gifts at the service of one another, and especially of the Lord.

You and I are on a journey together – a journey toward holiness. That journey involves an existence of daily conversion and an awareness of how grateful we need to be. Through prayer, we can better see ourselves as God sees us, and we can seek to find who God is calling us to be.

I want to assure you of my constant and daily prayers for you. Like the Holy Father, however, I also must admit that I need you to “pray for me.” I thank you for your prayers. I am blessed to be your pastor.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





A Heavenly Pursuit

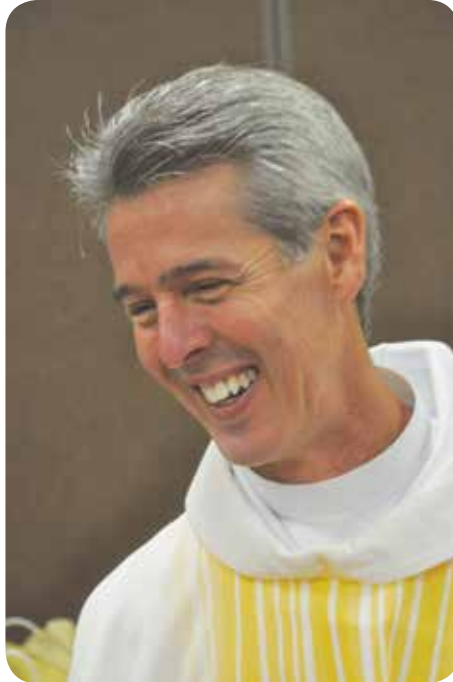
In his beloved poem “The Hound of Heaven,” author Francis Thompson vividly depicts God as the relentless Hound, chasing down a prodigal son. Never giving up, He continues His “unperturbed pace” with “deliberate speed, majestic instancy.” In this way, the author brilliantly captures our Lord’s merciful heart, never giving up on us no matter what variant paths we take in life.

Looking back on his vocation story, Deacon Glenn Smith describes Thompson’s poem as one that “truly encompasses” his faith journey. For although ordained only this past October, Deacon Smith’s journey toward the diaconate began over 25 years ago.

“The fact that I’m a deacon now convinces me of God’s plan and power,” Deacon Smith says. “It would be hard to find a more roundabout way than mine.”

Born into a traditional Irish Catholic family, Deacon Smith lived his early life surrounded by the richness of the Catholic faith. In fact, shares Deacon Smith, up until he was about 10 years old, he believed that everyone else was Irish Catholic.

“Being raised in that environment, the faith was just part of everything,” he says. “Life revolved around the faith and Holy Days.”



Deacon Glenn Smith, ordained in October 2015, says it would be hard to find a more roundabout journey to the diaconate than his own.

Strengthened by this early formation, Deacon Smith felt called to enter the minor seminary following his high school graduation. He continued to discern his vocation to the priesthood throughout his young adult years. Finally, Deacon Smith entered the major seminary in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, where he received minor orders as an acolyte. Yet, literally a month before his ordination as a transitional diaconate, Deacon Smith became besieged by doubts.

“At that point, I knew that the Lord was calling me out because of my tremendous desire for marriage,” Deacon Smith says. “In my thick way, I didn’t realize that the Lord was calling me to the diaconate and not the priesthood.”

Leaving the seminary, Deacon Smith began pursuing a career in medicine, leading him to his current profession as a clinical psychologist. He was later placed in Tampa for a residency program. Having “grand aspirations,” Deacon Smith believed Florida to be only a temporary stop. This all changed, however, when he met Cindy, his wife of 20 years, who “turned out to be more important.”

Blessed with their two sons, the Smiths began searching for a parish that would become home.

“I think in so many ways, my concept of stewardship has really deepened because of the diaconate. The word ‘deacon’ actually comes from the Greek word diakonos, meaning ‘service.’ As a deacon, I’m called to be a servant to the parish, encouraging others to really flourish in their faith. We have a wonderful parish with many people who are looking for ways to give and become involved, but are just waiting for that encouragement.” – Deacon Glenn Smith

Deacon Glenn Smith

“We wanted to find a real parish for our family, and we settled on St. Timothy,” Deacon Smith says. “We just really liked the people there. In those days, it was a kind of new parish and we enjoyed it.”

Gradually, Deacon Smith became increasingly involved in parish life, particularly enjoying his involvement in liturgical ministries such as lecturing and serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. He later became even more involved in the liturgy once Fr. Kenneth J. Malley, Pastor, learned about Deacon Smith’s vocational history.

“When Fr. Malley heard that I had minor orders and was an acolyte, he said, ‘We can use you!’” Deacon Smith says. “That really was important, because had he not acted on that knowledge, I never would have moved further in my vocation journey.”

As an acolyte, Deacon Smith was able to assist the ordained ministers during the Mass. Being present on the altar in this fashion helped Deacon Smith become more in tune with God’s calling, eventually setting him upon the path toward ordination once again.

Today, Deacon Smith feels immeasurably blessed to be one of St. Timothy’s four permanent deacons. Though only ordained for six months, his understanding of service has already been radically transformed.

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As a deacon, Deacon Smith is called to serve the parish community in any way possible, “encouraging others to flourish in their faith.”

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Currently, Deacon Smith has been offering that “encouragement” through his role as spiritual director for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, by assisting in the training and coordination of the altar servers, and various counseling undertakings. He has also enjoyed rotat-

ing through the weekend Masses, giving him the opportunity to meet and form deeper relationships with parishioners.

Looking back on the journey, Deacon Smith is deeply grateful for God’s incredible plan, which was there all along despite his seeming detours.

“I just think about God constantly pursuing us,” Deacon Smith says. “He will always seek you out. All we need to do is listen and He is there waiting. Sometimes, we just get distracted when we depend upon our own devices. But if we choose to cooperate, we can’t even begin to imagine how wonderful His plan is.”



Keeping in Touch With the Holy Father: There's an App for That!

“Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven.”

These words from Pope Francis weren't delivered during a homily in St. Peter's or in a speech from St. Peter's Square – nor were they written in a papal bull or apostolic letter. Rather, they were delivered in an instant to millions of Catholics around the world through the pope's very own Twitter account.

The technology of communication has perhaps changed more in the past century than in the previous 20 combined. And with these developments, the Catholic Church – led by our Holy Fathers from Pope St. John Paul II through Pope Francis – strongly encourages that the faithful adopt and adapt these resources for the all-important task of spreading the Gospel throughout the whole world.

Just as St. Paul used every convenience at his disposal to spread the Gospel throughout the far reaches of the Roman empire, today's evangelists are using every resource available to them. Examples of Catholic figures using the new media with great success abound.

Only a few months into his pontificate, Pope Francis took the Vatican's social media efforts to a whole new level. In spring 2013, the Vatican released The Pope App, which features a live webcam from the Vatican, along with quotes, news, images and videos of all the Holy Father's latest doings.

Following the pope's lead, bishops, priests and apologists are taking the technological gifts at their fingertips and utilizing them to spread the Gospel throughout the world in a variety of ways.

One great example is Bishop Robert Barron of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, whose Word On Fire Ministry has produced wildly popular YouTube videos discussing everything from controversial Church teachings to movie reviews from a Catholic perspective. His website also includes articles, interviews and his weekly homilies. Word On Fire also released the critically acclaimed Catholicism DVD documentary series.

Independent Catholic bloggers and Web-based media are also widely established and provide their audiences and readership with Catholic news and cultural commentary.

Here in America, parishes, Catholic schools, dioceses, and even the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops are utilizing these tools as well, creating first-rate websites, maintaining Twitter and Facebook accounts, and more.

All of these resources are geared toward a wide variety of audiences, from the un-churched and fallen-away Catholics to active parishioners.

Being knowledgeable of the new media tools available to us as Catholics is a great way to be more effective in our universal call to evangelization. Take some time to see what media resources your parish, school and diocese are using, and be sure to pass them along to those in your sphere of influence!



Following Christ's Call to Be Fishers of Men

In the Gospel of Mark, Christ invites Andrew and Simon, both fishermen by trade, to follow Him and become “fishers of men.” In a manner similar to these first disciples, the men involved in the St. Timothy Fishers of Men ministry strive to follow Christ daily in their everyday lives, becoming modern “fishers of men.” This ministry allows men to come together with other men, praying together, and discussing what exactly it means to live out their faith as a father, husband, worker, brother, and parishioner.

David Daigle, facilitator of the group, says that our relationship with Christ “doesn’t stop at the church doors.”

“We are called to be in relationship with Christ outside of Church – in our jobs, with our families, and in our communities,” David says. “This can often be a struggle with men in today’s secular world, who may find it hard to draw the right balance between their jobs, families, friends, and God. By meeting together with other men facing similar struggles, and with men who have moved beyond these struggles, we are better able to see and encounter Christ not only at Mass or in the sacraments, but also in our everyday lives.”

The Saturday morning meetings begin with prayer followed by discussion. The discussions vary from either the Sunday readings or timely documents such as *Theology of the Body*, *The Joy of the Gospel*, or the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. The discussions are not meant to be a formal Bible study, but rather, the focus is always on living out the Gospel message in one’s particular circumstances. Through these discussions, the men involved form deep friendships, gain insight from listening to others on the same journey, and see how God is working in their lives.

David, who has been involved with the group for around four years, can see God’s hand at work as he looks back to his initial decision to attend a meeting. Having been encouraged to read Thomas Merton’s *The Seven Storey Mountain* on recommendation of the previous Fishers of Men facilitator Tony Gillman, David gained clarity when a visiting priest gave a homily centering on the very same book.

“The priest talked about a trigger, a realization, followed by a concrete action being necessary for conversion,” David says. “My concrete action was attending my first Fishers of Men meeting. Since I joined, I’ve enjoyed the wandering inherent to our Christian life. The men in the group have helped me see through the noise and the clutter of daily life – commute, job, mundane problems, the never-ending messages streaming in from electronics – and recognize God moving in my life. I’ve learned to catch glimpses of where God is leading me and to enjoy the journey that I am on.”

David’s words remind us that as we follow Christ in becoming “fishers of men” in our own ways, God meets us where we are and speaks to us through those in our lives. Christ’s call for us to follow Him is not one where we find ourselves alone. As David says, “we’re all on a journey, even if we’re in different places on that journey.”

All men are welcome to check out Fishers of Men by attending their meetings. They meet every Saturday from 7-8:45 a.m. in the St. Timothy Wake Room. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact David Daigle at 813-368-7520 or daigles04@gmail.com.





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Our St. Timothy 55 and Up Club *continued from front cover*

for sure. After we eat, we have our formal meeting, and then we play Bingo. There are no dues to belong, and we charge 25 cents a game for Bingo. No one gets rich, but we do also have a 50-50 raffle. The 50 percent we retain from that is dedicated to funding other opportunities we provide throughout the year.”

For example, the club holds an annual Christmas dinner, and again, those in attendance supply dishes, but the Club purchases and makes the meat – usually ham – available. Sometimes there is a guest speaker, but those invited to be presenters are encouraged to keep their presentation to no more than 15 minutes. Once a year, the club attends an annual Mass as part of

the regular Church Masses. There are also various outings planned and sponsored by the club, including trips to Tampa Downs a few times a year.

“This is a great way to offer an outlet to our senior citizens,” Dandy says. “There are so many groups in the parish, so many ministries, which help us out in lots of ways as good stewards. For example, our Bingo cards and equipment were getting a little worse for wear, and the Men’s Club stepped forward and presented us with new Bingo Boards. I think that is what stewardship is all about – one person or one group helping another one. We certainly invite anyone who is 55 or over to become involved with us. I know they would enjoy it!”

*If you would like more information on the 55 and Up Club,
please contact President Dandy Lindquist at 813-926-8116.*

• *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.