



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



A Conversion Experience for the Whole Family *The RCIA Process for Children*

For Peggy Cloutier, our Director of Faith Formation, the celebration of baptism is one of absolute joy.

"When you see those youth or children coming out of the baptismal font at the Easter Vigil and see their faces, they practically glow," says Peggy, who also coordinates the RCIA process for children at the parish. "It's an amazing experience."

RCIA, or the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, is a process through which those who are unbaptized can come into the Catholic faith, or those who have been baptized in another Christian faith can receive the remaining Sacraments of Initiation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. This usually happens at the Easter Vigil Mass. Children, age 7 through high school, who have never been baptized, were baptized in another faith, or who have never received any faith formation following Baptism, have the opportunity to go through a modified RCIA process designed to help them prepare for the sacraments in an age-appropriate setting.



Children who prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation through the RCIA process receive their sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

"I love helping families come back to practicing the faith," Peggy says. "Maybe they've been away from the faith or they are experiencing guilt that, 'Oh, I never got my child baptized.' Every family has a different story of where they've been. They're coming to the Church and they really want to

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The RCIA Process for Children continued from front cover

come back to the practice of the faith and to raise their children in the faith. It's a wonderful thing to be able to help them and welcome them."

The RCIA process involves weekly sessions that allow the children and youth to break into small groups with others of a similar age and discuss the faith, learn about Scripture, and delve into what it means to live as a Catholic. For much of the preparation year, they also participate in a "dismissal" from the Mass — along with adults looking to join the church — which gives them the opportunity to examine the Sunday Gospel readings and apply them to their everyday practice of the faith.

In order to support children going through the RCIA process, there are also opportunities for the whole family to be involved. The child is accompanied by their parents and godparent/sponsor to a special Saturday session, once a month, that is designed to help the whole family incorporate the faith into their life.

"We get the whole family involved with the child's RCIA process, so that it becomes a conversion experience for the whole family. The Saturday sessions are a time for the parents, youth/child and their sponsor to talk about an area of the faith or what it means to belong to the Church," Peggy says.

According to Peggy, the RCIA process for children is often an opportunity for parents and the whole family to grow together in their relationship with God.

"Sometimes, you don't think about a lot of these things until you're experiencing it with your children and then you realize that our faith is really amazing," she says. "It's been a wonderful thing to see conversions in the family."

"There's something that calls people back to the Catholic Church," Peggy continues. "They want the

"We're not here to judge, we're here to help you," she says. "Everybody is at a different place on their journey. We want to help parents with their goals of getting the sacraments for their children, because parents are the most important teachers of the faith for their children. Everybody's been through different things and has different stories. When you come here, we're here to assist you." — Peggy Cloutier, Director of Faith Formation

Sacraments they experienced as children for their sons and daughters. I think sometimes the parents gain a greater appreciation of what we have in the Eucharist, the Mass, and the sacraments and how important a gift they are for us."

Peggy encourages families who may have been away from the faith to talk to her about getting their children involved in the RCIA process.

"We're not here to judge, we're here to help you," she says. "Everybody is at a different place on their journey. We want to help parents with their goals of getting the sacraments for their children, because parents are the most important teachers of the faith for their children. Everybody's been through different things and has different stories. When you come here, we're here to assist you."

Peggy also encourages parishioners to consider joining the RCIA for Children team, or being a godparent or sponsor to a child going through the process.

If you are interested in having your children join the RCIA process, or if you would like to serve those children preparing to receive their Sacraments of Initiation, please contact Peggy Cloutier at 813-961-1716 or peggy.cloutier@sainttims.org.

Stewardship: "This Is the Day the Lord Has Made; Let Us Rejoice in It and Be Glad"

Dear Friends in Christ,

Sometimes, we spend much time looking at, analyzing and speaking about the meaning of various passages and readings from Holy Scripture. Of course, we need to do that – it is important to our spiritual well-being, and to have a complete understanding of the messages revealed to us in the Word of God. As you are aware, most weeks we have four readings as part of our Liturgy of the Word – a First Reading, then a Responsorial Psalm, a Second Reading, and the Holy Gospel.

The one reading that sometimes is ignored is the Psalm. Yet, there are truths and wisdom in the Psalms that are worthy of our comments and our recognition. Psalm 24 (a song of David) strikes me in particular as one rich in meaning with regard to stewardship. It opens, “The earth is the Lord’s and all it holds, the world and those who dwell in it.” For me, that says everything we believe and provides us with all the motivation we need to pursue stewardship as a way of life.

Let us consider how profound that statement – “The earth is the Lord’s and all it holds” – really is. If we do embrace stewardship as a way of life, we admit and accept that everything comes from God and everything is God’s. Stewardship is not complicated, although we try to make everything complex and complicated, it seems. It is, as stated, merely the realization that our very existence, our lives, our goods all come from and in finality belong to God. We are the stewards of all of this. If we accept that and try to live that way, we’ll do a better job



of administering God’s gifts. That is all stewardship is.

At the heart of all of this is our relationship with the Lord. We can also say that stewardship is all about getting that relationship right. Jesus certainly makes reference to stewards and stewardship in the Gospels. The Gospels were all written in Greek, and the English words for “steward” and “stewardship” are translations from a Greek word that means “to administer what belongs to someone else.”

That is what we do in this life. We receive gifts – we are granted the stewardship of time, talent and treasure from God. But all of this and all we may be are only gifts. Our use of them to serve one another and all those around us in our community, our parish and the universal Church is the measure of our stewardship.

Thinking of our lives – time, talent, and treasure – as things requiring careful stewardship may be hard for some. All of us have grown up in a society that tends to emphasize what we have and not what we do with it. Jesus calls us to change our thinking. It may be hard but it is definitely the best way forward – the way by which we can show greater love for God and for our neighbor.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Kenneth J. Malley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Rev." in a smaller script above "Kenneth J. Malley".

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley



Funeral Ministry Offers Care Be

Our Funeral Ministry at St. Timothy not only provides guidance in planning a funeral, but also support and comfort in Christ to those grieving their loss.

Cathy Summers and Rose Pelphrey, Co-Chairs of the ministry, offer their thoughts on the functions and benefits for making use of their outreach.

"The Funeral Ministry helps in planning and conducting funerals," Cathy says. "Information available on the parish website provides step-by-step instructions for deciding the most appropriate scripture readings, music, and other important details. Most importantly, a member of the Funeral Ministry meets with the family to offer additional guidance and finalize all aspects of the services to be conducted."

Several years ago, Brenda Covini organized the Funeral and Bereavement Ministry, as a combined service. However, with the growth of the parish, the Funeral and Bereavement Ministries were separated into two entities. Brenda continues to lead the Bereavement Ministry.

When a funeral takes place, the Funeral Ministry hospitality team takes care of setting up everything for the liturgy and will assist with serving food provided by the family when requested. "The Funeral Ministry does not prepare the food," Cathy says. "But the church does provide all the paper items, water, and coffee. Our hospitality team does all the set-up, picks up the food if the source is within a five-mile radius, serves and takes care of the cleanup."



"We get through. We kind of put one foot in front of the other. You need your faith. That's what works for me, why I do this. I feel compassion for the people. It's just wanting to help someone through a really, really terrible time." – Rose Pelphrey

before and During Time of Need

Cathy and Rose take turns overseeing the funerals. Each woman attends the funerals that customarily are held during our 9 a.m. Mass.

"We offer comfort and a sense of organization," Cathy says of the ministry. "All the guidelines for a funeral come from the Order of Christian Funerals, the official publication of the universal Church. We follow these, and it really helps the families. They know what we plan comes from a very deep tradition going back to the early Church."

"It's a big team and ministry," Cathy says, "and such a good group. There is no one on the team who isn't a remarkable volunteer."

For Cathy, serving in the ministry is a very rewarding experience that strengthens her own faith.

"It brings out the whole feeling of resurrection," she says. "There's a resurrection each time there is a funeral. It truly brings Christ into the overall life story of that person. You can't touch it, but when you listen to the words in the different Scriptures particular to funerals, it deepens your faith. You know there is a resurrection. This ministry has helped me and strengthened my faith tremendously."

Cathy also believes the Funeral Ministry is an important part of the Pillar of Hospitality as we live in stewardship.

"You're not just giving a cup of coffee," she says, "It's a very loving ministry at a time when people are grieving and mourning. The whole congregation is really helped by this ministry."

"I couldn't do it without Christ's love," Rose adds. "I couldn't work with the people when they're so sad and grieving and get through it without His love. You see terrible grief, and you see the shock.

We get through. We kind of put one foot in front of the other. You need your faith. That's what works for me, why I do this. I feel compassion for the people. It's just wanting to help someone through a really, really terrible time."

And to Rose, it is God's love that carries everyone through that ordeal.

"When I walk out of the church, when the funeral is done, I get in the car and thank God," she says. "He not only walked with me, He walked with everyone. He spoke through the priest, comforted us through the music and helped the mourners through what can be a terrible moment."

Rose cites the volunteers in the ministry who are dedicated to their service in helping those grieving.

"We have some wonderful volunteers," she says. "One or two people couldn't do this. We have 20 to 30 involved in each funeral. We pick up the phone and say, 'I need your help,' and they're there. They never fail you. We're a team, a family, there to be a comfort at a time when there may not be much comfort."

Rose attributes much of the response from the Funeral Ministry members to the fact that our parish is truly a family.

"St. Tim's is a phenomenal parish," Rose says. "I can't imagine going to another church. Nothing is like our church, our family."

And within that family is stewardship – with the Funeral Ministry as one example.

"We are stewards — stewards to everyone," Rose says. "We're there to help, comfort, advise and serve. Whether you're serving donuts, or Bingo, or doing funerals, we're there to be of help to people."

The ministry is always looking for volunteers. Please contact either Cathy Summers at 813-968-2779, or Rose Pelpfrey at 813-518-4960. "Or you can contact the parish office at 813-968-1077," Cathy says. "They'll pass the information to us. That's not ever a problem."



The Importance of Family Prayer

"The family that prays together stays together."

This famous slogan was coined in 1947 by writer Al Scalpone, and has been frequently referenced ever since. The phrase pinpoints the true power of prayer, and the importance of making family prayer a consistent practice in our lives.

As Christian disciples, we are striving to follow Jesus – to grow in our love of Him and to serve Him through the use of our time, talent and treasure. If we desire to follow in His footsteps, we must first begin by getting to know Him. Spending time with the Lord in prayer forms a foundation on which we can build our lives as Christian disciples, much in the same way that spending time with a girlfriend or boyfriend forms the foundation of a strong relationship.

The Christian family is the first place where children learn to pray. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls the family unit “*Ecclesia domestica*,” or “the Domestic Church” (1656). Thus, parents have a responsibility to set an example by taking time for personal prayer every day, and making family prayer a regular practice. This not only sets an example for the children, but also provides them with a faith-filled foundation and brings them closer to the Lord – forming them as grateful stewards of their time.

There are many ways in which a family can pray together. One of the most important times for prayer is before meals, where we thank God for His blessings, and for the food on our family table. Families may also share in the formal prayers of the Church, or perhaps pray a Rosary together every night. We can also thank the Lord aloud, asking Him to answer our prayers and offering Him our daily petitions. One often-suggested method of family prayer is ACTS, where we offer Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Families may also go to their church and kneel together before the Blessed Sacrament, offering prayers in Christ’s Presence.

These are just several of the many opportunities for families to pray together. Of course, prayer will be influenced by each family’s dynamics and personalities. But no matter how we pray, it is important that we make the time to do so. Prayer deepens the family’s relationship with the Lord, strengthens our commitment as His disciples, and helps us renew and foster our families’ bonds.



PRAYER OF PARENTS:

God, our Father, I thank you for the gift of my children and for the privilege and responsibility of being a parent, for this is my way of holiness. May I regard each of my children as a sacred pledge of Your love and a beautiful sign of Your confidence in me. Help me to pass on to my children our greatest treasures - faith in Your truths, hope in Your goodness, love in Your name for all. I entrust my children to Your loving care. Banish from our home any bitterness or lack of forgiveness. Let us have time, deep concern, and a sense of sacrifice for one another. Teach us never to be ashamed that we are, in name and in fact, a Catholic family striving to live in the way of Jesus, Who is head of our home. Give us Your Holy Spirit to unite us throughout this life and let the circle of our family be unbroken in the Kingdom of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

"Always Say 'Thank You, Lord'" St. Timothy's Ron and Loretta Klamborowski

Before the age of the internet," Ron Klamborowski shares that he met his wife Loretta at a dance in Buffalo, N.Y. They were both members of conservative Polish churches in their community, but the faith felt mandatory, not voluntary. It felt forced, not heartfelt. By the time they were married, they weren't attending church anymore.

God calls us to Him – or back to Him – through many different ways. Surprisingly, it was the state of New York that would nudge Ron and Loretta to return to the faith.

"When we went to adopt, the state said we had to belong to a registered church," says Ron. "The state actually recommended the Newman Center, and we went and loved it."

Over the next 15 years, Ron and Loretta fostered 15 children while actively embracing their "re-found" Catholic faith. When they relocated to our area, Ron and Loretta began attending the newly established St. Timothy mission church when Masses were still celebrated in the storefront.

Shortly after joining the community, they were asked if they would mentor engaged couples. Though "scared to death," Ron and Loretta said "yes," and over the years they would mentor 70 couples.

"As we were helping others, we always thought about how it helped our own marriage," Loretta says. "Now, when we see these couples with their children at Mass or at a parish function, it is a blessing for us."

Today Ron continues to serve as a Lector at Mass and as the organizer of a one-mile Family Fun Run – a free event that is part of the annual parish fall festival. He enjoys coordinating this opportunity to bring individuals and families of all fitness levels together.

Because of his own experiences Ron prefers a personal approach to secure volunteers. "When I do the Fun Run, I specifically ask individuals to help out," Ron says. "People seem to like being asked directly. I'd encourage people to reach out to others in the faith community and ask them to become involved in something specific."

Loretta learned how to quilt when she and Ron began attending the Newman Center, so when they moved to the area, Loretta joined a quilting ministry at St. Mary's.

"At the time, I was taking care of my mother who had dementia, and I needed that group community and uplifting environment," Loretta says. "I have been with the group for 12 years, and we make about 200 quilts a year. They go to veterans, hospitals, nursing homes and other places."

Beyond the immediate faith community, Loretta and Ron have found several ways to give back to the larger community.

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Loretta Klamborowski pictured with one of their breeder dogs for Southeastern Guide Dogs



Ron Klamborowski preparing for the Annual Family Fun Run



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"Always Say 'Thank You, Lord'" *continued from page 7*

In 1994, Ron was watching *60 Minutes* when he saw a television program on the benefits of holding and rocking babies to help their health improve.

"I started doing that at All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Fla., and have been doing it ever since," Ron says. "One day, a mom came into the hospital with her daughter and said, 'this is Rachel, and you rocked her 14 years ago.'"

Ron and Loretta also supply breed dogs for Southeastern Guide Dogs, a nonprofit organization that provides visually impaired individuals with guide dogs. Ron and Loretta's two dogs have supplied 52 puppies. They've even attended the graduation of one of their puppies.

"Volunteering doesn't have to just be for the Church," Loretta says. "Occasionally we'll get a nice note in the mail from a blind man who has one of our puppies as a guide dog. It's special."

Ron and Loretta's ongoing stewardship journey shows how Christ can call us through the most un-

expected means. A non-profit, a government agency, a television program or a simple invitation from a fellow parishioner can all be gateways to living out a stewardship lifestyle. One way to show our thankfulness for His blessings is to respond with a generous "yes."

"No matter who you are, you always say, at some point, 'Thank you, Lord,'" Ron says. "One really good way to say 'thank you' to our Lord is through volunteering."

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– Ron Klamborowski*

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.