



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH

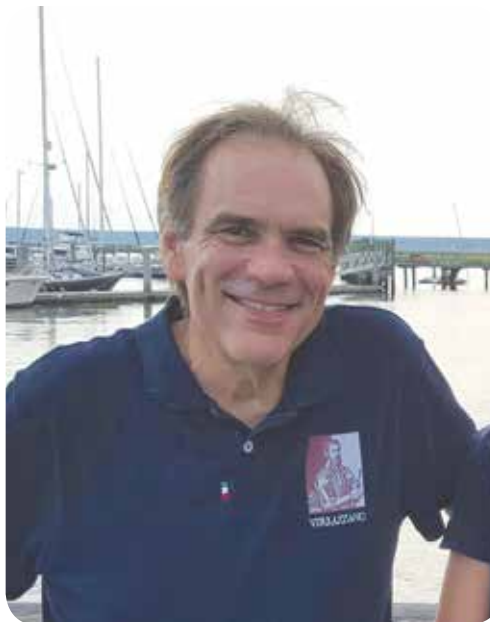


Encountering Christ Through Christian Community

The spiritual journey is not limited to our own personal relationship with Christ. As members of the Body of Christ, we truly know, love and serve God within a communal context. This is why Pope Francis states, “The individual’s act of faith finds its place within a community, within the common ‘we’ of the people who, in faith, are like a single person... through our encounter with others, our gaze rises to a truth greater than ourselves.” This community of believers can be formed in a wide variety of ways such as through the family, the parish itself, or smaller ministries such as the Small Christian Community Ministry.

As its name implies, the Small Christian Community Ministry is designed to help connect Catholics with like-minded peers within a small, intimate setting of eight to 10 members. This provides a safe and personal environment where individuals can share their struggles, learn about the Catholic faith, and support one another in the spiritual journey.

“Personal relationships with Christ are formed, sharpened and strengthened by interaction among a community of friends, fellow parishioners and neighbors,” says Coordinator Tony Gillman. “Although our faith is explained to us in a wide variety of ways, I personally feel that one of the most effective ways to live out our faith is to talk about it with others – unpacking it in a relaxed, informal and non-judgmental way.”



Parishioner Tony Gillman has found the relaxed, informal and non-judgmental way of sharing within Small Christian Communities to be “one of the most effective ways” to support Catholics in living out the faith.

November 2016

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Stewardship Hannah, the Good Steward

What should we do when our prayers are answered?

Is there anything left to do after we have sincerely thanked God for His favors? If God were a human peer, we would probably try to reciprocate by granting Him a favor in return. But the truth is that God cannot be made greater by anything that we do for Him. Instead, God receives our thanks and tells us to “go and do likewise.” That is, He tells us to share with others the good that He has bestowed on us. And in doing so, we are really sharing God Himself. That is the definition of stewardship!

The Old Testament Book of Samuel contains one of the most poignant examples of stewardship in the entire Bible. The first chapter teaches us of an unhappy, barren woman named Hannah. Desperate in her barrenness, Hannah prays that God will give her a son, vowing that she will raise him to be a man of God.

Imagine Hannah’s elation when she was granted her prayer! When Samuel was born, her heart’s desire had come true! Imagine further the pang of motherly sorrow, as Hannah kept her promise to God by taking Samuel at a young age to be the servant of Eli, the high priest. The Book of Samuel tells us that once Samuel became Eli’s servant, Hannah saw her young son just once a year.

Indeed, Hannah knew that Samuel was truly a gift from God – an answered prayer. Hannah’s response is that of the Good Steward – with an attitude of both gratitude and sacrifice, she gave up her son to honor God. One imagines that Hannah probably struggled with this sacrifice during those first years. She probably did not know what God had in store for her son. Yet, through her faithfulness, God used him as a gift to an entire nation. Samuel



would, in time, become one of the greatest prophets of Jewish history.

Sometimes it is difficult to understand the sacrifices we make in the name of stewardship, while the results may just be impossible to miss! However, He asks that we continue to be faithful in either case. God has undoubtedly bestowed gifts on all of us – at whatever the cost, we are to “go and do likewise.”

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Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Time

Dear Friends in Christ,

The next several weeks are certainly a busy time for us as Catholics, good stewards, good citizens, and faithful members of the Church and our parish. There are celebrations and commemorations both inside and outside the Church that are momentous in terms of faith, citizenship, and living as people of thanksgiving and gratitude.

We celebrate Veterans Day to honor and thank all those men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces in one capacity or another. Indicative of the importance of this day, every year at 11 a.m. Eastern, the President of the United States lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

On Sunday, Nov. 20, we culminate the Jubilee Year of Mercy on the Feast of Christ the King. In this Jubilee Year, our Holy Father Pope Francis has invited us to love, be kind, be generous, and to forgive boundlessly. How have we done? We all understand this is what we are supposed to be doing every day and every year, but this year reminds us of that, and hopefully renews us all in that reality and that hope.

We all understand that Americans celebrate a day of Thanksgiving on Nov. 24. What more can we say about this? It is a day that was faith-based from its very beginnings, and it is an indication of how much we have to thank God for in terms of the gifts we have received — our lives, our families, our Church, our Lord and Savior — everything we are and everything we have.

No sooner are Thanksgiving Day celebrations concluded, than we begin that glorious season called Advent on Sunday, Nov. 27. This prepares us for and leads to Christmas. Indeed, this is both a busy and extraordinary time of year! There is,



of course, much more on which we could focus and about which we could think, meditate and pray, but that is more than enough for us to consider and absorb.

From a stewardship perspective, I would like you to not only participate and focus on all the particular things that are about to happen, but also on one of our special gifts — the gift of time. The gift of time, which we all receive from God in equal amount, is precious because it is a non-renewable resource. Although some of our time is committed because of family responsibilities, work responsibilities or simply personal needs, we have an element of freewill with how we spend a certain amount of it. We need to spend some of that time in prayer, in thanksgiving, in worship, and in works of mercy and ministry. Our time is perhaps more precious than any material gifts we receive from the Lord. How are we doing with that gift?

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





Allowing Our Love and Knowledge



Each week the Bible Study offers a time for prayer, small group table discussions, and a lecture. Through this format, participants are invited to learn more about the context of the assigned reading for the week as well as discuss practical application to daily life.



Many who participate in this study experience a greater feeling of confidence in daily living out the faith.

There are many ways to live out the life of stewardship by sharing time, talent or treasure with others in the community. And while it is true that the stewardship way of life leads us to showing our neighbors true charity, we must also remember that the source of love for neighbor comes first from a deep love for God. One of the opportunities for parishioners to grow in their love and knowledge of God is through the Catholic Life Bible Study at St. Timothy.

“The Church teaches that ignorance of the Scripture is ignorance of Christ,” says Coordinator Bill Lynn. “Our study emphasizes the practical truth of the Bible. In studying His Word, we come closer to knowing Christ – not just knowing about Him.”

Spending time meditating on Scripture and Catholic theology allows the faith to take root in one’s heart, gives understanding on the ‘why’ behind certain aspects of our faith, and provides new ways of application in our daily lives. It allows our actions and thoughts to be rooted in a deeper love and knowledge of God, which in turn allows us to interact with and treat our neighbors as we ought.

“The focus of the Bible study is to enhance our relationship with God by providing a greater understanding of the Holy Scriptures in the context of the modern world within the framework of the teachings of Holy Mother Church,” says Coordinator Sallie Stockdill.

All are welcome at the weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays. The morning session is from 10-11:30 a.m. and the evening session is from 7:30-9 p.m. Each study includes prayer, a time for table

“I think the number-one benefit of the study is a better understanding of what the Bible is teaching us. It’s not just some interesting literature from 2,000 years ago, but it really makes a difference in today’s life. God’s love is eternal and it makes a difference in how we live. The goal is to strengthen people’s faith and understanding in this way.” – Bill Lynn

of God to Change Our Daily Lives

discussion over guided questions, and a lecture to offer extra insight into the assigned reading for the week. This year, the Catholic Life Bible Study is focusing on the books of Romans and James.

“I think the number one benefit of the study is a better understanding of what the Bible is teaching us,” Bill says. “It’s not just some interesting literature from 2,000 years ago, but it really makes a difference in today’s life. God’s love is eternal and it makes a difference in how we live. The goal is to strengthen people’s faith and understanding in this way.”

Some of the other benefits for those who attend the study include a deeper knowledge of the Scriptures and resources like the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, deeper trust in the power of prayer, growth in confidence in daily living of the faith, and being a witness to others.



If you are looking for a way to grow in your faith and get to know our Lord in a deeper way, please consider joining the weekly Bible Study!

If you are looking for a way to grow in the faith or have always had questions about the Bible, please consider joining this weekly study. If you have questions, please contact Sallie Stockdill at 813-909-1652 or ftmukasallie@aol.com, or Bill Lynn at 813-960-7630 or wlynn45@verizon.net.

Encountering Christ Through Christian Community

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According to Tony, the mission of a Small Christian Community is to “further enhance” that sense of community among St. Timothy parishioners. The ministry also works to connect what is being discussed with actual action within the community – encouraging members to further use their time, talent and treasure for the benefit of those in need.

“One of the things stressed within Small Christian Communities is that you need to go out and share what you have learned with the world,” Tony says. “You aren’t called to just keep it to yourself.”

While some Small Christian Communities meet continuously throughout the year, others form during special times like Advent and Lent in order to

more fully enter into the liturgical season. Each group is led by a trained facilitator and typically uses a lectionary-based resource. Gatherings are a mixture of learning, prayer, discussion, and fellowship, all designed to deepen one’s connection with others and with Christ.

“The hallmark of an effective Small Christian Community is that its members form a bond with one another, enabling them to truly support each other along the spiritual journey,” Tony says. “Members pray together, share their thoughts on Scripture readings, and discuss how to live the Gospel in their everyday lives. Together they grow in their relationships with Christ – both individually and as a group.”

With Advent approaching, new Small Christian Communities will be forming soon, making this the perfect time for parishioners to get involved in this ministry. To learn more about this ministry or to sign up to become part of a Small Christian Community, please contact Tony Gillman at either 813-416-8326 or t.gillman@verizon.net.



A Modern Model of Sainthood *St. Teresa of Calcutta*

In the dark final years of the Cold War, a small woman — standing at barely five feet tall — offered a living counternarrative to the inhibiting fear undergirding our daily lives and our foreign affairs. Instead of living in fear, Mother Teresa acted out of love. Instead of withdrawing and isolating herself, she gave tirelessly to others.

Many of us harbor a personal connection to this saint, for we lived during the height of the media coverage of Mother Teresa's work and her friendships with Pope St. John Paul II and the beloved Princess Diana.

Long before she received the name Mother Teresa and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born on Aug. 26, 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia, the crossroads of the Balkans. The youngest of three children, Mother Teresa was raised predominately by her mother after her father's death, when she was about 8 years old. Dranafite (Drana) Bojaxhiu, Mother Teresa's mother, undoubtedly became a strong influence on her daughter's vocation, since Drana herself was a devout Catholic and known for her prayer life and her charity.

Agnes attended a Catholic primary school and, following the example of her mother, became active in their parish and sang in Sacred Heart's choir. As a young person, Agnes enjoyed reading the lives of the saints — while immersing herself in the stories of these holy men and women, Agnes first felt the stirring call to become a missionary.

At the age of 18, Agnes traveled to Dublin, Ireland, to join the Sisters of Loreto. She became Sr. Mary Teresa, named after St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and began to learn English. Within a few months of arriving in Ireland, she left for India.

In India, Sr. Mary Teresa lived at the Loreto Entally community in Calcutta, where she served as an educator and taught at St. Mary's School. After her final profession, she became Mother Teresa and, a few years later, began serving as the school's principal.

On an ordinary day, Mother Teresa received an extraordinary call. While on a train ride to her annual retreat, Mother Teresa felt what she would describe as Jesus' thirst for souls. Soon, Jesus called her to found the Missionaries of Charity, an order devoted to serving the "poorest of the poor."

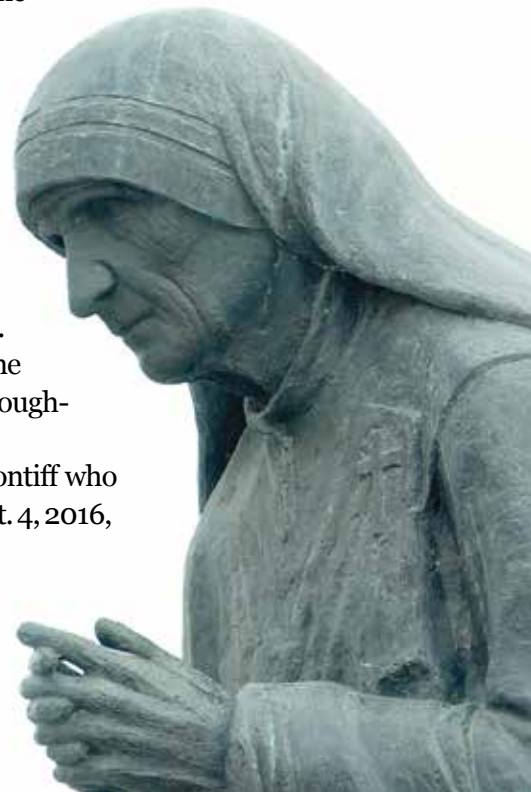
The order formally began on Oct. 7, 1950, and has grown from one woman tending the sick and dying in the streets of Calcutta to over 4,500 religious sisters helping the poor in over 130 countries around the world. Additionally, the order grew to include the Missionaries of Charity Brothers, the Missionaries of Charity Fathers and the Lay Missionaries of Charity.

Though externally Mother Teresa joyfully and indefatigably served the poor for nearly 50 years, during the majority of this time, she experienced a "dark night of the soul," an extensive period of not feeling God's presence or hearing His voice. Other saints, notably St. John of the Cross, similarly experienced a dark night of the soul. Despite this spiritual struggle, Mother Teresa continued her work joyfully throughout her sickness and until her death on Sept. 5, 1997.

Pope St. John Paul II beatified Mother Teresa in 2003. Fittingly, this year, a pontiff who has underscored the importance of social justice celebrated her canonization. On Sept. 4, 2016, Pope Francis canonized Mother Teresa, the "Saint of the Gutters," at the Vatican.

St. Teresa of Calcutta offers us an example of ceaseless prayer and selfless service. She is a modern model of sainthood that we can emulate in our daily lives starting with how we serve and treat the other members of our family, our faith community and all those with whom we interact on a daily basis.

St. Teresa of Calcutta, pray for us!



“The Whole Point Is Reaching Out” Our St. Timothy Catholic Church Men’s Club

With Jesus Christ as the foundation of our faith, we build the Four Pillars of Stewardship – Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. Almost from the very beginnings of our parish in January 1986, our Men’s Club has existed for the specific purpose of pursuing and fulfilling the Fourth Pillar of Stewardship, Service. Initially the club was a spin-off from our mother parish, St. Paul, which had a similar group.

However, over the past 20 years, the Men’s Club has developed its own distinct and unique approach to service.

“There is no question that we have done a lot to help the parish continue to grow and develop to the point where it is, but we feel we can do even more,” says Men’s Club President Jack Provenzano. “Whether he is aware of it or not, every man in the parish is automatically a member. There are no dues and no fees.”

Early on, the Men’s Club carefully defined itself with by-laws, as well as a clear mission statement –

“The Men’s Club is an organization that provides an atmosphere for fostering Christian fellowship and a sense of community among the men of the parish aimed at strengthening family life in our parish. We serve as a support group and provide a structure to assist with various parish religious celebrations and social events. We also provide a service for the maintenance and betterment of church buildings and property.”

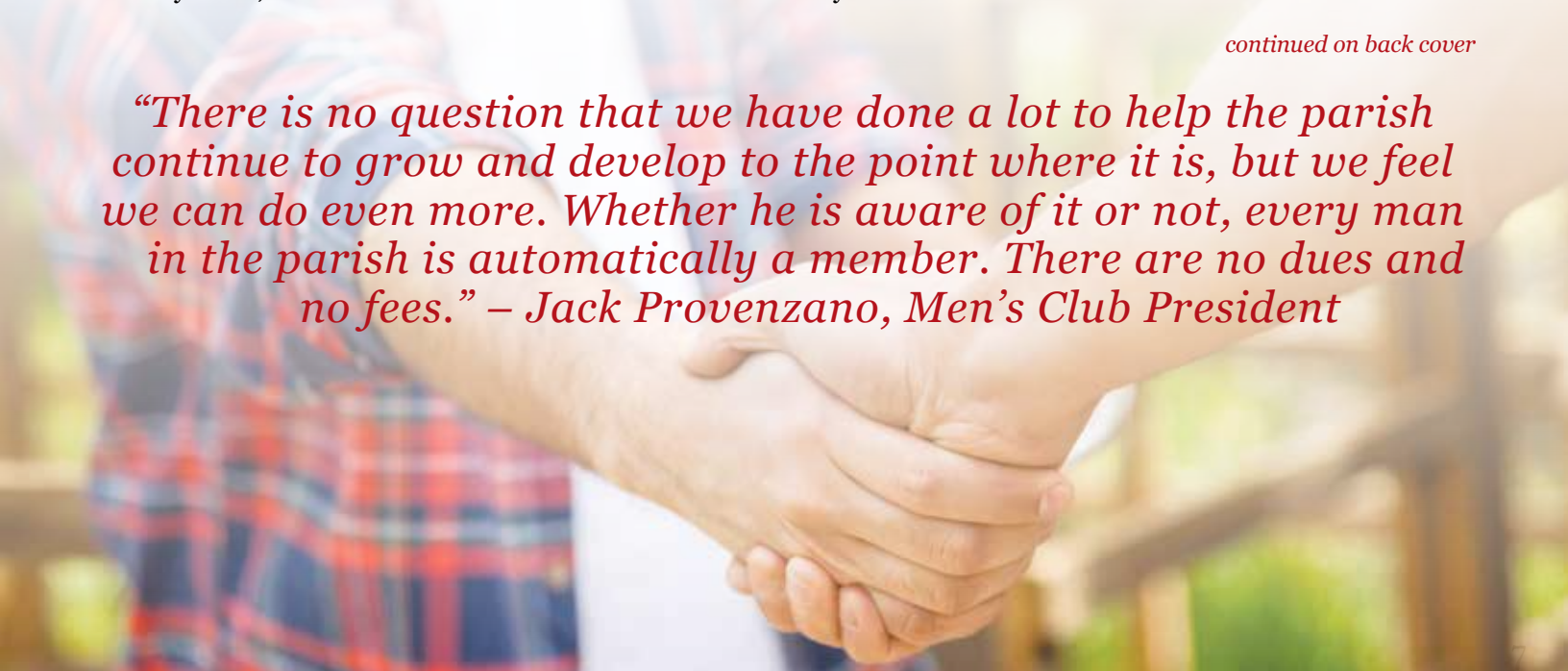
At the heart of the Men’s Club is the Stewardship Pillar of Service, and the club members embrace discipleship by doing as much as they can in order to be Christ for others.

“The St. Timothy Men’s Club wants your time and talent,” Jack says. “We are working not only to become more involved in our own parish, but in the community around us, as well. We really want to reach out to the poor, to come in contact with them face to face and to help. The whole point is reaching out.”

The Men’s Club meets monthly on the first Monday of the month in the Parish Hall.

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Our St. Timothy Catholic Church Men's Club

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“At the most, our meetings are two hours in length, and that includes a 30-minute social hour from 6:30 until 7 p.m.,” Jack says. “At 7 o'clock, we pray and have dinner – there is no cost for the dinner. After dinner we have our meeting, where we always have plenty to discuss. We evaluate completed service projects and plan upcoming ones. We also recap our fundraising efforts for the month and our current funds availability. I believe we are truly a transparent organization when it comes to our fundraising activities and balances.”

Jack notes that there are about 100 men who are currently “very involved,” although he emphasizes that “we can certainly use more.”

“Our efforts at outreach include working with a local veterans' home, serving the homeless –

including providing items to the Sheriff's Department for distribution to the homeless – helping other parishes and, of course, performing much service with our own Parish at St. Timothy,” he says. “At our last meeting, we pledged \$10,000 annually to Mother Teresa of Calcutta School for tuition assistance. Sometimes, we may also have a guest speaker at our meetings.

“In addition we oversee the weekly Friday night Bingo at the parish, have a monthly parish pancake breakfast, do a weekly fish fry during Lent, and work on many projects jointly with the Women's Club,” Jack continues. “I know we are working to become good stewards, and I would encourage other men to become involved with us. Just show up at a meeting and/or help on a particular effort if you wish.”

*If you would like more information about the St. Timothy Men's Club,
please contact President Jack Provenzano at jackprovenzano@gmail.com.*

• **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.