



SAINT TIMOTHY

CATHOLIC CHURCH



MEET PARISHIONER **TOM OVERBEY:** *Sharing His Gifts of Talent with God and Parish*

Tom Overbey summarizes his involvement at St. Timothy with his self-chosen word of the year — opportunity.

“It’s my opportunity to serve, to help, and to expand,” he says.

Tom steps in wherever he is needed, and where his talents in music/audio and video and production can be of use. His wife, Denise, and children, Eston and Gavin, also support St. Timothy by giving of their talents.

Eston serves as an usher whenever he can. Gavin supports audio/visual technology during the St. Timothy Edge program. Denise works behind the scenes, helping everyone get where they need to go.

Although Tom was raised in the Baptist faith, he has found a home in the Catholic Church and here at St. Timothy. While sitting in Mass more than four years ago, he looked at the band at the 5:30 p.m. Mass and knew he needed to be up there sharing his drum talents. He now plays regularly for Mass.

Tom also found an opportunity to help when churches were shuttered in 2020 due to the COVID-19

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Tom Overbey and his family — he enjoys sharing his talents with St. Timothy whenever he can.

July 2021

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What Does “Red, White, and Blue” Mean to You?

Although our nation’s real independence began at the end of the Revolutionary War on Sept. 3, 1783, President John Adams originally thought that the anniversary would be marked on July 2, the day in 1776 when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence from Great Britain. Ultimately, Americans chose to commemorate the birthday of the United States on July 4, the day on which the Declaration of Independence was adopted and approved.

What does this mean for us as Roman Catholics? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, “The love and service of one’s country follow from the duty of gratitude and belong to the order of charity” (2239).

As a parish community, we are called by God to respond to this duty to the best of our ability. So, where do we start?

The Second Vatican Council document, *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, states that “In their patriotism and in their fidelity to their civic duties, Catholics will feel themselves bound to promote the true common good: they will make the weight of their convictions so influential that, as a result, civil authority will be justly exercised and laws will accord with moral precepts and the common good” (14).

By living our lay vocation and permeating the secular world with Catholic values, we genuinely honor God and neighbor. As “lamps shining before men,” we need to let our moral convictions – no matter the courage it may take – shine forth to be a guiding light for the world, often left vulnerable in the darkness.

Our commitment to a rightly ordered Catholic patriotism begins with our commitment to the formation of our Christian conscience. We must enrich ourselves with the Church’s teachings on the value of human life, the sacred institution of family, Catholic social and moral teachings, Catholic civil duties, and anything that further pertains to the living out of our Catholic faith in our nation today.

Once we have done this, we will be able to act upon it. As St. Teresa of Calcutta once said, “Today, more than ever, we need to pray for the light to know the will of God, for the love to accept the will of God, for the way to do the will of God.”

This year, let us give our hearts to carrying out this mission of an authentic Catholic patriotism under God. Our nation was founded under God. Let us not allow this precious heritage, this source of true life and liberty, to be lost. Its preservation relies on each one of us.

SAINT TIMOTHY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Letter From Our Pastor

Signs of **HOPE and ENCOURAGEMENT**

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we continue our journey through these summer months, I'd like to revisit some words of hope and encouragement that I shared with all of you over Pentecost weekend.

I am encouraged by our Mass attendance numbers, which have been steadily on the rise these past number of months. It's great to see our parishioners returning to Mass. For those who've been away for a while, welcome back!

I am encouraged by the number of new parishioners who have joined the parish within the past year. Welcome to St. Tim's! We are blessed to have you be a part of our parish family!

I am encouraged to see parish life beginning to "blossom" once again as many of our ministries are beginning to meet "in person" again. Several ministries and organizations are "restarting" or planning to restart soon.

I am encouraged by conversations about how we can get some of our "quintessential" parish events back on our calendar as we move into the fall and beyond.



I am encouraged by our plans to expand the sanctuary space and relocate the large tabernacle into the main body of the church.

And last, but certainly not least, I am encouraged by the faithful and generous stewardship of your time, talent, and treasure in building God's Kingdom and courageously living the Gospel — thank you!

These are just some of the many signs of hope and encouragement as we continue our sojourn through these summer months. I pray you and your loved ones are enjoying summer break and I hope you are

spending some quality time with family and friends. And as we celebrate Independence Day this month, let us ask God's blessing on our nation — may God bless America!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. John Blum". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Fr. John Blum, Pastor





Parish Stewards' Generosity HELPING



St. Timothy's worship space



St. Timothy's tabernacle

When Fr. John Blum arrived at St. Timothy as our new Pastor, he listened and learned about some of the initial plans for our sanctuary.

"I inherited this project from my predecessor who was already working on plans to bring the large tabernacle into the main body of the church," Fr. Blum says. "It is a very worthy project because it will enhance and beautify our worship space."

Having received diocesan approval, we hope to begin this renovation project this summer. The physical enhancements to our sanctuary are guided by Church liturgy and theology, offering us a catechetical opportunity.

The plans began to take shape after discussions with parish leadership and Bishop Parkes when an architect visited the church to help with visioning.

"We were able to put together some renderings and went back to the drawing board to come up with the game plan," Fr. Blum says. "We finally created a formal proposal that we submitted to the diocese."

Over the past several months, Fr. Blum has been raising awareness of the project and its purpose through our parish communication channels, including formal announcements at the Masses over Pentecost weekend.

"We're bringing this to the parish's attention and starting to share some general thoughts and ideas," Fr. Blum says. "We may have to use our parish hall for a few weeks for Masses depending upon how long the project takes, but we haven't worked out those details yet."

The renovations are in accordance with the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* on tabernacle placement.

"In short, the missal says the tabernacle should be in a 'prominent and readily visible' location," Fr. Blum says. "This gives our Eucharistic Lord a worthy place in the main body of our church."

Theological considerations motivated the project and also address some of the challenges presented by having a church in the round, or in a circular structure.

"There are two axis lines in the main body of the church, and we're going to highlight the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Word on these axis lines," Fr. Blum says.

The Baptismal font and the tabernacle will be on the east-to-west axis, highlighting the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

"Putting the tabernacle on that axis will also give the priest the opportunity to say Mass 'ad orientem' or facing 'to the east,'" Fr. Blum says.

TO MAKE SANCTUARY PLANS POSSIBLE

On the north-to-south axis will be the ambo and the celebrant's chair facing the south window, highlighting the Liturgy of the Word.

"The altar will be in the center at that point of intersection," Fr. Blum says. "We have a very beautiful church, and we're hoping this project will help people understand how we're using our space to highlight these essential elements of the liturgy."

While we're blessed as a stewardship parish to have much of the funding for the sanctuary project, we also want to give interested parishioners the opportunity to tithe specifically to the

beautification of our church through individual gifts. What the current project does not include are new stained glass windows for the south wall along with a new altar, new ambo and new celebrant/deacon chairs. These and other enhancements to our worship space will build upon this initial project phase. Parish leadership will continue to communicate openly with the faith community as these plans, to enhance our worship space, unfold.

"We have very generous stewards at St. Timothy," Fr. Blum says. "This is a reasonable and cost-effective project through which we'll expand upon the structure we already have in place."

If you would like more information about the renovation plans for St. Timothy's sanctuary, please contact Donna Jackson in the parish office at 813-968-1077.

Meet Parishioner Tom Overbey *continued from front cover*

pandemic. Tom knew St. Timothy needed to find a way to share Mass virtually in a professional way — not only to stay connected to parishioners but, also to evangelize to the wider community.

"We want the livestreamed Mass to be presented in a professional and engaging way," Tom says. "Even after COVID, we still need to provide this as another means of outreach."

At first, coordinating the technology to livestream Mass was a complicated process. This is where Tom used his knowledge and background in video and audio work to help coordinate and order the necessary equipment. He owns Sprint Multimedia and has been doing video work since the 1980s.

"If we livestream the Mass and the audio and video aren't just right, people will lose interest," he says.

When it comes to sharing these gifts, Tom doesn't think of helping at St. Timothy as work. He just volunteers where he is needed and when he sees an opportunity to do so.

"It's just automatic," he says. "I step in and help when I can and where I am needed."

Importantly, Tom strives to model this life of faithful stewardship for both Eston and Gavin.

"I want to show the boys the importance of being involved in the parish," he says. "It's my opportunity to serve."

"We want the livestreamed Mass to be presented in a professional and engaging way. Even after COVID, we still need to provide this as another means of outreach."

— TOM OVERBEY



Getting to Know St. Francis Solanus

"The Apostle of Peru and Argentina"

Today, St. Francis Solanus is remembered as the "Wonder Worker of the New World," and we occupiers of a digital age might feel distanced from this fearless missionary and healer.

Yet, his story shares details of his humanity. He fostered a talent for music. He learned languages to nurture hospitality. He was close to his mother. He desired to bring Christ to, and be Christ for others each day.

As we look again at his narrative, St. Francis Solanus and the virtues and habits of his daily life seem clearly relevant to us today, over 400 years after his death.

In 1549, individuals of local nobility and renowned piety, Mateo Sanchez Solano and Anna Ximenes, welcomed their son into their home in Montilla near Cordoba, Spain. One story shares that his mother consecrated her son to St. Francis of Assisi while still in her womb.

This consecration might account for St. Francis' proclivity to the Franciscan spirituality, for he entered the Franciscan order at Montilla, and then studied in seminary at Seville. He spent the first 40 years of his life living and working locally in Andalucía, a region of Southern Spain. St. Francis first felt drawn to North Africa, desiring to achieve martyrdom there. But his vision would shift to the American missions.

During his years in Spain, St. Francis first gained the reputation of a wonderworker and healer, a reputation later fortified by hundreds of witnesses who gave testimony to his works. While many accounts exist of his tending the sick and even nursing victims of the plague, St. Francis also found time to return to his hometown and quietly



care for his mother after the passing of his father.

In 1589, St. Francis sailed from Spain to the New World aboard a slave ship. Several accounts tell of the devastating hurricane this 16th century ship encountered. The storm would eventually split the ship in two! Yet, while the captain and the crew abandoned the frigate, St. Francis selflessly gave up his place in the lifeboat and stayed with the slaves to baptize and comfort them until their rescue.

Upon beginning his work in South America, St. Francis braved hitherto nearly unexplored regions of present-day Argentina and Paraguay. While he had studied philosophy and theology in seminary, St. Francis also pursued music and now played the violin for the native people. He also diligently learned multiple native languages and dia-

lects to communicate with others in their own language.

St. Francis predicted his own death, which occurred in 1610 in Lima, Peru. In that same year, while preaching in Trujillo, Peru, he foretold the calamities that would occur in that city, which was nearly destroyed by an earthquake nine years later.

Pope Benedict XIII canonized the "Apostle of Peru and Argentina" in 1726. St. Francis' feast is kept throughout the Franciscan order on July 24, and in the United States on July 14. He is the Patron Saint of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Peru.

Our vocations might not bring us across unexplored shores, but let us endeavor to model St. Francis' strength, selflessness and devotion to the Gospel as we pursue our own paths to sainthood.

PARISHIONER PAUL MALINOWSKI: *Cherishing and Passing Down the Beauty of Our Faith*

For Paul Malinowski, faithful stewardship is something that has been in his heart from a young age.

“My parents were always involved in church activities and I learned to love the feeling of fellowship and friendship that came from serving the church community,” he says. “I get that same feeling when I serve someone a doughnut, help them find a seat in a pew, or call them at home to ask if we can help them in any way. In my youth, I was an altar boy and even went to a seminary for high school. While it was not my vocation to be a priest, my experience in seminary grounded me in my faith.”

To this day, Paul savors the opportunity to serve God and others in whatever ways he can.

“Over the 30 years we have been with the parish, my wife, Karen, has been a Eucharistic minister, and we have been involved in the Parish Picnic and the Multicultural Event,” he says. “We also try to provide financial assistance every month to local charities that serve the community by providing food and shelter to those in need. I am an usher, a member of the Hospitality Committee, a reader at Mass, a volunteer for the Lenten fish fries, and a member of the Parishioner Contact Team.”

Impressively, Paul acts as a good steward of the gift of faith he received by passing it on to his own children — and doing so with great love.



Paul and Karen Malinowski visit San Francisco on their 40th wedding anniversary.

“I am constantly reminding my daughters to continue to go to Mass and to join a parish,” he says. “I tell them about the ministries I am involved in and the satisfaction I receive from helping out.”

By pitching in however he can, he finds himself blessed in return.

“Volunteering with the Multicultural Event as well as on the Hospitality Committee allows me to meet more

people on an individual basis,” Paul says. “It also makes me realize how diverse our community is.”

Furthermore, he also finds himself in awe of the incredible dedication of the members of our parish family.

“The people I have met on the various committees are unselfishly giving of their time and talent, and the joy with which they serve is contagious,” he says. “I love that our parishioners

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Paul Malinowski *continued from page 7*

range from the elderly to young families, yet they work so well together for the benefit of all.”

When asked which saint to whom he feels closest and why, his response is his namesake, St. Paul.

“St. Paul has always been one of my favorites,” he says. “He went from prosecuting Christians to being a

leader of the Church. It was not easy for him, but God wanted to use him to show that Christianity was for all people, not just the Jews. It must have been difficult for him to be accepted by the Apostles, but he persevered. I try to emulate the same resolve and perseverance when I know my actions are important.”

To those who are not involved in the life of the parish at this time, but would like to start doing so, Paul has some helpful advice.

“Start slow,” he says. “Sign up as a volunteer at one of our large parish events to meet some of the people. You will get a feel for the spirit of the community and perhaps be motivated to do more in the future.”

“My parents were always involved in church activities and I learned to love the feeling of fellowship and friendship that came from serving the church community. I get that same feeling when I serve someone a doughnut, help them find a seat in a pew, or call them at home to ask if we can help them in any way. In my youth, I was an altar boy and even went to a seminary for high school. While it was not my vocation to be a priest, my experience in seminary grounded me in my faith.” — PAUL MALINOWSKI

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 p.m. • Holy Days: 9 a.m. & 7 p.m. Vigil: 7 p.m.