



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



St. Timothy's Mike Pereira and Family Strive to "Be More Like Christ"

Just a month or two ago, Mike Pereira and one of his four sons were leaving church when they saw a woman with a flat tire. Dressed in their church clothes, they pulled over and offered to change the tire, but she tearfully told them she lacked a spare. Without hesitation, Mike offered to take the tire to be patched or to buy her a new tire.

"Every day, I try to teach my sons what a difference you can make by taking a few minutes to do something for someone else," Mike says. "Every day we try to help others and to touch other people's lives. We try to be more like Christ to others."

Mike and his wife Daniela, who passed away 16 months ago, were both raised Catholic and attended St. Timothy's years ago before attending St. Mary's for a period of time. Then they met Fr. Kenneth Malley.

"When my wife was struggling, Father would put his arms around the family and pray with us," Mike says. "His love and dedication is beyond expectations, and it trickles down from him through the parish. That is why we are at St. Timothy's today."

A large part of stewardship for Mike is living and acting as a Christian within the parish and also within his domestic church and the larger community. With his family, Mike focuses on teaching his sons — Antonio, 24; Michael, 21; John and Joseph, 17 — the power of prayer.

The twins, John and Joseph, were born prematurely and delivered through an emergency C-section on Christmas Eve, as religious communities and prayer chains around the world interceded for them.



Mike Pereira with his late wife, Daniela

continued on back cover

July 2019

In this Issue

- 2 Chosen to Do His Will *The Feast of St. Anne — July 26*
- 3 Remembering America is a Gift from God
- 4 Providing Holistic Women's Healthcare through Guiding Star Tampa
- 6 George M. Dovin Reflects on His Faith Journey and a Life of Service

17512 Lakeshore Rd.
Lutz, FL 33558
www.sainttims.org



CHOSEN TO DO HIS WILL

The Feast of St. Anne — July 26



The Feast of St. Anne is celebrated on July 26.

Did you know that St. Anne is the patron saint of miners? In medieval times, the Virgin Mary and Jesus were often compared to precious metals of silver and gold. Hence, the lives that came from the womb of St. Anne made her the source of precious riches.

Unlike Mary, St. Anne was not conceived without sin — but nevertheless, she would one day raise the Mother of God. That’s a pretty big deal! What was it about St. Anne that prompted God to give her such a significant role in the history of salvation? There’s no way to know for sure, but there is one thing we can definitely say about St. Anne — God uses those who put themselves at His service, and that is precisely what St. Anne did.

Not much is mentioned about St. Anne in the Bible, but her name derives from the longer name “Hannah,” or the Hebrew word for “grace.” We understand that, having believed herself to be barren for 20 years, an angel appeared to Anne and told her that she would soon have a daughter that she should name Mary.

When Mary was finally born, after many years of frustration and infertility on her parents’ part, Anne did

just as she promised — she dedicated Mary to the Lord, and raised a holy woman who would mother Christ Himself!

Early Christians are said to have been very intrigued by the story of Jesus’ grandmother and, around the year 550, erected a church in Jerusalem where St. Anne, her husband, Joachim, and Mary are said to have lived.

Although we do not know much more about St. Anne, we can assume that she was a very holy woman based upon the woman her daughter, Mary, grew to be. Anne was the one from whom Mary learned to be a mother. She was the one from whom Mary learned to serve God. She was the one who instilled in Mary the confidence and faith to say “yes” to God — “May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).

There is no doubt that St. Anne was a humble, holy woman. She was given a great gift — a child — who she readily gave back to God. And, thanks to her faith-filled gratitude to God for His gift, Mary opened her heart to the will of God, and became the mother of Christ.

Talk about stewardship in action!

Remembering America is a Gift from God

Dear Friends in Christ,

We're all familiar with the song "America the Beautiful." Many of us share the feelings that inspired Katharine Lee Bates when she composed it as a poem.

*O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.*

Katharine Bates drew her inspiration from her experiences during the summer of 1893. An English professor at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, she went to teach summer school at Colorado College, necessitating a journey across the country. The trip's highlight came when she reached the pinnacle of Pikes Peak and could gaze upon range after range of the Rocky Mountains on one side and the expanse of the Great Plains on the other.

Moved by the vistas around her and the varied features of America she had seen, an idea for a poem and some of its words formed in her mind atop the mountain. That night, back in her hotel room, she completed the poem.

I think the reason for the popularity of "America the Beautiful" is that it combines several themes into one coherent whole. The beauty and immensity of America's natural creation, the rich abundance of our harvests, and the recognition of God's generosity are woven together. The final product forms a hymn of thanksgiving for our land that goes beyond national pride to prayer, for God is the spiritual source for all the goodness we have.

I think it's a suitable theme for July, the month we celebrate Independence Day, our national holiday.



Thankfulness, after all, is the basis of stewardship, the recognition that we've been given all we have. We're then responsible to the Giver for the use we make of His gifts.

The gifts we celebrate are manifold. Some are of a spiritual nature — our salvation by Christ and the sacraments, for example. Others are in the natural order, such as the beauties of creation and abundant harvests. Still others relate to social relationships, like families, friends and national life. Whatever the

class of these gifts, God is their ultimate source, and they are blessings.

Let us then receive these gifts — the time, talent, and treasure entrusted to us — with thanksgiving. Let us offer praise to the Father of mercies for them, and let us use them in His service.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





PROVIDING HOLISTIC WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Though our society has become increasingly health conscious, few people think of health and wellness in terms of Christian stewardship. Yet at its heart, stewardship is about caring for, cultivating, and using our God-given gifts. And what greater gift is there than the gift of life itself? This, says Nurse Practitioner Tammy Taylor, is what Guiding Star Tampa works to convey through its mission of providing comprehensive women's healthcare — including medical care and educational opportunities, as well as ongoing support to every woman both insured and uninsured.

"Though this started off exclusively as a pregnancy center, our ministry has grown to incorporate every aspect of women's health care," Tammy says. "This includes routine GYN care from puberty, through menopause, to end of life. We also provide limited primary care, and OB care up to delivery including referrals for mammograms and colonoscopies." Tammy also offers bioidentical hormone replacement pellet therapy to women (and men) who are experiencing a hormone imbalance.

In so doing, the clinic is able to provide a more holistic care for each of its patients, supporting them in unplanned pregnancies situations, infertility issues, and/or enabling them to better embrace a pro-life lifestyle when it comes to their health and fertility.

Back in 2012, Tammy approached her friend Ana Hidalgo Stooks — a St. Timothy parishioner and the founding executive director of Guiding Star Tampa — about her joining the team. Tammy felt the Holy Spirit was leading her away from medicine

that focused on suppressing a woman's body with birth control products to offering life affirming medicine that supported a woman's body by teaching her how to chart her cycle and manage her fertility naturally. Tammy knew that all women deserve pro-life medical care; not just those in unplanned pregnancies.

Ana was excited and brought it to the board immediately. Wheels were put into motion to bring Tammy on full time in 2016. Guiding Star Tampa would be one of 12 women's healthcare clinics that offer only holistic, life-affirming medical care, education and ongoing support. Ana added that the minute the board made the decision to bring on Tammy that we sent her to the Pope Paul VI Institute in Omaha, Neb., to get trained in the Creighton Fertility Care method of natural fertility awareness, and in Napro Technology, which helps couples achieve pregnancy who having trouble conceiving.

This holistic Women's Health Ministry is catching fire around the United States. Guiding Star Tampa is now part of a consortium of OB GYN and Family Practice medical clinics called the Pro Women's Healthcare Centers Consortium. All the clinics follow the teachings of Mother Church. Tammy loves being a part of the consortium where she can reach out to other medical practitioners across the country who believe in pro life health care. Prior to this, Tammy felt frustrated as one medical provider after another tried to push her into the contraceptive mentality of our current world.

"Going on number five or six child, during every prenatal visit I would be asked, 'What are you doing for birth control?'"



Some of the staff and volunteers who help make Guiding Star Tampa possible

CARE THROUGH *Guiding Star Tampa*

Tammy says. "It got to the point when I would feel offended to be asked the same questions over and over again. And it seemed no matter where I went, I was continually being pushed toward contraception and discouraged from remaining open to life."

Tammy, thus, felt called to help create a better alternative. To form an atmosphere where all women — no matter their circumstances or socioeconomic status — could come receive the excellent healthcare and support they deserved while also being strengthened in their religious beliefs and convictions.

"Instead of pushing pills on my patients, I'm able to offer a fertility awareness based method (what used to be called natural family planning) called Creighton to all women not just married women," Tammy says. "Creighton teaches all women who are cycling to know and learn how their bodies function and to know how to remain healthy. It also helps women achieve or postpone pregnancies.

Besides being able to see women with traditional insurance plans (like Aetna, Meritain Health, United Healthcare, Cigna, etc.) and Christian medical share programs (Solidarity HealthShare, Liberty Healthshare, Medishare, etc.), we do see tons of Medicaid patients. For women in unplanned pregnancies we journey with them to make sure they get the necessary support throughout the entire pregnancy and beyond. One of Tammy's highlights is to be able to save babies whose mothers started an abortion through taking the abortion pill (RU486/mifepristone).

"It is not too late if a women who took the first abortion pill to reverse the abortion," Tammy says. "When a woman experiences immediate regret she can search on the internet for an abortion pill reversal (APR)."

Tammy is the only medical practitioner in Hillsborough and Pasco County who handles APR calls from the hotline 24/7. "I can get a call in the middle of the night and call in a prescription to a 24 hour pharmacy," she says.



*Tammy Taylor, APRN, CNM,
with a Guiding Star patient and her baby*

The woman will get free medical care from Tammy and our medical team with weekly ultrasounds done by Robyn Palmeri, RDMS, who also is a member of St. Timothy. Nationwide there have been over 700 babies saved from chemical abortions through this medical protocol. Tammy has been instrumental in saving at least eight babies alone this past year.

"You are giving to women that don't necessarily have the means or the social support that they need," Tammy says. "It is really rewarding to take a woman who has become broken down, and to

support her and allow her to grow — to become that one-on-one mentor who shows her the way and gives her the confidence to know that she has the strength to do it."

Yet, to accomplish this requires an army of volunteers and supporters. Guiding Star Tampa is always in need of financial support in order to continue providing affordable healthcare to women in need. The Center also needs additional medical professionals — doctors, nurses, ultrasound technicians, and even mental health professionals — who can assist the ministry in building a culture of life. There is also a need for volunteers who are just willing to lend a helping hand, be that organizing diapers and baby clothes, assisting with bookkeeping and mailings, or performing light housework.

"There are truly so many ways that people can help support our ministry," Tammy says. "It's an excellent way for anyone with a medical background to put their professional skills to use, but we also have plenty of jobs to go around for non-medical volunteers."

To make Guiding Star Tampa your women's healthcare clinic, you can call to make an appointment at 813-948-7734 or visit their website at www.GuidingStarTampa.org. To inquire about volunteering, call Marissa Paradiso, Community Outreach Manager at Marissa.paradiso@gstampa.org or call 813.948.7734.



George M. Dovin

Reflects on His



The Dovin family — George and Kirsten renewed their vows in the Church in April.

While parishioner George M. Dovin's life has taken many twists and turns over the years, one thing has remained constant through it all — his commitment to helping young people navigate their way through a troubled world.

Raised in a Catholic home in Chicago, George witnessed some of the struggles of the disadvantaged youth in his city. His desire to serve this particular population led him to work with Child Protection Services for five years before entering the Chicago police force with the hope of being able to do even more for the area's most vulnerable children.

"I wanted another way to help eliminate some of the problems I saw every day," George says of his decision to become a police officer. "With a little more authority, I could force [the youth] off the streets and into programs. I also got involved in community policing programs, where we had monthly meetings to sit and listen to the community talking about what they wanted and needed most."

Tragically, George suffered a gunshot wound to the leg that would ultimately end his career on the force. When months — and then years — of surgeries and rehab did not seem to bring much improvement, George found himself struggling with his faith. And when full healing failed to come and the police force retired him, he seriously began to question God's plan for his life.

As it turns out, however, George's injury forced him to make a decision that would change the course of his life — and even his outlook on the gunshot wound — forever.

"I have arthritis now, everything from the knee to the hip," he says. "So all of the sudden, Chicago winters were much worse, and I decided to make the move down here to Florida in June 2004. I met my wife, Kirsten, the next March, so I guess God did have a plan. Getting shot was the best thing that ever happened to me, because I would have never left Chicago otherwise."

Faith Journey and a Life of Service

Settling into life here, George continued to pursue his interest in working with at-risk youth by pursuing a teaching certificate in special education, then went on to complete a degree in school counseling. He now works as a counselor, serving as the Department Head of the Guidance Department at Steinberner High School.

As a counselor, George seeks to help students navigate the often turbulent waters of adolescence and young adulthood.

“So many of our students think they have anxiety or depression, so I kind of help them through it, show them that it’s everyday life, and work on coping mechanisms,” he says. “Rather than putting a label on it, let’s sit and talk about it, and let’s think about their goals. Whatever they might need, my job is being that support system. You find that way to connect with them, and then they may share things that help you point them in the right direction.”

While it may seem that George’s present life could not be any more different than his past on the police force, he finds some compelling parallels between the two. In both jobs, every day was different and unpredictable. And just as he did in Chicago, George continues to keep an eye out for the youth who are most vulnerable.

“I like connecting with the underdog, the kid that most teachers don’t want to deal with or who has been in the most trouble,” he says. “They may be on their last leg, but we’ll figure it out. It’s rewarding. And that goes back to Chicago, when I was getting the kids off

the corners and getting them to the gym for basketball. These are the kids who might not have anyone else who cares about them.”

With community service at the forefront of life, George and his wife, Kirsten, are raising their 10-year-old son, Georgie, to make living out the Gospel of Christ a priority. The Dovins are thankful that this family value is reinforced in their son at Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School.

While family life with Kirsten and Georgie has greatly renewed and strengthened George’s Catholic faith, he received another spiritual “boost,” when the Dovins participated in the pilgrimage to Italy led by Fr. Malley in September 2018. With the support of Fr. Malley and his family — including his two stepchildren — George has been able to rediscover a sense of hope and peace that he once thought to be lost forever with his gunshot wound.

“It is because of my wife, my son, and Fr. Malley that I’m finally on the right track,” he says. “I say my prayers every night and every morning, and I feel at peace now. The bullet nicked my femoral artery and I almost died, so my new motto is that every day above ground is a great day. I used to think it was all about me being tough and a ‘superman’, but I had nothing to do with it.

“God had a plan, and I’m now living out that plan,” George adds. “I have my God, my wife and children, and my pastor, and that’s all I need.”

“I like connecting with the underdog, the kid that most teachers don’t want to deal with or who has been in the most trouble. They may be on their last leg, but we’ll figure it out. It’s rewarding. And that goes back to Chicago, when I was getting the kids off the corners and getting them to the gym for basketball. These are the kids who might not have anyone else who cares about them.” — GEORGE M. DOVIN



SAINT TIMOTHY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

17512 Lakeshore Road
Lutz, FL 33558
813-968-1077
www.sainttims.org

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

St. Timothy's Mike Pereira and Family Strive to "Be More Like Christ" *continued from front cover*

"My sons know to pray every day," Mike says. "They know you don't pray just because you need something. You pray for everything and for future blessings that God is going to bestow on you."

Mike has served as a fireman for 35 years, and he lives his faith through his profession.

"You need to be very compassionate for people and to have patience," Mike says. "I run calls where people's loved ones are dying, and we're doing everything we can to save their lives. I've asked people if they would like to pray with me."

Mike and his wife — his "beautiful Italian girl" — were married 34 years before she passed away. At that time, Mike began attending Mass even more.

"She was my high school sweetheart, the love of my life," Mike says. "I have yet to be angry at the Lord. At the end of the day, I know we're still very blessed. We

have to have faith and be faithful and surround ourselves with Christian people."

Today as a single parent and working father, Mike finds his time limited, but he's always trying to find ways to be more involved at church.

"If you attend St. Timothy's and would like to be involved, I would be happy to introduce you to Fr. Malley and to go with you personally to the church office," Mike says. "They can talk to you and see how you would like to start giving back."

For the Pereira family, St. Timothy's is not just somewhere to go to church — it's where strangers become family and support each other in Christ.

"St. Timothy's is a wonderful community that is unlike any other church," Mike says. "They will adopt you as their family, as they have with my family."

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.