



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Join Our Faith Community for Food and Fellowship at the **Lenten Fish Frys**

Thanks to the work of Richard Cloutier, the Men’s Club and a large group of teen volunteers, our parish has the chance to enjoy fellowship with family and friends over a great fish fry meal in the Parish Hall every Friday during Lent.

Richard has been leading the meal for about five years carrying out much of the behind-the-scenes work. When the meal begins, he has the opportunity to stand back and watch the nearly 70 volunteers in action. In total, more than 120 people help at

some point to prepare or serve during the six Fridays.

“Every year it’s a cool thing, there are a lot of volunteers that plan for this,” Richard says. “They just show up and know exactly what they are doing. It’s quite humbling to watch.”

Each week, the menu includes fried fish and fried shrimp with French fries, coleslaw, bread, dessert and a beverage. There is also one alternative meal offered each week. Those meals will be shrimp



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March 2020

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Food and Fellowship at the **Lenten Fish Frys**

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scampi (Feb. 28), baked cod (March 6), baked salmon (March 13), fish tacos (March 20), shrimp boil (March 27) and seafood paella (April 3).

“We have some talented cooks in the kitchen, who like to cook in creative ways,” Richard says. “The only way the more creative food is on the menu is because of them.”

The Men’s Club wants to focus on making this a family-friendly meal. Every year a fast pass is sold so people and families can buy their tickets in advance and skip the ticket line. Takeout orders are also available. On a given week, they usually serve 650 to 800 meals.

“It’s important any time during the year to do something with your entire family — during Lent it is a double bonus,” Richard says. “It offers our parishioners a chance to meet people and enjoy a meal with them.”

The meal is served 5 to 8 p.m. and is a great way to eat as a family before the 7 p.m. Stations of the Cross.

The Fish Frys are a fundraiser for the Men’s Club. They share the earnings with the youth of our parish who volunteer. The Men’s Club uses the earnings to help our parish, provide gifts and meals for families at Christmas and support several charities. The youth use the funds for mission and field trips.

“Lots of the volunteers are young, and they are a key portion of what makes this happen,” Richard says. “We couldn’t run it without them.”

Richard also points out that in past years, people from other parishes and even other denominations have attended the Fish Frys.

“Christianity is not a religion to be practiced by ourselves — it’s the opposite,” Richard says. “It’s a faith based community. I feel anything that promotes that is a good thing.”



Meals are \$9 per adult, \$6 for 12 and under, or \$29 for a family. A fast pass can be purchased for \$125, which is for the whole family for all six Fridays. Please visit sainttims.org/fishfry/ for more information.

A Letter From Our Pastor

A Steward's Guide to *Lenten Commitments*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Making a Lenten commitment is simple. Keeping it is the difficult part! The Lenten commitments we make are frequently like New Year's resolutions — they sound good, but we don't get far into the new year before they've been broken and then abandoned.

If you are like me, you approached Ash Wednesday with the intention of doing better than you did last year. But as Lent continues, our enthusiasm may wane, and it seems harder and harder to keep our commitment. And then we begin to wonder, "What's the point?"

Often, we realize we've already broken our commitment in some way — perhaps we decided we'd pray a decade of the Rosary every evening, but we were too tired one night or simply forgot. Maybe we slipped up and ate a cheeseburger on the first Friday in Lent, even though we know that all Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat. So we conclude that we just can't keep a good Lenten commitment and give up trying to make it a special season in any way.

If you're tempted to give up, **don't do it!** Just pick up where you left off, ask God for forgiveness, and begin again. Our Lenten commitments should challenge us, so that we can grow spiritually. We can even benefit from our failures if they help us better realize how much we need God's grace.

After all, nothing worthwhile is accomplished without discipline and structure. Whether it's a football player in training, a musician practicing or a medical student mastering the intricacies of the human body, hard work, discipline and even frustration will be part of the process. Only those who keep at it will master the skills those activities demand.

The spiritual life follows the same principles. Spiritual growth requires hard work, discipline and practice. Making our wills conform to God's will is the result of repeated efforts over a period of years.

It is true that sometimes we must reevaluate our Lenten commitments. If we are aware we're consistently



failing in some way, we may need to modify how we approach our commitment. Above all, the key to Lenten success is our steady, day-to-day observance of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

But when we do fail, we should remember the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) who had failed miserably. Suppose he had concluded, "I've blown it. I rejected my father and my home. There's no way I can go back." He'd have given up in despair. But "coming to his senses," he decides to return home in penitence, to be a servant. When he arrives home, he is welcomed with joy and restored to his position.

This parable sets forth the pattern we should follow when we fail in our Lenten commitments. Ask for forgiveness, begin our observance again, and keep up our Lenten journey, eventually arriving at the joys of Easter. God our Father will welcome us. Then we will indeed be ready to celebrate.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Getting to Know Rector Msgr. David Toups



Msgr. David Toups serves as Rector and President of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary.



Attendees enjoy a wonderful time at the Friends of the Seminary Gala.

Though the media may paint a dire picture of the state of the Catholic priesthood, Msgr. David Toups — Rector of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary — says he is blessed to see daily the tremendous hope for our beloved Church.

“We so often hear of the bad news of a small percentage of priests who have failed, and it can become overwhelming,” Msgr. Toups says. “It’s important to know, though, that there is great hope for the future. Our seminary has doubled in the past 12 years and there are currently 110 men in seminary formation at St. Vincent de Paul.”

As Rector, Msgr. Toups is responsible for shaping the spiritual, academic and pastoral formation of his seminarians. Coming from all over the state of Florida, the Southeast region, and beyond, each of these young men comes with a willingness to both discover God’s plan for their lives and serve the Church.

“I’m the spiritual father, if you will, or the pastor of the seminary where all of the men preparing for the priesthood spend their last five years of preparation,” Msgr. Toups says. “It’s my job to set the tone for the future of the Church, really, in the state of Florida, working closely with all of the bishops.”

To do this successfully, however, Msgr. Toups — along with his administration and faculty — relies heavily on the prayers and support of the lay faithful.

“St. Vincent de Paul himself, a saint, said that there is no more important ministry in the life of the Church than the formation of future priests. That is why I hope people are praying for our seminarians and for our seminary, because they are the future of the Church,” Msgr. Toups says. “Without good, healthy wholesome seminaries forming our future priests, there is no future for the church. It’s really that simple.”

In addition to their prayers, St. Timothy parishioners can help support the St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary by attending public events such as the upcoming Joe-Paddy Celebration on Thursday, March 19. Honoring two great saints — St. Joseph and St. Patrick — this annual celebration combines the best of Irish and Italian cultures in benefit of the seminary. It’s also a great way to get to know some of the seminarians.

“It is just a wonderful evening at the seminary, literally, in a big tent in our field where we serve both Italian and Irish cuisine,” Msgr. Toups says. “We honor those two great saints of middle March. We have both Irish music and a little bit of the Rat Pack Italian music and always some

URE OF OUR CHURCH and St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary

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seminary performances going on as well. There is a live and silent auction and it’s a wonderful time to rub elbows with our seminarians.”

The seminary also hosts an open Mass every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m., as well as its annual Friends of the Seminary Gala in the fall, which consists of Mass, a reception and a formal dinner.

“This is more of a high-end event,” Msgr. Toups says. “It always occurs on the day of our board of trustees, which means I have all of the bishops of Florida and Georgia in attendance. It begins with a Mass, and then a reception, and a beautiful formal dinner follows. It always falls in the middle of October and will next take place Oct. 23.”

We encourage all parishioners to consider supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary through their prayers, financial contributions, and attendance at any of these events. Not only will this support current seminarians, but you will also have a direct impact on the future of our diocese and Church.

“When you support the seminary or come to events, there is a multiplying factor,” Msgr. Toups says. “You aren’t just sponsoring a ministry of the Church — you are sponsoring *the* future of the Church.”



Bringing together the best of Italian and Irish cultures, the Joe-Paddy Celebration is always a great time.



Patrons of the seminary gathered together for fun and fellowship during last year’s Joe-Paddy Celebration

If you would like more information about the St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary and its upcoming events, please visit www.svdp.edu.



Highlights of Our 2019 Stewardship Renewal

This past autumn, our St. Timothy parish leadership conducted the 2019 Stewardship Renewal. The annual Stewardship Renewal gives each of us the opportunity to discern how we are using our gifts of time, talent and treasure in service to the parish and in return to God.

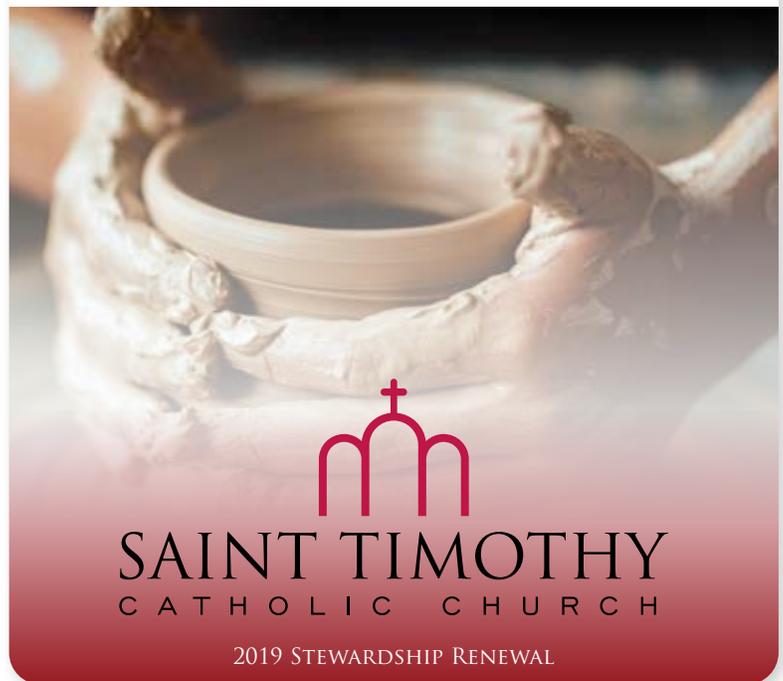
This month, we are happy to share with you some of the highlights of the 2019 Stewardship Renewal.

- There were 527 commitment cards received from 26 percent of active households.
- There were 4,905 prayer commitments — the stewardship of time — from 96 percent of participating households.
- Some of the prayer commitments included: Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days, 476 commitments; Spend 15 minutes a day in personal prayer, 412 commitments; Pray for our priests, 383 commitments.
- There were 1,710 ministry commitments — the stewardship of talent — from 83 percent of participating households. Of these, 365 were new ministry commitments, while 1,345 were re-commitments to parish ministries.
- Some of the ministry commitments included: Women's Club, 106 commitments; Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, 113 commitments; Bible Study, 102 commitments; Men's Club, 82 commitments; Alpha, 89 commitments.
- There were 454 offertory commitments — the stewardship of treasure — from 86 percent of those who returned their commitment cards. The average pledge was \$2,388.

We thank all those who participated in our 2019 Stewardship Renewal. If you did not have the opportunity to fill out and return a commitment card, we invite you to consider the ways you may share your gifts of time, talent and treasure with God and the parish community!

LIKE CLAY
in the POTTER'S
HAND

"LIKE CLAY IN THE POTTER'S HAND SO ARE WE IN HIS HANDS"
— JEREMIAH 18:6



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2019 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

The New Beginnings Ministry Offers Essential Support and Comfort

After 53 years of marriage, parishioner Betty Ann Minor found herself feeling lost and alone following the death of her husband in February 2018. Though there were many people around her who loved and cared for her, few understood what she was truly going through or knew how to help her cope during her time of grief.

“When your spouse dies, especially after being married for so long, you are just kind of lost,” Betty Ann says. “Right after, everybody is there for you. The neighbors are always calling to see if they can help with anything. But then after a few months everyone goes back to their normal lives and you are left on your own and it’s just hard.”

Longing for support and true understanding, Betty Ann inquired both here at St. Timothy and St. Paul’s about a widows group, but neither had any sort of ministry in place at that time. Fortunately, she came across a group of women from all different denominations who were meeting monthly for lunch.

“There were 12 people there and they just welcomed me with open arms,” Betty Ann says. “It was such a great blessing. We were all in the same situation. I attended this group for about six to seven months and was telling everybody at St. Timothy about it. And I guess finally it reached the right ears because Brenda Covini contacted me about starting a similar group here at the parish.”

Together, they formed what is now known as the New Beginnings Ministry. The group gathers the second Sunday of each month from 1-3 p.m. in the Parish Center for food, fellowship and enrichment.

“There is no age limit — you can be 50 or 90,” Betty Ann says. “Our first official meeting was in May and we had 30-35 members come, and today we have about 50 members. Our meetings always consist of food, a speaker, and then just fellowship. So far, we’ve had a lawyer walk us through all kinds of legal things, we’ve had someone who came and spoke about cooking for one person, someone from home healthcare, and even Deacon Glenn.”

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Widows of the parish gathered together for a monthly New Beginnings meeting.



This new ministry of the parish allows parish widows to find a place within the community, building a beautiful sisterhood.



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The group also coordinates external social outings such as monthly luncheons and dinners at local restaurants, which members RSVP to attend.

Betty Ann says it's difficult to describe the many blessings of this ministry. For her personally, the ministry has been a huge source of comfort and support, helped make her feel less alone and provided her with a place within parish life.

"I think it's the best thing in the world," Betty Ann says. "It gives us someplace to go — a place where we can cry or laugh and we all understand what that person is going through. Though other people may care, if you haven't experienced the loss of a spouse, you just have no idea what that person is truly going through. It's just a beautiful support system. If there is some special event coming up, we just get a group together and go. And we've become really close friends."

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If you would like more information on the New Beginnings Ministry, please contact Betty Ann Minor at 813-926-1151 or ministry coordinator Brenda Covini at bcovini3@gmail.com.

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.