



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Children Encounter God's Infinite Mercy and Love Through First Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the most special gifts we can receive from God. As the children of our parish prepare for their First Communion, an important part of that process is their First Reconciliation. Here at St. Timothy, the first semester of second-grade Religious Education focuses on the Sacrament of Reconciliation and on God's boundless love and mercy.

"We emphasize that God always loves you no matter what," says Director of Faith Formation Peggy Cloutier. "I think that having that encounter with Jesus in the sacrament is a real blessing and gift

that we have in our faith, that Jesus gave to His apostles and passes down through our priests. Why wouldn't we want our children to have that encounter with our loving Savior? We are all strengthened through going to Confession, and we're able to become better people, form our conscience and live out our Gospel values."

The second-grade Religious Education year consists of four sessions for First Reconciliation preparation, and four sessions for First Communion preparation. Each session begins with a short prayer service, including Scripture readings and songs. Children also have a book that they use on the weeks in between sacramental sessions, which emphasize topics such as the Ten Commandments and human virtues.

Children have the opportunity to participate in different service projects throughout the year.



The children's Reconciliation retreat.

continued on page 2

November 2017

In this Issue

- 2 November is a Time for Thanksgiving
- 4 Living as Sons and Daughters of God: Our Advent Mission, Dec. 4-6
- 6 Stewardship Becoming Fishers of Men
- 7 Our St. Timothy Leadership Retreat in January 2018 "Exploring the Spiritual Dimensions of Our Lives is Always Crucial to Our Development"

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Children Encounter God's Infinite Mercy and Love Through First Reconciliation *continued from front cover*

"We do a food drive for our St. Vincent de Paul Pantry, and in December they purchase a toy they would like to play with and donate it to a child whose family isn't able to buy them toys," Peggy says. "The concept of sacrificial giving is a way for them to live out what Jesus asks us to do for our neighbors and brothers and sisters."

Finally, children and parents participate in a special Reconciliation Retreat together.

"Everything we do here is to support what parents do with their children, since they are their children's first teachers – we really work as partners with the parents in this process," Peggy says. "This retreat gives them the chance to look at Reconciliation in a new way, and see it through the eyes of their child. It allows them to see how happy their child is to celebrate that sacrament."

The retreat has a "Spiritual Journey" theme, in which children receive small passport books and receive stamps as they rotate through several stations.

"For instance, we have a station where they make little prayer boxes; there is a Ten Commandments station in which they work to understand good choices and bad choices; there is a station on God's forgiveness and the Examination of Conscience; there is a station where they talk about their own ability to ask for forgiveness and to forgive others," Peggy says. "There are also activities that give them a concrete example of what it's like to be set free from sin through Reconciliation."

First Reconciliation itself is modeled after a parish Reconciliation service.

"We have a prayer service, a song, and the priest talks about the children's Examination of Conscience," Peggy says. "The parents sit with the children, with their class. The catechist brings them down the aisle to the priest who is sitting behind their section. It's very easy for the child, and they are given a lot of support.

"Before Reconciliation, we give them a tiny stone, and as they go to the priest they put their stone in the basket," she adds. "It symbolizes that they are unburdening themselves of the weight of that sin. After they do their penance, we give them a satin heart which symbolizes God's love, and that their heart is light and free."

After the service, families are invited to a celebration luncheon provided by the parish Men's Club.

"It's a fun day – we make it fun and loving," Peggy says. "I sometimes see them do a little happy dance after they are done with their Reconciliation!"



The retreat has a "Spiritual Journey" theme, in which children receive small passport books and receive stamps as they rotate through several stations.



One of the retreat stations helps the children to understand good choices and bad choices.

If you would like more information about First Reconciliation preparation, please contact Peggy Cloutier at peggy.cloutier@sainttims.org or 813-961-1716.

November is a Time for Thanksgiving

Dear Friends in Christ,

November seems to automatically bring us to thoughts of thanksgiving and Thanksgiving – it is both a time of year when we tend to think in terms of gratitude to God, and a time when we also formally celebrate our American holiday. My memories of Thanksgiving are filled with food, of course, but they are also filled with thoughts of family and a sense of togetherness and a sense of my faith.

But this is also a significant month in the Church from a number of perspectives. Nov. 1 is a Holy Day, the Solemnity of All Saints. The next day is All Souls Day, a day devoted to all the saints in our lives – living, not living, known, and unknown.

Most of us have people in our lives who have had a profound impact on us – people we can consider our own personal saints. This month is a wonderful reminder to think of them, thank them, and thank God for making them a part of our lives.

Our Thanksgiving holiday falls on Nov. 23, and is a time for families and gratitude. Thanksgiving became official in the United States in 1863, and in his proclamation, President Abraham Lincoln made very clear Whom we needed to thank. “To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have



been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God,” Lincoln said. In other words, we all need to thank Almighty God for our many blessings.

Finally, November also brings us to the end of one Church year and the beginning of a new one. The Feast of Christ the King on Nov. 26 officially begins the final week of our liturgical year, and the First Sunday of Advent is on Dec. 3. From the beginning of the month when we thank God for the example of the saints and the saintly people in our lives, to the end of the month when we thank God for everything we have and everything we are, November is a time to approach the Lord with a grateful heart. That is what stewardship truly is all about – about approaching God, about approaching each day, and about approaching all those with whom we come in contact, with hearts filled with gratitude and love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Kenneth J. Malley". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





Living as Sons and Daughters of God

From fallen-away Catholic, to priest, to founder of a new religious order, one can only describe the life of Fr. Philip Scott, F.J., as miraculous. Born in Lima, Peru, Fr. Philip's family immigrated to the United States when he was 5 years old. Though Fr. Philip was raised in a devoutly Catholic family, he had fallen away from the faith as a young man, slipping into a dissolute lifestyle. It wasn't until a powerful Baptism of the Holy Spirit in 1980 that he returned to the Christian faith, telling Jesus, "I don't know who You are, but I give You my life."

This decision changed Fr. Philip's life forever. He still had a long way to go before the priesthood, however, spending several years as a staunch anti-Catholic. Still, God had other plans for his life, eventually leading Fr. Philip back to Mother Church and to the priesthood. And then the

"I think most people know that their Baptism makes them an adopted son or daughter of the Father, but they have no idea what that actually means in their life. God wishes us to live our baptismal adoption with a new freedom that will manifest His glory – to free us entirely from our fears, insecurities, opinions of ourselves, and attacks of the devil. Once a person begins to learn how to live that, then they can truly live in the security of the Father's house here on earth."

– Fr. Philip Scott, F.J.



Some of the members of Family of Jesus the Healer just outside of Lima, Peru.

story took yet another dramatic turn when Fr. Philip answered God's call in 1998 to found a new religious order – the Family of Jesus the Healer. Dedicated to bringing God's healing love to the world specifically through the family, this order was originally founded in Tampa, Fla. However, the order now resides in the Amazon rainforest of Peru, living a strict life of poverty, obedience and chastity.

"Put simply, our charism is about living our spiritual freedom in Jesus through the Trinity," Fr. Philip says. "We started out in Tampa, but then I heard a call in my heart through prayer – 'return to your country of origin.' So, I spent a year and a half discerning that before it became clear that the time had come for me to respond to the Lord's calling once again."

Through a process of counseling, prayer, healing, teaching, and sacramental living, Fr. Philip and the members of his order work hard to help bring healing to the minds and hearts of others. One of the ways Fr. Philip does this is by traveling the world, offering retreats and parish missions for religious and lay people. And

Our Advent Mission, Dec. 4-6



Fr. Philip Scott with some of his religious brothers.

this December, we are blessed to have him come here to St. Timothy as the presenter for our Advent Mission.

Based around the theme “Living as a son/daughter in Jesus the son and no longer as an orphan,” Fr. Philip hopes that this will be a time of great healing and spiritual growth for our parish family. Taking place Dec. 4-6, the Mission will include opportunities for Mass and Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, healing prayer, and inspiring talks through both morning and evening sessions. Fr. Philip’s hope is to reveal to people both young and old their true identity in Christ – namely as a son or daughter in whom the Lord delights.

“I think most people know that their Baptism makes them an adopted son or daughter of the Father, but they have no idea what that actually means in their life,” Fr. Philip says. “God wishes us to live our baptismal adoption with a new freedom that will manifest His glory – to free us entirely from our fears, insecurities, opinions of ourselves, and attacks of the devil. Once a person begins to learn how to live that,

then they can truly live in the security of the Father’s house here on earth.”

Geared toward all parishioners high school age and above, this mission promises to be an incredible opportunity for spiritual rejuvenation and healing. Fr. Philip has personally witnessed countless physical and emotional healings through these retreats, often removing deep-set wounds. We encourage all parishioners to take advantage of this unique opportunity, learning from Fr. Philip’s wisdom and being transformed by Christ’s healing love.

“I’ve been blessed beyond my wildest dreams to be able to express and to preach this message,” Fr. Philip says. “Many people, because of their wounds, feel so defeated because they aren’t already saints.

They don’t realize that is exactly what God uses to prepare us for this encounter with Jesus as His son and daughter. We need to experience what Jesus experiences with the Father in our own hearts so that He can begin to live out His Sonship within us.”



Fr. Philip Scott with friends in Peru.



STEWARDSHIP

Becoming Fishers of Men

Whether you hold a high-profile position, such as parish council president, or have more of a behind-the-scenes role as a coordinator of a parish ministry, God has called you – as a parish leader – to help build His Church.

This challenge is just as important as the call of any other Catholic leader, including the earliest disciples.

When Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee, He urged a group of fishermen, “Come follow me.” Jesus promised if they laid down their nets and followed Him, He would make them fishers of men. These men were among His original disciples, and they knew Christ’s call was so important that they left their secular occupation to follow Him.

Just as He did with the fishermen, Jesus calls each of us today. He is not necessarily asking us to leave our secular careers, but He is asking us to put Him first in our lives and to share His message of love with others.

God truly wants us to serve Him and to build His Church through the secular occupations we have chosen. It is through the Church that new disciples are born, and it is in the Church that disciples continue to mature. Forming disciples of Christ is the most important work that can be done on earth, and each of us has been called to play an active role in this work.

So, how do we go about building the Church? Where do we find the plans?

Some people mistakenly think that building the Church – in particular, building our own parish or diocese – is no different than building a successful business. Indeed, the purpose of building

the Church is to change hearts – a goal that only God can accomplish.

Secular society has not prepared us for this work. However, the Holy Spirit – sometimes referred to as the “Architect of the Church” – has the plan. In order to implement this plan, we must become good listeners. We must open ourselves to the workings of the Holy Spirit as He transforms us and guides us to carry out God’s work and to serve as His instruments on earth, building the Church together with Him.

This is where spiritual exercises, such as retreats, come into play. A retreat offers the individual an opportunity to spend time alone with the Lord, allowing God to draw the person deeper into the mystery of who He is, who we are and what He is doing in our lives. Stewardship retreats can offer parish leaders the opportunity each year to spend time with the Lord as He directs them in the ways of discipleship. As leaders, we must take time to meditate on the Scriptures and allow Jesus to open up His Word to us. Then, as we grow deeper in our understanding of what God wants of us, we can exclaim, just as the first disciples did on the road to Emmaus, “Our hearts are burning within us” (Lk 24:32).

God has placed an extremely important call on the lives of all parish leaders, no matter how big or small the role. It is vital to understand how we, as parish leaders, can best answer His call. What, in particular, is the Lord calling each one of us to do? He most likely is not asking us to drop our nets, but to pick them up and become “fishers of men.” We must discern how we can most effectively cast our nets for Him.

St. Timothy Leadership Retreat

A Chance for Parishioners to Grow in Faith this January

According to an article published in Our Sunday Visitor, “Current Church legislation encourages the parish pastor to organize periodic retreats or missions for the good of the faithful, while all those who are to be ordained are required to make a weeklong retreat. Similarly, priests and religious are asked to make a yearly retreat. For the good of the Church, as well as for the good of their own souls and the sake of their families, lay people are also encouraged to get away for a few days each year to rekindle their relationship with Christ. Retreats are a time away from our normal activities to spend time getting reacquainted with God, to examine the priorities of life and to make concrete and practical resolutions for improvement. Retreats can be a powerful step toward personal conversion.”

On the weekend of Jan. 12-13, St. Timothy Catholic Church will be hosting a retreat for parish leaders, which includes parishioners who serve as ministry leaders. Our theme for this year is “Lift Up Our Hearts,” and this retreat will emphasize that as well as the “Gifts of Spiritual Leadership.” All parishioners currently serving as a ministry leader or in some other leadership capacity at the parish are invited and encouraged to attend. We also invite parishioners who wish to become ministry leaders in the future and anyone else considering a parish leadership position to attend.

“What we hope to do is to encourage a disciples’ response among our people,” says our pastor, Fr. Kenneth



“We have added a number of fountains to our plant and campus here at St. Timothy,” says Fr. Kenneth Malley. “These fountains are representative of the ‘water of life’ (aqua viviente). They represent the ‘living water’ which contains within it ‘living gifts’ which we are invited to open to the glory of God.”

Malley. “We receive so much from God, as individuals and as a parish. This retreat allows us to literally ‘lift up our hearts’ to God and to deepen our understanding and appreciation of God’s love. It will encourage us to truly be leaders. We receive so much from the Lord. This is an opportunity for us to show our gratitude for that and to give something back, also in thanksgiving.”

“We need to know as the leaders of the parish where we are going,” says Fr. John Lipscomb. “A leadership retreat like this helps us in that regard. Stewardship and discipleship go hand in hand. Our annual leadership retreat is important because it helps us to make that connection. Stewardship has

continued on back cover



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St. Timothy Leadership Retreat *continued from page 7*

everything to do with the spiritual, more than anything else. Spending time together exploring the spiritual dimensions of our lives is always crucial to our development as individuals and a community.”

The facilitator for the retreat is Fr. Jim Golka, the pastor and rector of St. Mary Cathedral in the Diocese of Grand Island, Neb.

“We arranged our schedule and our time so that Fr. Golka could be the facilitator for our retreat,” Fr. Malley says. “He is considered one of the best at leading a retreat in the entire country and we are privileged to have him leading ours.

“We have added a number of fountains to our plant and campus here at St. Timothy,” he continues. “These fountains are representative of the ‘water of life’ (aqua viviente). They represent the ‘living water’ which contains within it ‘living gifts’ which we are invited to open to the glory of God.”

As Catholics, we understand the term "Water of Life" as the Holy Spirit, and we can find particular references to this throughout Scripture – for instance,

in the Book of Revelation and the Gospel of John. In Jewish writings, water is a very rich symbol. God Himself can be called “the spring of living water.”

“When we are open to the ‘living water,’ the Holy Spirit can fill us with inspiration and understanding,” Fr. Malley says. “This is a way we can surely ‘lift our hearts and minds to God’ and I would encourage all, especially our leadership, to plan on being a part of this valuable retreat.”

“It all begins with the heart,” Fr. Lipscomb adds. “The rest will follow. But as Fr. Ken has indicated, we need to be open and to be a part of this. I add my endorsement and encouragement to our people to set aside this time in January to be part of this.”

For more information, contact the parish office at 813-968-1077. The retreat is open to all current ministry leaders or those who hope to be a ministry leader in the future.

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.