

SERVANT OF THE WEEK—

TONY PUCCIO



Anthony J. (Tony) Puccio moved his family from New York to Tallmadge 38 years ago, for his job as Chemical Engineer for Goodyear; he's been retired since 2004. Tony and first wife Sharon had 3 children, and now Tony has 7 grandchildren. Sharon died in 1993 of breast cancer. Ten years later Tony experienced one of his happy emotional memories of OLV as his daughter got married in our church. Tony got a second chance for happiness when he married his current wife Kathleen in 2006. Tony enjoys golf, working in the yard, and working out at the Natatorium. After retirement, he thought, "God has blessed my life in many ways, so I felt I should be more generous with my time in His service." A friend was an inspiration for Tony to find a place to get involved in the parish. He said,

"My friend was in a nursing home. When I'd go to visit him, I saw lonely folks who really appreciated someone who would stop to talk to them." Tony became a Minister of Communion so he could bring Our Lord to Catholics, bi-weekly, at Heather Knolls, and stop to brighten the day of other new friends he's made along the way. In 2008, Tony began a 3-year term on Parish Pastoral Council, and found, "Pastoral Council gave me a chance to help the church where I worshipped all these years." At a Council meeting, when he heard a report that Funeral Servers were needed, Tony stepped forward to answer the call to this ministry, and found that "Working at the nursing home, and at funerals, permitted me to help others at difficult times in their lives." For Tony, "A favorite OLV memory is the installation of the statue of Jesus above the altar at the front of church, and knowing the history of its beginning. I was impressed that one of our parishioners would commit the time to create the statue. And I was happy that before it was installed, it was at the back of church where we were able to see it up close, and touch it." Tony said he looks forward to the OLV Lenten and Holy Week services, and overall, "The feeling that you are one big family and community at Sunday Mass is what means a lot."