



**SAINT TIMOTHY**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



## Diocesan 50th Anniversary Celebration Will Bring Faith, Fun and Family Together

It will be a golden celebration for sure, as we gather to rejoice at the Family Faith Fest marking the 50th Anniversary of our Diocese of St. Petersburg, set for Saturday, Oct. 27 at Al Lopez Park in Tampa.

“There will be something for everyone and activities for all ages,” says Carrie Rush, parish Administrative Assistant.

“It will be an awesome event!” she says. “Everyone is invited — it’s not just for Catholics.”

There is no admission charge to attend Family Faith Fest.

There will be an outdoor Mass at 4 p.m. with Bishop Gregory Parkes. This Mass will be celebrated as the Sunday Vigil Mass. There will be the recitation of the Rosary, adoration and confessions throughout the day.

“The Family Faith Fest is going to be a fun day, but also a day of faith, a day to share our faith and celebrate our faith, and to pray together and to just have a good time together,” Bishop Parkes says.

Al Lopez Park will be set up with separate “villages” covering different activities and interests. For example, there will be Faith Village, Ministry Village, and Kids Kingdom with lots of games and activities for the younger set. There also will be a Teen Zone and Food Village, among other areas.



October 2018

In this Issue

- 2 Providing Important Guidance to Modern Issues
- 3 This Month and Beyond, Let Us Share the Faith in Word and Action
- 4 Questions & Answers About Our Annual Stewardship Renewal
- 6 Life, Justice and Advocacy Ministry Promoting the Culture of Life in the Church and Beyond

17512 Lakeshore Rd.  
Lutz, FL 33558  
[www.sainttims.org](http://www.sainttims.org)

*continued on back cover*



## Providing Important Guidance to Modern Issues

### USCCB Document a Key Resource on Catholic Social Teaching

Deacon Ed LaRose, having served as an appellate judge for 13 years, is deeply familiar with our call to live as both faithful Catholics and engaged citizens in our democracy. This call begins with our being informed about Catholic teaching.

“As a deacon, I would say that it seems our level of social and political discourse has become coarsened,” Deacon Ed says. “People may be unduly swayed by emotion rather than reasoned analysis of the issues that are important to us as Catholics.”

*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* is a teaching document that helps guide Catholics in analyzing current issues and exercising civic responsibilities. Released by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) every four years, this document is not a “voter’s guide,” but rather a statement that examines our duties as both faithful Catholics and American citizens.

“It is designed to deal with more than just presidential elections,” Deacon Ed says. “This is intended to help Catholics inform their views on important issues and mold their consciences to make good moral decisions in casting their votes.”

The document is divided into three parts, and the first part discusses the importance of developing our conscience and the virtue of prudence in speaking about political and social issues. It also gives an overview of the four principles of Catholic social teaching, the dignity of the human person, subsidiarity, the common good and solidarity.

“I particularly like the quote from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1806) on prudence, which is that it helps us ‘to discern our true good in every



St. Timothy's Deacon  
Ed LaRose



circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it,” Deacon Ed says. “This is what is meant by ‘reasoned analysis.’”

In the second part, the document applies Catholic teaching to current political issues. Here, our bishops address particular issues with significant moral facets, discussing topics such as abortion, cloning, health care, immigration and climate change.

“People who are interested in the social issues of the Catholic Church will find that this and the USCCB website in general are very helpful,” Deacon Ed says. “It is certainly a useful site for people who are interested in

discovering what the Church teaches on these issues about the human person.”

The third part of the document briefly discusses 10 policy goals for political life, encouraging us as Catholics to reflect upon them and use them as guidelines. The goals include actions such as “protecting the fundamental understanding of marriage” and “opposing policies that enforce prejudice.”

*Forming Consciences* concludes with additional resources for further education on Catholic teaching related to specific topics.

While this document isn’t intended to dictate how we should vote as Catholics, it does offer a faithful resource to help guide us in navigating our role as Catholics and American citizens.

“This is a fantastic resource based on the four basic principles of Catholic social teaching,” Deacon Ed says. “We need to have a prayerful consideration of current issues and how we can vote and act in a way that is consistent with what we believe as Catholics.”

Visit the USCCB’s website at [usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship](http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship) to access the teaching document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. Parishioners may also reach out to Deacon Ed LaRose at [deaconed@sainttims.org](mailto:deaconed@sainttims.org)

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

## This Month and Beyond, Let Us Share the Faith in Word and Action

Dear Friends in Christ,

When reading through our newsletter, it is clear that we often discuss and reflect upon the topic of ministries — within our community and beyond — and how Christ shares His ministry with us.

As a faith community that is committed to living out stewardship, we all share in Christ's ministry. And while we share our many gifts with God and His Church, we take the truths set forth in the readings from Scripture and apply them to present-day life. Of course, that's what you are supposed to do when you share your faith with your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers.

But what does it mean to "share our faith"? Well, it is exactly what parents — as the "domestic church" — are supposed to do with their children. Furthermore, lay people act as catechists when they teach religion classes in Catholic schools or help with religious education programs in their parishes.

"Among other things, sharing the faith" also encompasses serving and providing assistance to those in need, both within and beyond the parish community, or bringing the Eucharist to the ill or homebound who cannot regularly attend Mass. In these ways and more, lay people have many opportunities to participate directly in the ministry of the Church.

But as the Second Vatican Council reminded us, "An apostolate of this kind does not consist only in the witness of one's way of life; a true apostle looks for opportunities to announce Christ by words addressed



either to non-believers with a view to leading them to faith, or to the faithful with a view to instructing, strengthening, and encouraging them to a more fervent life" (*Apostolicam Actuositatem, Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*, 6).

In other words, we must proclaim our Christian faith through our actions and how we live our lives — and also be prepared to share it in words if we are given the opportunity. With this in mind, we may each want to make a

commitment of time to study the Scriptures and the Church's teachings so that we may be better prepared to share the faith!

Of course, the month of October draws us a little closer to the end of the year — thus, we are soon approaching the celebration of Thanksgiving, and the Advent and Christmas seasons. In the next few months, we will each have so many opportunities to share our faith through words and actions. I ask you to prayerfully consider how you will take advantage of these opportunities, living as stewards carrying out His ministry every day, for the rest of this year and beyond.

May God grant you the grace to share richly as a disciple of Christ!

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





## Questions & Answers About

Once again, it's time for our Annual Stewardship Renewal. This is an annual occurrence — part of the rhythm of parish life at St. Timothy. Just as the Church proposes a time of spiritual renewal each Lent, we believe in the importance of a yearly examination of commitment. Is the Lord asking you to give more of your time, talent, or treasure to our parish this year?

### How do I use my Commitment Card?

Your Commitment Card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

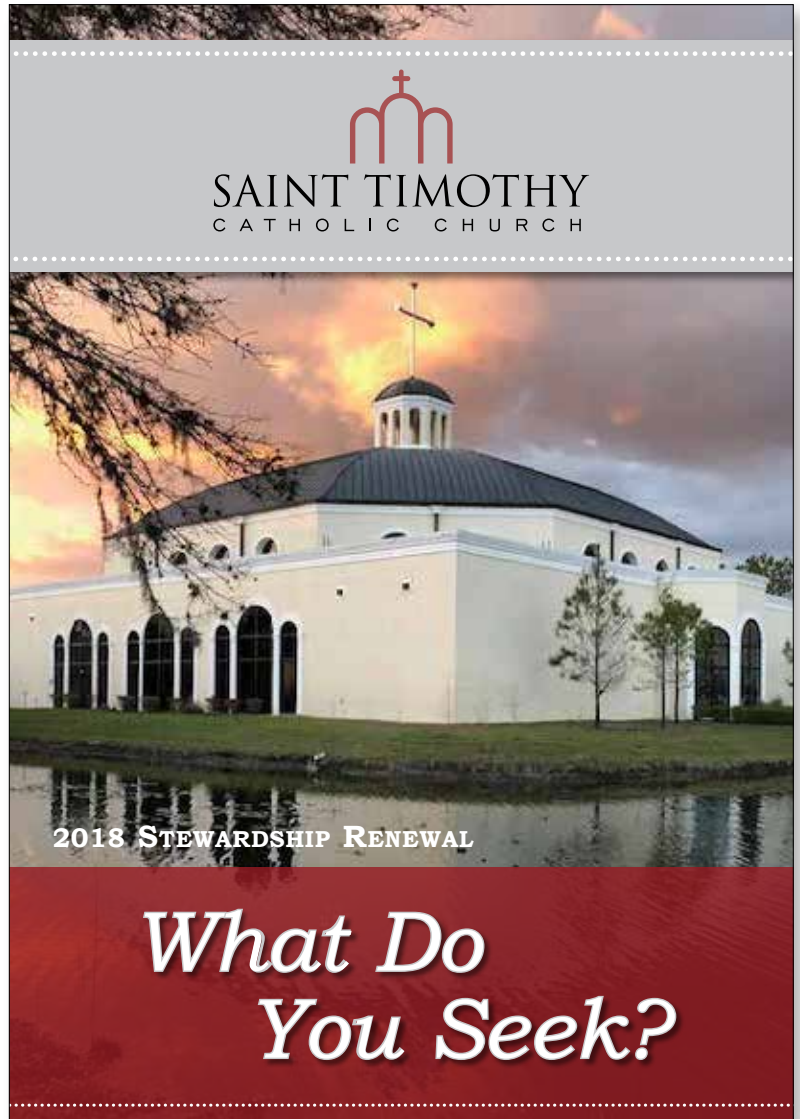
**Time Section:** Except for the ill and homebound, everyone should be able to check “Come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.” and a few other items, including daily prayer, which should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God. As John Milton said, “Even those who stand and wait can pray.”

**Talent Section:** You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if the card is being used by more than one person.

**Treasure Section:** Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step in faith by moving toward giving five percent of your income to St. Timothy.

### My age or physical limitations prevent me from being active in the parish. Should I still turn in a Commitment Card?

Yes! The first section of the card — Stewardship of Time — is very important because it allows you to make commitments to *prayer*. Even if you can't join a ministry or make it to Mass on Sunday, you can still pray for our parish. Your spiritual support has tremendous value in the eyes of God.



2018 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

## What Do You Seek?

*Every parish family receives a special “Stewardship Package” in the mail that further explains our parish’s vision of stewardship. It includes a booklet that describes every ministry in the parish, as well as your Commitment Card.*

## Our Annual Stewardship Renewal

### **One time I turned in a card, but no one ever called me when I signed up for a ministry.**

If this happened in the past, please forgive us! And don't give up on filling out your Commitment Card! Our goal is always to call every person interested in joining a new ministry. If for some reason the ministry leader does not call you within four weeks of turning in your card, let the parish office know.

### **How much should I give?**

Your gift is a personal decision between you and God, but it should be partially dependent on how much God has given you. At St. Timothy, we ask that you give five percent to our parish, and one percent to the diocese and four percent to other charities. Why a percentage of income? First, because the tithe (10 percent) is a scriptural benchmark that the Church has honored for centuries (see Malachi 3:10). Secondly, we give a percentage of income because it is a common-sense standard by which everyone can equitably support the parish. Most of all, we give because we believe God comes first in everything, even finances.

### **What if I can't fulfill my financial pledge?**


While our pledge is not a "contract," we should all make a good-faith effort to fulfill it. Of course, if your financial circumstances change — if you lose your job, for instance — then the amount of money you give the Church may change, too. Likewise if you get a raise or bonus. The biggest reason many people don't fulfill their pledge is that they attend Mass at another parish when they go on vacation, attend a wedding, etc. If you're out of town, just make up for the missed Sunday when you write your next check to the parish. Or better yet, sign up for online giving by calling the parish office.

### **I don't even go to Mass very frequently. Why turn in a Commitment Card?**

Because this is your chance to turn over a new leaf! Why not make a commitment to God to come to Mass every Sunday, and then write down that commitment? Even if that's the only commitment you make, take a step forward. Jesus Himself is waiting for you!

### **What happens if I don't return my Commitment Card?**

We will mail you a reminder letter that includes an extra Commitment Card (in case you misplaced yours). We ask that you make every effort you can to participate because our Stewardship Renewal is a very important annual event in the life of our parish. You and your family are part of what makes St. Timothy a great community! Most importantly, your commitments are actually promises to Christ Himself. All of us are called to give back to God a portion of what He has given us.



*What Do You Seek?*

ST. TIMOTHY CATHOLIC CHURCH

2018 Commitment Card  
My Offering of Time, Talent & Treasure

\_\_\_\_\_  
First & Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse: First & Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse: Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse: Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City                      State                      ZIP

After completion, please bring this card to Mass on **Nov. 3/4**, or mail using the envelope provided. Thank you and God bless you!

*Commitment Weekend  
is November 3-4.  
Don't forget to bring  
your Commitment  
Card to Mass!*



## Life, Justice and Advocacy Ministry Promoting

**T**hough we tend to associate being pro-life most closely with issues like abortion and euthanasia, the reality is that being pro-life is much broader. Ultimately, it's about being a good Catholic — actively promoting and living out Christian charity toward others. It is a way of life that we are each called to embrace and live out daily.

“To be pro-life is to really recognize the dignity of the human person,” says Sabrina Burton-Schultz, Director of the Life, Justice and Advocacy Ministry for the Diocese of St. Petersburg. “And when you recognize the dignity of the human person like that, it encourages and brings about a consistent ethic of life, which is one of the things I love most about the Catholic faith. It means that each one of us is called to radically care for the human person, no matter where they might be on the journey of life — e.g., as an embryo, a homeless person, someone on death row or someone at the end of their life.”

The Life, Justice and Advocacy Ministry exists to assist Catholic parishes and individuals in more fully embracing this way of life by providing education on Catholic social teaching and by developing leaders who can assist with specific life and justice outreach ministries.

“Our goal is to provide parishes with education and resources which lead to action,” Sabrina says. “That action can be charity or actual acts of justice, but hopefully it will lead us to both. A lot of parishes provide that education, but there is no follow-up action. So we want to help them with that follow-through.”

Ultimately, the ministry's goal is to provide Catholics with a wide variety of resources and opportunities so that each parish and individual can better promote a culture of life. This fall, for example, the Life, Justice and Advocacy Ministry will be continuing its racial justice initiative, helping people better understand race and its effects on our society and the Church.

“We're looking to host several workshops specifically on the subject of racism,” Sabrina says. “We're hoping that our parishes will really promote the civil dialogue process, trying to get people of all races to come out and hear others' stories. Our hope is that this will help



*Working to encompass the fullness of what it means to be pro-life, members of the Life, Justice and Advocacy Ministry hosted an Interfaith Prayer Service for an end to the death penalty being used in our country.*



*Faithful advocates gather at the 40 Days for Life campaign.*



## the Culture of Life in the Church and Beyond

individuals better come to terms with issues of race in our society, within our Church, within our families and within ourselves.”

Meanwhile on the abortion front, the ministry will continue participating in and promoting events like the annual 40 Days for Life campaign in Tampa, Fla. This national endeavor works to ensure that members of the pro-life movement are consistently present and praying in front of designated abortion facilities for 40 days.

“This movement has brought so many people back to the pro-life movement over the years,” Sabrina says. “It’s important to have that presence there because it definitely has an impact on everyone present in that facility. But then, too, it’s also personally transformative to be praying in that specific location.”

While these large scale initiatives are important, Sabrina says, an even more important part of the Life, Justice and Advocacy Ministry is forming

parish leaders — to truly form and support parish delegates who can then enact changes within their own smaller communities.

“We are hoping to really invigorate some parish committees this year,” Sabrina says. “We realize that will look a bit different in each parish, but we want to offer trainings to really support this endeavor. Then we will help organize events in the actual parish which could range from things like a seminar on end-of-life issues, something that ties into 40 Days for Life, the death penalty, or other social justice issues.”

By forming new leaders and supporting parish ministries in these ways, Sabrina and her colleagues hopes to continue spreading the culture of life in our society.

*If you would like to learn more about the Life, Justice and Advocacy Ministry and future trainings or events, please contact Sabrina Burton-Schultz at either [sab@dosp.org](mailto:sab@dosp.org) or 727- 344-1611, ext. 5325.*



*Advocating for Human Life and Dignity through Catholic Days at the Capitol.*



*Packing food for the hungry and those in need.*



# SAINT TIMOTHY

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

17512 Lakeshore Road  
Lutz, FL 33558  
813-968-1077  
[www.sainttims.org](http://www.sainttims.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Tampa, FL  
Permit No. 3311

## Diocesan 50th Anniversary *continued from front cover*

Entertainment will be set up on two stages, and artists include Ivan Diaz, Jeremy Camp, Sarah Hart and Colton Dixon. Although the entertainment is free, it is recommended to register for tickets to ensure ample parking and seating.

In the midst of the celebration, the Family Faith Fest will also recognize Jesus' call for us to care for those in need. Everyone attending is asked to bring a non-perishable food item or canned goods for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Petersburg. The food will be distributed among the Catholic Charities ministries of Pinellas Hope; Mercy House; the Pasco Women's Shelter in Hudson and Bethany Family Apartments; Citrus County Outreach Center Soup Kitchen.

"It's a once-in-a-generation event," Carrie says. "We've never done anything like this before, and we'll be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the diocese. It's going to be great fun for the family and the weather should be excellent this time of year."

Teresa L. Peterson, Executive Director of Communications, Diocese of St. Petersburg, also encourages us to make plans to attend.

"The purpose of the Family Faith Fest is to gather together as one family to celebrate the many blessings God has bestowed upon us these past 50 years," she says. "Everyone is invited and there will be something for everyone — people of all ages! While the event is free, we are asking people to bring nonperishable food items for the homeless and hungry of our community. We hope to collect a large amount of food to help people in need."

*For complete information  
about the celebration and to  
register for tickets, please visit  
[www.familyfaithfest.org](http://www.familyfaithfest.org).*

### *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.