



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Tithing: *A Parish With an Attitude of Gratitude*

The concept is quite simple but easily misunderstood. St. Timothy is a tithing parish. But what does this mean? It might be tempting to assume that the words “tithing parish” refer to individual parishioners’ financial support. While this is indeed a wonderful witness of tithing, it misses the mark. St. Timothy is called a “tithing parish” because the parish itself has chosen to return 10% of its offertory collections to God. It was a decision based on an attitude of gratitude.

“As St. Timothy began living Stewardship as a way of life, we realized that the parish should tithe,” explains Julie Pope. “We have been so fortunate and have worked to be good stewards. So, in 2018, we began giving a percentage of our offertory to those in need.”

The allotment process involves prayer and discernment by the volunteers on the Stewardship Committee. Ten percent of the parish offertory is distributed to various charities. We focus on giving to local, state, national, and international organizations along with the diocese national collections, reaching Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Many of the charities are familiar names: the Archdiocese for the Military Services, the Children’s Home Network, St. John Vianney Seminary, the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Fund, Life Choices, Catholic Relief Services, Religious Retirement, World Mission Sunday, and St. Vincent de Paul. One of our own parishioners is a Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) missionary and she is also supported

continued on back cover

October 2021

In this Issue

- 2** The Principles of Catholic Social Teaching
- 3** We Remain in Christ, as Disciples and Stewards
- 4** Our Annual Stewardship Renewal Thanking God for the Blessings He has Bestowed on Us
- 6** Join the Ranks and Honor the Dignity of Life in October
- 7** Meet Frank and Cindy Pidala: Working Together Toward a Common Goal

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

THE PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

What makes being Catholic, well, “Catholic”?

Things like the Mass, the Rosary and the Seven Sacraments come to mind.

But there is also an element of Church teaching that’s often overlooked and sometimes misunderstood — Catholic Social Teaching.

Catholic Social Teaching guides Catholics on how to apply the faith to all aspects of life, and lays the framework for the Church’s teachings on the dignity and sacredness of human life.

Catholic Social Teaching can be explained with 10 key points. These 10 principles demonstrate the depth of the Church’s teaching on social justice, and they call Catholics to take an active role in shaping the world in which we live. Catholic Social Teaching, when taken to heart, can become the catalyst that causes positive change in a world that desperately needs it. Consider these principles and strive to apply them in your own life.

Human Dignity

Human dignity is the fundamental principle within the Church’s teaching on social justice. A firm understanding of this principle is required so that the rest of Catholic Social Teaching can be viewed from the appropriate perspective. God created us in His image and likeness, so we all are worthy of respect.

Respect for Human Life

Whether unborn or seconds away from death, no life deserves to be prematurely ended. The Church sees this principle as crucial to the health of any society.

Association

Association holds that social relationships must be developed so that all people may reach their fullest potential. The Church teaches that the family is the basic unit upon which all other elements of society rest. We must uphold the sacredness of the family, and foster the growth of other societal organizations that preserve the well-being of all people.

Participation

All people deserve the right to work and to participate in God’s creation. The joy of accomplishing a task and performing honest labor should be made available to all people.

Protection for the Poor and Vulnerable

Society exists in a balance between those with power, and those without it. The vulnerable — those with disabilities — and the poor must be protected from those with power who choose to wield it in an unjust manner.

Solidarity

“Love your neighbor as yourself” — this commandment extends beyond the boundaries of any town, state or country. The principle of solidarity encourages all people to reach out to their brothers and sisters in need and to help them, even if they live halfway around the world.

Stewardship

Everything we have — even our own lives — is a gift from God. Our talents, our time and our financial resources are not our own, but God’s. The same goes for the natural resources we so often take for granted.

Responsibilities and Limits of Government

Governments, while created for the common good, sometimes overstep their boundaries. The Church teaches that all governments should seek to operate at the lowest level of organization possible — striving to solve problems at the source, with those who understand them best, and not through oppressive force.

Human Equality

God made all humans equal, including those of different ethnicity and race, and in different stages of life. No one person is of more value than another.

Common Good

It is especially important in our society to promote the common good — the social well-being and development of the “human group.” If we consider the entire human race as one family, the common good urges us to support our brothers and sisters so that they may reach their full potential.



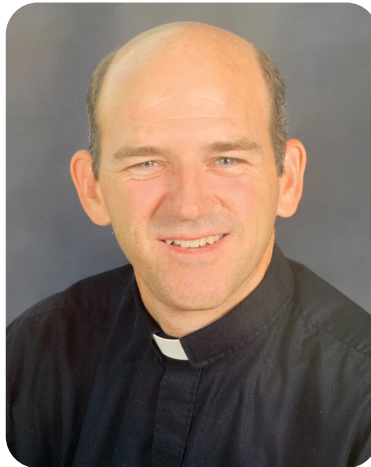
A Letter From Our Pastor

We Remain in Christ, as **Disciples and Stewards**

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have another great lineup this month for our October newsletter. Along with our parishioner profile (highlighting Frank and Cindy Pidala this month), which is a great way to hear about how stewardship is being lived in the lives of our St. Tim's families, we also have some great articles on our parish tithing efforts and our Stewardship Renewal kickoff.

An essential part of living a stewardship way of life is through tithing. Recognizing the blessings we have received from God, and in a spirit of joyful gratitude, we share our God-given blessings with those around us. In an effort to model the stewardship principle of tithing (which involves sharing 10 percent of our treasure for the benefit of others), we are blessed at St. Tim's to share the gift of our treasure for the benefit of various charities. We have a tithing committee made up of dedicated staff and parishioners who discern how we can be faithful stewards of the gifts God has blessed us with as a parish family. We seek to share our resources for the benefit of those in our local community, as well as on a national and international level. I am deeply grateful for your faithful stewardship and for the work of our tithing committee that allows us as a parish family to be faithful and generous stewards of our resources, bringing the light and love of Christ to so many.

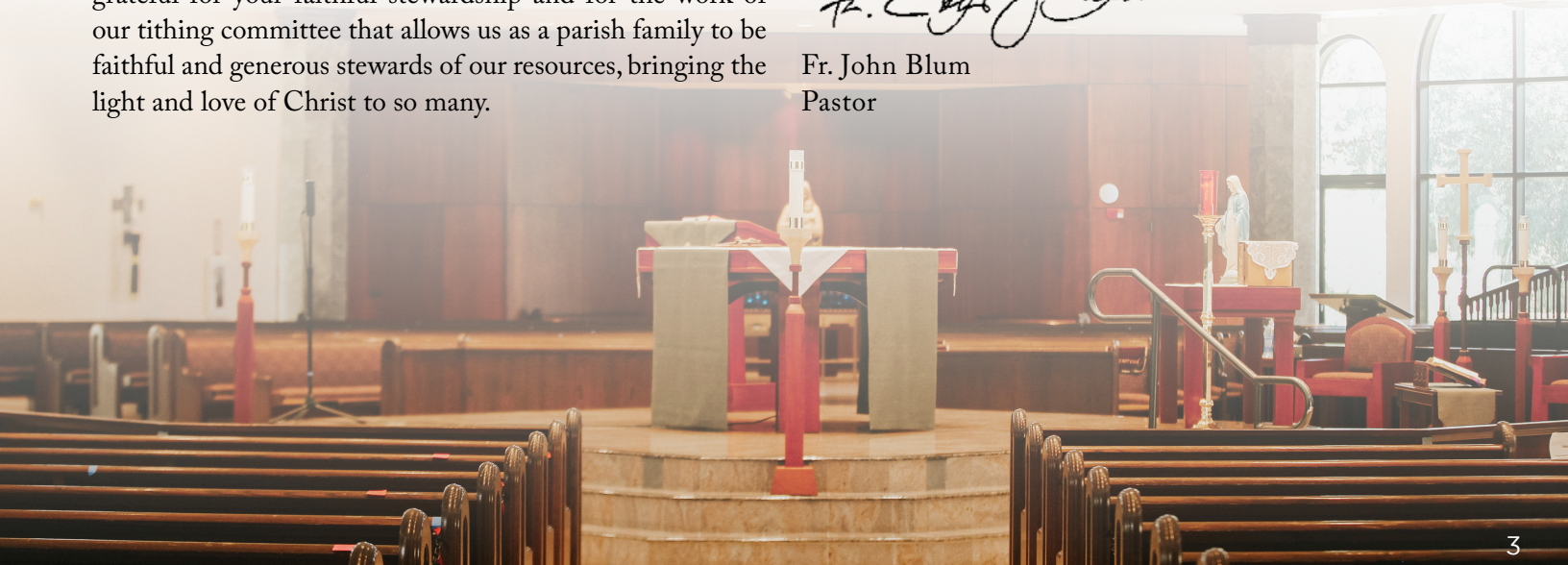


I am excited that we can once again move forward with our annual stewardship renewal this fall. We will continue with last year's theme, "Remain in Me." These are words Christ spoke to the Apostles at the Last Supper on the eve of His Passion to console and strengthen them. In living our Catholic faith and fulfilling the call to faithful stewardship, it all begins with remaining in Christ. When our lives and daily activities are centered and rooted in Christ, we can become the authentic, committed, intentional disciples Christ desires us to be. When we remain in Christ, we can live our faith and our stewardship to the fullest. I look forward to journeying with you in the coming weeks as we kick off our stewardship renewal and recommit ourselves to living lives of generous, faithful stewardship with the gifts of our time, talent, and treasure.

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





OUR ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP

THANKING GOD FOR THE BLESSINGS

You have to take care of yourself before you can take care of those you love. This rationale is difficult for many of us to accept. Mothers and fathers routinely place the needs of their children before their own; soldiers at war often throw their own safety to the wind in the interest of protecting their fellow soldiers. The story of Jesus also focuses on giving to others. If Christ calls us to imitate Him – to become completely selfless – then it would seem that focusing on ourselves might counteract our efforts as Christians.

Nevertheless, as we enter into our annual Stewardship Renewal, Fr. Blum is asking us all to focus a bit more on ourselves. No, he's not encouraging self-centeredness; he's asking us to examine our own lives and determine the areas that are in need of growth. Before the stewardship way of life can totally transform our parish, it must begin in each of our hearts. As each individual's spiritual life blossoms and grows, so will our parish as a whole. Will you plant the seed of stewardship in your own heart?

How do I use my Commitment Card?

Your commitment card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

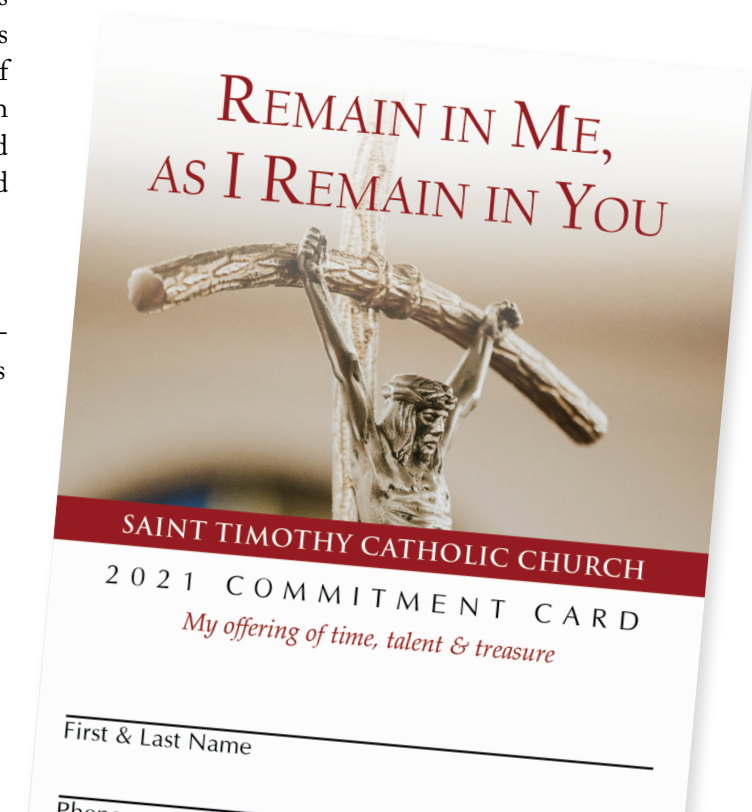
Time Section: Except for the ill and homebound, everyone should be able to check "Come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days." Try to check at least a few other items. Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God.

Talent Section: You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if the card is being used by more than one person.

Treasure Section: Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving five percent of your income to St. Timothy.

Is your prayer life in need of a tune-up?

Honestly ask yourself, "How much time do I spend in prayer each week?" The answer is probably a bit embarrassing. Many of us would like to spend more time in prayer, but it seems there is never enough time to do everything we want to do. Good intentions are just that: intentions. This year, as you're discerning how you will offer your time to God, resolve to follow through with your commitments. Consider each moment you spend in prayer as nourishment for your soul. The spiritual health of our parish is only as strong as the sum of its parts (i.e. each of us).



Commitment Weekend is **November 6-7**.
Don't forget to bring your Commitment Card to Mass!

STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

THE GIFTS HE HAS BESTOWED ON US

Is your level of parish involvement in need of a boost?

We give our talents back to God when we get involved in ministries at St. Timothy. And, with a host of ministries to choose from, there's something for everyone. Sure, ministries give parishioners opportunities to serve others in the community, but they also benefit those in the ministry itself. Ask anyone who actively participates in a ministry at St. Timothy, "Why do you enjoy serving in this way?" They'll probably say, "I get more out of the ministry than the people I serve." This year, as you're discerning how you will offer your talents to God, consider signing up for a ministry that may benefit you, like a Bible study, prayer group, or retreat. Or, contribute to an outreach ministry where your good deeds not only help others in the community, but also give you feelings of satisfaction and thankfulness.

Do you give a set percentage of your income to the offertory?

It may be hard to see offertory giving as a way to "help yourself," but when we approach the subject from a spiritual

viewpoint, it can lead to individual spiritual growth and an increase in faith. Even the savviest person worries about his or her personal finances from time to time. Adding a weekly offertory check to the list of monthly bills may seem crazy but, ultimately, sacrificial giving forces us to cut unnecessary spending, create a budget and have faith that God will help us make it through the month. All of these are good things for each of us, individually. After faithfully giving to the offertory for a few months, many Catholics find that it's not only possible to give a weekly offering, but that the fruits of their gifts far outweigh the expense.

At St. Timothy, we ask that you give prayerful consideration to giving five percent of your income to our parish, one percent to the diocese, and four percent to other charities. Why a percentage of income? First, because the tithe (10 percent) is a scriptural benchmark that the Church has honored for centuries (see Malachi 3:10). Secondly, we give a percentage of income because it is a common-sense standard by which everyone can equitably support the parish. Most of all, we give because we believe God comes first in everything, even finances.

Before the *stewardship way of life* can totally transform our parish, it must begin in each of our *hearts*. As each individual's spiritual life blossoms and grows, so will our parish *as a whole*.





JOIN THE RANKS AND HONOR THE Dignity of Life in October

All Catholics are called to action — this month, and beyond. October is Respect Life Month. And as we face the looming culture of death, we are all summoned to action. An apostolic exhortation by Pope St. John Paul II, titled *Ecclesia in America*, described this culture of death's effects on the “powerless” within American society:

“I am thinking here of unborn children, helpless victims of abortion; the elderly and the incurably ill, subjected at times to euthanasia; and the many other people relegated to the margins of society by consumerism and materialism. Nor can I fail to mention the unnecessary recourse to the death penalty... Faced with this distressing reality, the Church community intends to commit itself all the more to the defense of the culture of life” (*Ecclesia in America*, 63).

Respect Life Month is the perfect time to prayerfully examine our consciences in light of these critical issues, which directly violate the dignity of the human person. This includes not only the evil of abortion, but also euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, capital punishment, and contraception — all of which are vital contributors to the pervasive culture of death.

So we must individually ask ourselves, “Do I, in my personal, day-to-day choices, respect life? If so, do I boldly proclaim this belief or merely stand idle? Do I exercise my right to vote and support candidates who promote a culture of life? Am I known within my home, family, and/or workplace as someone that respects life?”

As with every movement of a Christian heart towards goodness, it is imperative that our efforts begin with a prayerful foundation. The work of the Holy Spirit allows us to receive the zeal necessary to promote the sanctity of human life, even in the face of suffering.

This October, please pray for a revitalization of the culture of life. Every night, as a family, meditate on the prayer from John Paul II's encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*. As you pray, allow the Holy Spirit to fill you with apostolic boldness, and ask the Lord to guide your heart towards ways in which you can personally contribute to the culture of life.

The call is clear, the stakes are set, and all Catholics are summoned to action. How will you respond?



Pope St. John Paul II's Prayer for the Revitalization of the Culture of Life

*O Mary, bright dawn of the new
world, Mother of the living,
to you do we entrust the cause of life:
Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of
babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose
lives are made difficult, of men and women who are
victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick
killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy.*

*Grant that all who believe in your Son
may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty
and love to the people of our time.*

*Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a
gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude
throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness
to it resolutely, in order to build,
together with all people of good will,
the civilization of truth and love,
to the praise and glory of God,
the Creator and lover of life.*

—Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*

Meet Frank and Cindy Pidala: *Working Together Toward a Common Goal*

We only have so much time in our lives, which means we need to decide where and how to focus our energies when giving back to the faith community.

After working in a hospital NICU for decades, Cindy Pidala has focused on ministries related to respecting and nurturing life.

"I have always loved babies, and I'm trying to narrow commitments down so that I'm not doing too many things," Cindy says. "When I retired, I never thought I would get this close to a group of people outside my NICU family, but we became really close with people at the parish in really a short time."

Cindy and Frank Pidala joined St. Timothy on May 22, 2004, while they were both still working full-time in hospital settings, with Frank in the emergency room and Cindy in the NICU. They always wanted to do more with and for the church, and after they retired a few years ago, they knew it was time.

"We have the time now, and it is nice to be able to give back," Frank says. "The parish has always been so receptive and friendly."

Frank remembers first getting involved in parish life when a parishioner who always came to Mass with his apron from the pancake breakfast asked Frank if he'd like to help.

"I also joined the Men's Club," Frank says. "Then I went on a men's retreat and met a couple of parishioners there. Afterward, I joined a group called Fishers of Men that meets every Saturday morning to discuss Scripture. Now I am also doing the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute."

Over the years, Cindy has been involved with faith formation and joined the Women's Club. She and Frank also belong to the Italian Club, which is a social club that brings community members together.

"I met so many women through the Women's Club," Cindy says. "I did Alpha too, and I'm involved now in the pro-life movement and Human Trafficking Ministry."

Both the Men's Club and the Women's Club are active groups and wonderful ways to meet new people and begin the



St. Timothy's Frank and Cindy Pidala

first steps into stewardship. When getting involved in parish life, it's so important to find something that interests you.

"Everyone has an area that interests them," Cindy says. "In our church community, we have people with many diverse talents. Sharing these talents helps so many organizations and ministries in the whole Tampa Bay area. You can make a positive impact on others."

Frank would encourage people who want to be more involved to read the bulletin and come to the pancake breakfast and meet people. After speaking with others about their experiences, find some way to jump into parish life.

"Everyone is good at something," Frank says. "Together as a community, we complement each other. Working together toward a common goal makes you part of a community."

Cindy and Frank feel blessed to be part of such a wonderful group of people who learn together and work together for the good of others.

"I would like to thank the community for their acceptance, sharing, and making us feel so welcome," Frank says. "I appreciate this community and am glad we found St. Timothy's."



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

Tithing: A Parish With an Attitude of Gratitude

continued from front cover

monthly. This list is not exhaustive! Forty-three different charities received funding from St. Timothy during the 2020-2021 fiscal year (which runs from July 1-June 30).

Making the decision to tithe 10% of our offertory was only done after a good deal of prayer and discernment by our clergy, who are charged with being good stewards of your gifts. In so doing, our clergy could have opted to take the “safe” route and defer this decision until after our mortgage was satisfied. But they believed that would not be much of a faith step and/or in keeping with the circumstances each of us faces on a daily basis. And God has certainly blessed this decision, as we have been able to improve our ability to be in relationship with so many charities, while simultaneously meeting our obligations (including recently satisfying our mortgage on the church). God indeed cannot or will not be outdone in generosity!

Tithing is a grateful response to a generous God. Everything that we have — including our existence — has been given to us. We are merely stewards of these gifts. Tithing is not

primarily a duty, but an act of worship that requires a decision of the will. And once that decision was made here at St. Timothy, we have remained committed to it and have witnessed abundant blessings flow forth. As a parish, we are grateful for the opportunity to tithe alongside our generous parishioners. Thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness and steadfast love!

“As St. Timothy began living Stewardship as a way of life we realized that the parish should tithe. We have been so fortunate and have worked to be good stewards. So, in 2018, we began giving a percentage of our offertory to those in need.”

— JULIE POPE

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.