



SAINT TIMOTHY  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



## Evangelizing Through Wholesome Fun *Bingo at St. Timothy*

When we think of ministry, the things that most readily come to mind are things like Bible studies, liturgical ministries, and food pantries. A game like Bingo, on the other hand, seems far removed from the concept of ministry and religion. Yet, though it might be purely social, St. Timothy Bingo Ministry continues to play an important role in our parish-wide call to evangelization by radiating Christ's love to each and every one of its weekly guests.

"It's not really about a Bingo game," says ministry coordinator Chris Canedy. "It's about providing a welcoming atmosphere for a large group of people. We provide a pleasant atmosphere for up to 175 guests to come together and, for very little money, have a complete evening of entertainment."

Occurring every Friday from 6:30-9:30 p.m., with the exception of Lent or special holidays, St. Timothy Bingo allows people from all different circumstances and demographics to come together for wholesome fun and fellowship. Amidst Bingo games, guests are also able to purchase inexpensive snacks and



*Parishioners Conni and Chris Canedy continue to joyfully direct St. Timothy Bingo night.*

meals, catch up with and make new friends, and to become more connected with our parish community.

With many Bingo venues to choose from and a wide diversity in players' demographics, the goal of the Bingo Ministry is to not only provide excellent service so that guests have a good time, but also so that they can positively experience Christ's Church. In this way, the

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May 2017

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## Stewardship: *The Four Pillars*

**Y**ou've heard about the three Ts of stewardship, but what about the four Ps?

The three Ts – Time, Talent, and Treasure – describe the personal gifts we offer to the Church. The four Ps are the Four Pillars of Parish Stewardship described by the renowned pastor Msgr. Thomas McGread. They are the hallmark of a stewardship parish – Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. Let's take a look at each of them to understand how we can improve in each area.

### Hospitality

#### *Christian Kindness*

“When I was a stranger, you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35). The Gospel teaches that whenever we welcome the least of our brothers or sisters, we welcome Christ Himself. That is why the first mark of a stewardship parish is hospitality. Being friendly is one of the first ways we can be Christ-like toward others.

Modern Catholic parishes are often so large and have so many Masses that many parishioners don't know one another. To create a sense of community, be sure to smile and greet others as you enter and exit the Church. Let's try harder than ever to be a welcoming community.

### Prayer

#### *Heart-to-Heart with God*

“Do not become so involved in the work of the Lord that you forget the Lord of the work,” a seminary professor once taught. In other words, don't get so caught up with parish projects and outreach efforts that you forget to draw aside to spend time with God in prayer. Every great saint has taught that prayer is the most essential component in the life of the Christian. Through prayer, we nurture our most important relationship – the one that will last for all eternity.

A healthy prayer life should include communal prayer such as Mass, as well as personal prayer and family prayer. The two biggest obstacles to prayer are

lack of time and lack of understanding of how to pray. We have to schedule time for prayer just as we would for an important appointment. And we have to learn how to pray from other people. Many saints have written spiritual books that describe different methods of prayer.

### Formation

#### *Continuous Conversion*

Pope John Paul II always emphasized ongoing conversion. From childhood through adulthood, our whole life must be a process of drawing closer to God. He never stops calling us forward to learn more and to examine ourselves more deeply.

Very often our society values material things more than interior virtues. But as personal experience shows, when we finally acquire the car or house or “toy” that we wanted so badly, it doesn't really satisfy. On the other hand, we don't tend to desire spiritual virtues with the same kind of longing, but when we actually have them, we find them far more rewarding than material things.

### Service

#### *Love in Action*

“Amen I say to you, whatever you did to the least of my brothers, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). This Scripture was one of St. Teresa of Calcutta's favorites. Each time she picked up a poor and hungry child, she knew she was ministering to Christ. While we may not view ourselves as saints, we too are called to such heroic service right within our own community. As St. Teresa of Calcutta said, “To be a saint is not the privilege of a few, but the duty of everyone.”

We have many service opportunities right here within our own parish. If you have the willingness to serve and take the initiative to find where you are needed, you'll find that there is no end to the families and individuals who truly need help. How can you reach out to them in love?

## We Cannot Be Part-Time Christians

Dear Friends in Christ,

**M**ay is traditionally celebrated in the Church as the month of Mary, our Blessed Mother. As the Mother of the Church, she provides us with an example of what it means to be a servant of God and our fellow humans, as well as how to obediently fulfill the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

As Catholics, we are called to model the life of Jesus. That can be difficult, and there are certainly challenges to living as a disciple of Christ. But living stewardship and discipleship brings intense contentment and joy to those who take that risk. As we hear in St. Paul's letter to the Romans, "All things work for good for those who love God."

After Jesus Himself, we look to our Blessed Mother as an ideal steward and an example of what stewardship means. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her life and her ministry in a total spirit of faithfulness and service. She responded to the call to be a disciple. For us to be disciples, we also need to be good stewards of the gifts we have received. Our Church and our parish are gifts to us from God.

At no point in Holy Scripture does Jesus tell us that following Him is easy. We know it is not always simple and effortless. It requires dedication and commitment. Pope Francis has said on more than one occasion, "We cannot be part-time Christians and Catholics! We should seek to live our faith at every moment of every day."

I suspect that is how Mary lived her life from that moment she turned it over to God and His Will. So,



let us vow together during this month of Mary to follow her example, and seek to be the kinds of good stewards that will make our faith community even stronger and more effective.

I pray that we all can find the strength to live and practice our faith as we should. This means being faithful to the sacraments and looking for ways to help and serve one another. We have a great parish – let us make it even greater.

As we hear in Holy Scripture, "May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26). Pray for me, as I pray for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





## A Gift From His *Parishioner Tom Souza Reflects on How L*

**W**hile Tom Souza has been a parishioner at St. Timothy for about five years, he first began to really immerse himself in parish life while he was recovering from shoulder surgery in 2014. However, the seeds of Tom's newly discovered devotion to stewardship were planted long ago, when he was just a young boy attending daily Mass with his grandfathers.

"Growing up, I was lucky enough that both sets of my grandparents were devout Catholics," Tom says. "They said the Rosary at night, and whenever I slept over at their houses, my grandfathers would invite me to go to daily Mass with them. I remember watching those grown men kneel to pray and the peace that brought them. So, I always thought I would do that when I retired."

As it turned out, Tom would not need to wait for retirement to experience the profound life transformation that attending Mass daily can bring. Just over two years ago, he was told that he needed a shoulder surgery that would require an eight-week rehabilitation period. During that time, not only would Tom have to take a leave from his work at FedEx, but he would also have to give up the dream of coaching his son's first year of baseball.

"I was so devastated about not being able to coach Michael when he was finally able to start baseball," Tom recalls. "I had been promising him every year that I would be his

coach, the way my father had been for me. Michael understood, and I ended up being scorekeeper, but I thought it was horrible. As it turned out, though, [the recovery] allowed me time to do other things. After a couple of days, I decided to start going to daily Mass after I dropped Michael off at school in the mornings."

From the moment Tom first walked into the chapel at St. Timothy for a daily Mass, he was flooded with the joyful memories of the mornings he had spent at church with both of his grandfathers. He began going to weekday Mass three or four times a week during his two-month recovery, and although he has always attended Sunday Mass, he soon realized that this was a different kind of worship experience.

"Just as I remember from my early childhood, the chapel slowly fills with

friends and strangers eagerly coming together to celebrate Mass," Tom says. "There is no choir nor piano, but when we all sing together, it is very moving. Everyone there really, really wants to be there – it's something they look forward to – and it's like a tight-knit family. Praying was always a one-on-one experience for me, and then these people welcomed me so much, it made me want to keep coming back."

The practice of going to daily Mass regularly spurred a time of great spiritual growth for Tom, and soon he was looking for ways to get even more involved in church life.

"After a few days, I started to see my life in a completely different way," Tom says. "After Mass each day, I felt complete peace in my life – the same peace I had witnessed in my grandfathers' lives. I'm more focused



*The Souza family – (from left) Tom, Olivia, Michael, and Lori.*

## Grandfathers *Daily Mass Has Transformed His Faith Life*

now, more appreciative of my family, and I wanted to give back to the church in some way.”

Inspired by the way nicer hotels often have water with fresh fruit slices available to their guests, Tom decided to offer something similar at the church. Soon, he began setting up a table next to the coffee in the parish hall to provide parishioners with various options for fresh fruit-infused water. As the parish hall is closed on Easter and he knows that many families enjoy gathering on that special day, he also set his table up outside the church that morning.

Tom’s warm hospitality and greetings to parishioners and visitors alike have quickly become a staple of parish life here at St. Timothy, and have led to his involvement in other ministries. When Fr. Malley invited Tom to set up his water table at a Stewardship Committee meeting, it resulted in Tom becoming a committee member!

Likewise, socializing with other parishioners and ministry leaders after Mass led Tom to become a catechist in his son’s Faith Formation classes. Soon, Tom’s wife, Lori, began teaching with him, and the family has greatly enjoyed coming together to serve as a “team” in religious education. They are both truly thankful to the Faith Formation leaders for their support and welcome into this ministry.

Never forgetting how his grandfathers first showed him the beauty of a life walked with Christ, Tom is grateful for the opportunity to share this experience with the next generation.

“I’m trying to instill in the kids what it means to really live out the Catholic faith,” he says. “In addition to learning the prayers and catechism, we need to go out and do what Jesus did – go out and take care of the sick and poor. The



*Tom Souza enjoys teaching the fourth-grade Faith Formation class here at St. Timothy.*

values I’m teaching my son, Michael, and the other kids in class are the same ones I taught my daughter, Olivia, who is now serving with the Peace Corps in Africa. I feel like I’m passing on the values of my grandparents – being hardworking, honest and faithful.”

Nurturing an active faith life and closer walk with God has brought Tom abundant blessings, and for this, he is grateful not only to those grandfathers who first paved the way for him, but also to the many parishioners of St. Timothy who continue to inspire him on a daily basis.

“When I surround myself with great people, it makes me want to be great, too,” he says. “That pretty much sums up everything. When I started to go to daily Mass, I started to surround myself with these great people. My faith had been a one-on-one thing, and then I met these people – and that changed everything.”

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## Building Strong Marriages

**M**arriage is a living sacrament – and like any living thing, it must be nurtured in order to flourish and grow. Five years ago, Philip and Melissa Mayer joined Teams of Our Lady, a worldwide lay movement in which groups of Catholic couples come together to deepen their graces in the Sacrament of Marriage. Looking back, the Mayers are able to see how joining Teams of Our Lady marked a turning point in their married life.

“We had been married for eight years when we joined,” Melissa says. “When we got married, we saw marriage as a sacrament, but I don’t think we understood the depth of what that really meant. Marriage is a vocation – this is the calling that God gave you, to do as best as you can, in order to get to heaven.”

“We were new to the area when we first joined the movement, so at first, we saw it more of a way to find friends and connect with people,” Philip says. “But the longer we’ve been in it, the more we’ve realized that although we’ve been blessed by good friends, it’s more of a formational tool and training ground for us as a couple. It’s changed the way we see the Sacrament of Marriage, and has helped us to grow deeper in our love for each other.”

Melissa and Philip – who have two children, 5-year-old Peter and 1-year-old Joseph – are members of one of 800 teams throughout the country, and just under 12,000 teams throughout the world. They are also the “sector couple” for the local Hillsborough sector, who coordinate the sector’s nine teams. The roots of Teams of Our Lady go back to 1940s France, when Fr. Henri Caffarel was approached by married couples seeking formation.

“Four couples started the first team, and Father guided them,” Philip says. “He described these teams as ‘not nursery schools for respectable adults, but commando squads made up of volunteers,’ of people who are dedicated to growing in holiness through the Sacrament of Marriage.”

The movement spread throughout France and then around the world, coming to the United States in 1958. In 1973, a couple came from New York to Florida to start the first team in the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Teams of Our Lady is now officially recognized by the Vatican under the Pontifical Council of the Laity.

Each team is made up of five to seven married couples and one spiritual director, who meet once a month to share, pray and discuss. Teams are made by grouping couples based on geography, so while there may be multiple couples on one team belonging to the same parish, team members may also belong to a variety of parishes.

“Our team always has our meeting on the first Saturday of the month – my mom has a standing date where she comes down and watches the boys for us,” Melissa says. “It’s a great way for us to make sure that we do something for us and for our marriage. Each month, we have a study topic and reading to do ahead of time. Our meetings are usually about three hours – we begin with a meal, then talk about the ups and downs of the month, followed by prayer time, finish with discussion of the topic and the spiritual reading.”

In addition to this time together, Teams encourages couples to work towards “endeavors,” or shared spiritual goals.

“One of these endeavors is prayer. We have always struggled with praying as a couple,” Melissa says. “Teams gave us a sense of accountability and consistency, and we were able to find what worked for us. We tried a lot of different things, but what finally worked for us is that after we put the kids to bed, we sit down and check in on how the day went, do a mini Examination of Conscience, pray with each other, and then say the Magnificat. Over time,

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*Sharing in fellowship at the monthly dinner meeting.*

## Through Teams of Our Lady

it became less of a checklist and more of a way for us to connect. Even if it's short because it's been a long day and we are tired, we still take that time to do it."

Each sector also hosts larger, sector-wide events and region-wide events, which bring all the teams together a few times a year – these include activities such as marriage enrichment, social gatherings or family picnics. Sector couples like the Mayers also attend various training activities. Through their team and through these events, Philip and Melissa have been able to get to know and learn from other couples.

"These people have been able to share in each other's lives for so long," Melissa says. "Their kids have grown up together; they've gone through different life struggles together."

"We have been able to meet couples who have been a part of this for 20-30 years, and you see the love, care and dedication they have to each other and to their teams," Philip says. "It really pushes us to continue to look more closely at our marriage."

Over the years, Teams of Our Lady have helped Philip and Melissa ground their marriage in their shared faith, even when life has proved challenging.

"We started Teams when we first had our son, Peter, and that first year of parenthood could have been really



*Philip and Melissa Mayer with their sons, Peter and Joseph.*

rough, but I think that Teams gave us the support we needed to get through it," Melissa says. "We were building up our prayers, and we were building up our marriage."

"Jesus could have picked a lot of things to represent His love for the Church, but He decided He was going to use marriage as his symbol for that love," Philip says. "Christ can never be separated from the Church, and His love for the Church can never stop – and in the Sacrament of Marriage, we are called to live this out for the whole world to see.

"It's a super high calling to love someone like that, to hold nothing back with the gift of yourself, so with the sacrament, you receive graces from God that enable you to do it," he continues. "When Melissa and I are having a disagreement, or going through a tough time, I just have to remember that God is going to give us the strength and grace to work through it. It's a way to be a part of something that is bigger than just you, and it brings you together in a special way."

If you would like more information about Teams of Our Lady, or to get involved, please contact Philip and Melissa Mayer at 407-409-8913, 407-738-9057 or [tampateams@gmail.com](mailto:tampateams@gmail.com).



# SAINT TIMOTHY

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## Bingo at St. Timothy *continued from front cover*

ministry becomes a subtle form of outreach, opening the doors to Christ simply through joyful service and Christian example.

“At the end of the day, Bingo is Bingo – so if you want to make a difference, you need to do something extra,” says longtime volunteer Richard Cloutier. “The reasons our customers come here again and again is because they like the overall experience so much more than other places they have gone – they see something special here.”

“I think it helps bring the parish into a greater relationship with the larger community,” Chris adds. “They see the amount of energy we put out to ensure that they have a wholesome experience here at St. Timothy Bingo. This is the highlight of the week for many of our guests. I truly believe that what we do here touches them and inspires them to get involved and to go to Mass or Church somewhere.”

In order to make this possible week after week, an army of volunteers is required. With anywhere to 100-175 guests per Bingo Night, the evening requires a minimum of 25 volunteers who can float around the room, manage food

services, and help facilitate the game. This can be a real challenge at times – after all, it’s not easy to give up your Friday evening and to spend hours on your feet “treating the guests like royalty.” Yet, this is truly the heart of the ministry and what makes it so effective as a true ministry of Christ.

“We don’t just come and be with these people on Friday night,” Chris says. “We become very knowledgeable of who they are – who their parents or children are, the things going on in their lives, such as the loss of a loved one. For example, we lost a mother last year who had two special needs children that she brought to Bingo every week. We get very involved when we have a player go through something like that, and we celebrate with them when something happy occurs in their lives as well.”

*Always in need of new volunteers, parishioners are invited to join the Bingo Ministry. To get involved or to learn more, call Chris Canedy at 813-960-9535.*

### • *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.