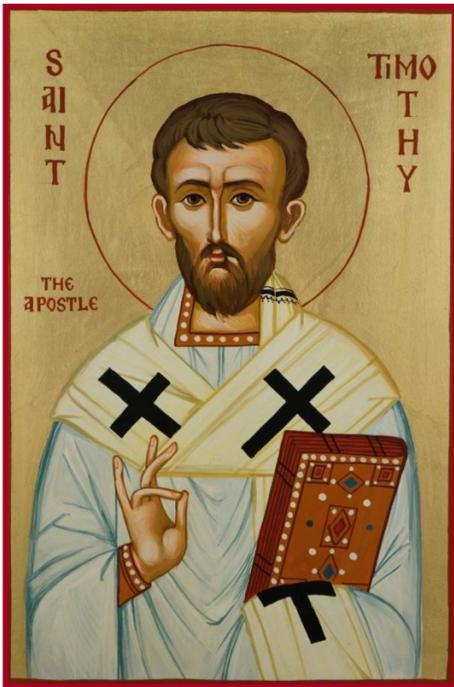


## St. Timothy's Celebration of Gifts and Talents 2021 on January 30, 2022



January 26th marks the feast day of Saints Timothy and Titus, which is a special day for us as a parish under the patronage of St. Timothy. I'm still not really sure how to celebrate that day aside from obviously celebrating that Mass, but especially given the context of the pandemic currently. I would like for such a time to be a great occasion to come together as a parish to celebrate our unity in the Lord under the guidance and protection of St. Timothy, but that may be some hope for a future date that God has in store for us.

In the meantime, I would like to discuss with you a related topic and event which was intentionally planned to fall on a date close to the feast of St. Timothy. Each year, our parish does have a time to gather to reflect on our past, present, and future with our annual **Celebration of Gifts and Talents**. This event is primarily organized by myself and the Parish Pastoral Council as a way to encourage the active participation of all people in the life and mission of our parish. Last year, we held our CGT event virtually by means of a video

which we invited everyone to watch in the month of November. This year, we decided to hold it toward the end of January, January 30th this year, for a number of reasons: it would be close to our patron saint's feast, it would coincide with the end of the previous year and the beginning of the new year, and it would allow us more time after our summer break to organize it.

We had been hoping and planning for much of the year that such an event could be held in a hybrid sort of format based on the pandemic, with an option of having a smaller gathering in-person, as well as still creating a video to allow virtual participation. We found the video format worked quite well since many more people could participate in it than if it was only made available in-person, even without a pandemic. The hybrid model we aimed for was also desirable since it could easily pivot and adapt, depending on our needs, to suit the circumstances. Obviously, I think the Holy Spirit was at work in our discussions as the decision to really make the video a focal point of our CGT presentation seems to have paid off. With this new phase of the pandemic we're in, as much as we would love an in-person gathering, it didn't seem possible or prudent.

We really felt our video presentation last year went really well for our first one, and through the feedback and survey answers from those who watched, it seemed to be appreciated as well. We also did our best to factor some of the feedback you gave into our new one for this year, like shortening it just a bit, including the interesting presentations of ministries, and some short clips of myself and our wonderful parish staff. We hope that you will make the time to watch it when we release it on January 30th, reflect on the topics and themes brought up in relation to your own identity as a parishioner of St. Timothy, and as always, we welcome hearing your thoughts and questions about the parish of St. Timothy. We really think this CGT will be a good occasion to consider where we have been, where we are now, and where we hope to be in the future as we continue to welcome, worship, grow, and serve.

May God bless and keep you.  
Fr. Brian Trueman