



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Continuing the Vocational and Faith Journey Through the Institute of Priestly Formation

Here at St. Timothy, we strive to be a community of hospitality, prayer, formation and service. In sharing generously of our time, talent and treasure, we grow in the stewardship way of life – the discipleship way of life.

When we speak of formation in particular, most of us tend to think of religious and lay adult education, as they form people in the faith. However, formation is also an important part of a priest’s life even after ordination.

More than 10 years ago, Fr. Kenneth Malley became involved with the Institute for Priestly Formation, or IPF. IPF is headquartered at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. As noted on the program’s website, “In the midst of the busyness and the intensity of diocesan priestly life, alongside the press of various cultural influences these days, priests may find themselves straining to maintain a fulfilling prayer life and a clear awareness of their identity before God in their



priestly commitment. The Institute for Priestly Formation recognizes the importance of formation in the interior life, not only during seminary years, but also throughout priestly life.”

“My first experience with the IPF was in 2004,” Fr. Malley says. “At that time I was the Dean, and the Vice Rector of St. John Vianney College Seminary. The IPF summer program for seminary spiritual directors was recommended to me. The experience had a profound effect on me. I was guided on a Silent Ignatian Retreat that

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Continuing the Vocational and Faith Journey Through the Institute of Priestly Formation *continued from front cover*



inspired me to go deeper and to learn more about the Ignatian Method of Spiritual Direction.”

“In the summer of 2005 I went to Creighton University to experience a 30-day silent retreat with the IPF program,” he says. “At that time I was a parochial vicar at St. Timothy. That IPF retreat has impacted my life and my prayers. I am drawn more now toward contemplative prayer, and the Ignatian Exercise and I still strive to do an annual eight-day silent directed retreat.”

Fr. Malley has also continued to remain involved with the IPF in a number of ways.

“I was privileged to be on the team presenting one of the retreats at Mundelein Seminary near Chicago,” he says. “However, more recently I have been able to attend alumni gatherings which are held at the Retreat Center in Clearwater. It's nice that we have the ability to have these retreats right in our area. If you have not visited the House of Prayer in Clearwater, I suggest that you visit their website at www.divineprovidence.org or drop by for a visit. The exterior grounds are also inspiring to see.”

The IPF program has continued to be a positive resource for Fr. Malley.

“The time I spend assisting them with their programs is part of my tithe,” he says. “This has been a gift and blessing for me and I know it shapes the way that I am a priest today. The gift of an Interior Life of Prayer is a lifeline for when there are exterior challenges or struggles.



If you would like more information, please contact Fr. Kenneth Malley at the parish office at 813-968-1077, or visit the IPF website at www.priestlyformation.org.

Stewardship Possibilities are Endless at Christmas

Dear Friends in Christ,

When I think of December, the first thing that comes to mind is Christmas. While that may seem to be the obvious topic, there really are a number of other possibilities. I could think of *Advent*, a season of preparation. I could think of the *Immaculate Conception*, as we celebrate God's gift to the world in Mary. I could think of *Our Lady of Guadalupe*, whose popularity has spread far beyond the Hispanic community. Of course, December also holds the first day of *winter*. And because December marks the end of the calendar year, I might be developing my resolutions for the New Year!

But instead, I think about Christmas. It is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Babe in the manger in Bethlehem, who is the eternal Son of God made man.

The basic truth of Christmas — celebrating the birth of Jesus the Messiah, God Incarnate — is plenty of reason for us all to rejoice and worship. But we've piled such an additional load onto our Christmas observance that worship may be lost in the shuffle.

Think about the weight Christmas has to bear. We have to put up the decorations, or make travel plans to visit relatives. There is also the Christmas dinner to plan and cook. And then, we still have Christmas presents to buy. No wonder the Christmas Mass, and the real meaning of the season, sometimes become afterthoughts!

Yet, we still have a wonderful opportunity this season — an opportunity to combine our Christmas activities with our stewardship commitments.



Treasure, although challenging, may be the simplest. Shouldn't the most expensive Christmas present we give be the one to Jesus, as it is His birthday we're celebrating? Risen and glorified, He needs nothing we have. But His Body, the Church, continues Jesus' mission here on earth and always needs additional resources.

Time and Talent may be a little more complicated, but can't we spend a little more time in worship and prayer? Maybe you can attend Mass each day of

the Christmas Octave, or have your family gather for prayers in the morning or at dinner, in preparation for Christmas Day and through the Christmas season.

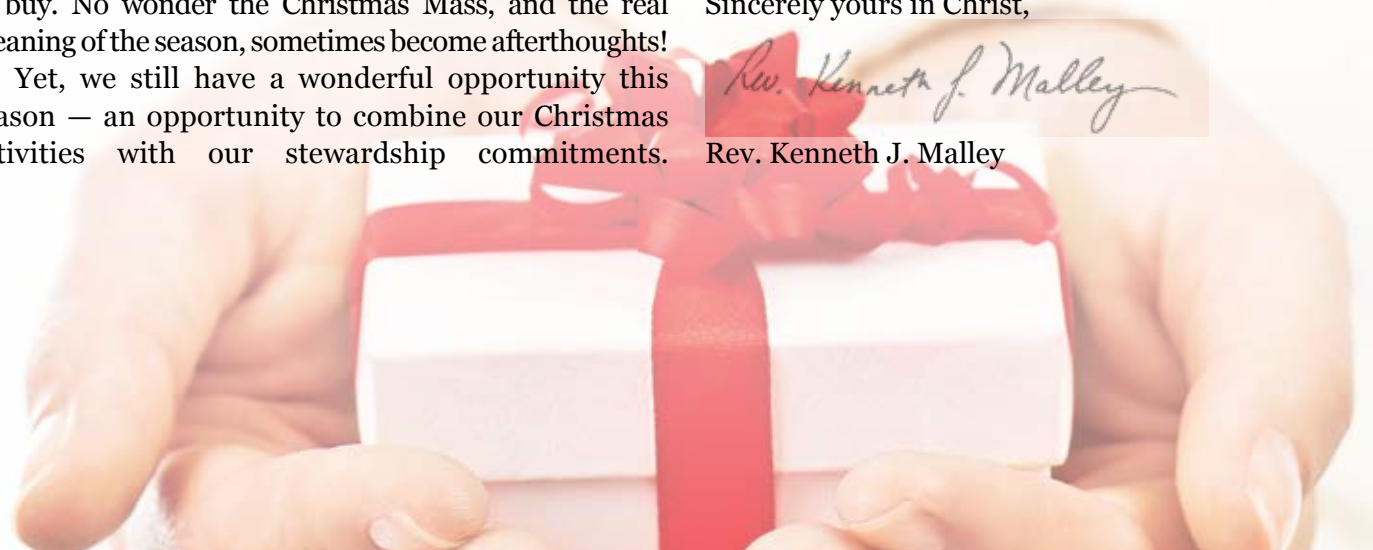
And there are so many opportunities to share our Talent! Sing in the choir for the Christmas Masses. Help decorate the Church. Cook or bake for someone who is shut-in. Invite someone who will be alone to share Christmas dinner with your family. Offer to work in a soup kitchen. The possibilities are endless.

With a little planning, we can make this hectic time one of real blessing both for ourselves and others. Pray for me that I can keep Christmas properly, and I'll pray for you. And by the way, have a merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Kenneth J. Malley". The signature is written on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





A Spiritual Journey in Our Faith Home: Th



The finished project, our own piece of heaven here on earth.



Both the centrality and raised height of the altar, says Thomas Woodward, helps focus parishioners on the sacrificial nature of the liturgy.

Faith is undoubtedly a journey. Beginning with our Baptism, it's a gradual process of coming to know and love Christ more fully — a relationship that is meant to evolve and deepen over time through God's grace.

Parishioner and former Parish Building Committee member Thomas Woodward says this was the core idea behind the design and construction of our church. The building process officially began on Sept. 8, 2001, when Hawkins Construction, Inc., broke ground at 17512 Lakeshore Road. Their task was to build our 32,144 square foot sanctuary, our sizeable Parish Center, and to help cultivate and develop 14 of St. Timothy's 28 acres.

Yet, long before the actual construction began, hours had already been spent by architects, contractors, and parish volunteers as they worked together to design a sanctuary fitting of our Lord. It was to be a worship space that would adequately reflect the journey of faith, gradually drawing parishioners and guests deeper into the heart of worship.

"The concept from the beginning was to have parishioners experience a journey into the church, with each step being quieter and more reverent," Thomas says.

This pilgrimage begins, Thomas says, from the moment a person enters the church grounds, thanks to a road design which is "intentionally wandering." Passing between two ponds and lined with trees that will eventually grow and form a kind of canopy, the hope was to create a feeling of leaving the secular world behind as travelers transitioned onto holy ground.

After parking, parishioners then pass through a beautifully landscaped courtyard, intended as an external gathering place. And then, finally, the journey progresses into the magnificent church building itself

"The hope was that by providing this stepped journey, parishioners would naturally become more aware of the sanctuary as a sacred place while allowing the vestibule and courtyard to serve more as gathering spaces. The priests proceed from the altar, out of the sanctuary and greet parishioners, leaving Mass in the vestibule. This creates a separation between the social spaces and the Mass space, also helping to make the Mass area a quieter, more reverent place." — Thomas Woodward

The Architecture of St. Timothy Catholic Church

where the sacred beauty of our Catholic faith and liturgy is carefully incorporated into nearly every aspect of the architectural design.

“The hope was that by providing this stepped journey, parishioners would naturally become more aware of the sanctuary as a sacred place while allowing the vestibule and courtyard to serve more as gathering spaces,” Thomas says. “The priests proceed from the altar, out of the sanctuary and greet parishioners, leaving Mass in the vestibule. This creates a separation between the social spaces and the Mass space, also helping to make the Mass area a quieter, more reverent place.”

Further emphasizing this concept of journey, the baptismal font — perfectly aligned with both the altar and crucifix — is located just inside the sanctuary. Together with the pools on either side of the main entryway, Thomas says, this works to “give people the sense of passing through water” as they enter the church, “reminding each of us of our Baptism.”

From there, parishioners’ attention naturally shifts to the slightly raised altar with the crucifix directly behind, centering our hearts and minds more fully on the sacrificial nature of the liturgy. All of this resides under a magnificent 53-foot dome, directing our journey heavenward as we unite with the saints and angels through the great mystery of the Mass.

Our church, which was dedicated just 15 months after building began, was the culmination of numerous hours of labor and many generous donors who have allowed St. Timothy Church to inspire us as we continue living the journey of faith together!



The interior baptismal font, placed just inside the sanctuary as a reminder of the healing waters of Baptism.



St. Timothy Church while under construction.



The “intentionally wandering” road along with St. Timothy’s heavily landscaped grounds help give parishioners the feeling of leaving the secular world behind as they journey toward the sanctuary.



Let Us Find the Many Opportunities to Share and Encounter Christ this Season

We all know classic stories of Christmas spirit instilling new life and bringing about a deeper sense of joy and gratitude — Dr. Seuss’ most well-known character, the Grinch, whose heart grows three times its size; or Buddy the elf, who brings Christmas cheer by singing loud for all to hear; or even the cold and greedy Ebenezer Scrooge, who awoke on Christmas morning a changed man, sharing in joy and treating all with kindness. We enjoy hearing these stories every year. But sometimes, even as Christians, it is so easy to forget the source of these lessons — the birth of Christ, the first Christmas itself. And there are so many characters from this ancient story that remind us how to embrace this season as Catholic stewards.

Let’s start with the innkeeper, the first character Mary and Joseph encounter before Jesus even enters the world. He does what he can — there is no room, just a stable. He has little, but what little he has he gives away freely. And unknowingly, the Christ Child enters into this world in the midst of one man’s humble offering. What a beautiful example of stewardship! Is there some small thing into which you could invite Jesus? Perhaps there is a new parishioner you could invite over for dinner, or a new mom for whom you could prepare a meal. In whatever way you might reach out, be sure to make a place at the table for your new guest and allow yourself to encounter Christ in them.

Next in this story, we meet the shepherds — the first people to meet Jesus, to see their Savior face to face. Even in their poverty, they simply bring Jesus their very selves, this gift of their presence and eagerness to encounter Him. Consider visiting a nursing home to be with those who might not have company during this Christmas season. Or have a neighbor over who you haven’t seen in a while. Sometimes, we forget that just taking time to be present to another person can be a gift of self.

And then there are the Wise Men. Though they are better off perhaps than the shepherds or the innkeeper with their offerings, they still chose to give their very best gifts, not out of excess or what was left over. Though such finery would not usually be seen in Bethlehem, the Wise Men went out from the comfort of their homes to encounter the newborn King. Consider starting a coat or sock drive in your parish to give to those in need in the community. Spend time serving in the local soup kitchen or homeless shelter. Go where the giving is not glamorous.

No one of these characters is better than the other — in fact, without even one, the story of the birth of Christ would not be the same. In turn, we all have something to offer, a way that we can allow the Lord to enter into our lives during this season, or to bring Him to others that we encounter. However we may choose to give this season, let us give with the same generous spirit as those who welcomed the Christ Child on that first Christmas.



Live Nativity

Bringing the Heart of the Season to Life

The annual Live Nativity offers a chance for parishioners to witness the magic of Jesus' birth right before their eyes. This year's performance will take place Sunday, Dec. 9.



There's something magical about seeing something happen live and in person. It gives us a powerful sense of reality through a performance that just can't be duplicated on a screen. So, this Advent, why not witness the birth of our Savior as it happened through the Live Nativity?

St. Timothy will host its annual Live Nativity on Sunday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. in the Main Church. With live music, help from participants of all ages and a real baby portraying Jesus, it's a family event that will set the tone for the coming season and allow believers of all ages to experience the wonder of the Christ Child's birth.

"The Christmas story of Jesus' birth has always been special," says Coordinator of Religious Education Pam Burke, who orchestrates the production. "The warmth people feel in their hearts at Christmastime is more than the Christmas cookies, or the Christmas tree lights at night, or any of the other fond memories we have of the holiday season. It is a time God spreads His love on humanity a little thicker. It is as if He is reminding us that the gift of His Son, that He gave us so many years ago, should

convince us of His love for us — a love that we should all seek to imitate and share with others."

With help from Music Director Chase White, Marianne Mackey-Smith, Stephanie Escher and members of the Faith Formation Staff, the Live Nativity incorporates as many as 50 parish children, teens and young adults. Parents help with practices, costumes, supervision and face painting, while children kindergarten-age and older fill the roles of the manger's animals, angels, soldiers, narrator, and the three kings. Teens and young adults assist with lighting and help supervise during practices.

At the heart of the Live Nativity will be two young adults portraying the roles of Mary and Joseph, and each will have a solo musical performance. Baby Jesus will be played by a newly baptized infant from the parish, usually between two and four months old.

"Parents are always very excited to have their baby participate," Pam says.

Pam says each aspect of the Live Nativity works together for the common goal of bringing the joy of the Christmas season back to its original meaning.

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Live Nativity *continued from page 7*

“Christmas should be a celebration of the birth of the Savior,” she says. “It is our hope that the children’s performance will guide them and the parishioners in turning the holidays back into a time of reflection on, and worship of, Jesus Christ.”

After the performance, the children, their families and parishioners are invited to the Parish Hall for cookies and cocoa provided by the Men’s Club.



Central to the Live Nativity is the Holy Family. A young man and woman portray Mary and Joseph while a newly-baptized parishioner plays the infant Jesus.

For more information on the Live Nativity, please contact Pam Burke at 813-961-1716.

December Events and Masses

CHOIR CONCERT
Friday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE
Thursday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE
Monday, Dec. 24
Masses at 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Music at 11:30 p.m. and Mass at Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY
Tuesday, Dec. 25
Masses at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD
Monday, Dec. 31 — Vigil Mass at 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019 — Mass at 9 a.m.

••••• 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.