

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 20, 2019



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

CANA AND PRE-CANA

The wedding feast at Cana actually seems to have very little to do with marriage, yet it has become the predominant symbol for marriage preparation by lending its name to it. It seems almost incidental that Jesus performed the first of his signs and miracles at a wedding feast; he could have done it on any occasion at which there would be a joyous celebration involving wine and food. So it would seem that it really isn't about the marriage; it's about the miracle.

However, when you think about the context of this memorable event, it is quite appropriate that the celebration should be about a concept that is transforming, like water into wine. Marriage is one of the most important aspects of humanity. More than simply the joining of two people in a relationship, it signifies the growth of these two persons into something more than a couple. As wine improves with age, so too the relationship between husband and wife signifies the deepening of the quality of the relationship between God and us. The covenant is so much more than an agreement; it is a commitment to work toward perfection, toward something greater than what we are. In reminding the Corinthians to be mindful of the variety of human abilities and gifts, Paul echoes what Saint Augustine once said in a sermon, that bread is not made from one grain, but from many, and bunches of grapes are crushed to become wine. It is the willingness of people to give of themselves in any relationship, but especially marriage, that not only conjoins the persons but becomes something greater from the sharing, the blending, of themselves into one another. A fine wine takes time, they say; a relationship, as it grows and develops, can become something very special indeed.

This weekend we hear our fellow parishioners speak about the program "Living In Love." It is on target with the notion that the marriage relationship mirrors the ongoing covenant of love with our God. The miracle of love is that we become better people as we deepen in our love for one another, not only in marriage but in every relationship in life. And as we grow in love for one another, we grow closer to our God.



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY

**On Monday, January 21, 2019, the daily Mass is scheduled
for 9:00am in the Rosemont Chapel.
The Parish Office and STV Preschool are closed.**

Stewardship Thought for the Week

"To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." (1 Corinthians 12:7)

St. Paul tells us that God has blessed each of us for a reason. How has God blessed you? Are you using your gifts according to God's plan? How are you helping to build God's kingdom here on earth? Remember that if you don't do the work God planned for you, no one else can do it. Live the life God has intended for you, feel His love, peace and joy!

Thank you for your generosity for the weekend of January 12 and 13, 2019:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Number of Envelopes: | 272 |
| Envelope Amount: | \$9,350.00 |
| Loose Cash: | \$1,476.01 |
| Electronic Offerings: | \$5,023.34 |
| Other | \$250.00 |
| Total | \$16,099.35 |
| 10% Tithe | \$1,609.94 |
| January 14, 2018: | \$18,803.17 |

REPORT ON PARISH MEETING OF JANUARY 13

A group of concerned parishioners gathered last Sunday to discuss the status of the sexual abuse crisis in the Church. Led by Dr. Patricia Kelly, they engaged in frank conversation, expressing not only their feelings but also the desire to see our parish community address what we as Church need to do going forward. Most of what was considered was covered in previous discussions and the summaries reported to the parish. But there were some further points raised, worthy of note:

- * The parish should publish a statement in the bulletin alerting people to report any abusive conduct on the part of anyone representing the parish, clearly outlining the nature of inappropriate behavior;
- * The Augustinian community should consider being transparent by reporting the names of its members convicted of abuse.

Reiterated strongly were calls for Church reconsideration of issues such as married clergy, women in ministry, and the like. The tenor of the meeting was hopeful, although the general atmosphere was that of dissatisfaction with the way things have been handled in the past by the institutional Church. The group made it clear that we all love the Church and want it to continue to be relevant in today's world. To do so will require the efforts of all of us. It seemed evident that we want to make the investment of time and talent to make this happen. We are very grateful to Dr. Kelly for leading and directing a fruitful discussion.

I concluded the meeting by calling attention to a recently published article in Commonweal entitled: The PA Grand-Jury Report: Not What It Seems by Peter Steinfels of the New York Times. I recommended that everyone read it; it can be found on-line at: <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/pa-grand-jury-report-not-what-it-seems>

This article is quite long and technical, but it's worth taking the time to read. It points out that the PA Grand Jury report gave only part of the facts and was not as extensive as it would have us believe, omitting significant information on how the Church has complied with child safety requirements since 2002, therefore inflicting an injustice on the Church. However, we must be careful not to infer from this that the Church is blameless. Responsibility has to be taken for what was done wrong and what was overlooked by the Church in the past. It is our hope to address and correct this from here on. Therefore, let us not fall prey to the temptation to take this article as complete vindication for the Church. For perspective, we read in the Gospel of [Luke \(17: 5-10\)](#):

And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here immediately and take your place at table'? Would he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You may eat and drink when I am finished'? Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded? So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.'"

Peter Steinfels raises important points of consideration. What the Church has done, since the situation came to light, to correct the abuses of the past, is what should have been done. And just like the servants as Jesus described in the passage, we have to acknowledge that fact and move forward to avoid repeating the past. Now that we are aware, it is our further obligation to learn from our mistakes and to work towards justice for the future on every level: for the victims, for their families, and for the Church.

We will continue to listen and to take steps to do what is right and just so that the Church we love may not only recover from this tragedy, but also be a beacon of hope for the future.

Fr. Joe



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| Mon., Jan. 21st | Saint Agnes |
| 9:00AM-RMCH | To all those who are in Service to Others |
| Tues., Jan. 22nd | Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children |
| 12:05PM-RMCH | For the Legal Protection of Unborn Children |
| Wed., Jan. 23rd | Weekday; Saint Vincent, Saint Margaret Cope; Blessed Josephine Mary of Beniganim |
| 12:05PM-RMCH | John & Margaret Gallagher |
| Thurs., Jan. 24th | Saint Francis De Sales |
| 12:05PM-RMCH | Louise & Ernest Troncelliti |
| Fri., Jan. 25th | THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL |
| 12:05PM-RMCH | Edward F. Powers, Jr. - Family |
| Sat., Jan 26th | Saint Timothy and Saint Titus |
| 9:00AM-RMCH | Rosa Kuttu & Devassy - Poulose & Family |
| 5:00PM-RMCH | Mary & Harry Sudall - Family |
| Sun., Jan 27th | THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME |
| 7:30AM-VNCH | For the Parishioners of St. Thomas |
| 9:00AM-RMCH | Rosemary Giannone - Rosemary Holt |
| 10:30AM-VNCH | Kathryn & Marino Masse - Minutella Family |

Join us

**Tuesday, February 12th
from 6:00—8:00pm**



A Parish Team is needed to roll up their sleeves and work at the Giving Factory at 30 Clipper Road, Conshohocken, PA.

We will sort clothing, clean and repair toys, and prepare gift bags for needy children all over the Delaware Valley. Middle school students and older are welcome.

RSVP to:

Cheryl Gibson 8gibson@comcast.net
or Cathy Van Kula service@stvparish.org.

SCRIPTURE SHARING

Fr. Michael is conducting a weekly scripture sharing on Tuesdays at 10:30am in the Parish Center. The sessions are approximately one hour long and consist of discussion and reflection on the Scripture readings for the following Sunday's Mass.

All are welcome! Although these sessions will be on a continuous weekly offering, you need not commit yourself to weekly attendance. Attend when you can. Once again, All Are Welcome!!



**Schedule of Events for the
week of: January 20, 2019**

Recitation of the Rosary
after the daily Liturgy.

**Monday, January 21, 2019 - MARTIN LUTHER KING
DAY OF SERVICE**

Centering Prayer -RMCH
Parish Office Closed
Parish Preschool Closed

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Scripture Sharing - PC2 | 10:00AM |
| St. Frances Cabrini Mentors | 1:00PM |
| Staff Meeting | 1:00PM |
| Moms Playdate - Aud | 3:30PM |

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|
| Women's 11th Step Spirituality Meeting—PC1 | 6:00AM |
| Food Addicts in Recovery - PC11 | 9:30AM |
| Exercise Program - Aud | 10:00AM |
| Honickman Ministry | 10:15AM |
| Religious Education Program | 4:45PM |
| Family Support Group - Aud | 7:00PM |

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Walking with Purpose - Aud 9:00AM
Rosemont Rehab & Care Center Mass 2:00PM
Walking with Purpose - Aud 7:00PM

Friday, January 25, 2019

Liturgical Minister Retreat - Aud 6:00PM

Saturday, January 26, 2019

Sunday, January 27, 2019

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|---------------------------------|---------|
| Baptism-RMCH | 9:00AM |
| Religious Education Classes | |
| Rosemont Presbyterian Community | |
| Eucharistic Prayer Service | 10:30AM |
| CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK | |



**DECORATIVE PAINTING
MONDAYS
11:00AM TO 2:00PM**

If you like to paint, please join us on Monday mornings in the St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Center.

You choose your own medium and design.
We all help each other to do our own thing
and spend some time catching up on the news.

If you would be interested in joining us
or if you have any questions,
please contact Elaine Sharer at 610-558-1023 or
elainesharer2015@gmail.com.



We wish a warm welcome to the newest members of our parish:

Andrea Egan of Philadelphia
Emily Janosik of Haverford

Congratulations to the newly Baptized members of our parish:

Clara Myrtle, daughter of Brian & Alexandra Gill
Archer Hoebin, son of Andrew & Julia Horne
Maisie Hayun, daughter of Andrew & Julia Horne
Addison Elizabeth, daughter of Matthew & Laura Riley
Sophie Elizabeth, daughter of Timothy & Nikki Ryan
Phoebe Caroline, daughter of Chad & Christine Winters

Resting in Peace:
Mr. Richard Hudak

Remember those in need of our prayers, especially:
Katherine Breck, Brynn Busby, Austin DePetris, Patricia Ann Harley, Bridget Kelly, Sara Keohane, Pamela LaMonaca, Bert Rodgers, and Robert J. Wahl.

Please pray for our soldiers assigned in Afghanistan and in other parts of the world. Please also pray for the soldiers who are returning from their assignments, especially the wounded.



St. Thomas Preschool News

Preschool registrations are now being taken for the 2019-2020 School Year. Classes are available for 2, 3, 4 and 5 year olds. If interested, please call the Preschool Office at 610-525-7554 or visit the website at www.stvpreschool.org. Tours are scheduled for Tuesdays.

Come see us again as we continue to grow and change.

WELCOME VISITORS

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are visiting our beautiful church or chapel, please know you are most welcome!

If you have questions or are interested in joining our parish community, please call the parish office at 610-525-4801.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

PRAYERLINE

The parish prayer line is waiting for your prayer request. Please contact stvprayerline@gmail.com or Millie Seeds at 610-353-2025 to activate the parish prayerline. We have parish teams available for your special intentions.

DINNERS TO THE DOORSTEP

This ministry is for parish families who are in crisis or for parish couples welcoming a new baby. Homemade dinners are delivered. Two parish coordinators keep a list of volunteers who are called as needed. If you are in need of this delicious community support, please call Sarah Breck at 610-975-0444.

ST. FRANCIS INN

Volunteers are needed to serve the midday meal at the St. Francis Inn in Kensington on Sunday, January 20th. The Inn tries to meet the immediate daily needs of the poor and homeless people they serve with food, clothing and hospitality. This ministry is open to anyone 16 years or older. For more information and to sign up, contact our parish coordinator, Sheila Holst at 610-659-5828 or hagan1126@verizon.net.

HELP AT HOME MINISTRY

Do you have a small household repair that you need done? A bigger job that needs assessment? General repairs such as: Plumbing (faucet / toilet repairs); Electric (fix a light); Mechanical (AC and heat, appliance); Structural and cosmetic (threshold, window repair, patching) Are you unable to physically perform the job? Not sure where to begin? Cannot afford to get it fixed? Contact: Parish Coordinator, Jim and Ann Colizzo Jim at 908-797-6228 jcolizzo@gmail.com; Ann at 484-883-4019 annortenzi@comcast.net or Cathy Van Kula, Parish Staff at 610-525-4801, service@stvparish.org.

MOTHER AND NEW FAMILY SUPPORT MINISTRY

Parishioner and nurse practitioner volunteer offers support to new moms and their families who are navigating the complexities of motherhood and the addition of a new baby to the family. Contact Suzanne Foley at 610-952-0147 or suzannefoley@yahoo.com or Cathy Van Kula at service@stvparish.org.

Readings for the Week:

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|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday: | Heb 5:1-10; Mk 3:18-22 |
| Tuesday: | Vol. 4, Mass for Peace & Justice |
| Wednesday: | Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Mk 3:1-6 |
| Thursday: | Heb 7:25—8:6; Mk 3:7-12 |
| Friday: | Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-12; Mk 16:15-18 |
| Saturday: | 3 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-15; Mk 3:20-21 |
| Sunday: | Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8:10; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Lk 1:1-4, 4: 14-21 |

Come and experience

Living in Love

February 9-10, 2019 - St. Thomas of Villanova, Rosemont Chapel, Rosemont, PA

A refreshingly positive, affirming, and energizing retreat workshop that frees husbands and wives to live in love the way they always dreamt they would. Gain liberating insight into how differently men and women prefer to achieve intimacy, a pro-active mindset, and practical strategies to put the fun and romance back into everyday life. Designed to release the joy of being a man and a woman in love, the weekend consists of a series of engaging presentations that integrate insight from the sciences with St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body, communicated in common sense language and illustrated with real life examples. Each exercise is followed by time for private reflection and couple sharing. There is no large group open sharing or discussion.

Saturday begins at 8:00am and includes a lovely romantic dinner and Sunday includes Mass. The retreat concludes by 4:00pm Sunday but the freedom and joy continue to grow after the weekend!

For more information or to register on-line go to: www.livinginlove.org or call (610) 640-4105. Parish contact is Dave and Stephanie D'Arcangelo (610-420-0589) or darcangelo518@gmail.com. Cost is \$125 per couple.

SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA BLOOD DRIVE



*The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Please give Blood!!*

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 —
2:00pm to 7:00pm
in the St. Thomas of Villanova
Rosemont Auditorium

To make an appointment, please
visit www.redcrossblood.org and
enter sponsor keyword:
St Thomas Rosemont

WALK INS ARE WELCOME!

For questions about eligibility:
call 1 800-RED-CROSS



ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA
PARISHIONERS HELP US
REPLENISH THE
FOOD PANTRY AT
ST. CYPRIAN'S

tacklehunger.org

Bring your donations to tackle hunger
in our Community.

Please drop off your donations
in the back of both the Church and Chapel
the weekends of January 26-27,
February 2-3 or drop off at the Parish
Center beginning the week of January 27th.

Items most needed are: powdered milk, canned
fruit, 100% fruit juice, peanut butter, jelly, tuna,
canned sardines, cold cereal, oatmeal, pasta, pasta
sauce, rice, stew, chili, and soup.

Youth parishioners will deliver items to
St. Cyprian's parish on February 3, 2019.

For more information, call 610-525-4801 or
email: fl-youth@stvparish.org.



St. Thomas of Villanova proudly begins our HUGS FOR HEROES

January 12th through February 10th

This year we are again sending donated items to our local soldiers deployed in Afghanistan, as well as to those who have returned from war and are readjusting to the civilian world through the Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service Center.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR SOLDIERS DEPLOYED:

Cards and Letters of Encouragement

Individual toiletries: toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, baby powder, foot powder, body wash, eye drops, razors, Chapstick, sunscreen, shaving cream, Kleenex, packaged snacks and candy, playing cards and puzzles.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR VETERANS:

Cards and Letters of Appreciation

Toiletries: Larger sizes of above suggestions. NEW undershirts, socks, pajamas, and shirts; large print crossword puzzles; shower curtain liners; any new or used kitchen items; gift cards for haircuts; and used service jackets.

**Drop your donations off at the Parish Center during the week or
at the Rosemont Chapel on weekends (around Liturgies).**

**All contributions will be sent to our soldiers and veterans before
Valentine's Day.**

For questions, contact Bonnie Cotter: 610-715-9591 or bonnie.cotter@verizon.net

Parishioners: If you have a family member serving outside of the United States, please let us know so we can include them when shipping special Hugs for Heroes gifts.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Skate Party - Save the Date Saturday, March 2, 2019

The Family Life Committee is excited to announce that our Annual Ice Skating party will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2019—6:00-8:00pm. Details coming soon! Family Life Committee is always looking for volunteers to help run events.

Contact Maria Luby: fl-youth@stvparish.org

LIFE IS NOT A DRESS REHEARSAL

"God calls you to make definitive choices... to discover that plan and to respond to your vocation is to move toward personal fulfillment."
Pope Francis

If you are interested in learning more about the Order of St. Augustine and what it means to be an Augustinian, please visit our website:

www.augustinianvocations.org

The Academy of Notre Dame 46th Annual Fine Art Show & Sale

The Academy of Notre Dame de Namur in Villanova, PA, is holding its 46th Annual Fine Art Show and Sale from Friday, January 25th to Sunday, February 3rd, 2019. The exhibition and sale will open with a catered preview reception with the artists on Friday, January 25, from 6:00-9:00 pm in the Academy Mansion, located at 560 Sproul Road in Villanova, PA. This year's featured artist is Delaware artist, Shawn Faust.

The public is cordially invited to attend both the catered reception and the weeklong exhibit. Tickets to the preview reception are \$60 in advance and \$70 at the door. The Fine Art Show will be on display from noon to 4:00 pm daily beginning Saturday, January 26 through Sunday, February 3, 2019. Free Admission.

For more information, visit www.ndapa.org/artshow.

COUNCIL CORNER

PASTORAL COUNCIL — JANUARY MEETING

The pastoral council met January 7th and heard an update from Jeanmarie Lorello, the parish administrative assistant who oversees all printed and electronic updates reflecting our parish community (website, electronic sign, email newsletters, live stream and our new app). The Newsletters that are sent twice a month via Constant Contact email are sent to the primary family email on file with the parish. If your family is NOT receiving these, you may contact Jeanmarie at admin@stvparish.org to ensure that the correct email is in our system.

The council discussed preliminary plans for Lent 2019 including the possibility of Stations of the Cross, a Lenten Rosary evening, and 40-hour Eucharistic Adoration. We also discussed getting more feedback from parishioners about preferences for our next parish retreat, tentatively planned for Lent 2020.

Little Sisters of the Poor
Holy Family Home
5300 Chester Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143

December 27, 2018

Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas:

As Little Sisters of the Poor we open our hearts and our homes to the neediest elderly in our midst. In this upcoming New Year of 2019, we are humbled and grateful to God to share with you the gift of 'celebration' for us of 150 years of serving the elderly poor of Philadelphia! Please rejoice with us and thank God for us too!

We thank you for opening your heart to the needs of the elderly through your gift of 96 Christmas Gifts for our residents in support the beautiful work founded by St. Jeanne Jugan. We assure you of our special remembrance of daily prayers.

"When the kindness and generous love of God our Savior appeared, not because of any righteous deed we had done, but because of His Mercy, He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in the hope of Eternal Life". (Titus 3:4-7)

You are a blessing indeed of His Divine Providence! May God bless you and those you love this Christmas filling you all with His Gift of Peace, Joy and Hope throughout this New Year.

Sincerely in the Heart of Christ,
Sr. Veronica Susan, Isp
Begging Sister

**STEVEN
MOLINARI**

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBER



Ten years ago, my wife, Francesca, my daughter, Isabelle, and I became members of the St. Thomas of Villanova Parish community. I have served on the Pastoral Council since the middle of 2017 and Francesca completed a full term on the Finance Council.

Having grown up in an Augustinian Parish community, St. Thomas felt like coming home. The focus on stewardship and the diverse outreach programs have opened many doors for our family to find communities within the Parish.

With the guidance of the Parish, Francesca and I were able to travel to El Salvador in 2011 and 2012 as volunteers with Project Faith In Action Together (FIAT) and we have also become involved as Eucharistic Ministers and as dinner hosts with the IHN program. Francesca was involved in forming the Walking With Purpose (WWP) evening group at our Parish. We also felt very blessed to be participants in Living in Love.

Being a member of the Parish has given our family a community, and our faith has grown with each person we have met in the Parish and with each group we have joined. The example of stewardship and service of the parish helped me to become involved in the Transformational Yoga Project, where I bring trauma-sensitive, mindfulness-based yoga to non-traditional spaces. The unique communities and deep faith of St. Thomas make it an honor to serve on the Pastoral Council.

MOTHERS' HOME
8TH ANNUAL BOWL-A-THON

Looking to have a family outing without everyone on their cell phone? Time for a neighborhood get together? Or maybe someone in your house has a birthday to celebrate? Then come to the 8th annual Mothers' Home Bowl-a-Thon! Great fun for everyone and all for a great cause! One lane accommodates 6 bowlers for 2 hours and includes 2 pizzas and soda, as well as shoe rental, all for \$150.

Where: Sproul Lanes

When: Saturday, March 2, 2019

Two time slots are available 3-5pm or 6-8pm. Register online at www.mothershome.myevent.com.

**ARCHBISHOP WILTON D. GREGORY'S COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS,
BOSTON COLLEGE — MAY 21, 2018**

Everyone knows that our spoken words often are simply inadequate to capture the sheer depth of human feelings. What can one possibly say at the wonder of the birth of a baby or at the anguish in the face of someone who has suffered the death of a loved one? How do we express horror, shame, fear or today — immense pride and joy? Some phrases in moments of intense feelings are not only inadequate, they have become insipid “we send our thoughts and prayers” to cite a useless contemporary phrase.

However, there are some words that do manage effective to fuse the tongue to the human heart — **thank you** is a great example. Thank you unveils the truth that we may well have received something that is far beyond our due. Thank you acknowledges that others have played a momentous role in your own personal good fortune. I trust that our graduates today will use that phrase repeatedly when speaking to your family members, to faculty, to administrators, and to the countless hundreds of people here at Boston College who have made your academic adventure not only successful but perhaps even genuinely blessed.

Most of you will search for words today that will express the depth of your feelings for others on this graduation day. Words of thanks, words of pride, and words of wonder at this moment are plentiful. I too have long thought about the words that I might use today here are Boston College’s Commencement ceremony. I have searched for a few words that might inspire and hopefully even encourage our graduates. I sought for words that simultaneously would honor the great legacy of Jesuit education that is so much a part of this university — words that might fit this occasion — all without being too lengthy. Words are powerful vehicles, as writers and poets know all too well. Words can bring tears and they can incite rage.

Words can heal and they can inflame. Occasionally the very same words can inspire some people while they may enrage others. In today’s world, social media have provided almost indispensable platform for words that can stir the human spirit to positive and negative passions. **Black Lives Matter** have become words that some people find encouraging while some others only find them to be agitating if not threatening. **#MeToo** is a phrase that now seems to elicit the same range of conflicting feelings.

The greatest challenge that we all continue to face is to make sure that our words do not contradict our actions, our hearts or our faith. We all must strive to ensure that there is a consistency between what we say and how we live. That unity between our words and our lives is a life-long challenge for every person. Only God Himself has managed to achieve perfection in this regard as Saint John the Gospel Writer announces when he proclaims “And the Word became Flesh”. Only God has managed to say everything with one word.

There are too many examples both in today’s world and throughout human history where a person’s actions were disconnected from an individual’s words. That distinction is often called fraud which is an ugly word to be sure. A few people historically have been able to use words that stir the human heart to great hope.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a master wordsmith. His death 50 years ago was largely in recompense for the inspiration and the hope that many people found his words that challenged our nation. Unfortunately, there were and remain people who find those same words to be intimidating and threatening. The author of the Book of Hebrews reminded the ancient Church and all of us as well that the Word of God was a double edged-sword —so too many of the words that have gained popularity in today’s world.

I now invite our graduates and I remind all others here today in their honor to take careful watch over the words that we use. We have entered a moment in human history where offensive abusive words have been absolved and issued a carte blanche and perhaps even welcomed in public discourse. Through the great advantage and equal detriment of social media debate and disagreement often have been reduced to defamation and denigration. This is absolutely counter to what your Jesuit education has striven to teach you. Disputes are best addressed to principles, ideas and policies rather than to be used to demolish the reputation, dignity and humanity of those with whom we may disagree. I urge you to use words that clearly voice your strong opinions but also shun the annihilation of another individual’s human dignity.

St. Thomas of Villanova is hosting a
FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP
every Wednesday Evening at 7:00pm
in the Rosemont Auditorium.

Family Groups are designed to meet the needs of those with loved ones who are currently in treatment, are using alcohol and/or drugs in a problematic manner or are in recovery.

Our mission is to help ourselves and in turn help others whose loved ones are struggling with addiction.

The purpose of these groups is to provide family members a confidential, safe place to find support, education, encouragement and hope on their own path to Recovery for Life.

Those 18 years and older are welcome.

The Mercy Ministry is collecting donations for various Recovery Houses. If you can help with any of the following needs, please drop off at the Parish Center, Monday-Friday, between 9:00am and 4:30pm.

| | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Grocery Gift Cards | Bath Towels |
| Cleaning rags | Kitchen Gadgets |
| Blankets | Shampoo/body wash |
| Food | Silverware |
| Sheets (single beds) | Underwear, socks |
| Hangers | Hats, boots, gloves |
| Cups, pots, pan, plates | |
| Small furniture (night stands, shelves) | |
| Toiletries (shaving cream, razors, etc.) | |

Thank you.

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need".
Hebrews 4:16

WOMEN'S 11TH STEP MEDITATION
each Wednesday from 6:00am to 6:45am
in the Parish Center

Step 11 – Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

Join us, even if you are not part of "program", for a great way to start your day as "we ask God to direct our thinking, especially asking that it be divorced from self-pity, dishonest or self-seeking motives."

Page 86 of AA Big Book

MERCY MINISTRY HAS JOINED AFIRE!!

A F I R E

Active Faith Implementing Relief in the Epidemic

AFIRE is a faith-based movement designed to bring education, healing, hope, resources, advocacy and transformational action to families and communities struggling with addiction. As members of AFIRE, we strive to put our Christian faith in action by providing relief to the afflicted — specifically individuals and families who are struggling in the midst of the addiction and overdose epidemic.

We believe in the dignity of every human person as a child of God. **We seek** to be a compassionate presence to the suffering. **We strive** to be a voice for the voiceless and bring hope to the hopeless. **We act** to bring light into the darkness.

But we need you to help spread the light! Please join us as we organize and brainstorm to bring this important ministry to our community.

Contact: Karen Farley at bizmgr@stvparish.org or call the Parish at 610-525-4801 x 202 to join this ministry.

In God's Hands

is a parish ministry that provides support to families who are experiencing, or have experienced, loss of a child through miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant death. We recognize the uniqueness of the loss of an unborn child or infant, and provide comfort to families through prayer, confidential family-to-family support, liturgy and sacraments, and practical information. In a culture which debates the value of life, we recognize and respect that precious life begins at conception, and that the loss of that life is real, painful, and deserving of healing and comfort. We seek to support others through our own losses of children and connections to loss.



If you wish to serve as a volunteer in this ministry, or if you are seeking our support, please contact Brian and Cayce Farina at cayce.l.farina@gmail.com or 484-206-7975.