



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Upcoming Parish Retreat Invites Parishioners to Make Time to Listen to God's Call

This February, our parishioners will have a unique opportunity to attend a spiritual retreat right here at St. Timothy! On Friday, Feb. 7 and Saturday, Feb. 8, Fr. Gary Kastl invites all of us to experience a spiritual renewal as we gather for a day of prayer, inspiring talks, and reflection. With a continuation of the 2019 Renewal theme "Like Clay in the Potter's Hands," this energizing retreat will encourage us to grow in our faith and our relationship with God by recognizing our God-given gifts and learning to share them!

Our parish is blessed to have Fr. Gary Kastl, the current president of Bishop Kelley High School in Tulsa, Okla., join us as director of the retreat. Fr. Kastl hopes that all parishioners will consider attending this two-day event.

"A life of holiness and virtue happens when we make the time for God to enter in," he says. "St. Augustine had the great line —

'God created us without us, but he will not save us without us.' We have to participate in the relationship if we are to benefit from the graces, the forgiveness and the peace that God desires to bring into our lives."



Fr. Gary Kastl

The Retreat will be structured around four talks. Following each talk, there will be time for prayerful reflection and small-group discussion.

With the theme "Like Clay in the Potter's Hands," the retreat will encourage the faithful to open their hearts to God's plans for them.

"Don't be afraid of what God will ask you to do as you grow in your discipleship," Fr. Kastl says. "Retreats are intentional times to stop the busyness of life, and to be quiet and assess how deeply we are in relationship with God.

"One of the main things that keeps people from being disciples and stewards is that they don't take the time to go deeper into

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January 2020

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Teaching Children to Live a Life of Stewardship

How old do you have to be to practice stewardship? Can a 5-year-old embrace stewardship? How about a 10-year-old?

Although there is no guideline to what the right age is to begin to live a life of stewardship, God's call certainly extends to each of His children — even the young ones.

It is especially important to show children that they are not too young to share their time, talent and treasure to help build God's kingdom.

Sharing Your Time

A young child can share of his time in a variety of ways appropriate to his ability. For example, during the day, a child can pray for a loved one that is hurt, or say prayers with his parents or siblings. He can participate in Mass each Sunday, and even take time from his day to thank God for a veteran who has served our country.

Spending time being virtuous — such as being patient, generous and kind — is also a great example of sharing our time for love of God.

Sharing Your Talent

Using God-given talents to glorify God can also be performed by both young and old. An elementary school-age child can easily clean her room or perform chores such as raking leaves, doing laundry or taking care of pets. Making cards

for people who are sick or who have had a death in the family are other concrete examples of being a faithful steward.

Even using our talents — such as playing a musical instrument or football — to the best of our abilities to give God glory is an example of being a good steward.

Sharing Your Treasure

Although children do not have the same type of treasure to share as adults, instilling the importance of sharing finances is an important lesson.

If a child receives an allowance, he can return a portion of it to the Church in the collection basket. If he gets money for his birthday, he can give a small portion of it back to God in thanksgiving. Little ones can even share things like their Halloween candy with their siblings or friends as a way of demonstrating generosity.

The Most Important Lesson

Above all, the most important lesson to teach our children is *why* we share. We don't share because we "have to." We don't share because our parents tell us to. We share our time, talent and treasure with God because we are thankful for the blessings He has given us and we want to thank Him for His generosity.

Teaching these lessons at a young age will allow a lifetime of good stewardship to follow for even the youngest of God's children.

SAINT TIMOTHY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Letter From Our Pastor

Start a New Life, Not Just a New Year

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's January and that means it's time for New Year's resolutions — at least that's the widespread perception in our culture. So, I want us to reflect on resolutions for a few minutes.

Often, New Year's resolutions are intended simply to undo the harm we did to ourselves by overindulging in food and drink between Thanksgiving and the end of the year. Some resolutions are changes we know we should make, but aren't really committed to making — thus, they don't last very long.

Reflecting on this in broader terms, when should we make a resolution to eliminate a sinful practice from our life? That question has a simple answer — the moment we realize we're engaging in a sinful practice. In other words, as soon as we realize we're doing something wrong, we should stop. It doesn't matter whether that sin is as "large" as cheating on your spouse or as "small" as sharing vicious gossip — we should stop immediately when we recognize it's a sinful behavior.

Now, I admit that making the changes we need in order to grow closer to Christ is easier said than done. All too often, we fool ourselves into thinking we can make all the changes we need under our own strength and on a convenient timetable. For real change, we need guidance and we need help — a new life, in fact. St. Paul addressed this when he wrote to the Romans (6:4), "We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life."

In other words, we need a new life, not a new year. We find this new life in union with Christ within His Body, the Church. The Church can provide you with guidance. She has 2,000 years of accumulated wisdom and experience, beginning with God's own revelation. The Ten Commandments provide a brief, incisive



outline for ethical behavior. Help comes from God's grace, available to us in the sacraments and through prayer.

A new life means we have new priorities and a new viewpoint when we look at every aspect of the way we live. It impacts the use of the time we have, the talents God has given us, and the treasure with which He has blessed us. With God's grace and guidance, lived in union with the Church, we find that "in newness of life" we can "cease doing evil" and "learn to do good." That's a resolu-

tion worth making.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





MEET DINO SCANIO: *LIVING*

Though raised in a Catholic household, parishioner Dino Scanio never really understood or embraced stewardship until becoming part of our St. Timothy community. Struck almost immediately by the parish's spirit of hospitality and family feel, he began embracing his Catholic faith in an entirely new way.

"Although my brothers went to Catholic school, I did not," Dino says. "I was a public school kid. And so although I was raised in a Catholic family I really didn't get heavily involved in the faith until I moved into our current home which is right down the street from the

church. St. Timothy's is such a welcoming parish and it really just drew me back to the Church. The sense of family and friendship, the number of families that are there — it's just awesome."

With his faith reignited, Dino began uniting his passion for service with his newfound understanding of stewardship. As the father of a son with a progressive mitochondrial disease, Dino understands personally the importance of support when caring for and raising a special needs child. So his first big stewardship endeavor was to help found St. Timothy's Growing in Faith Together Every Day Ministry, or GIFTED, which is dedicated specifically to supporting and ushering families with disabilities more fully into the life of the Church.

"This ministry has allowed us to really open the parish up more to the special needs community," Dino says. "There are many parishes that are still lacking a special needs program for adults and children, so I'm really proud to be part of this initiative here at St. Timothy's."

Using his professional skills as an American Board Certified and State Licensed Orthotist in Tampa, Florida, Dino and his wife, Lisa, also founded the FOOT Foundation. Its mission is to provide orthotic and prosthetic service to children and adults residing in impoverished countries. The organization is also committed to giving back to the local community, and to providing education and fostering an overall increased awareness of mitochondrial disease.

Recently, Dino was blessed to establish a partnership between St. Timothy's Creative Hands Ministry and his foundation. Among other things, the ladies involved in Creative Hands have begun sewing and completing craftwork which are then utilized within Dino's humanitarian clinics abroad in Guatemala.



The Scanio family

"There are truly countless ways to put yourself out there and live out this calling of service before self. There is so much need in the world, and being involved in the parish, I think, helps us become more aware of that and find ways to help others. I would just encourage all parishioners to consider giving a little bit more of themselves to help someone else, to discern how the Lord is calling you to make a difference." — Dino Scanio

OUT "SERVICE BEFORE SELF"



Dino working as an orthotist with a child in an impoverished country

"I went to these women and asked them to share their talents and treasure of sewing with the people I work with through my clinics," Dino says. "They agreed and started to sew things like straps, bibs and cloth diapers — all the cloth pieces that are needed for my clinic's medical needs. The last time I was there we were able to livestream the kids, allowing the ladies to actually see how their gifts were really impacting lives. To see the joy on these ladies' faces when they saw how their work was benefitting these children was truly incredible."

Through these ministries and humanitarian endeavors, Dino feels that he has been able to put his time, talents, and even treasure toward a higher cause. This, in



Parishioner Dino Scanio with some of the ladies involved in the Creative Hands Ministry

turn, has given him a more purposeful life, united more fully with Christ and the mission of the Church.

"I do believe that no matter where we are in our life or what crises we face, we all have the ability to improve another life," Dino says. "Being involved in these ministries has allowed me the opportunity to speak about that, to let people know that we can live out what we preach in the faith — which is essentially service before self."

Dino says he feels deeply blessed to be part of such a vibrant and giving faith community — blessed by the teachings and wisdom of our pastor, Fr. Kenneth Malley; blessed by the witness of countless parishioners who have served as stewardship mentors in Dino's life; blessed by the unique opportunities he's been given to serve and make a difference both locally and abroad.

"There are truly countless ways to put yourself out there and live out this calling of service before self," Dino says. "There is so much need in the world, and being involved in the parish, I think, helps us become more aware of that and find ways to help others. I would just encourage all parishioners to consider giving a little bit more of themselves to help someone else, to discern how the Lord is calling you to make a difference."



Introducing Randolph Davidson

Notre Dame ECHO Apprentice Gaining



Randolph Davidson will spend the next two years of his life working with various parishioners and ministries of the parish. This will allow him to gain a deeper appreciation for the inner workings of parish life and to put his theological formation to use daily in a practical way.

Parish apprentice Randolph Davidson grew up in what he describes as the average Catholic home. He attended Catholic school in his hometown of Sugar Land, Texas, went to Mass with his family each Sunday, and said prayers before meals. Yet, that was largely the extent of his faith life until seventh grade.

“I had this amazing seventh-grade Religion teacher who really showed me that being Catholic is more than simply going to Mass on Sundays,” Randolph says. “From then, I started paying more attention to the faith. Slowly but surely, I found myself surrounded by the guys who went to daily Mass before school — I found myself spending more and more time with the kids who prayed and took their faith seriously.”

Randolph eventually began volunteering for retreats and youth-related parish events, and took an increasingly active role in his faith. This only deepened during his college years at Baylor University thanks to his involvement in the school’s vibrant Catholic community. While he entered school intending to study pre-med, Randolph ended up feeling increasingly called to choose an entirely different career path.

“It was really that Catholic community which gave me that sense of family during my college years and helped make it clear that I wanted to help the Church in some way,” Randolph says. “I just began to realize that the times when I was happiest and most content was when I was just doing church or faith-related things. My heart was just warmest when I was doing things steeped in the faith.”

Randolph consequently went on to teach at a Catholic high school, serving as both an English teacher and assistant band director. Yet, his heart hungered to teach theology, allowing him to have the same impact on his students that his seventh-grade teacher had on him all those years ago. So he began pursuing a master’s in Theology through the University Of Notre Dame’s Echo Graduate Service Program.

Hands-On Experience Serving at St. Timothy

“The program allows you to pursue a master’s in Theology while serving in an actual parish or school,” Randolph says. “We take classes during the summer and then during the year we are sent to dioceses that have partnerships with Notre Dame, and the diocese places us within a parish or as a teacher within a Catholic school.”

This is what led Randolph here to St. Timothy, where he will serve as our parish apprentice until May 2021. Working under the mentorship of Deacon Peter J. Burns, Randolph will spend the next two years of his life working with various parishioners and ministries of the parish. This will allow him to gain a deeper appreciation for the inner workings of parish life and to put his theological formation to use daily in a practical way.

“Already I’ve been blessed to get a more filled-out picture of how a parish works,” Randolph says. “Just seeing people run these programs and ministries, all the work they put into it, seeing their humanity and everything that goes into their decisions — it just makes me feel a lot more thankful for what the parish offers. It helps me see how everyone is truly trying their best to shepherd God’s people.”

Randolph says that his apprenticeship has also further fanned the flame in his heart so serve as he comes to realize even more clearly how truly important the average parishioner is to parish life.

“Growing up I always sort of thought that when I have a house and a family, that I would really try to be a good parishioner,” Randolph says. “But now being in this position it has made it really clear how important that is and how much it helps when people are willing to help and say ‘yes’ to their own stewardship calling, no matter what stage of life they’re in.”

Randolph’s position has also given him greater insight into his own strengths and weaknesses, guiding him on how he can best serve and how the Lord is inviting him to grow through this journey. Randolph says he is deeply grateful to have been placed at such a warm

and welcoming parish, and is eager to see how the Lord will continue to use and guide him through this apprenticeship experience.

“I’ve been blown away by how welcoming everyone has been. It’s really a testament to the spirit of hospitality that is here,” Randolph says. “My hope is that I can leave here saying that I truly did what I could to serve others.”

“Growing up I always sort of thought that when I have a house and a family, that I would really try to be a good parishioner. But now being in this position it has made it really clear how important that is and how much it helps when people are willing to help and say ‘yes’ to their own stewardship calling, no matter what stage of life they’re in.”

— Randolph Davidson



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Upcoming Parish Retreat *continued from front cover*

the mystery of God and how He desires to work in and through our lives,” he adds. “We have not allowed our hearts to be captured by a love of God.”

In addition to his current dual assignment as Rector of Holy Family Cathedral and president of Bishop Kelley High School, Fr. Kastl also serves on the vocation team for the Diocese of Tulsa. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for St. Francis Healthcare System, a leadership consultant for Catholic Leadership Institute, Chaplain for the Tulsa chapter of Legatus, and a member of the advisory board for St. Meinrad School of Theology.

Fr. Kastl’s many service activities certainly keep him busy, but they never keep him from taking the time to nurture his faith life. He hopes that the parishioners of St. Timothy will decide to make time to grow their relationship with Christ by coming to our retreat.

“Busyness does not equal holiness,” he says. “If we desire a healthy spiritual life, we have to make time for it. It has to be a non-negotiable in our lives.”

With years of experience in leading retreats, Fr. Kastl knows that he will benefit from these days of prayer and reflection just as much as the attendees, and he encourages everyone to participate in this special journey of discipleship with him.

“I think when you give a retreat, you’re also preaching to yourself, so I experience a personal renewal, too,” he says. “I’m also inspired by the faith and fidelity of those on the retreats, and it’s always neat to see how the Holy Spirit shows up in that space. I’m just a fellow disciple on the journey who, in my own lived experience, has found stewardship to be a fulfilling expression of how to live that discipleship in the ordinariness of life.”

*If you have any questions about the upcoming retreat,
please contact Deacon Peter J. Burns at deaconpeter@sainttims.org*

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.