



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION BRINGS ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

"Spending Time With Your Dearest Friend"

Imagine if the risen Christ were to appear to us at the altar of St. Timothy — wouldn't we all go running to meet Him? More likely than not, millions of people would travel from around the world just to sit at His feet and soak in His incomparable graces. It may be hard for us to picture this scenario — yet, the reality is that we indeed have a chance to rest in Christ's true presence on a regular basis!

Here in our parish, in addition to receiving the Eucharist at Mass, we may also partake in one of the most sacred and life-changing experiences our Catholic faith has to offer — Eucharistic Adoration. Adoration before the exposed Eucharist is available in the main sanctuary of St. Timothy every Wednesday from the conclusion of the 9 a.m. Mass until the 6 p.m. Mass, and then again following the evening Mass until the 7:45 p.m. benediction.

Fr. John Blum considers Eucharistic Adoration to be an important part of his own spirituality and has witnessed many parishioners experience a closer walk with Christ through this devotion.



"Knowing that Jesus is truly present — Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity — in the Eucharist, those moments of adoration are like spending time with your dearest friend," Fr. Blum says. "There is a story told about St. John Vianney and a man he would

continued on back cover

May 2021

In this Issue

- 2 The May Crowning
Celebrating the
Coronation of Mary
- 3 Honoring the Blessed
Virgin Mary, Our
Spiritual Mother
- 4 A Special Gift:
Stella Mazur's Blessed
Mother Statue
Continues to Inspire
- 6 Meet Parishioners
Skip and Laurie Keith:
A Life of Faith and
Service as Military
Parents

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



The May Crowning

CELEBRATING THE CORONATION OF MARY

For many Catholics, May Crownings of statues or icons of the Blessed Mother have become rites of spring. Like flowers blooming or Mother's Day, this annual Marian devotion reminds us that the cold of winter is behind us, and it ushers in a month during which the Catholic Church pays special homage to Mary as the Queen of Heaven and Mother of God.

Generally taking place during the first weekend of the month, May Crownings bring children — often, recent First Communicants — out in their Sunday best to participate in processions and adorn statues of the Blessed Mother with crowns of flowers or actual gold crowns. Additionally, the children often place roses at her feet, and Catholics carry out similar practices in their homes by placing roses around statues of the Blessed Virgin, or even adding ornamentation to images of Mary. But where did this practice come from, and how did it develop into the tradition that we currently know and love?

The Coronation of Mary had been a popular subject in European art and literature for centuries, but the tradition of the May Crowning can be most accurately traced back to the late 16th century. Perhaps inspired by the practice of adding ornamentation to Marian icons that had been carried out by some Eastern churches, Pope Clement VIII added two crowns to the icon of Mary with the Infant Jesus in the St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome. The crowns were eventually lost, but were replaced by Gregory XVI in 1837 in a



Please Join us for this Special Occasion

*The Knights of Columbus &
St. Timothy Women's Club
Invite you to our Parish*

May Crowning

*Sunday May 9
10:10am*

Join us in the Sanctuary

rite that was to become the standard practice for crowning.

While the May Crowning is not an official liturgical celebration on the Church calendar, it is an important practice in honoring Mary as the Queen of the Universe, and its imagery is especially influential in the faith formation of children. As Liz Kelly writes in *May Crowning, Mass, and Merton and Other Reasons I Love Being Catholic*, "One of the defining aspects of being Catholic is devotion to Mary. I favor no Mar-

ian celebration more highly than May Crowning, the feast that recognizes Mary as queen of heaven and earth. To a person of any age, this is a mighty big title, but to a child of five or six or seven, it expands to enchanting, magical proportions. How many queens does one get a chance to meet in a lifetime, much less crown?"

This year, make a special effort to honor the coronation of Mary through participation in a personal or public May Crowning devotion.

BRING FLOWERS OF THE RAREST

*Bring flow'rs of the fairest, Bring
flow'rs of the rarest,
From garden and woodland
And hillside and vale;
Our full hearts are swelling,
Our glad voices telling
The praise of the loveliest Rose of the vale.*

*O Mary! we crown thee with
blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels,
Queen of the May, O Mary!
we crown thee with blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels,
Queen of the May.*

A Letter From Our Pastor

Honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Spiritual Mother

Dear Friends in Christ,

The month of May is a special month because it is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We celebrate some important Marian feasts during this month: Our Lady of Fatima on May 13; The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church on May 24; and the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on May 31.

It was on May 13, 1917, that Our Lady appeared to three shepherd children in Portugal. This was the first of a number of apparitions that would culminate with the great miracle of the sun on October 13 of that same year. Our Lady's message to the world includes a call to conversion of heart, repentance from sin, and prayer (especially the daily Rosary). This is a message that is needed as much today as it was over a century ago. Let us heed Our Lady's request to pray the Rosary every day!

The memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, celebrated on May 24, is a relatively new feast on the Church's calendar. In 2018, Pope Francis promulgated this new Marian feast to be observed on the Monday following Pentecost. The Church was "born" on Pentecost, and Mary was present with the Apostles when the Holy Spirit descended upon them in the upper room. Because the Church is the Body of Christ, it is only right that we would honor Mary not only as Mother of Christ, but also Mother of the Church.

May 31 is the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We commemorate the event recorded in Sacred Scripture (Luke 1:39-56) when Mary, pregnant with Christ, goes into the hill country to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist. Not only do the two holy women meet, but knowing that he is in the presence of Christ in utero, John leaps for joy in his mother's womb. We recall Elizabeth's greeting to Mary "blessed are you among women, and blessed is the



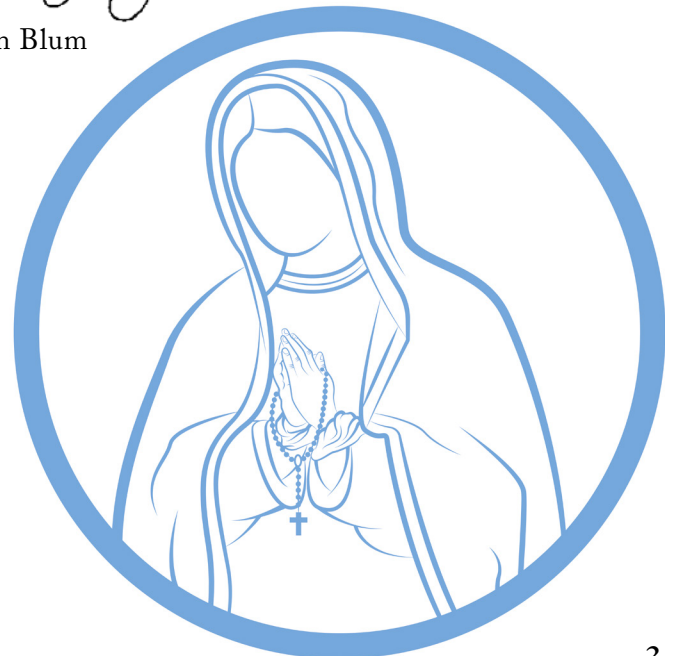
fruit of your womb" every time we pray the Hail Mary, and it is at the Visitation that Mary offers to God that great hymn of praise and thanksgiving known as the Magnificat: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord...". This grace-filled canticle of Mary is prayed by the Church every day in its Evening Prayer.

As we celebrate Mother's Day on May 9, not only do we honor our earthly mothers with signs of love, gratitude and affection, but we also honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, our spiritual mother. By our devotion to Mary, may we shower her with our own signs of love, gratitude and affection this Mother's Day!

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





A SPECIAL GIFT: *Stella Mazur's Blessed*



Stella Mazur next to her statue of the Blessed Mother that she donated to St. Timothy Parish in 2014.

In May, the Catholic Church celebrates Mary, the Mother of God, in a special way. While this month of Marian devotion coincides with Mother's Day in the United States, the month of Mary actually dates back several centuries in Church history. Indeed, the desire to thank and praise our heavenly mother is a natural extension of our Catholic faith. Here at St. Timothy, we have a beloved statue of Mary that was donated to the church by Stella Mazur in 2014. Though Stella passed away last summer, her devotion to her faith, her parish, and the Blessed Mother should remain a true inspiration to all of us.

Stella (Raszula) Mazur was raised in a Catholic family in Elizabeth, N.J., and received all of her Sacraments of Initiation there at St. Adalbert Catholic Church. Her husband, Ed Mazur, grew up in the very same parish, though the two didn't cross paths until they were young adults. Stella was volunteering in the ticket booth for a church fundraiser when Ed, newly returned from his service in World War II, walked up in his Navy uniform. The couple hit it off right away — and the rest, as they say, is history!

Stella and Ed were married at St. Adalbert on July 13, 1946. In keeping with a parish tradition, the priest, Fr. Leon Godlewski, gifted the newlyweds a statue of Our Lady of Grace. From then on, the statue remained a fixture in the Mazur home.

"We kept the statue in our family," says Diane Mazur, the couple's second eldest daughter. "My older sister, Michelle, and I shared a bedroom and the statue was on a table between our two beds. I remember my mother always ending the night with us kneeling in front of the statue and saying our nightly prayers."

When the Mazurs left New Jersey for Illinois in the 1960s and then moved again to Florida in 1981, the statue of the Blessed Mother traveled with them, maintaining a cherished spot on Stella's dresser.

For the Mazurs, the statue of Mary was an outward sign of their deeply held faith. Here in Lutz, Stella and Ed were among the founding members of our parish, and Stella was instrumental in helping the St. Timothy Women's Club get up and running. Following Ed's passing in 2003, Stella became even more immersed in church life. Something that many parishioners will remember about Stella is the enthusiasm she displayed each year in setting up her Polish table at our multicultural picnic. In 2011, the

Ed and Mother Statue Continues to Inspire

Diocese of St. Petersburg awarded her the St. Jude the Apostle Medal for outstanding service to the parish.

Diane Tousignant is one of countless St. Timothy parishioners to have been inspired by Stella's active discipleship over so many years.

"If you needed a volunteer for anything, Stella was always there with a smile on her face, willing to lend a hand," Diane Tousignant says. "She was always volunteering. You could not keep her down! She was amazing to me. I think she was in her early 90s when she was still coming to Bingo. She was one of those people that everybody in the parish knew."

Indeed, over the decades that she spent at St. Timothy, Stella truly made this faith community her home. So in 2014, when she began giving many of her worldly possessions away, she decided to gift her beloved Blessed Mother statue to the parish.

"I think the parish becomes a very big part of our lives," Diane Tousignant says. "And any time you donate to the parish, you feel like you're giving back for what you've received. For most of us, the parish is a family, so it's nice when you're able to give to your parish."

Stella's daughter, Diane Mazur, echoes the sentiment.

"You talk about churches and parishes being a community, and my mother truly, truly felt that she belonged to a very tight-knit community where people treated her as family and she treated them as family," she says. "I know that she just had this closeness to the church."

How beautifully fitting, then, that Stella should choose to share with her parish family the statue of a member of the Holy Family — Mother Mary, a shining example to us all, both in her maternal love and in her unwavering faith and trust in the Lord.

With the recent rearrangement of the altar at St. Timothy, Stella's statue was moved from her original position in the day chapel to the table now housing the tabernacle in the main sanctuary. In gratitude for this thoughtful gift to our parish, we pray that the Blessed Mother statue may inspire all of us to the kind of active discipleship we were blessed to witness in Stella!

"My mother had a generosity of spirit that was unparalleled," Diane Mazur says. "Her faith was so deep; it was incredible."



Ed and Stella Mazur were married on July 13, 1946.



The Mazurs' wedding day in 1946. Stella's mother kisses Stella while holding the statue of the Blessed Mother that was gifted to the newlyweds by their parish, St. Adalbert Catholic Church in Elizabeth, N.J.



MEET PARISHIONERS SKIP AND LAURIE

.....A Life of



The Keith family recently celebrated the wedding of their third son, Thomas, to Caroline. (From left) Ryon, Skip, Caroline, Thomas, Laurie, Andrew, Michael



Thank you to the Keith family for the sacrifices you make for our country. Please be assured of our prayers for your family's safety and well-being!

For many of us, it can be easy to hear a prayer offered for “those serving in the armed forces” and respond “Lord, hear our prayer,” without much thought or conviction. But there are those — including members of our parish — for whom such nonchalance isn’t an option. For them, there are names and faces attached to that intention, loved ones for whom they pray and worry about each and every day.

Parishioners Skip and Laurie Keith are among those families, as all four of their sons serve in the military — two in the Army and two in the Air Force. Although Skip’s father was in the military, neither he nor Laurie served, so much of military life was new to them when their oldest son joined the Army a decade ago.

“It was heart-wrenching; there’s no other way to put it,” Laurie says. “My oldest and I still joke about the day he left for basic training and the PTSD I suffered as a result. They took my baby, but I’ve since become a big girl about the whole thing. We’ve been on the journey together.”

Through the years, they have seen their sons grow — both in maturity and faith — through the course of their military service.

“The challenges that all of them have gone through are more than a normal college experience,” Skip says. “They go through unbelievable pressure, because [the military] wants them to understand when times get tough, you can dig down deep and get through it.”

“I actually find myself relying more on God and His Word when I’m going through tough days and weeks,” says Michael Keith, the youngest of the brothers, who joined the Air Force after graduating from high school last year. “I remember that I can do all things through Christ!”

For the Keith brothers, military service is about using their gifts to serve others, while defending our freedom, especially religious liberty, and the ability to openly practice our faith.

“I had a serious interest in the idea of space and rocket science as a kid, and with the establishment of the Space Force I wanted to be able to serve my country, while also living out my dream,” Michael says. “I want to put others before myself and step forward with the gifts God has given me to benefit my country and its people.”

KEITH: *Faith and Service as Military Parents*

For Laurie, having children in the military has strengthened her faith as it has caused her to become more dependent on God, trusting in His care for her sons.

"It has definitely deepened our faith," she says. "There comes a point where you realize you've got to 'let go and let God.' You're not in control.

"We've come to a place of understanding that the only way we're going to find peace is by leaning on Him because there's so much 'big scary' out there," she adds. "We've become very good friends with the Lord because we spend a lot of time on our knees — it's how we cope."

Skip and Laurie encourage families whose children are considering a career in the military to work with them to learn as much as they can, and discern God's call to service in their lives.

"In their own ways, and at different times, they've felt a calling," says Laurie of each of her sons. "Whether they were drawn to the brotherhood of the military or drawn to the service of

mankind, and being grateful for living in a free country, they've all said, 'This is what I'm meant to do.'"

"If they feel the calling, they will be surrounded by people who have the same calling," Skip says. "They're surrounded by people who are upstanding."

"Though overwhelming at times, we are absurdly proud of our boys and the paths they seek," Laurie adds.

They ask their fellow parishioners to pray for safety and protection for their sons and all those who serve our country both here and abroad.

"I am a huge believer in the power of prayer, and even a simple 'Lord, protect our troops' is very important and very special to me," Laurie says. "There's nothing more powerful than having the full weight and backing of your parish community; I'm very grateful for their prayers."

Thank you to the Keith family for the sacrifices you make for our country. Please be assured of our prayers for your family's safety and well-being!



(From left) CDT Michael Keith, US Air Force, CPT Ryon Keith, US Army, Laurie, 1LT Andrew Keith, US Army, 2Lt Thomas Keith, US Air Force, and Skip.



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

Eucharistic Adoration Brings Abundant Blessings

continued from front cover

see sitting in church for hours on end. St. John Vianney asked him why he was there, and the man said, 'I look at Jesus and Jesus looks back at me.' To me, that is what adoration is all about — to be in the presence of Christ the Lord, to look at Him and have Him look back at us and deepen our friendship with Christ."

While the parish is always in need of more parishioners who are able to devote a weekly hour of their time to scheduled adoration, anyone is welcome to stop in — even just for a few minutes. The Lord is there for us all!

"The church is open so you don't have to sign up to come," Fr. Blum says. "Sometimes people don't feel like they can commit an hour, but even if you make a 10-minute commitment to yourself, it's a way to start. Then, once you start experiencing the fruits of that time, you are going to want to be there longer."

Whether you decide to spend your time in adoration reading Scripture, saying a Rosary, or simply spending time in quiet, meditative prayer, the rewards of this time with the Lord are great.

Fr. Blum hopes that all the faithful will take the opportunity to deepen their friendship with our Lord Jesus Christ through adoration.

"We have Christ in the Eucharist at Mass, and adoration gives us an opportunity to expand that experience outside of Mass," he says. "The fact that people want more of an encounter shows their love, respect, and reverence for the Eucharist."

"Eucharistic Adoration is like a hidden treasure," Fr. Blum adds. "Once you've found it, you realize you've found something really special. It's like an anchor for the soul that keeps us rooted and focused on what is most important — Christ, our faith, and our relationship with Him."

If you would like more information about Eucharistic Adoration at St. Timothy, or to sign up as a regular adorer, please visit <https://sainttims.org/eucharistic-adoration/> or contact Julie Pope at 260-705-8222 or Julie@TransProConsulting.com. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, adoration has moved from the Adoration Chapel to the Main Sanctuary, and now takes place once a week on Wednesdays.

• 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.