

# THE COMPANION



NEWS ABOUT SAINT TIMOTHY PARISH IN UNION, KY

Sept-Oct 2025

## 2 Timothy *By Fr. Rick Bolte*

**"Stir into flame the gift of God."**

2 Timothy 1:6

This verse is not only our parish motto; it's also the inspiration behind the name 2 Timothy—a title suggested by a member of our Scripture study group for this mobile home.

I purchased this home with my retirement savings. Perhaps one day I'll live there myself. But its deeper purpose, and the one that truly stirs my heart, is that 2 Timothy might become a place of ministry—a place where faith is shared, friendships are born, and the flame of God's love is rekindled in unexpected ways.

Too often we think of ministry only as what we give to others—especially to those who have less. Yet real ministry is a two-way gift. Those with fewer material resources often have something profoundly spiritual to offer us: a deeper trust, a purer gratitude, a living faith tested by life's hardest realities.

When we dare to cross boundaries of comfort and class, we discover that we're not as different as we imagine. We meet people who, despite their hardships, are not

defeated or joyless. In fact, their faith often burns brighter than our own. With little to shield them from life's storms, they lean fully on God—not a God who magically fixes every problem, but a God who walks with them through every trial.

Their faith is not rooted in prosperity, but in presence. And that presence gives them courage, strength, and joy even amid struggle. They remind us that God's goodness is not measured by comfort or success, but by the unshakable assurance that we are never alone.

2 Timothy sits quietly in the White Pine Mobile Park at 206 Whitfield, Florence. Yet it holds a great promise. You may soon hear about—or be invited to—opportunities to meet neighbors in our parish boundaries who may seem very different from us. I encourage you to say yes.

Come with open hearts. Come ready not only to serve, but to listen, to learn, and to be transformed. Together, may we truly "stir into flame the gift of God" that lives within us all.



**The Companion**  
Is the newsletter of

**St. Timothy Parish**  
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## Stewardship of Treasure

### August 2025

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>COLLECTIONS:</b>   | <b>\$110,345.87</b> |
| <b>5% TITHE:</b>      | <b>\$5,517.29</b>   |
| St. Tim Scholarship   | \$500.00            |
| St. Vincent de Paul   | \$500.00            |
| Diocesan Collection - |                     |
| Domestic Needs        | \$4,517.29          |

### September 2025

|                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>COLLECTIONS:</b>            | <b>\$119,634.27</b> |
| <b>4% TITHE:</b>               | <b>\$4,785.37</b>   |
| St. Tim Scholarship            | \$500.00            |
| St. Vincent de Paul            | \$500.00            |
| Grant Recipient: (Max \$3,000) |                     |
|                                | \$3,785.37          |
| \$ to 1% Tithe                 | \$785.37            |
| <b>1% TITHE</b>                | <b>\$1,196.34</b>   |
| \$ from 4% Tithe               | \$785.37            |
| <b>Total to STYM/Outreach:</b> |                     |
|                                | \$1,981.71          |
| Outreach                       | \$1,089.94          |
| STYM                           | \$891.77            |

## Our Parish Family

### New Families

Brandon and Kimberly Barach  
 Diane Civerchia  
 Pena Eliana  
 Dominic and Clare Field  
 Phillip and Tammy Freihofer  
 Anthony and Ashley Fugazi  
 Bob and Debbie Fulkerson  
 Linda Gerson  
 Bryan and Judy Greene  
 William and Melissa Howard  
 Alan and Elizabeth King  
 Ken and Cathy Kreke  
 Eduardo and Lizet Mora Alvarez  
 Jonathan and Brandi Newton  
 Craig Prowant  
 Michael and Marian Royal  
 Lauren and Ronald Schulz  
 Nick and Rachel Skerczak  
 Ben and Krystal Spears  
 Wm and Nancy Sweeten  
 Greg and Amileen Talabong  
 Cody and Hailey Teten  
 Terese Timmers  
 Nathaniel and Meaghan Young

### Baptisms

Meilani Fernanda Aguiar  
 Lyla Rosemary Ferguson  
 Turner Lee Kleier  
 Finneas Shepherd Mason  
 Allison Mora Colin  
 Eden June Mudd  
 Jacobus Ellis Nooy  
 Sullivan Dail O'Gwynn  
 Elouise Lynn Rich  
 Thiago Rios Martinez  
 Frederick Scott Seitz  
 Candis Danielle Simpson  
 Mia Alexandra Smith

### Deceased

Patricia Cordas  
 Sharon McGruder  
 Michael Paul Thompson

### Weddings

Scott Bolon and  
 Jessa De Los Santos  
 Christopher Simpson and  
 Candis Simpson  
 Ricky Alley and Shelly Fuller

Like the Apostles, is Jesus asking YOU

to "spend just one hour with ME?"

**NEEDED for the following hours of Tuesday Adoration:**



2 People Noon - 1:00 pm  
 1 Person 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
 1 Person 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
 1 Person 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
 1 Person 9:00 pm - 10:00 pm



**Just need 6 people to answer His request!**

Please contact: Miriam Burkart 859-746-1443 or  
[miriamburk@icloud.com](mailto:miriamburk@icloud.com) and make a commitment  
 to BE with Jesus for one hour.

## View from the Pew

By Jayson Putnam



The **sanctuary candle**, also known as the sanctuary lamp, altar lamp, tabernacle lamp or Eucharistic lamp is a flame that remains constantly lit near our tabernacle. It hangs from our ceiling almost behind where Fr. Rick or Fr. Mike sits during mass and is there to signify and honor the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

In the bible, Leviticus 24:2-4 establishes the candle and reads, "Command the Israelites to bring your pure, pressed olive oil for the light, so that the lamps may be kept burning continually. Aaron is to tend the lamps before the Lord outside the curtain of the covenant. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. The lamps on the pure gold lampstand before the Lord must be tended continually." Leviticus 24 is a direct command for the physical lampstand to be kept lit as a perpetual sign of God's presence in our sanctuary. Other references can also be found in Exodus 27:20-21, which commands that the lamp be kept burning always, and Matthew 5:15, which uses a candle on a stand as a metaphor for letting one's light shine.

The sanctuary candle and its continuous burning is a perpetual sign of Jesus' constant presence and a reminder to be aware of Christ's light in the world. It signifies that Jesus is physically present in the blessed hosts. It symbolizes that Jesus is the Light of the World—a source of salvation sent to guide humanity. It shows true burning love. The flickering flame can be a symbol of our mother church's burning love for Jesus AND a reminder of his promise to be with us always. It also continues an ancient tradition—linking us and our service all the way back to the Old Testament. Think of that!

Our candle is made of wax and burns for 14 days. That means that every 14 days someone from our parish

has to climb up on a chair and change it out for you and me—all to continue a 3,475ish year tradition.

This lamp shines before many altars. It is used in Jewish and Christian places of worship. It can be found in Lutheran churches, Anglican churches, Methodist churches and Eastern Orthodox churches—ALL to indicate the presence of Christ in their sanctuary. For some reason I find that mind-blowing.

The sanctuary candle is lit to indicate the presence of Christ within our Tabernacle. It symbolizes Jesus and the faith of those who love Him, the inextinguishable light that remains lit for people who have strayed from the church and a promise of a safe place upon their return.

I challenge you to be more like this candle. As a Christian we should always be striving to align our life with Christ's life. Can you proclaim Christ to others? Can you be the light, sometimes the only light of Christ to someone? Remember—actions can speak louder than words my friends. Go be THE LIGHT as we head into the holiday season!!!



THE COMPANION





## Saint Timothy Youth Ministry: Growing in Faith, Fellowship, and Fun

*By Jenna Kemper, DRE/Youth Ministry*

What an exciting time we have had building our Youth Ministry! We have two groups growing in faith and fun!



### Middle School Youth Group - Grades 6th - 8th

**When:** Wednesdays, 7:00–8:00 PM

**Where:** Saint Timothy School

- ◆ This group will follow the PSR schedule.
- ◆ Each night will be filled with engaging activities, faith-filled discussions, and fun with friends.
- ◆ One Wednesday night a month we will have a **Play and Praise** with Fr. Hennigen.

Please join our group through the **BAND app** for more information: <https://band.us/band/100087218>



### High School Youth Group - Sports & Adoration

**When:** Friday nights this month, Nov. 7 and **28 at 8:00 PM**

**Where:** Saint Timothy School Gymnasium

- ◆ A unique opportunity for high school teens to come together for sports and fellowship, followed by time for adoration and prayer. This balance of active fun and quiet reflection helps teens build friendships while deepening their relationship with Christ.



Youth ministry is not only about programs—it's about building a community where our young people feel seen, supported, and encouraged to live out their Catholic faith. We invite ALL middle school and high school students to join us and we encourage parents and parishioners to continue lifting up our youth in prayer. Together, let us keep inspiring the next generation to follow Christ with joy and courage.



## Spotlight On Our School



### Meet Ashley Rehkamp, our Catholic School Principal



Mrs. Rehkamp is entering her 14<sup>th</sup> year in education, all of which has been spent teaching in middle school. She taught at Saint Therese and Mary Queen of Heaven before joining the faculty at St. Timothy, where she has served for the past seven years.

For the past two years, Mrs. Rehkamp has served as the middle school lead teacher at St. Timothy, working closely with staff and administration to support instruction and student growth.

A graduate of Thomas More University, Mrs. Rehkamp holds a Bachelor's degree in Middle School Education with concentrations in mathematics and language arts. She later earned her master's degree in leadership from the University of the Cumberlands.

Mrs. Rehkamp and her husband, George, have been married for 13 years and are active parishioners at St. Timothy. Their three children — Mabel (11), Georgie (8) and Owen (6) — are all students at the school.

When asked about stepping into her new role, Mrs. Rehkamp shared, "It's a joy to serve the community that has formed my children and supported my family. I am honored, humbled, and ready to continue the great work already happening at St. Timothy. With faith as our foundation, I look forward to what we'll accomplish together."

## The Rite of Entrance into the Catechumenate and Welcoming of the Candidates

*By Debbi Cranley*

As the OCIA Coordinator at St. Timothy since 2020, the Team and I have realized that not all parishioners really understand the various Rites involved in the OCIA program. **We currently have 20 adults, 11 teens and about 10 children all preparing to come into the church this Easter!** Hopefully this article will help you appreciate the process and support those seeking to enter into full communion in the church.

**The Rite of Entrance into the Catechumenate and Welcoming of the Candidates** will occur at the 9:30 Mass on Sunday, Nov. 30. This Rite is the beginning of the faith journey of those wishing to be received into the order of catechumen (those not baptized) or candidate (those who have been baptized in accordance with the Church). This ceremonial Rite begins with the catechumens and candidates waiting just outside the doors of the Church. After the opening song, entrance procession, and greeting, they begin knocking on the doors. This is symbolic of *asking* for help on this journey, *seeking* to become closer to Him, and *knocking*, and the door will be opened. At the invitation of our Pastor, Fr. Bolte, they enter and stand just inside the doors behind the baptismal font with their sponsors. Fr. Bolte invites the church community to welcome these catechumens and candidates, pray for them, and support them in their initiation into the Christian faith by Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

We, as parishioners, are obligated to share our faith according to our apostolic abilities. By celebrating this Rite during a Sunday Mass, we can encourage and support these catechumens and candidates on their faith journey and commitment to the Church.

Please help us support them and pray for them. It is a wonderful way to begin the season of Advent!



## The Power of “Together”

### The St. Timothy Catholic School Community Opens New School Library

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things." These words from Mother Teresa resonate deeply with the St. Timothy Catholic School community, which is celebrating the opening of a new school library, made possible by the collective effort and unwavering determination of its parents and parishioners.



Just three years after a major expansion with a new educational wing and gymnasium, the dream of a dedicated school library seemed financially out of reach. There were no spare rooms or funds available. Yet, the vision became a reality through the ingenuity of one dedicated parent and her community of friends who saw opportunity where others saw a storage problem: the two modular classrooms that temporarily housed kindergarten and first-grade students during the wing's construction.

More than a year and a half ago, these parents initiated a grassroots campaign that demonstrated the true meaning of Christian stewardship. They rallied a dedicated group of volunteers to transform the temporary modular spaces into a permanent, welcoming library and educational center.

The project was a testament to the community's generous spirit. Families, grandparents, and students responded to the call by donating their time and many gently used books, filling the new shelves with stories and knowledge. Community members and local businesses shared unused shelving and book bins, ensuring the space was organized and ready for eager young readers. Even local libraries and offices contributed gently used items, showcasing the generosity of the wider community.

The library's atmosphere is made even more special by the beautiful murals created by a very talented artist and a local craftsman. The colorful, whimsical artwork adorns the walls, transforming the space into a warm and inviting haven that inspires a love of reading.



This new space has already been met with excitement. Students have toured the library, and a new lending system is now in place. Soon, they will have the opportunity to check out books and continue their journey of becoming lifelong, faithful readers. The St. Timothy community has shown that with a little creativity and a lot of teamwork, they can indeed do great things.

*A very special thank you to all of the parents, grandparents,  
students, staff and community members who lovingly  
dedicated their time to this commitment.*

## Senior Booth Yard Sale Items

*By Pat Seuberling, Outreach Director*

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Senior Booth at the World's Longest Yard Sale. Your overwhelming generosity was truly appreciated and ensured that we would have a wonderful collection of goods ready to sell.

As many of you know, immediately following the collection of these items, we unexpectedly had to close the hall to accommodate necessary repairs. Unfortunately, this required us to cancel the Senior Booth. We sincerely apologize for the long delay in providing a final resolution to all the items.

After a long waiting period, we were able to access the hall. We decided the most efficient and helpful use of these wonderful items was to donate directly to those in need. We are happy to confirm that all items have been packed up and successfully donated to SVdP.

This massive undertaking would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers. A huge thank you to the parishioners who came to help with the strenuous packing process, and especially to the gentlemen who generously gave their time and trucks to deliver the items to the various SVdP drop-off locations.

Thank you again for your patience and your continued support of our parish outreach activities.



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## Diocesan Community Baby Shower

*By Pat Seuberling, Outreach Director*

In September we held a collection for baby items for the Diocesan Community Baby Shower. Your generosity was incredible. You filled my office with items to bring. It took big vans to deliver the items to Holy Spirit Center which took place on October 23. They expected 150-200 moms to attend.

Thank you St. Timothy for Walking with these Moms in Need!



## Project Sheluka

*By Pat Seuberling, Outreach Director*

Joe Meiman Jr and his wife Beth were present at all the Masses on Oct. 4 and 5 to share with us what they have been doing with the funds received from St. Timothy Yard Sale. Joe had a working pump for all to see. Kids and adults alike enjoyed pumping the handle to get the water to flow while Joe explained how he built it and how it is placed in the sandy soil.



## Ladies Day Out

*By Pat Seuberling, Outreach Director*

Today is a gift that we have been granted and we give thanks for all of the blessings in our lives. Come join other ladies (just like you) for a Ladies Night Out where we will give thanks and count our many blessings. Bring your favorite fall dish, appetizer, or dessert to share. Please RSVP with Pat at [pseuberling@saint-timothy.org](mailto:pseuberling@saint-timothy.org) or sign up in the gathering space. See you on **Friday, November 14 in Brodnick Hall from 5:30-8:30.**



Service

THE COMPANION





Thank you to the 378 volunteers who gave their time to help in our garden.

Thank you to those who helped plant and harvest. Thank you to those who drove the vegetables to Rose Garden Missions twice a week.

Thank you to The Society of St. Andrews for donations of vegetables and to Northern Kentucky Master Gardeners Association for their financial support.

Also thank you to the wonderful donors who also provided funds to help purchase equipment, fertilizer, mulch and other needed supplies.

It takes a community of volunteers to help us feed our neighbors in need. **THANK YOU!!!**

| <b>Fr. Ruschman's Garden of Gratitude 2025 Totals</b> |            |              |              |              |              |              |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>Vegetable</b>                                      | <b>May</b> | <b>June</b>  | <b>July</b>  | <b>Aug</b>   | <b>Sept</b>  | <b>Oct</b>   | <b>Total</b>  |
| Beets                                                 |            | 94           | 157          | 14           |              |              | <b>265</b>    |
| Broccoli                                              | 20         | 81           |              |              |              | 14           | <b>115</b>    |
| Cabbage                                               |            | 215          |              |              |              | 182          | <b>397</b>    |
| Collard Greens                                        |            | 220          |              |              | 162          | 142          | <b>524</b>    |
| Cucumbers                                             |            | 25           | 461          | 95           |              |              | <b>581</b>    |
| Green Beans                                           |            |              | 248          | 221          | 59           | 167          | <b>695</b>    |
| Green Peppers                                         |            | 15           | 84           | 229          | 159          | 167          | <b>654</b>    |
| Kale                                                  |            | 90           |              |              | 22           | 107          | <b>219</b>    |
| Lettuce                                               |            | 142          |              |              | 12           | 20           | <b>174</b>    |
| Onions                                                |            | 272          | 304          | 79           |              |              | <b>655</b>    |
| Other Peppers                                         |            |              |              | 27           |              |              | <b>27</b>     |
| Potatoes Red                                          |            |              |              | 320          |              |              | <b>320</b>    |
| Potatoes White                                        |            |              | 192          | 70           |              |              | <b>262</b>    |
| Potatoes Sweet                                        |            |              |              | 838          |              |              | <b>838</b>    |
| Tomatoes                                              |            |              | 420          | 1370         | 1447         | 488          | <b>3725</b>   |
| Turnip Greens                                         |            |              |              |              | 43           | 71           | <b>114</b>    |
| Zucchini                                              |            | 62           | 490          | 117          |              |              | <b>669</b>    |
| Yellow Squash                                         |            |              | 210          | 51           |              |              | <b>261</b>    |
|                                                       |            |              |              |              |              |              |               |
| <b>Total</b>                                          | <b>20</b>  | <b>1,216</b> | <b>2,566</b> | <b>3,431</b> | <b>1,904</b> | <b>1,358</b> | <b>10,495</b> |

## Scenes from Fr. Ruschman's Garden of Gratitude!



# Christmas in November?

By Michael Vogt



***"And numerous indeed are the hearts to which Christmas brings  
a brief season of happiness and enjoyment."***

**Charles Dickens**

*Is it too early to start thinking about Thanksgiving and Christmas? Of course not!*

*At St. Vincent de Paul we are gathering our Christmas lists and checking them twice. It takes a host of angelic volunteers and donors to share the Christmas cheer that your generosity provides for our neighbors.*

*We have much to be thankful for and much to celebrate. The most rewarding part of the St. Vincent de Paul ministry is seeing the gratitude and joy of the families we serve when they realize that there are people - acting under the leadership of Christ - who will help them through the tough times.*

- *A Thanksgiving dinner and a Christmas meal.*
- *A few toys and clothes for the kids*
- *Some plates, a bed, a table and chairs to fill an empty space and give a measure of comfort.*

*These things that we take for granted are immensely important to the families we serve. And we serve them only with your prayerful support.*

***"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart?"***

***Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with***

***God's own love and concern."***

**Mother Teresa**

*Last year St. Tim's sponsored **80** families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. These are families that otherwise might have gone without. Throughout the year we provided **729 families (2,522 individuals)** with clothing, furniture, assistance with rent and utilities, and food from St. Tim's Pantry.*

*Last year there were **450** mostly new and gently used **winter coats** donated by parishioners. St. Vincent de Paul distributes the coats that are collected or bought by the Knights of Columbus. These coats are essential for people who, too often, are not prepared for winter weather.*

*The **Giving Tree** provides gifts that make tangible the joy of the season. Last year your generosity was over the top! As you might expect, with the growing need, we are hoping to serve even more families this year.*

*St. Vincent de Paul offers the opportunity to reach out to families throughout the year. Many have fallen on hard times and are in need of a comforting word, a little food, and a new direction. If this appeals to you, St. Vincent de Paul could use your help to occasionally visit neighbors, work in the food pantry, Call Center, or thrift stores - and make a personal contribution.*

*We sincerely appreciate your generosity. And you can be sure that your contributions are carefully managed to get the most out of each dollar. If you're interested in being part of our volunteer ministry, or if you'd like to donate, please contact Debbie Curtin, 513.532.6958 or Bill Anderson 412.295.3441.*

***"Anyone thinking of the Holy Child as born in December  
would mean by it exactly what we mean by it;  
that Christ is not merely a summer sun of the prosperous  
but a winter fire for the unfortunate."***

**G.K. Chesterton**

***May you enjoy the true blessings and joys of the Christmas season!***

## Advent Parish Reconciliation Service

**To you, O Lord,  
I lift up my soul.**  
Psalm 25



Tuesday, December 2 ~ 6:00–8:00 PM



### Christmas Flower Fund

Help to decorate the church for the Christmas season.

All memory / honor donations will be  
recognized in the Christmas bulletin.

Please return by December 7<sup>th</sup> in collection basket  
or to the parish office.

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory / Honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 2025 Holiday Mass Schedule

### Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas

Wednesday, December 24: 4:00, 6:30 and 10:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 25: 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

### Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, December 27: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 28: 8:00, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Wednesday, December 31: 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 1: 10:00 a.m.

### Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 3: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 4: 8:00, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Merry Christmas

A reflection of the reading for the  
thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time .

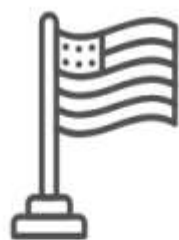
“One of the most  
beautiful  
expressions of the  
unity that is found  
within the Church  
is how throughout  
the entire world,  
though there is  
great diversity  
within the Church,  
the same Eucharist  
is celebrated.”

Read more at [covdio.org/messenger](http://covdio.org/messenger)

## **Go and Glorify**



Father Michael  
Elmlinger



# VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 11

GOD BLESS OUR  
VETERANS





# WANTED: Elves

Santa needs YOUR help while he is visiting St. Timothy for breakfast on **December 13th**!

Interested in helping? Please sign up using the link and/or QR code below.

<https://tinyurl.com/4caz8bd>



Questions? Contact Jamie Hoppius.  
[jhoppius@saint-timothy.org](mailto:jhoppius@saint-timothy.org)

**Saturday, December 13th | 8am-10am**

**BRODNICK HALL**  
RSVP by December 6th  
\*Space is limited\*

**BREAKFAST, PICTURES  
WITH SANTA & FUN  
ACTIVITIES!**

**\$10 per person  
2 & under FREE!**

**2025 SAINT TIMOTHY  
BREAKFAST**

**With Santa**

[sttimbws25.givesmart.com](https://sttimbws25.givesmart.com)



FAMILY NAME \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

# OF ADULTS \_\_\_\_\_

# OF KIDS \_\_\_\_\_

# OF 2 & UNDER \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTER ONLINE OR BY DROPPING THIS REGISTRATION &  
PAYMENT TO THE PARISH OFFICE OR COLLECTION BASKET.

