

THE COMPANION



NEWS ABOUT SAINT TIMOTHY PARISH IN UNION, KY

Oct/Nov/Dec 2018

A Good Problem

By Fr. Rick Bolte

Members of our parish who were here in 2012-2013 remember the many discussions about starting a school and the many questions that could not be answered definitively. It wasn't that we didn't want to provide Catholic School education for our parish's children, but there were those real and nagging questions: Could we raise enough money to build a school? What would be the real cost of maintaining the school and could we afford it? Would children come despite having a good and free public school?

Starting in 2013 we began taking pledges to see if we could raise enough money to even build a school. Dreams of a larger school dissipated as the real numbers came in. We would build a smaller school with one classroom per grade, 9 rooms for K-8. However the expectation that we would need a bigger building didn't fade completely as plans were drawn up and infrastructure put in place for a future gym and enough classrooms for 600 children.

We started building the school in 2016 with the expectation of opening the school in the Fall of 2017. The school was ready on time and we started the school year with 100 students. The lower grades were full and the higher grades much smaller and in combined classes: 3rd & 4th grades, 5th & 6th grades, and 7th & 8th grades. We picked up more students and ended the year with 117.

Despite the many uncertain startup costs, the school came in on budget.

As we began planning for this current year, we knew there would be fewer combined classes as we picked up a number of junior high students. However we would have one combined class, the 4th & 5th and this meant there would be one unused classroom. Parents were requesting a second kindergarten. They wanted all day kindergarten which was not available in the public schools. We agreed to provide this but were clear in stating that we did not intend to have a second first grade the following year. This year began with 160 students and we now have 163.

Now the problem: A survey was conducted among the kindergarten parents, asking who was planning to come to St. Timothy 1st grade. Of the 48 children in kindergarten, 40 definitely wanted to come for first grade, 5 were 'maybe' and 3 'no'. This was further complicated when we realized the students we would have to turn away were not just people in the area wanting private education but were indeed parishioners. Of the 124 families that make up our school, all but 11 are parishioners (and two of those are currently in the RCIA). We didn't want to turn away parishioners. The School Advisory Committee along with Principal Deb Thomas and Fr. Ross began looking



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into possibilities. Could we get more classrooms by repurposing some of the rooms; for example putting art and music in the same room. They also began looking at the cost of modular classrooms. In the end they put together a likely budget for the next 5 years. Good news budget wise, the parish subsidy seems to go down.



A few weeks ago, I was interviewed by the Messenger about the Holy League we have at St. Timothy. In that article, I mentioned that it might be time to open it up to the entire parish and not just men. To my surprise, I received emails and a letter requesting that we don't change it. The interesting thing was that the requests were coming from women of the parish. They felt it was important to have a time for men to

This plan was presented to our Finance Council for greater financial scrutiny. After much discussion, it was passed onto the Pastoral Council. The final recommendation is a go slow approach. Yes, we will have two first grades and two kindergartens next year. We will plan to allow them to proceed through the upper grades each year. However it is a year by year process of examining the

budget and the success of the school. We want our school to be able to provide the best possible Catholic school education to all our children. And we want to do it in a fiscally responsible way.

Let us continue to offer thanksgiving to God that we have a school and ask for the guidance and resources to allow it to minister to all our children!

The Holy League and More *By Deacon Dave Profitt*

come and spend time in Adoration. As a result, we will keep the Holy League as it is. We will not meet in December since the 4th Monday falls on Christmas Eve. Our next Holy League will be on Monday, January 28 at 7:00 pm in the church.

Our Wednesday evening men's group that meets is also taking a brief hiatus. Due to my busy schedule at St. Anne, we will not meet again until February. We are going to begin a series of studies on excellent Catholic

authors as a way to deepen our Catholic faith. The first book we will read is The Lamb's Supper by Dr. Scott Hahn. This Wednesday night group will be called Books and Brews as we will share a pint and talk about some great Catholic books. If you are interested, please email me at dprofitt@saint-timothy.org to get involved. There is no cost except for the purchase price of the book which we can get through Ave Maria books.

Our Parish Family

New Families

Charles Dolgas & Karen Abell
Connor & Haley Coyle
Steven & Cindy Guenther
Joseph & Diane Hunter
Sergio & Veronica Morales
Francis & Laurel Nimmons
Bill & Patti Phillips
Kevin & Christie Pletzke
Kurt & Ashton Reynolds
Paul & Patricia Rutledge
Phillip & Mary Seuberling
Adam & Casie Staff
Neil Stiegelmeyer
Greg & Mary Beth Stoppelwerth
Justin Auton & Allison Wehrman

Baptisms

Saoirse Black
Madelyn Black
Forrest Black
Amelia Brian
Caroline Rose Coyle
Tobin Elisabeth Ernst
Kinsley Ann Ernst
Lillian Grogan
Ida Grogan
Grier Harvey
James Hasken
Harrison Joseph Hummer
William Dennis Meyers
Jayson Thai Nguyen
Gabriel Michael Niemann
Miles Jackson Palomeque
Parker William Palomeque

Baptisms

Lainey Ann Rolf
Selah Rose Skudlarek
Jackson Carter Tewes
Harper Nicole Volpenhein
Vivian Scott Walker

Deceased

John "Jack" Collett
Charles Mark Dolgas
Jennie Donahue
Gladys Duggan
David Scott Hils
Jeffrey Wallace

Weddings

Megan Ward and
Cameron Murray

What Makes a Parish Great? *By Deacon Dave Profitt*

We've been extremely blessed here at St. Timothy through the years. We've had excellent priests and really good deacons (just saying). But there is so much more that goes into parish life than the clergy. The staff of a parish is a critical component to the Catholic experience and it is often overlooked. For many, their experience with the parish staff is the central point of contact in the Church. Recently, some of that staff was recognized for their long-term commitment to St. Timothy.

Libby Conley, Gina Murray, and Connie Berndsen along with Deb Thomas have all been a part of the parish staff for over 10 years. Longevity and stability in the preschool, has led to the tremendous growth we've seen. These individuals have dedicated themselves to the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in working with our children. St. Timothy preschool has often been recognized for the tremendous work they do not only in education but in outreach. Our kids are getting taught the core meaning of being a Catholic, love of neighbor wherever that neighbor may be.



Outreach has been a core attitude here since I've been at St. Timothy which is now 20 years. One of the common expressions I hear is that "we have to meet people where they are." That's true, but then we need to complete the mission by walking with them in their journey to Christ. It's one of the aspects of RCIA that I enjoy so much, walking with people in their journey to the Catholic Church. It's a mission that all of us are

called to undertake and to do so with joy.

Working for the Church can be difficult just like all jobs but with a lot less pay. As I tell people that are wanting to work here at St. Anne, "the pay isn't great but the benefits sure are." Those who work at St. Timothy do so out of love for this parish, the Church. Those who work in the Church are special people and they deserve our respect and admiration for their sometimes difficult tasks. It takes a lot to run a parish since you're dealing with so many different types of people and some in the most difficult circumstances in their lives. When someone dies in a family, we often see the broken side of them and the pastoral work that is necessary to help that person in this vulnerable time. That's why the priests and people who serve on the Bereavement Committee are such a blessing to us here.

Perhaps the most important aspect of a great parish is you, the parishioner. None of this happens without the gift of your time, talent and treasure. It's your involvement in outreach, in sponsoring RCIA candidates, in attending adult faith formation programs, the men's group, Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul, scouting and the list goes on and on, that make this a vibrant and energetic place to be. Living out our Catholic faith can be challenging and getting involved is a way to help make sure those challenges are met. When we gather with people who are committed to living out their Catholic faith in a meaningful way, we are changed. We see that serving others is the way of the Gospel and the way to bring heartfelt joy into our lives. It's not enough to just show up on Sunday and expect our faith to grow. We have muscles in our body that atrophy when we don't use them. The same thing can be said about our spiritual muscle, we've got to put it to use.

St. Timothy is a wonderful place to be, but we can be better. Get involved, make this your parish. Share your gifts and we all benefit. Thank you from all of us here at St. Timothy for being here. It's a great parish because of you.





St. Timothy Preschool

By Laurie Bauer, Preschool Coordinator

The preschoolers have been busy this month with Service Learning Projects

They held a Thanksgiving food drive for St. Vincent de Paul. Preschool students shopped for the needed items and brought them to school. They (with the help of their teachers) sorted the food, decorated the bags for the food, and filled them with the food donations. They pushed, pulled, and carried those heavy bags with a smile knowing they were helping people in our community. St. Vincent de Paul Society will deliver the bags to families in need.

Stewardship of Treasure

SEPTEMBER 2018

COLLECTIONS:	\$69,052.96
4% TITHE:	\$2,762.12
City Heights	\$500.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$500.00
Grant Recipient: (Max \$3,000)	
PIN Ministry NKY	\$1,762.12
\$\$ to 1% Tithe	\$0.00
1% TITHE	\$690.53
\$\$ from 4% Tithe	\$0.00
Total STYM/Outreach:	\$690.53
STYM	\$379.79
Outreach	\$310.74

OCTOBER 2018

COLLECTIONS:	\$94,282.34
5% TITHE:	\$4,714.12
City Heights	\$500.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$500.00
DIO Collection:	
International Needs	\$3,714.12

NOVEMBER 2018

COLLECTIONS:	\$67,621.84
4% TITHE:	\$2,704.87
City Heights	\$500.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$500.00
Grant Recipient: (Max \$3,000)	
Welcome House	\$1,704.87
\$\$ to 1% Tithe	\$0.00
1% TITHE	\$676.22
\$\$ from 4% Tithe	\$0.00
Total STYM/Outreach:	\$676.22
STYM	\$371.92
Outreach	\$304.30



Students and their families also participated in our biggest Service Learning Project of the year. The night is known as G.I.G.G.L.E. Night (Get into Giving God's Love Everywhere). Students and their families came together to make wreaths, stockings, placemats, ornaments, blankets and soup jars. Then some of the families delivered the items to several local agencies. Students also made Advent chains for their family to take home. A good time was had by all.



Parish School of Religion

By Carol Lense, Director of Religious Education

The Christmas Giving Fair

The Confirmation classes presented their Outreach Agencies in the first weekend of December at the Christmas Giving Fair. This project is a great part of our Confirmation program, giving the students a chance to see how fortunate they are, and how what they can do for others can make such a difference.

Thanks to all of the parents who have been such a great part of this program, from volunteering on Mission Monday at the Agencies, setting up lunch for our hungry students, helping to create the Agency boards in the classrooms, and working the cashier table at the Giving Fair. It is great to see the strength of our Parish in leading by example.

PSR Christmas Trees

The PSR classes will be adding more trees to the collection again this year. Look for our autographed pine trees on the grounds and see the names of our students from each year. This is our fourth year of growing a pine forest for Christmas, we hope you enjoy them.

Confirmation

Our students will be Confirmed on Monday, January 21st. We have 66 students in our Confirmation class in five different classes; Sunday Mornings at 8 am with Loretta Macaluso, three classes on Sundays at 10 am, one taught by Jill Price and Christina Lense, one by Mary Hanger and the other by Mike Lense and Greg Southerland, our Wednesday night is taught by Andrea Deis. It has been a great year so far, and our students are looking forward to their Retreat in January.

Please join us for the Presentation Mass on Saturday January 12th, to see this great group, and bless them as they finish their journey to confirm their faith.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our Parish is blessed to have had 71 students celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Tuesday December 4th. These students have been preparing all year, and reinforcing their knowledge of God's love and forgiveness. We celebrated after the sacrament with a reception in Brodnick Hall. Thanks to all the Catechists and Parents for being a part of this special time.

PSR Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, January 12 – Confirmation Retreat Hosted by YCET
- Saturday, January 12 – 4:30 Mass – Presentation of the Confirmation Class.
- Monday, January 21 – Confirmation
- Saturday, February 23 – “The Coming of the King” 7th Grade Retreat.
- Sunday, March 3 – Jesus Retreat for 2nd Graders and RCIC students.

The Confirmation Class Supports Our Outreach Agencies

December 1st and 2nd was our Christmas Giving Fair. The Confirmation classes visited and worked at 6 different Outreach Agencies in October. At the Giving Fair they present their Agencies in Brodnick Hall for an alternative to gift giving. This project is a great part of our Confirmation program, giving the students a chance to see how fortunate they are, and how what they can do for others can make such a difference.

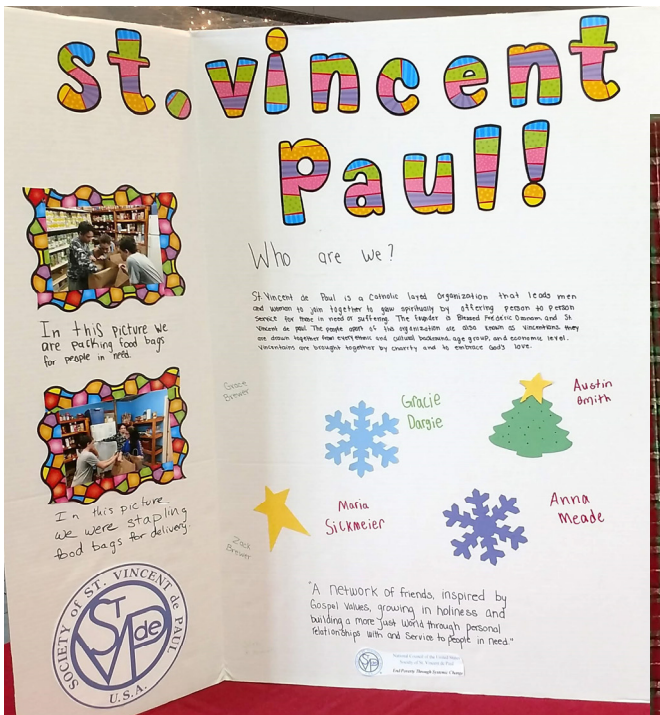
This year we received a great number of compliments on how well the students spoke about their agencies, and what they learned about themselves through helping others.

We also had a good number of students work more than one shift to make sure their agency had someone to speak about it at each Mass time. I am proud of these students for all of their efforts. They earned over \$3,000.00 on the weekend alone for these agencies, and we continued to collect donations through December 19.

Thanks to all of the parents who have been such a great part of this program, from volunteering on Mission Monday at the Agencies, setting up lunch for our hungry students, and working the cashier table at the Giving Fair. It is great to see the strength of our Parish in leading by example.

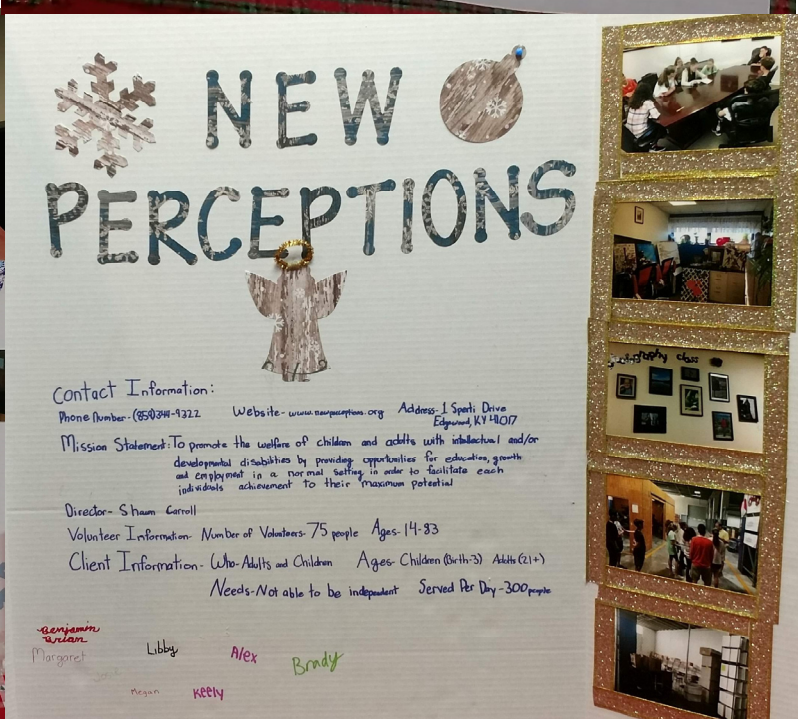
Here are the boards created by our Fabulous Classes...





The following agencies were presented at the Giving Fair:

- ◆ St Vincent de Paul
- ◆ DCCH - Center for Children & Families
- ◆ Family Promise
- ◆ Rose Garden Home Mission
- ◆ Welcome House
- ◆ New Perceptions



We Share Our Blessings

By Katy Sullivan, Director of Outreach

Our grant project with PIN Ministries was a great success. Our volunteers spent a day preparing the food and then an entire second day delivering the food to the homeless in Florence. It was a beautiful day to experience different faiths working together to serve the most in need, so close to our home. We appreciate their hospitality in welcoming all of our parishioners who volunteered.

Thanks to the St. Timothy Boy Scouts and the other volunteers who helped us collect and sort over 6,500 lbs of food that we were able to deliver to City Heights, St. Bernard's Food Pantry

and our own St. Vincent de Paul chapter. Your generosity provided for much needed food to those in our Northern Ky community. A special thanks also goes out to the St. Timothy School Kindergarteners who decorated bags and helped to sort our donations!

Our Giving Tree was able to sponsor 72 families (206 people) this Advent. I am touched every year by people's generosity in the gifts they purchase and the time that is spent helping to organize and deliver the gifts. I wish everyone could see the look on the parents face when they realize their child will receive a special

gift that was provided by total strangers. You touch their hearts with the gifts that are purchased and this is just one of the many ways we spread God's love.

This year we had several Gray Middle School students fulfill a school project by participating in the Giving Tree. They learned about the families in need, raised money, purchased gifts, collected food, created spread sheets, purchased coats and sorted gifts all to assist St. Timothy's service to those in need. We are truly thankful to all of them (and their parents) for their assistance.



New in 2019 - Outreach

By Katy Sullivan, Director of Outreach

We are working on a project to help our parish get to know our immigrant neighbors and to identify ways in which we can be of service. If you would like to be part of the planning committee, please contact Katy at ksullivan@saint-timothy.org.

St. Timothy Health Ministries

In January, we will be announcing dates for the mammogram and cardio vascular van to be coming to St. Tim's in 2019.

To celebrate National Heart Month in February, we will begin offering

blood pressure screenings after all the Masses the first weekend of the month. Nurses and other health care providers will be in Brodnick Hall offering this service. Please look for more information in the bulletin and the website in January.

The Importance of Prayer

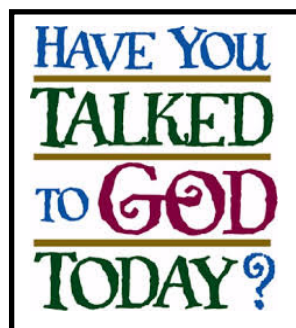
By Debbi Cranley

Recently at our session of Walking With Purpose, the Catholic scripture study for women here at St. Timothy, the topic was on prayer. The lesson was titled, "Why and How Should I Pray?" We as Christians know that we should pray, but often we find it a little challenging. Maybe we're not in the mood, or we start praying and our minds wander. It's hard to sit quietly in prayer when we are thinking about checking things off on that to-do list.

We discussed some of the obstacles to prayer. General busyness, crazy family schedules, distractions, television, computers, social media, and oh, all our devices! Smartphones, iPads, tablets, smartwatches, to name a few. Well, I decided to use my devices as an aide to prayer rather than an obstacle. For example; I have a Rosary app on my phone which I use often. Last April, my husband, Kevin and I were vacationing in Hilton Head with friends. Kevin and I went out in our canoe early one morning. The lagoon was so peaceful and beautiful. I had my phone with me, so we turned on the Rosary app and prayed it together. It was so meaningful to us to spend that quiet time in prayer surrounded by the beauty God has blessed us with. When we finished, we both just said, "Wow!"

Reminders can also be a great spiritual aide. I have four daily reminders set up on my phone. They

are: 8am – Pray. 9am- Jesus loves you. 3pm – Pray. 8pm – Jesus loves you. Okay, maybe that sounds a little corny to you, but it works for me. No matter where I am at 8am or 3pm, I get that reminder to pray. It doesn't have to be a long prayer, just maybe a little prayer of thanks for the gift of another day of life on His earth. On that same Hilton Head trip, we were with our friends at a shopping area. I was walking with our friend Tom, when we heard a beeping noise. He



asked what the noise was, and I told him it was my watch reminding me to pray. He said, "Well let's say a quick prayer together" – and we did. Right there in that shopping area!

We often forget or don't think about how much Jesus loves us. Imagine having a bad morning or a rough day and seeing that little message that Jesus loves you. It brings a smile to my face every time!

There are many apps that can be helpful to our spiritual lives, such as Laudate, myParish and Formed, to name a few. I encourage you to try them.

Prayer is a gift of grace that increases our faith in God. Many people think that they are not good at

praying. You don't have to be! Eloquent words are not required! He waits for us to pray – even the simplest of prayers. Jesus longs to have a close relationship with us. Just close your eyes and use your own words, as if you were talking to a very good friend.

There are easy ways to start – baby steps to praying. Try offering the actions of your daily life to God as a prayer. Whether you are washing the dishes, ironing, (my good friends know that is my least favorite chore!) or doing that report for work that you have been putting off. By offering these intentions, we are communing with God in the midst of our chores, and ordinary tasks become noble and righteous tasks. These little offerings can lead to daily habits of praying regularly.

Prayer is a privilege. *Without* prayer we are just operating on our own strength, just as our smartphones rely on their own batteries. *With* prayer we are operating on the power of God.

Jesus longs for our friendship. This brings to mind an old hymn that my Grandpa used to whistle every day:

"What a friend
we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear,
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer."

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" - Corrie Ten Boom



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or email Fr. Ross rkelsch@saint-timothy.org



News from St. Henry District High School...

By: Hailey Oldfield, SHDHS Senior

Many exciting things have been happening around St Henry lately! If you have seen our campus this year, then you will notice our new Performing Arts Hall in the process of construction. We will relocate our coral, band, and visual art classrooms to this wing along with a 400-seat auditorium. In addition to that, several classrooms, labs, and offices in the current building will be renovated. Construction is set to be finished by the first day of school next Fall!

With fall sports coming to a close, our teams have been accumulating quite the collection of hardware. Our Lady Cru Volleyball team won the 34th District, the 9th Region, as well as finishing third place in the semifinals at state. Our Lady Cru Soccer team won the 34th District championship and were runners-up in the regional tournament. Also, our Boys Soccer team placed second in the 34th District and put up a good fight in the Regional tournament. Our Lady Cru Cross Country team placed third in Regionals and sixth at the State meet, and our Boys Cross Country team won Districts and also placed 6th at the

State competition. It has been such an exciting time to be a Crusader and root on our fellow classmates.

With our first semester ending, many of our students have been going on their grade-level retreats. The seniors enjoyed a four-day "break" from school where they spent time deepening their relationship with Christ and spending time with their classmates.

As for other exciting news, in October we celebrated Red Ribbon Week, our annual drug-prevention awareness week. We heard from a Registered Nurse and Tobacco Specialist about the dangers of teen nicotine addiction.

In addition, we also revamped our gymnasium and got all new padding! Now, the sides of the gym are painted with "Go Cru" and "Saint Henry District High School." We also recently had our Open House where we had the opportunity to show prospective families and students the reasons we love our SHDHS family and everything our school offers! Everyone is looking forward to the holiday season and all the upcoming events at St Henry District High School!

Follow the Yellow Brick Road

on a journey to the

Emerald City

Feel free to dress in character & become a part of the Emerald City

5:30 pm: Music, Cocktails & Appetizers, Silent Auction Tables open until 11pm

7:00 pm: Dinner & Dessert, followed by a Live Auction & Dancing

12:00 am: The Last Dance

St. Timothy Dinner Dance Fundraiser & Auction! Saturday, February 9, 2019

Deadline for registration: Monday, February 4th, 2019

Name(s) (_____) Phone #

Tickets x \$50 each = \$ _____ is enclosed.

Each reservation includes 3 drink tickets

Method of Payment: (circle one) Cash Check Credit Card

Credit Card #: _____

(circle one) Visa MC Discover Amex Expiration Date

Zip Code (for credit card processing) _____

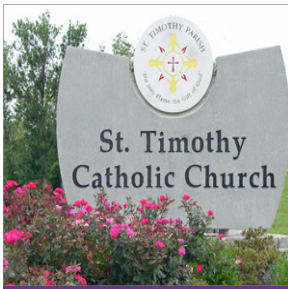
See attached list of guests at our table _____ NO seating preference

Unable to attend but would like to make the enclosed donation

Interested in helping with the Dinner Dance decorations

Please send to the Parish Office Attention

Brynne Wesselman



St. Timothy Parish

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(859) 384-1100

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Holiday Mass Schedule

4th Sunday of Advent

- Saturday, Dec 22 - 4:30 pm
- Sunday, Dec 23 - 8 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am

Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas

- Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm, 6:30 pm, 10:00 pm (Adult Choir)
- Christmas Day: 9:30 am, 11:30 am (Children's Choir)

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- Saturday, Dec 29 - 4:30 pm
- Sunday, Dec 30 - 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

- New Year's Eve, Monday, Dec 31 - 4:30 pm
- New Year's Day, Tuesday, Jan 1 - 10:00 am

