



SAINT TIMOTHY CATHOLIC CHURCH



YOUNG PARISHIONER **Christian Micko** Reflects on *Making the Catholic Faith Central* in Your Life

For Christian Micko, the Catholic faith is central to his high school experience in more than one way, for, at Jesuit High School, the Chapel of the Holy Cross actually occupies the center of the campus.

“Throughout the day, if I have spare time or if I am stressed about anything, I can walk a few hundred feet and be in the presence of Christ,” Christian says. “With Mass offered twice a day, every student has the opportunity to receive Jesus every day.”

Christian, son of Brandon and Karen Micko, was born in Columbus, Ohio, and moved to the area with his family when he was 11 years old. He began participating in EDGE, the middle school youth group before he began middle school.

“I met some of my closest friends in that group six years ago, and some of them are with me at Jesuit now,” Christian says. “Youth ministry is how I first became more involved in parish life.”

While attending Martinez Middle School, Christian felt like his life was divided in the sense that school and church or youth group existed separately. This was one of the motivating factors for him in pursuing a Catholic education in high school.

“I felt like I was going through the motions and didn’t have a real faith life,” Christian says. “I wanted a more Catholic aspect to my everyday school life, and now it’s so enlightening to see what the Lord does for me in the smallest ways each day.”

A junior at Jesuit, Christian and his peers start each school day in the chapel together in prayer.



Christian Micko

June 2021

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STEWARDSHIP

Don't Take a Vacation From Stewardship This Summer

Everyone deserves a vacation. After nine busy months of school, kids get to enjoy the summer to relax and regroup before beginning a new grade. Employees, after diligently working long hours and dealing with stressful situations, deserve time away from the office to enjoy their favorite getaway.

No one would argue that we need to mentally refresh our minds and bodies from time to time so that we can come back rejuvenated and ready to do our best.

However, there are certain things from which we should never take a break. Take stewardship, for example. Imagine saying to yourself, "Well, this month I don't think I will pray or share my talents with anyone in need, and I will hoard my treasure." What would doing this accomplish? You certainly wouldn't feel refreshed, rejuvenated and ready to be at your best. Instead, feelings of greed, selfishness and spiritual unrest may occur. Stepping back from being a good steward just doesn't make sense.

So, now that summer has arrived in full force and our leisure time each day has increased, how can we remain good stewards?

It is likely that the regimented opportunities available during the school year are no longer available. Youth ministry and parish religious education formation may also be on summer break.

So, where do you turn? How can you keep your faith alive?

First and foremost, don't stop praying. The slow-paced days of summer are a perfect time to quiet ourselves for a few moments and try to reconnect with God. Why not take a moment of your free time each day to read the Gospel or a spiritual reflection while lounging in a hammock?

Next, try to participate in an outreach program over the summer. Think of the life of Christ — everything He did on Earth was an act of service. Now, think of the gifts God has bestowed on you. He wants you to share them with others like He did, and summer gives us the time to do just that.

If you like working with kids, you can volunteer at the Vacation Bible School by helping to decorate, organize or being a team leader for the younger children.

If you are handy with tools, you may call Habitat for Humanity to see how you can help build a home for a family in need.

Or, if you are musically inclined, you might share your singing or instrumental gifts with a local nursing home. Maybe you are good in the kitchen — if so, you could offer your culinary skills to a local soup kitchen or food bank.

If you are a strong student, you could offer tutoring services to neighborhood kids to help prepare them for the next school year.

No matter what gift God has given you, there is a way to share it.

Getting paid for volunteering sometimes happens. And, if you have a summer job while on break, you'll get a paycheck for sure. Consider taking this opportunity to share the first fruits of your check with God.

Returning a portion of your paycheck to God is always important. Giving a portion back to Him is a way to say "thanks."

Whatever you do this summer, don't take a break from being a good steward. Remember that the time God gives you is a gift. What you do with it — whether on vacation or not — is meant to give Him glory.



A Letter from our Pastor

A FITTING,

Worthy

AND PERMANENT HOME FOR OUR EUCHARISTIC LORD

Dear Friends in Christ,

For over a year now, we have been blessed to have the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist reserved in a small tabernacle resting atop a table in the sanctuary of our church. The time has now come to give Our Eucharistic Lord a fitting, worthy and permanent home. In consultation with parish leadership, our clergy, and our diocese, we plan to expand our current sanctuary space and to relocate the large tabernacle that is housed in our Reservation Room — off the Narthex — into the main body of the church.

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* is the “official” handbook of the Mass. It states the following regarding the placement of the tabernacle: “In accordance with the structure of each church and legitimate local customs, the Most Blessed Sacrament should be reserved in a tabernacle in a part of the church that is truly noble, prominent, readily visible, beautifully decorated, and suitable for prayer” (*GIRM*, 314). The relocation of our large tabernacle to an expanded sanctuary space will fulfill these essential conditions as we give Our Eucharistic Lord a truly noble, prominent, and readily visible location in our church.

As things fall into place, I look forward to sharing with all of you the architectural renderings and more details about this worthy project. Let us pray for our parish family and all involved in this project that this renovation will serve to greatly enhance and beautify our worship space, providing a fitting and worthy home for Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, and to help us as a family of faith worthily celebrate the sacred mysteries of our faith.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. John Blum
Pastor





Seminarian ZACH BRASSEUR

Seminarian Zach Brasseur remembers a childhood filled with baked ziti and fish fry dinners at church with his family. Catholicism was in the air he breathed and, in a familiar way, in the food he ate.

"I was raised in a strong Catholic family, and I think the earliest seeds of my vocation were planted then because the faith was in the air," Zach says. "I remember being around so many great and very different priests and thinking, 'This is something I could do too.'"

Raised in St. Petersburg, Zach is the second oldest of four and has three sisters. His mother was a youth minister, Director of Religious Education, and a Catholic high school teacher, and his father was involved in the Knights of Columbus.

One of Zach's early memories is experiencing a quiet joy on the day when he received his First Communion.

"I always go back to that day and that feeling of happiness," he says. "Maybe that's when I began to take an interest in liturgy, prayer, and worship. Being a priest had become one of many things I could do, like being a police officer or a baseball player."

In high school, the call to the priesthood became more direct for Zach when he attended a Life Teen camp in Georgia.

"That was the first time I heard in prayer distinctly the invitation to consider the priesthood," Zach says. "I had my own personal questions and challenges, and I was with friends who were asking similar questions about the faith and life."

While attending Saint Leo University, Zach studied history, not theology, but people started to ask him if he had ever thought about being a priest.

"Sometimes they would ask me at the worst times, like when I was with my girlfriend," Zach says. "I really didn't want to hear it then."

But over time, Zach's heart softened, and he met with the vocations director during his junior year.

"From that moment, it was like a fire was lit," Zach says. "It became so clear. I began to see myself actually



Seminarian Zach Brasseur

doing ministry, not just as a hobby, but as something I wanted to give my life to."

In 2015, Zach entered St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami and studied philosophy for two years there before beginning his studies in theology at St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach.

From September 2019 until July 2020, Zach served his pastoral internship at St. Timothy and learned so much about day-to-day parish life.

"I learned from helping with the high school youth group and spending time at the school," Zach says. "I also learned from living in the rectory and experiencing that priestly fraternity, and seeing that flurry of activity on Sunday."

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R Reflects on His Vocational Journey

Zach's ordination to the diaconate was this April, and as he now anticipates his priestly ordination in May 2022, let us particularly remember to lift him up in our prayers.

"I want to thank St. Timothy's for welcoming me," Zach says. "People commented on how I had become more confident towards the end of my time there, which is when I began to see myself more as a priest. Thank you for inviting me in and giving me that confidence, which has been a real blessing."



Zach Brasseur with his sisters, (from left) Amy, Jessica and Alexis

Parishioner Christian Micko *continued from front cover*

"In terms of spiritual life for students, Jesuit also offers Catholic clubs like Peer Ministry, which is one of our biggest clubs," Christian says. "The Pro-Life Club is also one of the largest faith-orientated clubs at the school."

For the past two years, Christian has been a recipient of the prestigious Zipoli Organ Scholarship at Jesuit. The scholarship is named for Domenico Zipoli, a Jesuit composer, organist, and missionary.

"I love this program," Christian says. "You have to have musical proficiency to be able to receive this, and there is a piano audition. Afterward, you receive compensation for tuition as well as organ lessons from the music director at St. Lawrence."

Today, Christian plays the organ at schoolwide Masses once a month, along with the other current Zipoli scholar. He has also played at Sunday Masses at Jesuit, as well as at weddings and funerals.

In addition to being involved in the Music Ministry at St. Timothy, Christian also participates in Life Teen and has

volunteered to help with other faith formation ministries including EDGE and Vacation Bible School. He encourages other young people to reach out to Justin Lantz and find ways to get involved.

"It's such a good community," Christian says. "Right now, a lot of the junior mentors in Life Teen will be graduating soon, and there will be a need. Just reach out."

"I really felt like I was going through the motions and didn't have a real faith life. I wanted a more Catholic aspect to my everyday school life, and now it's so enlightening to see what the Lord does for me in the smallest ways each day." — CHRISTIAN MICKO



Technology That Keeps Us Connected to Our Faith: *There's an App for That!*

"Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven."

These words from Pope Francis weren't delivered during a homily in St. Peter's or in a speech from St. Peter's Square — nor were they written in an apostolic letter. Rather, they were delivered in an instant to millions of Catholics around the world through the pope's very own Twitter account.

The technology of communication has perhaps changed more in the past century than in the previous 20 centuries combined. And with these developments, the Catholic Church — led by our Holy Fathers, from Pope St. John Paul II through Pope Francis — strongly encourages that the faithful adopt and adapt these resources for the all-important task of spreading the Gospel throughout the whole world.

Just as St. Paul used every convenience at his disposal to spread the Gospel throughout the far reaches of the Roman empire, today's evangelists are using every resource available to them. Examples of Catholic figures using the new media with great success abound.

Only a few months into his pontificate, Pope Francis took the Vatican's social media efforts to a whole new level. In spring 2013, the Vatican released *The Pope App*, which featured quotes, news, images and videos of all the Holy Father's activities. Having since been relaunched as the *Vatican News App*, it continues to offer the latest news and information from Pope Francis and the Holy See.

Following the pope's lead, bishops, priests and apologists have used the technological gifts at their fingertips to spread the Gospel throughout the world in a variety of ways.

One great example is Bishop Robert Barron of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, whose Word On Fire Ministry has produced wildly popular YouTube videos discussing everything from controversial Church teachings to movie reviews from a Catholic perspective. Word On Fire also released the critically acclaimed *Catholicism* DVD documentary series.



Independent Catholic bloggers and Web-based media are also widely established and provide their audiences and readership with Catholic news and cultural commentary.

Throughout America, parishes, Catholic schools, dioceses, and even the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops are utilizing these tools as well, creating first-rate websites, maintaining Twitter and Facebook accounts, and more.

All of these resources are geared toward a wide variety of audiences, from the un-churched and fallen-away Catholics to active parishioners.

Being knowledgeable of the new media tools available to us as Catholics is a great way to be more effective in our universal call to evangelization. Take some time to see what media resources our parish and diocese are using, and be sure to pass them along to those in your sphere of influence!

LIVESTREAMING MINISTRY

Brings Our Community Together with the *Support System* of the Parish

For many years, television Masses have been commonplace in many Catholic dioceses across our country. However, some of us may not have watched them, except for an occasional Sunday.

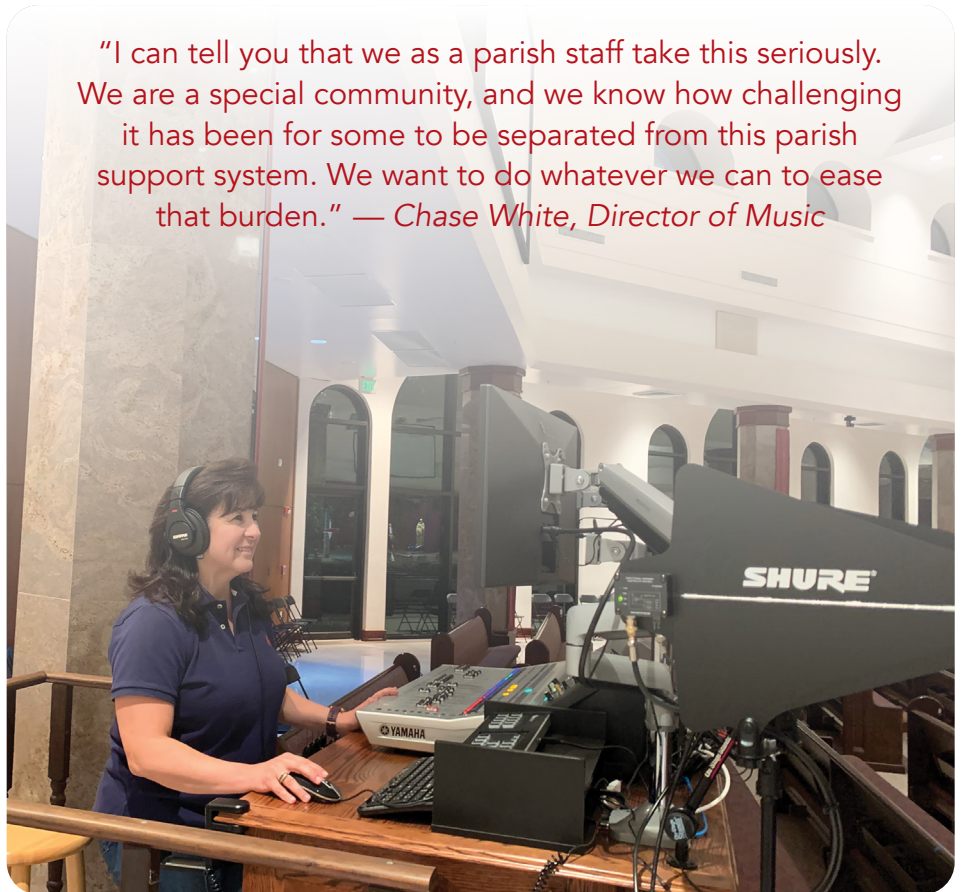
But last year's events changed the way we worship. When the COVID-19 pandemic left church doors shuttered, a dedicated group at St. Timothy jumped in to be sure all of us could still watch the weekend Mass as it was celebrated in our parish.

Chase White, Director of Music, also does computer and information technology work at St. Timothy. When the closing of churches seemed imminent, Fr. Kenneth Malley asked Chase to research ways for the Mass to be broadcast, to keep our community connected.

Through trial and error, a camera, a microphone, and a good Internet connection, Chase got started on what would be an evolving process throughout the subsequent months.

"Before the pandemic, our community was alive with meetings, prayer groups, rehearsals, dinners, and liturgies," Chase says. "For some of our members, the streamed events are their only connection to the parish community. It did not take us long to realize how incredibly important

"I can tell you that we as a parish staff take this seriously. We are a special community, and we know how challenging it has been for some to be separated from this parish support system. We want to do whatever we can to ease that burden." — Chase White, Director of Music



Stephanie Escher assists with the Livestream Ministry.

this was to so many members of our community."

Even though public Masses resumed, some parishioners still prefer watching from home to avoid potential exposure to the virus. Thus, the livestreamed Mass is essential to their faith. Chase and parish staff plan

to continue livestreaming even after the threat of the virus has passed.

Currently, the 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Sunday Masses are both available via broadcast. The evening Mass is a LifeTeen Mass geared toward youth and those who enjoy contemporary praise and worship music. In addition,

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Livestreaming Ministry *continued from page 7*

various other holy day Masses will continue to be livestreamed.

Chase hopes parishioners have been able to access this technology. It isn't always easy, but the staff has done their best to make this work.

"I can tell you that we as a parish staff take this seriously," Chase says. "We are a special community, and we know how challenging it has been for some to be separated from this parish support system. We want to do whatever we can to ease that burden."

It all started with a simple camera controlled by an iPad with an iPhone connected to the sound system. This system had some wireless interference, and when the church reopened for public Mass, the interference became worse. So, before Christmas Chase worked with a fellow parishioner to devise and implement a new system. There are now cameras mounted in the church, and the setup is supported by a new, more powerful computer and enhanced audio capabilities.



Volunteers who have experience with computers and audio mixing are needed in order to help this ministry go forward. So far, staff has been doing the behind-the-scenes work. People with dependable schedules who can commit to assisting during Mass may contact Chase White at chase.white@sainttims.org or 813-542-5969.

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.