

THE COMPANION



NEWS ABOUT SAINT TIMOTHY PARISH IN UNION, KY

May-July 2020

Being Christian in the Midst of a Pandemic *By Fr. Rick Bolte*

We've witnessed a myriad of reactions to Covid-19. Some are gravely fearful for their lives and/or that of a loved one. The level of fear varies as does the level of isolation. Some are put-out by having to wear a mask and can at times get upset at being expected to wear masks so often when the virus doesn't seem so serious. Some even fear a conspiracy to destroy church, family life, our country, or our world. How do we as Christians/Catholics deal with the pandemic ourselves and those around us who may be prone to anxiety, fear, and anger?

First, we are called to trust God. That doesn't mean that we should expect God to protect us from the virus and we don't need to take precautions. Taking precautions is a normal response to potential danger: insurance policies, seatbelts, etc. Precautions such as washing hands, social distancing and wearing masks greatly reduces the spread of the virus. Trusting in God is rather the faith to trust that God will see us through whatever comes our way. Seeing us through is not a guarantee that no one will get sick or suffer financial or other repercussions. It means that God will continue to give us the grace and strength we need to grow through the experiences we encounter. If you reflect on your past, you can see that God did not save you from every bad thing that could happen. But you can probably also recognize that living through those experiences has shaped you in a good way and made you a better person. Even when we don't feel God's presence, God works miracles in our lives.

Second, as Christians and Catholics, we are called to care for others as we would want them to care for us. We would expect that anyone handling something potentially

injurious to us to handle it in such a way that they avoid hurting us. So it is with the precautions we are asked to take.

Finally, we might imagine that God would be particularly understanding of faults at a time when we are experiencing discomfort, financial issues, limited access to the things we enjoy, etc. And in a sense I expect that is true. But God doesn't just leave us where we are. God yearns to be closer with each of us and seeks to make himself known to us. Of course to know God is to seek to be one with God by imitating what he did. The amazing thing about Jesus' life and especially his passion, is that his pain and oppression did not deter him from living the love in his heart. That is, I think, our ultimate calling in the midst of a crisis. It is one thing to be loving in the right circumstances. But it is very different to be loving in the midst of problems and difficulties. Jesus endured the scrutiny and harassment of the scribes and Pharisees while continuing to care for the people he met along the way. And even as he is dying on the cross, he has the love to forgive the very people who put him to death as well as a criminal nailed to a cross beside him.

To be Christian requires that we trust in God. We are not expecting that God will make our lives easy but that God will give us strength to face whatever comes our way without fear. How often Jesus says, "Do not be afraid." This absence of fear is the place where God's peace can reign in our hearts. Only when we have peace in our hearts can we truly have room to love God and neighbor.

To be Christian is to trust in God and so to find his peace and the ability to love like he loves in the midst of adversity.



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Fall Youth Ministry Opportunities

By Jenn Skudlarek, Youth Ministry

Youth ministry has looked a bit different over the last 6 months, as have most things. During Lent we were able to continue a small group for high school girls. We read the book *I Choose the Sky* by Emily Wilson and had wonderful weekly, virtual, conversations about how much God loves us and how amazing this is, and wouldn't it be great if we could always just remember this.

During Easter we were able to get a high school boys group started, thanks to Seminarian John Baumann! They have had wonderful conversations as well. Thank you John!

Starting in September we will get groups going again! If you are a high school student, or have a high school student who might be interested in joining with others to grow in faith and walk in fellowship please email

Jenn Skudlarek, jskudlarek@saint.timothy.org to let me know! I hope to hear from you.

Also if you are a **VIRTUS** trained adult, or open to becoming Virtus trained, who would be interested in helping with these groups, please let me know. And all parishioners, I ask that you pray for the youth of our parish, that they will hear their mission and embrace their call to discipleship.



The Safe Environment program seeks to provide a safe environment for all adults and children connected with the Diocese.

The ADULT program, known as **VIRTUS**, educates adults on the fast changing technologies and grooming behaviors used by predators to lure their victims. Background checks set up an additional barrier for those who seek access to children to abuse them.

Children have a natural desire to learn and to admire those adults who choose to share their time and talents with them. As adults it is our duty to nurture and protect children. That is why we take seriously the need to train every volunteer so that everyone can identify and create a safe environment where children will grow and thrive.

Please keep up-to-date on your Virtus monthly bulletins. Contact the parish office 859-384-1100 if you need to register for Virtus.

Our Parish Family

New Families

Luis and Gabriella Alvarez
Jonathan and Angela Anderson
Steve and Bridget Bonta
Doug Clark
Cameron and Marley Davis
Anthony and Angela De Maria
Renan and Patricia De Paula
Dustin and Kelley Deck
Bob and Jennifer Finley
Robert and Deborah Hageman
Michael and Sandra Holtzapfel
Jon and Coreen Hooper
Zachary and Alison Isler
Jordan and Robert Johnson
Branden and Elisabeth Knose
Bryan and Kelly Montalvo
Jason and Sarah O'Brien
Susan O'Brien
Marion and Rose Padgett
Stephanie Pauley
Kathleen Porzuc

New Families cont'd

Gerry Prewitt
Jonathan and Julia Rincker
Sean and Kathy Scally
Joshua and Megan Schneider
Brad and Amanda Schwenke
John and Rosemary Speicher

Baptisms

Macey Louise Bennett
Steve Bonta
Carter Myles Carroll
Madelline Carroll
Patricia Carroll
Julia Margaret Deck
Wyatt Eggleston
Tyler Arthur Gillum
Eloise Kate Haag
Dominic Matthew Howard
Theodore Jacob Isler
Todd Alan Kinster
Juliette Jean Knose

Baptisms cont'd

Karmelo Robert Rueb
Emalee Stallkamp
Josh Starns
Genevieve Rose Williams
Bruce Zimmer
Melissa Zimmer

Deceased

Matthew Canode
Michael DeJaco
Shelly Duncan
Gerald Glen
Paul Kroger
Charles McFarlane
James Niehaus
Alfred Porciello
Charles Porter
Jim Rennekamp
Vicente Salazar

St. Timothy Parish Events

By Brynne Wesselman, Events Coordinator

To tell the truth, I have had trouble writing this article. I struggled with the right words to talk about the past few months. What do I say about our parish events that we were able to have, events that were cancelled, etc., when people are struggling – spiritually, mentally, financially, physically? We have definitely been tossed a curveball this year.

In order to discuss events, let me briefly discuss my role as the Events Coordinator. In order for any event to go smoothly, I am planning for the next event while one is occurring. During Dinner Dance preparations, Fish Fry planning (ordering, inventory, etc.) is in progress. During Fish Fry, Bunnyfest planning is happening and during the summer (my “downtime”), Oktoberfest plans are being developed. None of these events can be planned (or cancelled) without a lot of thought put into it. Luckily, I have some wonderful people, committees, and co-workers, that help support these events. Speaking of - do you want to join one of my committees??

This year, we had to cancel three

weeks of the Fish Fry, Bunnyfest, and now, sadly, the in-person Oktoberfest has been cancelled as well. It’s difficult to cancel these events as so many of us are craving togetherness with our parish family. While we may struggle with these cancellations, it is allowing us the opportunity to think outside of the box and do some things differently this year. This is both a challenge and a blessing. Anytime things are “new and different”, it is difficult. Change is hard. My personal goal is to look at it as a blessing so now we have time to look at what has worked well in the past, and what we need to do differently in the future.

Currently, I am working on a Parish Cookbook that will be available for the holiday season. We are also working on other ideas for fundraisers to help support our parish. Any new event, whether community event or fundraiser, may stay in the future. It might not be an event for this year only. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please contact me so I can research it for St. Tim’s.

But seriously, do you want to join a committee??

All Hands on Duck!

Waddle you do when we aren’t asking for 2-Liters and Pringles this year?

Don’t get *down*. You can help!

Contact Brynne Wesselman if you know of a business willing to sponsor events (may be virtual) for St. Timothy at
bwesselman@saint-timothy.org.

Alright, I’ll *duck* out of here.
I just *quack* myself up.



Stewardship of Treasure

FEBRUARY 2020

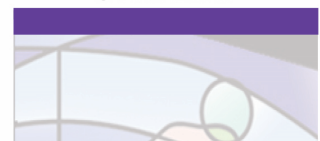
COLLECTIONS:	\$80,392.72
4% TITHE:	\$3,215.71
City Heights	\$500.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$500.00
Grant Recipient: (Max \$3,000)	
Welcome House	\$2,215.71
\$5 to 1% Tithe	\$0.00
1% TITHE	\$803.93
\$5 from 4% Tithe	\$0.00
Total STYM/Outreach:	\$803.93
STYM	\$442.16
Outreach	\$361.77

Due to the Covid-19 shutdown of the church, February was our last grant month this fiscal year. All of the other grants have been postponed until July 1. Thank you to all our parishioners that have continued to support the parish during this time.

Tiffany Evans
Business Manager

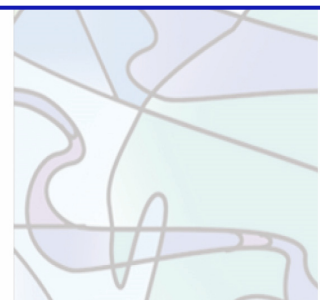


THE
COMPANION



VOLUNTEERS

*Be sure to keep
up-to-date
on your
VIRTUS Bulletins.*



Parish School Religion (PSR) Classes

By Carol Lense, Director of Religious Education

Register your students in Parish School Religion (PSR) Classes

We offer classes for students in grades 1 – 8 and we offer a Sunday Morning Preschool and Kindergarten class. Sign up now if you have not already!

Registration forms are available on the parish web site and in the Parish Office.

What children's formation programs are offered?

- * Sunday Preschool: age 3 and 4 offered during the 9:30 Mass
- * Sunday Kindergarten: offered during the 9:30 Mass
- * Parish School Religion (PSR): grades 1-8 offered
 - Sunday 8:00 am to 9:15 am
 - Sunday 10:00 am to 11:15 am
 - Wednesday 6 pm to 7:15 pm
- * First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are celebrated in the 2nd grade. It does require religious education in the 1st grade in order to be prepared for these special sacraments. Home-schooled students and Catholic school students attend our retreats and celebrate these sacraments with us in their 2nd grade year.
- * Confirmation is typically celebrated in the 8th grade, however like First Holy Communion, it requires two years of preparation. Public school students attend PSR in the 7th grade, and all students attend PSR together for their Confirmation year.
- * Special Needs: All students are welcome in our program and we offer accommodation where ever needed within each program.
- * Rite of Christian Initiation for children (RCIC): students in grades 3-6 who wish to receive sacraments is offered Sunday 10:00 am to 11:15 am.

Safety Expectations Upon Returning to PSR Classes

Our PSR classes will be following the St. Timothy School and Public School guidelines for in class attendance this year. Students will be required to wear masks when entering and departing the classroom and building. Once in their seat in class, they will be able to lower or take off their mask.

We will do temperature checks prior to building entry. Our goal is to have volunteers help so it can be done as the student steps from the car in the drop off lanes. The temperature checks will allow us to stagger entry into the school as well, so we can maintain the social distancing guidelines.

We have a new curriculum program this year, and we will have students carry their workbooks for class with them to eliminate contact exposure. We will provide canvas bags for 1st to 4th graders for their workbooks. Our students in 5th grade up to Confirmation will have folders and workbooks to bring with them for each class.

Learn about our faith while sharing what you know.

Working in the Parish School Religion program (PSR) is one of many great ways to pass our faith along to the young people of our parish. We have a lot of exciting things going on this year. Come and be a part of it! We can always use additional Catechists, Liturgical Ministers and Assistants. Contact Carol Lense at clense@saint-timothy.org or 384-1100 (ext. 1509) to volunteer.

SVDP - Service to God and Community

By Bill Anderson



All is well with St. Vincent de Paul thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, the devotion of our Vincentians, the support of our St. Tim administrators and the uncommon dedication of our Knights of Columbus. While the Corona virus has caused us to modify our approach to family requests, our strong commitment to seniors, single parents, children, veterans, singles, and families remains unchanged. Like many of you, we've quarantined to protect our aging Vincentians. Now instead of visiting our neighbors in person we call them in teams of 2 and determine their needs, recommend resources available to them and then deliver food, vouchers and

resource literature without directly meeting with the client. As we have in the past, we follow up to clarify resources, confirm an action plan and "walk with" our families to remind them "we are right here" to help them set a course and develop independence. We continue to offer all the services we provided prior to Covid-19.

With the continuing monetary and food support from our parishioners we are meeting the needs of our community, where we need your support and growth is in our Vincentian membership. It may surprise you to know that our "prime objective" is spiritual growth....through assistance to the poor! Being a Vincentian is not

difficult. You've been training for years. It's a lot like being a "grand-parent" and sharing your wisdom with your heirs. You need to be willing to dedicate 1 day a week (of your choice); morning, afternoon or evening. Training is largely on the job by taking calls with other Vincentians and growing in knowledge and spirituality. We have all the tools you need to be successful. All you need to do to get started is to give **Bill Anderson a call at 412-295-3441** and we'll schedule you to make a visit or two and see if this is what God is calling you to do. Pray about it and give me a call to discuss your future.

RCIA.....A Journey in Faith By Debbi Cranley

You may have seen the notice in the weekly bulletin that asks the question, "Have you ever thought about becoming Catholic?" I asked myself that question several years ago, and in 2004, I finally completed my journey through RCIA and officially entered the Catholic Church.

RCIA is a process of conversion involving a series of classes that helps to prepare adults to receive the Sacraments of Initiation which include; Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. I remember being a little apprehensive about going through the process of becoming Catholic. It took me many years to *finally* make the decision and when I did, I loved it! I had such a great experience, and I keep coming back for more! I want to help others have that same joyous experience that I did. That is the goal of our team here at St. Timothy.

Despite the challenging times this year, we were able to welcome 17 new members (see picture showing myself and 10 of our students) to our

Catholic community. Times might be challenging, but our faith in God and Church is our constant!

By the way, everyone is welcome to join our classes. Whether you are a sponsor, a new candidate or already a parishioner, feel free to join us! There is always more to learn and we have great discussions.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in joining us, please contact Lynn Profit in the Parish Office. Let's welcome others and celebrate our Catholic community!

"We often think of a conversion as a single decision or event, when the reality is that we are called to continuous conversion." Matthew Kelly





**Do we have
your correct
EMAIL address?**

**Email is a very important
form of communication
that we use to make our
parishioners aware of
happenings at
St. Timothy.**

**Please call the
Parish Office with
any updates to your
email address so that
you will receive all our
communications.**

Thanks!

St. Timothy - Outreach

By Pat Seuberling, Outreach Ministry

Our offices may have been closed and church services held virtually but our Outreach efforts continued through the pandemic. Although many agencies' programs we participated in were held differently we were still able to feed the hungry, provide shelter, serve the poor, and minister to the sick and homebound (which happened to be all of us). God is Great!!!

Mary Rose Mission continued to serve those seeking a meal every evening. Prepared meals and drinks were handed out by gloved and masked volunteers to those in cars or placed on carts for those walking to the kitchen. The **40 Cans for Lent** food drive collection by the Knights of Columbus was abruptly interrupted but we managed to hold another **Food Drive** to assist in collecting enough edible items (6500 lbs.) to feed the hungry at City Heights, Go Pantry and all those served by our SVDP.

The **Baby Bottle Campaign** for Care Net was held virtually to raise funds to help promote life by providing ultrasounds, pregnancy tests, maternity and baby supplies, and parenting classes at no charge. We missed seeing the bottles filled with cash but we were able to help support the agency safely at a distance.

Various **sewers** have been busy sewing masks for many different hospitals, clinics, etc. Still others have been busy making baby blankets and burp cloths, and pillow cases for Christmas, all with donated cotton and flannel. I even hear leftover scraps are going to help fill dog beds at animal shelters!

We helped **Family Promise of NKY** as they were working with several homeless families that sheltered in place at a local hotel by providing restaurant gift cards and grocery staples. One family was able to graduate from the program by securing an apartment, a full time job, and child care for her children during the unusual time.

Back to School Supplies were collected totaling 465 notebooks, 249 markers, 149 boxes of crayons, glue and glue sticks, rulers, folders, highlighters, pencils, erasers, binders, sharpies, backpacks, lunch boxes and more.

Outreach Committee selected our grant recipients the week before we closed our offices. We had 17 agencies requesting grant funds but narrowed our choices to six recipients with funds distributed throughout the year. Our first speaker was in July, Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing. Others will be here to share how their agencies help Northern Kentucky clients and what our funds will help them provide in September, November, February, April and May. We look forward to hearing from PIN Ministry, Emergency Shelter of NKY, Northern Kentucky Hunger Relief Inc, Faith Community Pharmacy and Be Concerned.

We continued to minister for the **Health** of our parishioners. Approximately a dozen parishioners made over 1,000 calls to our senior members several times over the shutdown. As we checked on them to see if anyone needed groceries or medications, we were able to pray with them and lend a listening, comforting ear. God's angels are all around us!

* In July, we provided space for the **St. Elizabeth Cardio Van** for our parishioners to receive up to 3 different screenings for a small fee. It was a huge success as appointment slots were filled to capacity.

- * Unfortunately, we had to cancel several Outreach activities for safety reasons and distancing issues. We have had to stop monthly **blood pressure checks**.

We had to cancel the annual **Mission Trip** but we are exploring a virtual mission trip idea.

The Longest Yard Sale participation was cancelled until next year.

Father Ruschman's Garden grows! Under the direction of Bob Kordenbrock and Roxy Hydera, and with the help of several dedicated volunteers, the garden was given a fresh layer of fertilizer on April 3 and tilling and planting started on April 4 with 3 shifts of 10 volunteers each. Lots of Mondays and Thursdays provided opportunity to plan for the faithful volunteers to tie, till, spread straw and eventually harvest fresh vegetables. We continue to weed, prune, plant and tie (300 + tomato plants). God has provided wonderful rain to water everything until just recently when we began to water the plants ourselves. The monthly harvest totals for June were: beets 127 lbs., broccoli 152 lbs., cabbage 330 lbs., collard greens 22 lbs., kale 43 lbs., lettuce 250 lbs., onions 556 lbs. This amounted to a grand total of 1,480 lbs. harvested!!! July's harvest looks to be just as fruitful. A special thanks to our delivery drivers, Phil Seuberling and Randy Burns, for ensuring our food items arrive at NKY food pantries. Feel free to join in the fun at 5pm on Monday evenings, and at 8:30 am on Thursday mornings. Families are always welcome.

The **parish landscape** takes on an array of beauty and color from the plants grown by Fr. Bolte and planted around the Church and Parish Center. Several angel gardeners helped to plant, water, weed, and deadhead the flowers. The lawn and shrubbery are well taken care of under the direction of John Volgelpohl with assistance from Denny Hoeben and Ron Konen. Our parish is definitely a peaceful oasis to visit and pray as you walk around the property.

We begin to turn our efforts to the annual **Families for Life Baby Shower, Parish and School Blessing Bags** in October, **SVDP Thanksgiving Food and Coat Drive** in November and our **Parish Christmas Giving Tree** in December, in addition to our monthly support to **Family Promise** and **Mary Rose Mission**.

As the world continues to move through this pandemic and its aftermath, our **Outreach** at St. Timothy's continues to function, albeit differently, to serve the needs of our community. We are blessed with many giving hearts and hands. Thank you to everyone for all you do and continue to do that create this thriving parish community. Please feel free to share ideas you may have where we can be useful to others. Wishing you all many blessings!

Ministry to the Sick/Hospitals/Homebound

By Deacon Tom Nolan

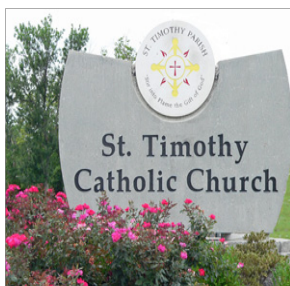
Unfortunately, the Covid-19 has limited what our ministry can do. We no longer can make hospital visits, bring Holy Communion to the sick, or even visit the sick. What we have been doing is praying daily for those in the hospital, and those to whom we normally bring Holy Communion. Many of our "saints" stay in contact with those in need by phone.



Congratulations and good-bye for now to **Seminarian John Baumann** and THANKS for all your service while you were here at St. Timothy.

This month John will be formally recognized at the Cathedral as a candidate for ordination – that is to say he is accepted as worthy to be ordained. We look forward to his being ordained a deacon next year and hopefully a priest the following year. Sadly for us, after being with us last summer and again this year since March, he will be heading back to school in Pennsylvania.

We wish him well, let's keep him in our prayers. He may be able to be with us for Christmas and Easter.



St. Timothy Parish

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St. Timothy Knights of Columbus Council Have Been Busy!

By Deacon Mike Keller

Our recent activities include:

On June 20, the Knights sponsored a food drive to support the families of St. Vincent DePaul and City Heights. Through the generosity of the members and friends of St. Timothy Parish, we collected more than 2,300 lbs. of non-perishable food items, and more than 5,000 lbs. since the beginning of Lent. The Knights of Columbus and the recipient organizations wish to thank everyone that answered this call for helping those in need.

You'll see some of us serving as Ushers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist at Sunday Masses.

We just completed our funding pledge to St. Timothy Catholic School with a check presented to the school in July. This last check completes a funding pledge for a total of \$10,000 in \$2,000 per year payments over the last 5 years.

We also assisted in the movement and re-organization of furniture and tables for the school the weekend of July 12th. Six Knights from our local council assisted in moving tables and furniture from the school to the parish center in order to help allow for adherence to social distancing guidelines and help ensure safe practices for the coming school year. Brother Knight Dennis Hoeben stated "it's our council's pleasure to assist in any way we can to help them prepare for their coming school year". The St. Timothy Knights are committed to ensuring the success of St. Timothy Catholic Education.

If you are a male member of St. Timothy Parish, are 18 years of age or older, and would like join us in serving the Parish community please contact T. J. Mueller at, TJMueller17@gmail.com for information on joining our Council.



St. Timothy Knights of Columbus helping with our Annual Food Drive