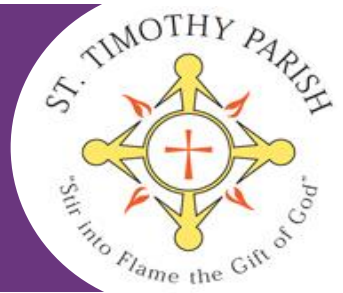


THE COMPANION



NEWS ABOUT SAINT TIMOTHY PARISH IN UNION, KY

Oct/Nov/Dec 2016

St. Timothy School Principal Selection, Gym, 1st Thunder Victory

By Fr. Rick Bolte

As hopefully you have already noticed, we have been advertising in the *Messenger* our position of principal for our new school. The principal will need time to get things ready for the up-coming school year. With so much being new, our plan is to hire the principal sometime in January. To this end we will begin the interviews by the second week in January and hopefully be able to make a choice by the third week. Below are the people I have asked to be on the interviewing committee:

Rosa Weaver is an assistant professor at Northern Kentucky University where she is also a member of the core faculty for the Instructional Leadership Program. Currently, Dr. Weaver teaches classes leading to P-12 principal certification including Introduction to School Administration, Human Resources, School Law and Ethics, and Leadership for School Problem Solving.

Kendra McGuire – Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Covington. She was principal at St. Cecilia for 5 years, Assistant Principal at St. Pius for 2 years, and 8 years as a teacher.

Kendal Brue – First Grade teacher here at St. Timothy School. She has 22 years of teaching experience, 10 in regular education and 12 in special education.

Jennifer Yuskewich – St. Timothy Pastoral Council Chair.

Ryan Volker – Parent of a student at St. Timothy School.

Fr. Eric and I will also be on the committee and together make a final decision on the principal.

The school construction is progressing well and is on schedule to be completed in June of next year. It is scheduled to be under roof this month (December.) However, though the school can function using the cafeteria for physical education and other facilities for sports, an obvious missing part of the campus is a **gym**. A number of parents of our kindergarteners and first graders have already begun making plans to raise funds for the new gym. Their primary focus is business advertising though all possibilities will be explored. Anyone that has suggestions please let me know.

Though students in St. Timothy's School had great success playing soccer this summer, only recently have we had our children playing as a parish team. For the first time playing as the "**Thunder**", the kindergarten and first grade boys won their first game on December 3rd.

GO TEAM!



The Companion
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Save the Date...

St. Timothy Lenten Men's Retreat

St. Anne Retreat Center

March 10, 11 and 12, 2017

Contact Bill Anderson at (412) 295-3441

or

podacus815@gmail.com



Save the Date...

St. Timothy Women's Christ Renews His Parish Retreat



St. Timothy Parish Center January 14 - 15, 2017

Are you looking to connect with other women and make new friends? Would you like an opportunity to spend some time in peace and quiet? Would you like a deeper faith and a closer relationship with God? Then come to the next Christ Renews His Parish women's weekend retreat. The dates are January 14 and 15 (you sleep at home overnight). **For more information contact Lia Sansoucy at (508) 981-1936 or lpsansoucy@gmail.com.**

Our Parish Family

New Families

Nathan & Britney Berezansky
Brad & Kristina Bolte
Richard & Karen Chorey
Nick & Anne DiFilippo
Terry & Jennifer Glenkler
Andrew & Lindsay Hermes
Daniel & Diane Kane
Scott & Haley Koch
Fabio & Eliana Magaton
Pete & Lori Maley
Thomas & Rebecca Niehoff
Christopher & Erica Pavese
Martin & Cassandra Perez
Chris & Hilary Pfefferman

New Families

Charles & Josephine Porter
Michael & Stephanie Schmidt
Mark & Stephanie Stirrat
Robert & Leslee Wainscott
Matt & Maria Warken
Scott & Elaine Whittle
David & Tricia Zummach

Weddings

Joe Mangiafico and
Leeanna Thomas

Baptisms

Eleanor Jane Anderson
Landon Collins
Camden Charles Cropper
Joella DiVita
Ford James Hobbs
Benjamin Michael Holtzapfel
Casen Kobman
Augustine Maier
Olivia Mains
Fallon Lynn Pfefferman
John James Potter
Samuel Allan Rosing
Brooklyn Seyfried

Baptisms

Nolan Stirrat
Daniel Tewes, III

Deceased

Anna Curry
Bob Eubanks
Jack Glenkler
Hermann Hoppe
Marcella Montag
Kate Mueller
Lee Pleiman
Ines Tisbe
Walt Wilde



Stewardship of Treasure

SEPTEMBER 2016

COLLECTIONS:	\$ 77,568.64
4% TITHE:	\$3,102.75
City Heights	\$500.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$500.00
Grant Recipient: (Max \$3,000)	
Master Provisions	\$2,102.75
\$ \$ to 1% Tithe	\$0.00
1% TITHE	\$775.69
\$ \$ from 4% Tithe	\$0.00
Total to STYM/Outreach:	\$775.69
STYM	\$426.63
Outreach	\$349.06

OCTOBER 2016

COLLECTIONS:	\$ 99,665.81
5% TITHE:	\$4,983.29
City Heights	\$500.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$500.00
DIO Collection	
Education of Seminarians	\$3,983.29



A big thank you to all of the dedicated young people of the parish that helped make

Breakfast with Santa 2016

a success!



Annual Diocese of Covington

NATIVITY SCENE 2016

St. Timothy Parish

Sponsored By: The Knights of St. John

Commandary #94, Northern KY

Hosted By: Boy Scout Troop 702, St. Timothy's Parish



Blessing of the Crib following 4:30 Mass December 17

Live Manger: December 17 – 23, 2016 – 7pm till 9pm

Ways you may Participate:

- ♦ Choir
- ♦ Prayer Service
- ♦ Dress as the holy Family
- ♦ Dress as Shepherds
- ♦ Visit as a family
- ♦ Earn service hours

The Infant Savior calls persons of different faiths and ages to his stable to share the unity, joy and peace of Christmas!

We welcome and encourage families, friends, groups and organizations to help participate in this joyous Christmas event.

For scheduling a group or family participation. Please Contact:

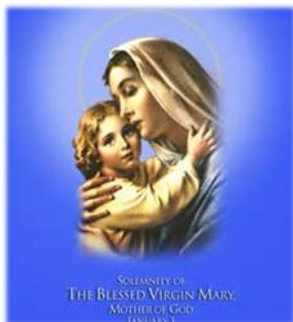
Doug Eifert: 859-384-3689 (Knights St. John)
dkeifert@twc.com

Holiday Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve and Christmas

Saturday, Dec 24 - 4:00 PM, 6:30 PM, 10:00 PM

Sunday, Dec 25 - 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, Dec 31 - 4:30 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, Jan 1 - 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

Holiday Parish Office Hours: The Parish Office will be CLOSED Friday December 23, Monday December 26, and Monday January 2.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

By Deacon Dave Profitt

It is that time of year when we celebrate the most important historical event in the history of man, the Incarnation of Jesus. God becoming man, like us in all things but sin. Jesus became fully human, a concept that is difficult to wrap your mind around. Why would the Son of God choose to come and live among us and experience all the pain and suffering that the world has to offer? He did so for that very reason. He came to bring us a sense of hope in the mindless clutter of the world. He came to show us that there is more to life than what we experience here on earth. He came to show us God's love and to help us raise our sights on the horizon of heaven, the eternal rest that is the ultimate goal of man's existence or at least should be.

Jesus taught us in so many ways, by his words, his example and most of all by his ultimate sacrifice on the Cross. While Christmas is a time when we remember the birth of Jesus, it should ultimately point us to the sacrifice on Calvary where he offered up his life for the forgiveness of sins and man's opportunity for salvation. Christmas is another form of sacrifice in the life of Jesus. This vulnerable infant who is the Son of God, bringing on himself the scorn of so many so that the Kingdom of God can be made present to man. That Kingdom is still here and it now becomes an integral part of our mission to help others see the beauty of what is possible when one seeks God's presence in their life.

One important aspect of our mission that I sometimes think we overlook is the concept of welcoming. All of us who attend Mass on a regular basis know what happens at Christmas and at Easter. We get the folks

who only come to Mass on those days. It's very easy to be critical of our brothers and sisters who only come on those days especially when they're sitting in our regular seat that's been ours for years. It's as if they don't know who actually should be sitting there. I know this because that's how I felt for far too long. I've got a reserved seat now so I don't have to worry about that anymore but that doesn't diminish the fact that the concept of welcoming wasn't necessarily a part of my feelings on Christmas and Easter.

Instead of being upset, we should be thankful that they are in the building. We should welcome them home with open arms and a heart that says you belong here. If there's anything I've learned in my past 22 years as a Catholic it's that we need to do a better job of letting people know that this is where they belong with their family every week, not just twice a year. We want them to come back because they need to experience the love of God in their lives. They need it as much as we do and sometimes it's the smallest thing that triggers that realization. If they feel welcome and loved, that just might be all they need to bring themselves back to the Church.

None of us, especially me, have the right to judge people and where they are at any given point in their life. We've all been there when God seems so distant, the spiritual desert if you will that exists within all of us at times. Those who fight through that desert and keep seeking God eventually come out on the other side better and stronger in their convictions. For many, they give up too soon. All of us must

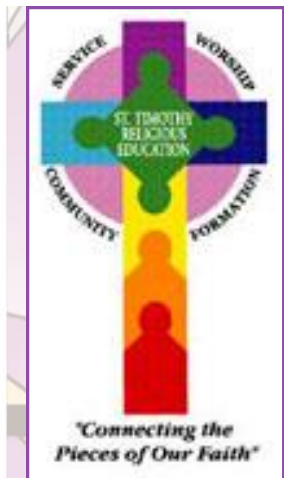
undergo trials and temptations in order to strengthen our faith. A life without challenge is no life. I have a tee shirt that says "if you're not walking on the edge, you're taking up too much space." I sometimes take that too far but you get the point. If we're not being challenged in our faith, we can't grow and those good people who only show up twice a year can be a challenge to us. Instead of shunning them, we welcome them, tell them we're glad they're here and that helps us in our own journey.

Make it a special effort to welcome someone you don't know at the Christmas Mass this year. Tell them you're glad they're here and that you hope to see them again. At the sign of peace, give them a smile and a sincere "peace be with you." Perhaps they'll experience a peace they haven't known in a while. Let them see God working through you and it will make an impression in their life. Remember that the mission of the Church is the salvation of souls and thus it becomes our central mission as well.

God became man for all of us, not just those who show up every week. He chose to be here and everyone who is in the Church that day chose to be here as well. We're not to question their motivation. Instead we should question if we're doing our part to help them see the need to be here more often. You never know what might happen on that day if you welcome them and make them feel a part of this wonderful community at St. Timothy. I pray that we all take the time to be thankful for the sacrifice Jesus made and share that thankfulness with another in this blessed time of year.



Parish School of Religion



Parish School of Religion

By Carol S. Lense, Director of Religious Education

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our Parish is blessed to have had 77 students celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Tuesday, December 6. 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. Now we will begin preparing for their next big step on their faith journey, First Holy Communion. Please keep these wonderful students in your prayers through this eventful year.

PSR Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Saturday January 7 – Confirmation Retreat Hosted by YCET
- ◆ Saturday January 7, 4:30 Mass – Presentation to the Parish of the Confirmation Class.
- ◆ Monday January 23 – Confirmation
- ◆ Sunday March 19 – Jesus Retreat for the RCIC and 2nd Grade Students.
- ◆ Saturday April 29 – First Holy Communion for the 2nd Grade Students.

Agency Retreat Day for St. Timothy Confirmation Students



The Christmas Giving Fair

By Carol S. Lense, Director of Religious Education

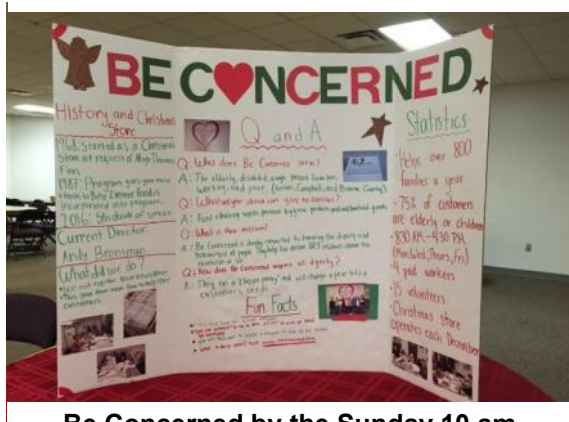
The Confirmation classes presented their Outreach Agencies this weekend at The Christmas Giving Fair. They have been working for a couple weeks getting ready; reviewing their experience from the Agency Day, creating an advertising board to promote their agency, and practicing what to say and how to best represent these wonderful agencies that do so much for our community. With the help of some of our Confirmation students' parents, we offer to our Parish Families an alternative giving option. Donate to one of these awesome agencies in someone's name and give a gift that gives twice. The gift you give as a donation helps individuals and families right here in Northern Kentucky, giving them the support they need to share in the magic of Christmas, or the much needed basic necessities of life. It is an eye opening experience for the Confirmation students to see that so many things they take for granted are only dreams for others. It is a great lesson, and one that fits very well as they take these last few steps and choose to be confirmed in their Catholic Faith.



New Perceptions by the Sunday 8 am Confirmation Class



St. Bernard Food Pantry by the Sunday 8 am Confirmation Class



Be Concerned by the Sunday 10 am Confirmation Class



Welcome House by the Sunday 10 am Confirmation Class



The Holy Spirit Center by the Monday Night Confirmation Class



The Point by the Wednesday Night Confirmation Class



*"Consider that we
are your feet, carrying
assistance to the needy.*

*We are your hands,
supporting those in
financial distress.*

*We are you voice,
providing words of faith
and encouragement
to those who are
down on their luck."*



An Attitude of Gratitude

By Bill Anderson

With the passing of Thanksgiving and the Advent of Christmas we have much for which to be thankful. At St. Tim's we have a rich spiritual tradition of sharing our faith through personal outreach, care and sharing of our time, talent and treasure. We provided 14 Thanksgiving dinners and are scheduled to provide dinner and Christmas presents for an additional 20 families in the coming weeks.

Your recent Thanksgiving food and coat donations not only replenished our diminished food pantry, it assisted several other agencies and provided an abundance of coats to warm our neighbor's hearts and bodies. The first distribution day was a very chilly Saturday morning and the children positively glowed with excitement at being able to pick out their own winter coats off the racks, just like at the stores, to keep them warm and cuddly all winter. Many thanks from each of them to each of you who donated coats and food.

We are ever thankful for the food, monetary and spiritual support we receive from our parish. It's critical to our mission of "helping us, help others, help themselves." Similar to a recent story on the news, one of our Vincen-tians encountered a 9 year old lad named Nathaniel at one of the local motels who said he was not likely to have Christmas this year because his grandmother was raising him and provid-ing for his room and board and she had fallen on hard times and Santa wouldn't know where to find him. Many of our families are headed by single moms who are on their own trying to make ends meet without child or family support.

And with addiction on the rise, we see ever more grandparents on a fixed income raising their grandchildren during their "golden years."

The past six months, our treasury has taken a hit, visiting 114 families, assisting 331 people: providing food, clothing, furniture, housewares, rent and utilities, avoiding numerous utility shut offs and evictions. While re-settling families into stable housing is among the most uplifting services we provide, it comes with a high price tag. In addition, recent calls seem to be involved with families who are seri-ously behind in their bills with few, if any, resources to help them recover. While we have some very generous (sometimes anonymous) contributors, for whom we are very grateful, one of the ways we can continue or even ex-pand our support of local families is to have a consistent, predictable revenue stream of \$5, \$10, \$20 or more a month. We really need at least 50 families who are willing to sign up with Jennifer Casson, Financial Office, to provide regular monthly support. To date we have achieved barely 10% of our goal. We need a few more families who are willing to adopt a needy child (family) in our parish area like similar programs overseas. Won't you join us in this important endeavor?

Consider that we are your feet, carrying assistance to the needy. We are your hands supporting those in financial distress. We are you voice providing words of faith and encour-agement to those who are down on their luck. Our neighbors thank you one and all for your support, encour-agement and prayers.



VOLUNTEERS:

Be sure to keep
up-to-date on your
VIRTUS bulletins.

Family Promise - Volunteer Experience

By Ethan Connett

I recently volunteered with the Family Promise organization at the St. Agnes convent. We helped get ready for the next families who would be staying there by cleaning, making the beds, and organizing things. Next, we went to pick up the people that were staying there. We showed them where they would be sleeping and gave them a quick tour. They were very nice and thankful people. We played with the kids for awhile. They really liked playing outside on the soccer field. We then ordered pizza, so they could have something to eat for dinner.

Before we got there, I thought the homeless people were going to be like the people you sometimes see in downtown Cincinnati. But, they really seemed like a lot of people I know, only all of the things they own fit into one backpack. It made me realize that we are not thankful enough. We don't appreciate all of the things that we have. The people who were staying there don't have any of the extra stuff that we do.

It felt really good to be able to help these families.

Becoming an Oblate of St. Benedict

By Thomas Scally



Mary Jo Rechtin and Tom Scally

Each year at the beginning of Advent we examine our hearts to decide what course we will take to become closer to God. What will we give up or what service can we perform, and how will this bring us closer to God?

I wanted to find a better path in my life to find that closeness to God. I was seeking. I remembered speaking with Sister Kathleen Ryan, OSB who at the time was the religion teacher at St. Timothy Parish. She spoke about the lay people who were affiliated with St. Walburg Monastery and the Benedictine Sisters who were known as the Benedictine Oblates. I wanted to find out more and visited the St. Walburg Monastery to speak with Sister Mary Tewes, OBS, Oblate Director at St. Walburg Monastery. I was invited to come to the monthly meetings of the Oblates. I was called an Inquirer, a person looking into becoming an Oblate.

For the last two years I have attended monthly meetings where I met the Oblates and other Inquirers. The first year we did a book review of a book by Pope Francis, "The Joy of The Gospel". I discovered just how brilliant Pope Francis is and how deeply he loves God. Just read the book and you will find, as I did, the depth of his love for all of us.

I attended a wonderful lecture by Monsignor Cleves, on "Mercy", perfect for this past Year of Mercy. During the last two years I have read ten or more books about St. Benedict. This has been a most exciting time as well as quite enlightening. I feel blessed that my learning period was so filled with the encouragement of the other Oblates and my prayer partner.

This past October 23rd I made my first Oblation to St. Benedict and the Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery. I thank Mary Jo Rechtin, a fellow member of St. Timothy parish, for being my prayer partner.

Who are the Benedictine Oblates?

Oblates are Christian men and women of various lifestyles, who are bonded together to "truly seek God" according to the vision of St. Benedict. The Associates began in 1986, in response to the invitation of Benedictine Sisters, exercising their vision of the Gospel message to extend their ministries through lay participation. For more information about the Benedictine Oblates program, call Sr. Mary Tewes at 859-331-6324. or email her at marytewes@gmail.com.

Capital Campaign 2.0: Building Thunder!

By Emily Walters

Three short years ago, St. Timothy kicked off the Capital Campaign to raise ten million dollars to build a full service elementary school. The campaign began after years of prayerful consideration, town hall meetings, committee studies, and finally with the blessing of Bishop Foyes. Our parish has endeavored to raise six million dollars and now the roof is being raised on our new school. That roof will cover classrooms, a STEAM lab, cafeteria and offices. Our school will open for kindergarten through 8th grade in the 2017-2018 academic years.

The dreams and prayers of our Parish have turned into action. Building a Catholic school manifests our deepest goals of a Parish to live, learn and serve in the light of Christ. Each of us made promises when our children were baptized to teach them our faith and now our school will give that gift of faith to St. Timothy children and to families in our community.

If the success of our preschool program is any predictor of the success of our future, we will soon have an elementary school that will lead the diocese in academics, service learning and athletic programs. Six million dollars falls short of our initial ten million dollar goal though. Due to this shortfall, we were required to sacrifice building a gym that would open with the school.

The sacrifice of building a gym onto the current construction is not a permanent one. Many parents have already expressed support for seeking funding to start building a gym as soon as possible. The overall estimated costs of a gym with an elementary sized basketball court with locker rooms, bleachers, concessions and a stage comes in around two million dollars.

St. Timothy Catholic School's Family Ministry, made up of school families, administrators and teachers has enthusiastically tackled multiple projects to build a school community that extends beyond the classroom. One of our projects has been the creation of a Development Committee whose goals is to support the school in efforts to seek sponsorship and grant opportunities. The most pressing need facing the Development Committee is raising funds to add a gym to complete the current construction.

Increased physical activity has been linked to improved academic achievement and behavior as well as enhanced cognitive skills and attitudes. The CDC reported in 2010 on all four areas of physical activity: physical education class, recess, classroom based activity and extracurricular physical activity enhanced academic performance and cognitive skills¹. Extracurricular physical

activity seem to have the highest impact. Children need physical activity and therefore schools needs gyms.

The addition of a gym has great benefits for the both the school and parish. Our parish community comprises of more than 1700 families. Our parish served 473 PSR students last year, 150 students in Vacation Bible School, 78 candidates for Confirmation, and 28 RCIA candidates. Our parish sponsors Boy Scout Troop 702, Cub Scout Pack 702, American Heritage Girls, MOPS, Young in Spirit Seniors, Challenge, Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent De Paul and has an active Youth Ministry. If you have ever been to a Fish Fry, you know a seat can be hard to find. Our parish is blessed to be bursting at the seams with activity. We need a gym to add additional space for school and parish events.

Our St. Timothy Catholic School already has soccer and basketball teams. Currently our basketball teams rent space at Mary Queen of Heaven in Erlanger for practice. This adds costs to our parents and newly formed Boosters. A gym would facilitate our sports teams. With a school gym, we could offer adult leagues in volleyball and basketball. We could expand Oktoberfest.

Our Capital Campaign cannot end at six million when we need a gym. The Development Committee has committed to revitalizing our Capital Campaign to find other sources of sponsorship from our local community businesses and other creative fundraising projects. The vision of St. Timothy's is to "Stir into Flame the Gift of God." The fire of our Capital Campaign needs to be stoked.

Our Capital Campaign is unique. We are building the first school in our area in over 50 years. Most other Capital Campaigns for schools are supported by alumni. As a brand new school, St. Timothy does not have an alumni network and will take two decades to build an alumni network. So we are asking our community to invest in their future employees, customers, clients, business and community partners.

If you are a parishioner and own your own business, or are in a position to decide sponsorships, please consider making your business a Founding Sponsor for our gym. A sponsorship can be a valuable advertising tool and a way for your business to give back to the community. St. Timothy is building the first elementary school in our area in over 50 years. A Founding Sponsor will have helped build something that will last for more than then next 50 years.

For more information on Founding Sponsorships, please contact Fr. Rick Bolte or Deb Thomas.

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *The association between school based physical activity, including physical education, and academic performance*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2010.

Announcing: The Formation of St. Timothy Athletic Boosters!

By Lucy McCormack

St. Timothy Catholic School is excited to announce that a Boosters Committee has been formed! STS students will have the opportunity to participate in athletic leagues and extra-curricular programs that will enhance the overall development of our children and further expand St. Timothy's reach into the community.

As you know, there's a lot of buzz and excitement in the area surrounding the new school. The formation of the Boosters is one more piece of the puzzle that will help draw families to join the community of St. Tim's.

But What Do Boosters Do?

We offer financial, staff and volunteer support to athletics and other sponsored programs:

- Supply the necessary resources to establish the highest quality training and equipment
- Provide all participants a rewarding opportunity to develop fundamental skills that enrich the intellectual, spiritual, and academic goals of STS and enhance a sense of "Thunder Pride"
- Promote physical fitness, healthy living habits, the joy of athletic competition, and the positive characteristics of sportsmanship, teamwork, and self-discipline in an environment reflective of our faith, family and parish
- Endorse and publicize STS athletics and other sponsored programs to boost participation, school spirit, and community awareness

Be on the lookout for more information about how you can get involved!



STS is currently offering soccer, basketball, and running club for Kindergarten and First Grades. We are looking to expand to golf, cross country, and volleyball starting with the 2017-2018 school year.

St. Timothy's Family Ministry

By Stephanie Wright

Approximately a year ago, we were just receiving the news that St. Timothy would be opening their doors for K-8 in 2017. And, they would be offering a first grade glass for the 2016/2017 year. It was an exciting time for the school, the parish and the diocese. Naturally, we started envisioning the developments of the new school, our aspirations for our children's future and a shared passion for connecting our St. Timothy families.

Flash forward to today, there are so many wonderful activities that happen within our school and parish, yet we as families still find ourselves disconnected. There are many familiar faces, yet the friendly "hello" at Mass or field trips just wasn't enough. This continued passion for meaningful connectivity is what fueled the development of the Family Ministry.

Our mission is simple — to engage as one St. Timothy family and create the best experiences for our future

leaders. To get started, we identified four pillars of engagement including Service, Faith, Events and Social. We brought together today's Kindergarten and 1st grade families to kickoff the Family Ministry and received positive feedback, as well as interest in helping to bring to life the mission. Best of all, connections were beginning to take shape. In only a few short months, we have developed GiGgle TOO (an extension of GiGgle, a proprietary outreach service learning project), organized a fundraiser at Flipdaddy's, participated in the local Union parade, organized family play dates, served dinner at a local homeless shelter, launched an in-reach support network and hosted a wine night for 1st grade Moms and our future is bright. We have a few planned activities over the holidays and many exciting upcoming opportunities for 2017.

At the center of our connectivity is our private Facebook page. It allows our school families to stay involved,

share information and bond socially. Truth be told, families are raving over the pictures and videos that are uploaded multiple times a week of school activities, class trips, pet sitting, art projects, team sports and even a few French lessons. It not only facilitates better conversations at home with our kids, but also with each other.

This school year, we will learn a lot about what works and what we can do to continuously improve. However, our passion for connectivity will set a strong foundation for today's St. Timothy families and the many new families that will join us next year. As the first Catholic school to be built in over 50 years, we have the opportunity to define the long-lasting impact St. Timothy can have for our students, our families and our community locally and abroad. The Family Ministry is excited to support the school and parish to create an atmosphere of belonging, service learning and fun.

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God." 1 John 4:7

A Difficult Decision

By Scott and Sara Schlegel

Our tale is one of two pasts and one future. This future is built on sacrifice, commitment, and hope.

Raised in a Catholic family deeply rooted in faith and religious education, Sara was adamant to raise a family with those same values. So adamant that one of the first conversations she had with Scott after beginning their courtship included a few key features... "I have student debt, I want to get married in the Catholic Church and our kids will go to Catholic Schools." Such strong convictions and honesty.

Coming from a somewhat "optional" Methodist upbringing, you can imagine the feelings this conver-

sation evoked in Scott. First, there is the admiration of a young lady who understands her future. Second, there is the fear of an unfamiliar devoutness. Lastly, there was a lack of understanding of paying for a primary education.

God has a unique approach to every situation it seems. In this situation it was by pressing the accelerator. Four years later, they were blessed with two beautiful children and a move to one of the greatest parishes imaginable. He also surrounded the family with friends of strong faith and a preschool with amazing impact.

As their oldest child, Morgan,

progressed through to kindergarten, there was a decision looming. The debate was difficult because there was not a bad choice to be made. After examining all the key factors — class size, location, curriculum, test scores, etc. — there was no clear winner. Then the decision turned to the cost/benefit analysis, and in the end, it became evident....the benefits of a highly competitive education deeply rooted in faith are endless and are a must for us.

This decision carries with it a tremendous sacrifice that every parent of Catholic school children

Continued on next page

understands. While financial stress comes with the territory, those sacrifices are rewarded with the little things at the end of the school day. Like when our beautiful young daughter comes hopping down the stairs of the bus in her uniform, brimming with excitement about what happened at Mass that day. Or when she reminds you of a special intention during dinner prayers for a young boy or girl at her school who's having a tough time. Or when your preschool son is belting out joyous songs about Jesus he learned at school. Perhaps

it's in those moments that the decision becomes even more clear for us.

There is a world where school and God can co-exist, where children learn the math facts along with faith. For our family (and it is very much a personal decision), the foundation laid at St. Timothy Preschool left no doubt in our mind that we wanted to continue to find a way for our children to attend Catholic school.

Beyond the walls of the classrooms, the Catholic education has brought our two pasts into one future. Inspired by the schools, the

community, their friends and his family, Scott went through his own Catholic education – RCIA – and celebrated his first communion last Easter, only a year before Morgan will celebrate hers. A strong Catholic family we've become, but there is always more growth ahead and despite the sacrifices we must make, we eagerly await every afternoon when that little girl comes bounding off the bus or that little boy jumps in the car singing his favorite songs.

May God bless you all with the joy he's brought to us.

1st Graders Visit Rose Garden Mission

By Kendal Brue, St. Timothy 1st Grade Teacher

The first-graders had the opportunity to visit the Rose Garden Mission last month. They delivered all of the baby supplies that had been donated at St. Timothy. While the students were there, the sisters

took the time to explain all of the wonderful services that are offered to the community through the mission. The way that the sisters were able to explain how they help those who are less fortunate was done in such a caring and thoughtful way. The boys and girls were given a tour of the mission and were able to see the services that the mission is able to offer. They visited the doctor's office and heard about the dental office that is being built.

Then the first-graders got to work! It was awesome to see their willingness to help. They were put into various groups and worked with the sisters and parent chaperones to help the mission. The boys and girls cleaned, organized materials, helped stuff envelopes for mailings for the mission, and sorted all of the baby items that were donated, which was a big job! It was wonderful to see their smiles as they worked. They were able to see the importance of giving and the importance of service to others. And to be able to experience this at such a young age was great. All of the boys and girls agreed that they would love to come back for another visit. We were blessed to have this opportunity.





THE
COMPANION

Visit any Catholic school in the Diocese of Covington and you are sure to notice the spirit of community formed by the students, teachers and administrators. What they all share are common goals and common values.

This spirit of community extends beyond the walls of the school. Each year, Catholic school students spend thousands of hours in service to others.

It is no wonder that Catholic schools prepare students for a faith-filled life distinguished by productive work and valuable contributions to their communities. In fact, many prominent community leaders in the Northern Kentucky-Greater Cincinnati area are graduates of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Covington.

Excerpt from the website:
www.covingtondiocese.org



News from St. Henry District High School...

By Meghan Oldfield, SHDHS Senior

Hello parishioners! My name is Meghan Oldfield, and I'm a senior at St. Henry District High School. As the Christmas season rapidly approaches, the student body is busier than ever!

But first let me rewind: these past two months at St. Henry have been great! Student council sponsored a school activity in which each homeroom decorated a paper turkey feather which formed a giant turkey in the cafeteria when put together. Bestrewn with a lot of things to be thankful for, the turkey definitely portrayed the thankfulness of our student body during this holiday season. Then, we kicked off our Thanksgiving holiday with an all school Mass and invited our grandparents to join us.

Besides family and friends, St. Henry is also extremely grateful for the way our fall sports finished out their seasons: our boys' golf team won the All A state tournament, our volleyball team won district finals and received runner-up for the ninth region, the boys' cross country team finished fourth in the state, and **the girls' cross country team brought home their sixth straight state title!**

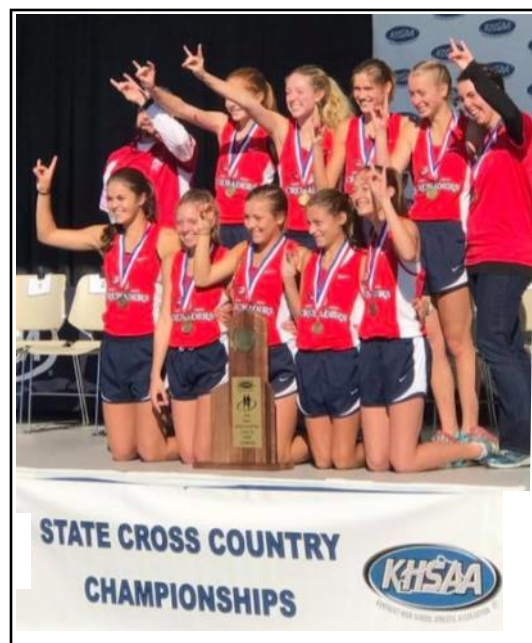
Now we are looking forward to the winter sports of men's and women's basketball, men's and women's bowling, and cheerleading as those teams prepare for a new season. In addition, new seasonal clubs are on the scene, including Ski Club, which ventures to Perfect North Slopes at a discounted rate to hit the slopes. Let's hope we have no injuries this year.

Besides sports, our drama department is quite busy. We just finished our fall play production of *Cats! (No, not that one)* in mid-November. We are very appreciative of our packed house every night! With spring musical auditions just around the corner, I am happy to announce that our production will be *Grease*, and will run at 7:30 p.m. on March 18 and 19, and 2:30 p.m. on March 20.

If all of that isn't enough, deadlines for college applications are quickly approaching. Many of our seniors are receiving acceptances and scholarships offers from not only Kentucky universities and colleges, but also out-of-state institutions. Many of us are sharing sentiments about the relief we feel when we finally submit our applications. Go Seniors!

Like I said, the winter season is definitely busy for the Crusader family. With inclement weather and possibility of snow on the horizon, please remember to pray for those who may not have adequate housing or winter outerwear to combat these arctic temperatures (at least it feels that way to me!)

Have a blessed holiday season!



Marriage Encounter

By Deacon Pete Freeman

The other day, a friend commented to me that while the Catholic Church has a lot of activities focused on preparing a couple for the Sacrament of Matrimony, there isn't much available along the lines of helping couples grow and thrive in their marriages. This friend expressed a wish that there were something available to help couples grow closer in their married lives and to make their marriages stronger.

My response was, "what about Worldwide Marriage Encounter"? His reaction was the reaction that I hear a lot "isn't that for couples whose marriages are in trouble?" Until recently, the bulletin announcements for Marriage Encounter actually supported that idea. But, it's 100% not true. Marriage Encounter is not for couples who are experiencing trouble with their marriages or their relationship.

Let me tell you what Marriage Encounter actually is. Marriage Encounter is a weekend retreat for you and your spouse to get away together and

spend time focused on each other to grow your love for each other. You learn more about each other, explore ways to grow in love in your marriage and learn new ways to communicate with each other on a daily basis.

On the retreat weekend, you and your spouse will hear several presentations by married couples just like you. These couples are not professional speakers, psychologists or ministers. They are simply loving married couples who volunteer to share their stories of how they grow and nurture their love on a daily basis.

Between the talks, you and your spouse are given time to spend alone to talk about what you heard in the presentations and how the presentations relate to your relationship. You also will start talking about how your marriage can be the best version of marriage possible.

After the weekend, you are invited to meet on a regular basis with other couples to continue to share stories – best practices if you will – of being married. The groups are called "circles". Locally, my wife Tess and I, along with Deacon Steve Alley and Michelle Alley,

belong to a circle of about 10 couples called The Love Notes. In addition to growing in love with your spouse, you also happily benefit from establishing wonderful friendships with other couples.

The best part of being part of the Love Notes is that we can belong to the circle as long as we want – to continue to learn new ways to love each other even more through the years.

So if, like my friend, you too wished that there was a good Catholic program to help you continue to grow in love with your spouse after the wedding, I encourage you to look into Marriage Encounter. Remember, it is NOT for trouble marriages. It is for married couples who love each other and want to grow that love even more.

If you'd like more information about local upcoming retreat weekends, or if you've already made a weekend and would like to join a circle, feel free to contact me at p.freeman@twc.com. You can also visit the Worldwide Marriage Encounter web site for even more information at www.wwme.org.

Mini-Retreats for MEN

By Deacon Pete Freeman

Every 2 weeks at St. Timothy, there are mini-retreats of sorts for men. They are commonly known as St. Timothy Men's Group "meetings". In this case the word "meeting" is somewhat misleading. A "meeting" would imply that there is a firm agenda, minutes are recorded and there are officers. St. Timothy Men's Group has none of that. I think of our Men's Group meetings more as mini-retreats because they are short (1-1/2 hour), in which we hear the scripture readings for that weekend's Masses and one of the men shares his thoughts, reflecting on the readings. Then, we split into smaller groups and discuss the reflection. That's pretty much what you experience on most retreats. You can come to Men's Group every time, or whenever

your schedule allows. There is no attendance kept and everyone is always happy to see each other.

All you have to do is show up. The only thing we ask for from those that do show up is for a volunteer to give the reflection at the next meeting and for someone to pick up pastries (did I mention that we do have coffee and pastries as well?). If you can't do either, it's no problem. Men's Group is time for you to get together with other men and enjoy some spiritual refreshment every two weeks.

St. Timothy Men's Group meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month. Men's Group is usually held in Brodnick Hall and starts at 7:30am. We honor a "hard stop" at 9:00am. If you are an early riser, you can also come early and pray the Rosary with some of the men at 6:30am and attend Mass at 7:00am – prior to

the start of Men's Group.

St. Timothy Men's Group may be the most anti-meeting group in the parish. Come and join us at least one time and see what I mean. I think you will come back. Even if you have a busy Saturday lined up, perhaps you can spare 1-1/2 hours to refresh your soul before you have to get running. As I said, come as often as you can. You'll always be welcome. It'll make your weekend better.

And don't forget that you can also join men of the parish, and bring other men, to the Holy League for Men Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hour which is held on the fourth Monday of every month, at 7:00pm in the Church.

If you'd like to be on our e-mail list and have any questions about St. Timothy Men's Group, please contact me at p.freeman@twc.com. Thank you and may God bless you always.



St. Timothy Parish

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JOURNEY TO ATLANTIS

SAVE THE DATE...

ST. TIMOTHY
DINNER DANCE
LIVE/SILENT AUCTION

FEBRUARY 18, 2017



January 20, 2017
Brodnick Hall

All men are invited!
Bring a wild game dish
or a side dish to share.

NO Reservations Required