

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 7, 2018



St. Thomas of Villanova is an Augustinian, Roman Catholic Community. As the Body of Christ, we share our time, talent and treasure to fulfill our Baptismal commitment. Following the example of St. Thomas of Villanova, our patron, we take as our challenge the mission of Jesus and strive to love and experience God through worship, social justice, education and evangelization.

Stewardship Thought for the Week

"...they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh..." Matthew 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. They then presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

Readings for the Week:

Monday: Is 55:1-11 or 1 Jn 5:1-9;
Mk 1:7-11
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20;
Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a;
Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1;
Mk 2:1-12
Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19;
1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20;
Jn 1:35-42



A Note from the Pastor:

The word "epiphany" means manifestation, as in a revelation. In Christianity, the symbol of light coming into the darkness is most meaningful at this, the darkest period of the year. For those awaiting the birth of the Messiah whose life brings light and hope, it is a time to rejoice in the recognition that God has enlightened us by his presence. But not just for us; the Light of the World has come to us so that we in turn can make him known to others. It was to the early Christian community, primarily Jewish, that Matthew addressed his Gospel account, clarifying for them that they, as the Chosen People of God, were such not only for themselves but also to be instruments of God's love and light for others. Jesus Christ had come for the salvation of all, not just for a segment of the world. Coming out of a background in which they had been taught to exclude the foreigner, shun the Gentile, these people following the "new way" of Christ had to adjust their perspective of the world. No longer an attitude of "us and them," the followers of Jesus would be challenged to see the entire world as a community in which all were welcome, all were invited to salvation. Nowadays there is a strong temptation in our American society to be exclusive and isolationist, to see ourselves as a people set apart and blessed with gifts which we jealously protect for ourselves. This is not the way of Jesus Christ. He is the Light for all nations; his arms are outstretched and open to all people. His words bring comfort to all who have to deal with the complexities of life, its disappointments and challenges, and who long for justice, for peace. May the meaning of the coming of Christ dawn in our hearts and minds as we celebrate his Epiphany.

Mass for the Intentions Week

Mon., Jan. 8th 12:05PM-RMCH	The Baptism of the Lord Oliver Caramin - Guido Family
Tues., Jan. 9th 12:05PM-RMCH	Weekday Agnes Poplaski - Mauriello Family
Wed., Jan. 10th 12:05PM-RMCH	Weekday Brian Evans - Joanne Lewers
Thurs., Jan. 11th 12:05PM-RMCH	Weekday
Fri., Jan. 12th 12:05PM-RMCH	Weekday
Sat., Jan. 13th 9:00AM-RMCH 5:00PM-RMCH	Weekday; Saint Hilary Rocco & Elvira Leggiadro - Leggiadro Family
Sun., Jan. 14th 7:30AM-VNCH 9:00AM-RMCH 10:30AM-VNCH	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time For the Parishioners of St. Thomas James Hennessy - Anne & Family Charles Labus - Jim & Seton Feeney

Thank you for generosity for the following weekends:

Weekend of December 23 and 24, 2017

Number of Envelopes	210
Envelope Amount	\$7,237.60
Loose Cash	\$1,045.00
Electronic Offerings	\$7,712.91
Other	
Total	\$15,995.51
10% Tithe	\$1,599.55
December 24, 2016	\$4,841.88

CHRISTMAS, 2017

Number of Envelopes	523
Envelope Amount	\$82,853.24
Loose Cash	\$9,511.24
Other	
Total	\$92,364.42
10% Tithe	\$9,236.44
December 25, 2016	\$116,299.84

Weekend of December 30 and 31, 2017

Number of Envelopes	260
Envelope Amount	\$18,009.76
Loose Cash	\$1,519.00
Electronic Offerings	\$11,250.01
Other	\$25.00
Total	\$30,803.77
10% Tithe	\$3,080.38
January 1, 2017	\$19,575.49

Schedule of Events for the week of: January 7, 2018 Recitation of the Rosary after the daily Liturgy.



Monday, January 8, 2018

Centering Prayer-RMCH	7:30AM
Golden Living Ministry	10:15AM
Art Class - PC1	11:00AM
Joint Council/Staff Meeting - Aud	6:00PM

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Bible Sharing - PC2	10:00AM
SFC Mentors	1:00PM
Staff Meeting	1:00PM
Moms Group Playdate - Aud	3:30PM
Bible Sharing - PC2	7:00PM

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

Women's 11th Step Spirituality Meeting	6:00AM
Food Addicts in Recovery - Café	9:30AM
Exercise - Aud	10:00AM
Honickman Ministry	10:15AM
Religious Education Classes	4:45PM

Thursday, January 11, 2018

Walking With Purpose - Aud	9:00AM
Walking With Purpose - Aud	7:00PM
Peace & Justice Meeting - PC1	7:30PM

Friday, January 12, 2018

Mom's Group Moving Night - Aud	6:00PM
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Saturday, January 13, 2018

Sunday, January 14, 2018

No Religious Education Classes	
Rosemont Village Eucharistic Prayer Service	10:30AM
IHN Moves In	

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION SESSION

The parish offers weekly Scripture Reflection Sessions on Tuesday mornings (10:00am) and evenings (7:00pm). These sessions are conducted by Fr. Michael and Ginny Neumer. The sessions are based on the Sunday scripture readings for the following week's Mass. The object of these sessions is to enhance and heighten the worship experience of those participating in the sessions by reflecting on and discussing the weekly readings prior to the Eucharistic celebration.

All are welcome! You are even encouraged to bring a friend or two.



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

Eugene & Joan Gildea of Rosemont

Resting in Peace:

Dr. Eileen Berens
Mr. Joseph Coppola
Mr. William DiAntonio
Mrs. Rosemary Martin

Remember those in need of our prayers, especially:

Frank, Jr. and Richard Beston, Katherine Breck, Jennifer Greenberg, Patricia Ann Harley, Bridget Kelly, Angele Kuchukian, Pamela LaMonaca, Patrick McCabe, Jerry O'Connor, Bert Rodgers, Marie Scenna, Annie Sears, 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.



Thank you, parishioners of St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Community for sharing your time, talent and treasure during the Advent and Christmas season...

- Advent Giving Tree volunteers shopped, sold and purchased angels, and wrapped and delivered over 500 gifts to five inner city faith communities.
- Our Parish Youth Group delivered poinsettias and gift bags to our homebound and grieving families.
- Parishioners served as "Innkeepers" at all our Christmas liturgies welcoming thousands of parishioners, visitors and extended families.
- At our 4pm Christmas liturgies, parishioners brought baby gifts which were delivered to Cradles to Crayons.

You shared the light of Christ and the gift of Christmas to our sisters and brothers throughout the region. Thank you!!

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.

PROJECT HOPE

This is a transportation ministry for our Parish. If you need a ride to your medical appointments or to food shop this week, please call Mary Ann Deviney at 610-331-2959. Please give at least 3 days notice.

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 21st. 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 Anne Murphy, Parish Staff at 610-525-4801, pastoral@stvparish.org.

MOTHER AND NEW FAMILY SUPPORT MINISTRY

Parishioner and Nurse Practitioner Volunteer offers support to new moms around navigating the complexities of being a new mom. Contact Suzanne Foley at 610-952-0147 or suzannefoley@yahoo.com or Anne Murphy at pastoral@stvparish.org.

Preschool News

Preschool registrations are now being taken for the 2018-2019 School Year.



Classes are available for 2, 3, 4 and 5 year olds. Children must be 2, 3 or 4 by October 1, 2018 for their perspective classes. Full and half day options are available. If interested, please call the Preschool Office at 610-525-7554 and be sure to visit the website at www.stvpreschool.org.

THE FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE PRESENTS

Building a Resilient Child

Parenting Playbook by Lisa Corcoran

**Wednesday, January 24th
7:30pm Rosemont Auditorium**

Speaker: Lisa Corcoran

Lisa Corcoran is one of 9 children and has 97 cousins. She took a parenting class based on Adlerian (Alfred Adler) theories that proved to be the most humbling experience of her life. She learned that to raise loving, responsible, confident and happy children she would need to start with herself. So Lisa started taking more classes. She started applying the tools and little by little her home became a calmer place to be. Lisa found The Parenting Playbook to bring these life changing tools to more families. By applying them, you will enjoy deeper harmony, peace and understanding in your home.

REMINDER

AED Locations

Villanova Church: Back of Church on Left Hand Wall
Rosemont Chapel: Back Wall across from Sacristy

Questions?: nurse@stvparish.org

YOU ARE INVITED TO A
BROWN BAG LUNCH

MONDAY, JANUARY 22ND
at 12:45pm in the
Rosemont Auditorium

**Come to view a
"TED TALK" BY Dan Buettner**
followed by a lively conversation.

Topic: "How to live to be 100+"

National Geographic writer and explorer, Dan Buettner, studies the world's longest-lived people, distilling their secrets into a single plan for health and long life.

Bring your Lunch!
Dessert and drinks available.

You are invited to participate in

Protecting Your Brain **11 Steps You Can Take Now to Protect Your Brain and Reduce your Risk of Alzheimer's**

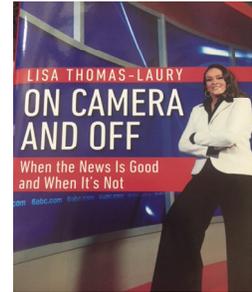
Sessions on
February 5th, 12th, 26th,
March 5th, 12th, 19th
(12:45pm - 2:45pm)
In the Parish Center - PC1
St. Thomas of Villanova Parish



Please RSVP to Mary Kate McCauley,
Parish Nurse, 610-525-4801, ext. 209
nurse@stvparish.org

Join Us in January for an Inspiring Story of One Woman's Journey Through a TV Career, Health Crisis and Recovery

**STV Women's Speaker Series
Presents Lisa Thomas-Laury,
former Channel 6 News Anchor and Book Author
Tuesday, January 23rd at 7:00pm
Rosemont Auditorium**



Lisa Thomas-Laury began working at Philadelphia's ABC affiliate WPVI-TV, Channel 6, as a reporter and co-anchor of Action News in 1978, at the age of 24. She covered the stories of everyday people around the region, as well as numerous political elections and conventions and the activities of political figures, including Ted Kennedy, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton. However, the stories she loves to tell the most are those of average people with unique experiences, and those who overcame major obstacles in their lives. In 2001, Lisa began facing her own significant life challenge. She was struck with a rare nerve disorder that remained misdiagnosed for nearly two years. In her recently published memoir, *On Camera and Off: When the News is Good and When it's Not*, Lisa shares the story of her life, including a detailed account of her health crisis. She takes readers on a journey through her life's interruption by a mysterious ailment, the circuitous search for a diagnosis, and a hard-fought recovery.

Books will be available for purchase and Lisa will sign them.

Wine and Cheese Reception
RSVP to office@stvparish.org or call 610-525-4801.

Our Volunteers are the "Hospitality" in the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish

Homeless families come to St. Thomas of Villanova at a vulnerable time in their lives when they are without a roof over their heads. Most are single mothers who do not have adequate employment, the skills necessary to provide for their families, or the support of loved ones.

At St. Thomas of Villanova we provide a spirit of warmth and hospitality 5 times a year for one week at a time. Through the kindness of our volunteers we are able to supply a safe and welcoming environment for families to spend their evenings and nights at our Parish Center.

During the day, families use a Life Skills Center in Norristown and return to St. Thomas of Villanova in the evening.

OUR PARISH WILL BE HOSTING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 14TH.

Here's How You Can Help:

- * Provide an evening meal during the week the families are at St. Thomas of Villanova.
- * Act as an evening host for a three-hour period in the evening.
- * Spend the night so that you are available to assist with any problems that arise.
- * At the start of the week, help set up the rooms for our guests.
- * At the end of the week, help dismantle the rooms, move the guests, or wash linen.

Teams of two or more people usually carry out all of these functions, so you won't be by yourself.

We urge you to consider extending St. Thomas of Villanova hospitality to families in our community. The overnight shift begins at 9:00pm and ends at 6:30am.

**TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CONTACT
Cathy Van Kula at 610-525-4801 or service@stvparish.org**

SAVE THE DATE!
January 15, 2018
MARTIN LUTHER KING
Service Ministries for All Ages

FAMILY — MORNING OF SERVICE
Rosemont Auditorium - 10:00am-Noon

Pre-school and elementary school children and parents join hands to create practical gifts:

- Assemble hygiene kits for Project Home's Hub of Hope.
- Design and decorate cards for our military troops and veterans.
- Prepare cheese sandwiches for the Patrician Society in Norristown.
- Decorate t-shirts for children in Puerto Rico affected by Hurricane Maria.
- Create bookmarks and other decorative crafts for residents of local nursing homes.

OUTREACH TRIP FOR
MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL/ADULTS

Join us on MLK day working indoors at the Roosevelt Elementary School in Philadelphia to do indoor cleaning/painting, etc. Please meet in the parish parking lot at 8:00am and we will bus down to the location. We will return to the parish by 3:00pm. Closed-toed shoes are required. Limited spots.

To register, please email Maria Luby at fl-youth@stvparish.org.

HELP NEEDED!!

Help is needed to run the craft tables on Martin Luther King Day of Service with the Family Service morning in the Rosemont Auditorium. Please contact Parish Coordinators, Kate Horn at kate.horn@yahoo.com or Leslie Selbach at lkramer14@yahoo.com.

IHM CONFERENCE / RETREAT CENTER

Event: Evening of Reflection for Those Recovering from Addiction and Those Who Support Them.

Description:

This evening is designed for those recovering from addictions and for those who support them. It will include reflections/presentations and quiet time in the beautiful setting of Wooten.

When: Friday February 2, 2018 - 6-00-9:00pm

Where: IHM Conference Center
401 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
(Mansion on St. Aloysius Academy Grounds)

Presenter: Father Mark Hushen, OSFS

Fr. Mark has been president of Ashley (a drug treatment center in Maryland) since 2007. He is a Catholic priest and a recovering alcoholic and addict. Fr. Mark brings a wealth of experience in the areas of 12-step Spirituality and alcohol and drug addiction treatment.

Stipend: Donation

PLEASE REGISTER ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE.

Phone - 610-581-0120
Email: mdgipprich@gmail.com

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 our 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

Centering Prayer Silent Meditation

Would you like the gift of prayer?

Centering Prayer presents ancient Christian wisdom teachings in an updated form. It is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer; rather it casts a new light and depth of meaning on them. Centering Prayer is a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. This method of prayer is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with him. Join us Mondays at 7:30am in the Rosemont Chapel.

STV FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

The Parish food closet accepts donations of non-perishable foods on a weekly basis. The items collected are then delivered to our sister parish, St. Cyprian's in West Philadelphia, where approximately 300 families are assisted on a monthly basis.

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

Food may be dropped off M-F, 9am to 4:30pm to the Parish Center and on weekends to the back of the Rosemont Chapel (around Mass times when The Church is open.)

MEN'S GOSPEL REFLECTION GROUP

Do you desire a richer connection to the Word of God? Are you looking for a way to share your faith with other men of faith? Would you like to re-enforce your faith while navigating your daily life?

If any of these questions caused you to pause and think, then you might enjoy our weekly men's Gospel Reflection Group. We gather weekly in the Parish Center to discuss the coming Sunday's Gospel. Join us on Thursday mornings from 6:30am to 7:30am in the Parish Center next to the Rosemont Chapel.

Calling All Men!

As we begin a New Year, please plan on joining us for the **next Men's Gathering on Thursday, January 18th**. We'll celebrate Mass in the Rosemont Chapel at **6:30am** and then head to the Auditorium for some fellowship, before going off to work or other responsibilities. And remember – feel free to invite a friend from the parish or otherwise!

AUGUSTINIAN VOCATIONS

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



**St. Thomas of Villanova proudly begins our
HUGS FOR HEROES**

January 6th through February 11th

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 Educational 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 VETS:

Cards and Letters of Appreciation

Toiletries: Larger size of above suggestions, NEW: Undershirts, socks, pajamas, 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 Vets before
Valentine's Day.**

For questions, contact Bonnie Cotter: 610-745-9591 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.

THANK YOU LETTER

Marist Missions
29 Isabella Street
Boston, MA 02116-5216

December 14, 2017

Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas:

May I thank you sincerely for the check we received from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on behalf of the Marist Mission Co-op at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish. It will go a long way in assisting our Marist Missionaries in their ministries around the world. We wish to convey our deepest thanks and continued prayers.

May the blessing of Jesus be on you and the good people of St. Thomas of Villanova.

Sincerely,
Rev. Walter Gaudreau, SM
Director, Marist World Missions

A Message for Parishioners on behalf of the Office of Catholic Education asking that you voice your support for the following legislative item.

As it stands, the Pennsylvania Senate Education Committee is currently considering Senate Bill 2 (SB2), which is also known as the Education Savings Account Plan. SB2 would help protect the most vulnerable children among us by focusing the savings accounts on the lowest-performing school districts in the Commonwealth. Specifically, SB2 would create state-funded, flexible spending accounts for individual students.

Parents could use the funds to pay for Department of Education-approved educational expenses such as non-public school tuition, higher education tuition, textbooks, curriculum, testing and industry certifications. Unused funds would roll over from one year to the next, and unspent ESA dollars could even be used to pay for college. This is a plan to empower children with educational opportunity, especially those who currently attend the lowest-performing public schools, those in the bottom 15 percentile, in the Commonwealth.

You can contact your elected official to voice support for SB2 at the link below:

<https://www.pacatholic.org/resources/voter-voice/?vsrc=%2fCampaigns%2f54999%2fRespond>

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Forum:

A Conversation with Congressman Dwight Evans

**Immigration
Care for Earth**

**Affordable Health Care Act
Homelessness and Poverty**

Let's Build a Stronger Tomorrow Together!

**Sunday, January 14, 2018 - 2:00pm-3:30pm
Convent of Mercy Auditorium
515 Montgomery Avenue, Merion, PA 19066**

Representative Dwight Evans is the Democratic member of the United States House of Representatives from Pennsylvania's 2nd Congressional District.

*"We have an obligation to build a stronger tomorrow for all members of our communities."
Congressman Dwight Evans*

**NEWS FROM MALVERN PAREPARATORY SCHOOL
AND VILLA MARIA ACADEMY**

Students from **Malvern Preparatory School** and **Villa Maria Academy** are hosting the **Cups for Caritas**, our 2017-2018 iteration on the ten-year tradition of Empty Bowls events at Malvern. This year's event, which raises funds for **Bethesda Project** (www.bethesdaproject.org), will be held on Sunday, January 14, on Malvern Prep's campus. The event will begin with 9:00am Mass in Our Mother of Good Counsel Chapel and will feature student and guest speakers sharing context for the *caritas* of this year's event. The doors of Stewart Hall will open at 10:30am where guests will have the opportunity to choose a handmade ceramic cup to use and keep as a reminder that there are always people in our world in need of *caritas*. The morning features a simple buffet-style brunch, a silent auction, guest speakers, and a "leftovers" cup sale. Tickets are \$25/adult and \$15/children 10 + under. Advance ticket sales are appreciated and available online at www.mpemptybowls.org. For more information, please contact mpemptybowls@gmail.com or 484-595-5203.

We are pleased to announce that Livestream Masses from St. Thomas of Villanova Rosemont Chapel are available for our homebound parishioners.

Instructions to view the Live Stream Parish Mass are:

**Log on to St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Website:
www.stvparish.org
Scroll down and on the left hand side of the home page you will see.....**



Double Click on the Orange S to view the 5:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass or the 9:00am Sunday Mass.

If you have any questions, email Anne Murphy at service@stvparish.org or call the Parish Center at 610-525-4801.