FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER **APRIL 21, 2024**



Scripture Reflection...

Sometimes a piece of theater can be so powerful it stays with you for your whole life. Many years ago I saw Jesuit dramatist Michael Moynahan perform his mime entitled "Come-Passion." It starts with a clown happily doing tricks and juggling for the audience. Soon, Jesus is led in by the soldiers and is crucified. The clown watches on in horror. When Jesus dies and the soldiers go home the clown remains at the foot of the cross. He removes the nails from the hands and feet of Jesus and cradles the corpse in his lap, as in Michelangelo's Pieta. He weeps for the evil that saw a just man crucified. Just then, the soldiers return and find the clown grieving over the body of Jesus. They crucify the clown. The clown suffers and dies on the cross. As they leave Jesus is raised to life, he sees the suffering clown, removes the nails, cradles him in his arms and holds him for what feels like an eternity.

When I saw this mime you could have heard a pin drop, and there wasn't a dry eye in the house. The word compassion comes from the Latin word *compati* meaning to bear or suffer with. It's not pity, sympathy or commiseration. Those words imply that we stand outside an experience and feelingly look in on it. Compassion is about "fellow-feeling." It's what the Good Shepherd embodies, and what Easter is all about. If we are worthy followers of Jesus we will all have our fair share of Good Fridays, but Easter Sunday tells us that just as the Father remained faithful to Jesus, so Jesus will remain faithful to us, as one with us.

In recent years the bishops, who are often called shepherds of the local Church, have come under extraordinary scrutiny. And rightly so. All of us who are living the Christian life are accountable for what we have done and have failed to do, and the bishops are no exception. It's a tough time to be the local shepherd. The flock is highly educated and we no longer follow anyone's lead with a herd mentality. We want to know our shepherd, hear his compassionate voice call for justice for victims everywhere, but especially ones who have been injured in any way by the Church. We want to be confident that what our local shepherd says and does is what Christ the Good Shepherd would say and do. Over these past years our sense of dismay has come from a very few bishops who have chosen the so-called good name of the church, its social status and power, their public profile and even the threat of moral and financial liability over the voices of the most vulnerable members of our flock.

Today's Gospel reminds us what Christian leadership should look like. Jesus didn't liken it to princes in palaces or governors of provinces. His metaphor was of a compassionate shepherd who sleeps in the field with his flock, one who knows them so well and loves them so dearly that he lays down his own life for them.

Let's pray at this Eucharist that we always have the leaders we deserve, ones whose compassion is so transparent that it inspires us to be the same, even towards them.

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Stewardship Thought for the Week

"I am the good shepherd...and I lav down my life for the sheep...and they will heed my voice." - John 10:14-16

When you pray, do you only ask Jesus for the things that you want? Do you ever ask Jesus what He wants from you? How do you listen for His response? Many times Jesus responds in "quiet whispers" that are not so obvious. So, take time every day, in silence, to actively listen for His voice.

Thank you for your generosity for the weekend of April 13 and 14, 2024:

Number of Envelopes	260
Envelope Amount	\$7,280.00
Loose Cash	\$1,358.00
Electronic Offerings	\$6,897.00
Other	\$75.00
Total	\$15,610.00
10% Tithe	\$1,561.00
10% Tithe	\$1,561.00
April 16, 2023	\$19,2225.44
April 16, 2025	\$19,2225.44
2024 Easter to date:	\$48,965.00



Mon., April 22nd 12:05PM-RMCH Tues., April 23rd

12:05PM-RMCH

Wed., April 24th

12:05PM-RMCH Thurs., April 25th 12:05PM-RMCH Fri., April 26th

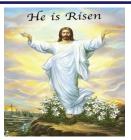
12:05PM-RMCH

Sat., April 27th 9:00AM-RMCH

5:00PM-RMCH **Sun., April 28th** 7:30AM-VNCH

9:00AM-RMCH 10:30AM-VNCH **Easter Weekday** Anne Breidinger - Bob Schreiber Easter Weekday; Blessed Helen Udine, St. George, St. Adalbert Deceased Members of the Kelleher Family THE CONVERSION OF OUR HOLY FATHER, ST. AUGUSTINE Augustinian Vocations Easter Weekday Joseph Kuchinski - Connie Mervine THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, **OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL Deceased Members & Benefactors** of O.S.A. Easter Weekday Frank & Mary Kohler -Deacon Don & Denise DiCarlo Peter Shovlin - Wife, Donna **Fifth Sunday of Easter** For the Living and Deceased

Parishioners of St. Thomas Frank Servididio - Nina & Family Wilkelmus Kokke - Rosemarie McNamara

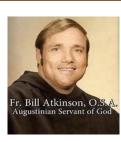


Baptisms - VNCH

Baptism - VNCH

Schedule of Events for the week of : April 21, 2024 Recitation of the Rosary after the daily Liturgy.

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SERVANT OF GOD FATHER BILL ATKINSON, OSA

If you, or someone you know, was a **caregiver** to Fr. Bill Atkinson, OSA, perhaps during your time at Msgr. Bonner HS or as a medical professional, we want to hear from you.

We want to honor and give thanks to all of Fr. Bill's caregivers at a special event in September, as the process for his beautification and sainthood continues. Email: Rich Herron, rpheron@comcast.net, Ted Donnelly, tuna1031@gmail.com,or Mary Moody, marymmoody@yahoo.com.

> For more information: https:// frbillatkinson.org/

Weekly Scripture Classes

12:00PM

1:00PM

Please join Fr. Michael for his weekly Scripture classes on Tuesdays, at 10:00am in PC-1. Texts, as in the past, will be provided. The subject matter for these hour-long classes will be the scripture readings from the following Sunday Mass. St. Jerome said, "To be ignorant of scripture is to be ignorant of Christ."

Please consider marking your calendar for these informative sessions. All are welcome, so bring a friend.



We wish a warm welcome to the newest members of our parish: John & Patricia Donlon of Berwyn

John & Patricia Donlon of Berwyn Mary Huff of Wynnewood

Resting in Peace:

Mr. Joseph Beck Mr. Kevin Carey Mrs. Evelyn Cregan, mother of Fr. David Cregan, OSA

Remember those in need of our prayers, especially:

Angelina Arcamone PHD, Nicola Bonelli, Katherine Breck, Brynn Busby, Peter Cellucci, Austin DePetris, Ella, Jim Foley, Lina Fulton, Ian Gallagher, James Gibbons, Jr., Mary Jane Girondi, Martin Gollin, Patricia Ann Harley, Sam Horsey, Bridget Kelly, Sara Keohane, Kelly Clarke, Ashley Lythgoe, Pamela LaMonaca, Mary Moran, Bruno Petrillo, Bill Riley, Michael Salucci, Jerry Santilli, Theresa Sherwin, Terry Sousa, Joe Thompson and Robert J. Wahl

Please pray for our soldiers stationed throughout the world. Please also pray for the soldiers who are returning from their assignments, especially the wounded.



St. Thomas of Villanova is looking for a part-time Admin Ass't

- Flexible hours
- · Great work environment
- Must have computer skills
- Must have organizational skills

If interested send resume to: pastor@stvparish.org

For more information contact: Colleen Penza, admin.rep@stvparish.org

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

PRAYER LINE

The parish prayer line is waiting for your prayer requests. Please contact <u>stvprayerline1@gmail.com</u> or Marie DellaGreca at 856-981-7761 to activate the parish prayer line. 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 contact Sarah Breck at 610-975-0444 or sarahbreck@verizon.net.

ST. FRANCIS INN

Volunteers are needed to serve the midday meal at the St. Francis Inn in Kensington on Sunday, May 19th. 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.

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 <u>suzannefoley@yahoo.com</u> or Renee Massaua at <u>service@stvparish.org</u>.

Readings for the Week:

Monday:	Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday:	Acts 11:12:24—13; Jn 12:44-50
Wednesday:	Aug I. 259: Sir 17:24-26, 29 or
	Rom 13:10-14; 14:1
	Ps 51:1-3, 10, 12; Lk 15:11-32
Thursday:	1Pt 5:4b-14; Mk 16:15-20
Friday:	Aug I. 263: Is 9:2-4, 6-7 or
	Acts 1:12-14; 2:1-4; Sir 14:20-27
	Jn 2:1-11I
Saturday:	Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14
Sunday:	Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn 3:18-24;
	Jn 15:1-8





Tolle Lege Day, the Augustinian Friars' annual day of giving, will take place on Wednesday, April 24 – the Feast of the Conversion of St. Augustine! We will come together with one mind and one heart for a 24-hour fundraising event to support the Augustinian Friars' way of life and ministries. Every gift matters, no matter the size. Please show your support for the Augustinians as a way of thanking them for all they have done for us. Visit TolleLegeDay.org or call 484-424-9315 to make a gift.

We hope you will join us at the Rosemont Chapel at 10:00am on April 24 for a special Mass celebrating the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Augustine. Fr. Rob Hagan, O.S.A., Prior Provincial, will preside. All are welcome. You can also watch the livestream of the Mass at the regular livestream link for the Rosemont Chapel – check the parish website for the link, or visit TolleLegeDay.org.

ST. JOHN'S CASSEROLES

Want to help out a great nonprofit that serves hot meals to those in need?

St. John's Hospice is greatly in need of pre-cooked casseroles. Every day they provide over 350 lunchtime meals to homeless people in Philadelphia close to the Convention Center.

We are looking for volunteers who can make a casserole and bring it to our freezers located in the room outside the elevator in the lower level of the Rosemont Chapel. Casserole tins are available on the top of the freezers. Any home cooked casseroles must have a protein, i.e., meat and/or beans.

Please label and <u>date</u> your casserole with masking tape. If you have any questions, or need recipes for the casseroles, please contact Renee Massaua at <u>service@stvparish.org</u>.

PLEASE HELP US CELEBRATE OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



TARA PENZA

in honor of her RETIREMENT

Join us for the **REP CLOSING MASS**

Sunday, April 28th - 10:30am -Rosemont Chapel

Please join us after Mass in Harten Hall. for coffee, sweets and well wishes.

For questions or more information, email Coleen at admin.rep@stvparish.org.

AGELESS EXERCISE AT ST. THOMAS

Ageless Exercise, Inc., presents a unique exercise program for the young at heart consisting of range of motion, strength training, weight bearing exercises and balance challenges -- all done to upbeat, fun music! Therapy bands, hands free weights, and balls are used for strengthening and stretching muscles and for attaining range of motion movement. Weight bearing exercises to strengthen bones and the skeletal structure as well as

aerobic endurance are included in the weekly class.

The class is led by a Certified American Council on Exercise (ACE) Instructor. Come join us and learn about your body, have fun, and strengthen your muscles and bones.

Where: St. Thomas of Villanova Rosemont Auditorium

- When: Every Wednesday from 10:00-11:00am,
- **Cost:** \$6.00 for each class -- checks made payable to **Ageless Exercise**, **Inc.**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL Giving Hope 2024 Please Give Generously!



MANNA BAGS will be distributed at all of our Masses on the Weekend of May 11-12.

Kindly return your filled MANNA Bag (or your own grocery bags) on Saturday, May 18 or Sunday, May 19.

Canned food items in greatest need are: beef stew, tuna fish, fruit, vegetables, pasta, soups, and pork and beans.

If you are not able to bring a filled bag, feel free to donate online instead: <u>https://yougivegoods.com/mannadrive</u>

Thank you for reaching out to people in emergency situations.

MANNA PRAYER

Jesus, many times throughout Your life You fed hungry people and You called others to help.

You called the young child with the loaves and fishes to share his gifts. You call each one of us today.

Open our eyes to see the needs of others. Open our ears to hear your call to share. Open our hearts to welcome all people to the table of love.

Amen.

Faith Hope

INTERFAITH DINNER "Holy Days, Easter & Ramadan"

We look forward to seeing you at the Interfaith Dinner on Thursday, April 25th, 6:00pm-8:00pm. At St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Harten Hall

This event will give the opportunity to break bread together, share in conversation, and learn about each others' traditions and cultures.

We are having a potluck dinner.

To plan the program smoothly, please go to our website at www.stvparish.net and get more details, fill out the registration form and let us know what you would like to bring to the **potluck dinner**.

If you have any questions, please call the parish office at 610-525-4801.



Theology on Tap, April 26, 2024

Our speaker will be Maureen O'Connell, PhD, Professor of Christian Ethics at La Salle University and Director of Higher Education and Synod Engagement for Discerning Deacons, an international project to serve the current discernment about the renewal of the diaconate to include men and women. She will discuss our continuing journey toward becoming a listening Church through the worldwide Synod on Communion, Mission, and Participation currently unfolding at every level of the church, including our own parishes. She will also offer reflections on her work to create opportunities for young adults to engage to become protagonists in renewing the Church here in Philadelphia and across the U.S. Please RSVP to Megan: youth@styparish.org



St. Thomas of Villanova and Our Mother of Good Counsel Stewardship Camp.

This camp is for rising 6th graders through rising 8th graders. This year our camp will be held from June 24 through June 28, 2024. We will also be looking for high school students to be our counselors! Our sites this year include: One Love for Animals, Calvary Cemetery, Joy of Sox warehouse and, of course, Dorney Park!

To Sign up, please email:

<u>fl-youth@stvparish.org</u>. We have a limited number of spaces so be sure to sign up soon!

High School Seniors and Families -Please Join Us to Celebrate You!



Please come to the 5pm Mass in Rosemont on **Saturday, May 11th** for a special blessing during Mass. After Mass come to Harten Hall for a reception and light refreshments with your families. We hope to see you there! Please RSVP to Peggy at <u>fl-youth@stvparish.org</u>

St. Thomas of Villanova hosts a **FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP every Wednesday Evening at 7:00pm** in Harten Hall (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.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

"When the earthquake struck, the house started shaking, and it broke apart. We were scared and stayed outside the house for almost four months. Every hour, we would be waking up thinking, "Are we safe? Are we going to have another earthquake?" ~ Lal

More than 800,000 houses that were destroyed or damaged by the earthquake in Nepal. The government and various humanitarian organizations, including Catholic Relief Services (CRS), launched a massive relief and reconstruction effort to help those affected. When CRS visited Lal's village and determined his house was unsafe, he was enrolled on the most vulnerable list for his family's home to be rebuilt. CRS and local partners gave guidance and support by providing technical assistance, construction materials and skilled masons to build Lal's new home. Lal's family is 1 of approximately 4,000 families assisted by CRS after the 2015 earthquake in Nepal. Visit www.crs.org to see how you can help!

If you would like to get involved with CRS at the parish level, please email <u>service@stvparish.org</u> to find out more about our parish CRS chapter, a joint effort with our sister parish, St. Cyprian.



WHAT DOES GOD WANT YOU TO DO WITH THE LIFE GOD'S GIVEN TO YOU?

"Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; And only in prayer can they persevere and bear fruit." - 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.beafriar.org

NEW LENDING LIBRARY FOR CHILDREN

We now have a NEW Lending Library for Children during Mass at the Rosemont Chapel! Do your little ones need something to hold or do during Mass to keep focus? We love children at mass and want them to be here. To help the experience for families with young

children we have a new gold cart in the back of the church with Catholic themed items for the children to enjoy. Please take something during mass and return it when finished.



"Is it not sharing your bread with the hungry, bringing the afflicted and the homeless into your house; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn."

Isaiah 58:7-8

On any given day, more than 400 people are homeless in Montgomery County, and over 50% are families with children. Family Promise of the Main Line helps families experiencing homelessness achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response.

For 30 years, St. Thomas of Villanova parishioners have committed to providing safe shelter, a good meal and compassionate fellowship. Families in the Family Promise program reside every evening for 1 week at our Parish Center. The number of families in need is higher than ever, and we need 40 parish volunteers to support each host week. Even an hour of your time could make a real difference!

You Can Volunteer to Welcome Our Family Promise Guests! April 28 - May 5 | May 12 - 19 | September 8 - 15

DINNER PREPARER — 6:00PM — Deliver cooked dinner to the Parish Center

EVENING HOST — 6:00-9:00PM — Share dinner and fellowship with guests.

OVERNIGHT HOST — 9:00PM-6:00AM — Spend the night at the Parish Center

SET-UP — 1 hour — Set-up the bedrooms and living room

BREAKDOWN — 1 hour — Disassemble the bedrooms and living room

LAUNDRY — Flexible timing — Pick up and launder the linens used by the families.

Families with school-age children/teens are welcome. Training is provided. For more information, contact Renee Massaua at service@stvparish.org or call 610-525-4801 ext. 221.

As part of our parish outreach to the incarcerated, our 7th grade Confirmation students sent letters of hope and encouragement to prisoners all over the country through A.D.R.O.P.'s (Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor) prison ministry program. We have received many letters of gratitude from the prisoners. This is a letter from Jermaine who is incarcerated in Florida.

April 4, 2024

Dear Friends:

To Clara, her fellow students, and the organizers of the project that brought a smile to my face and joy to my day, please allow me to say thank you, thank you, <u>THANK YOU!!</u> For such a wonderful letter! Truly you have added something special to my day. I was so moved by your words of encouragement that I wanted to share it in hopes of inspiring this feeling of gratitude in others. So I made my way over to a table where a group of people were seated, extended my greetings, and asked if I could sit with them. "Yes, of course" answered one of the guys. "Is everything ok?" he asked. Oh, yeah I replied "just that I have a message that I believe was intended to reach each one of us." I began to read your letter and the joy, optimism and boost of morale I felt I saw they were experiencing, too. "A message from God!" someone exclaimed. "Brought to us by Clara, her fellow students, and the organizers of this wonderful project," I said agreeing.

God Bless! Love and Blessings, Jermaine You are invited to a Parish Forum on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 12:45pm at St. Thomas of Villanova's Harten Hall



"And Then There Was Light"

Have you ever wondered about those twinkling lights up in the night sky? Are you curious about the universe? Would you like to know what a star is and how it works? Do you know if black holes are really black?

Then, come to a presentation on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 12:45pm, after the 12:05 Mass in Harten Hall under the Rosemont Chapel.

Presenter: Paul Tierney

Paul is retired from a second career as a high school physics and astronomy teacher following over thirty years working in information technology for the aerospace industry. He is a long-time lector and with a partner conducts a Communion Service at The Mansion in Rosemont.

Paul has been an amateur astronomer for over 50 years. He has constructed a telescope and now has two telescopes that are used to see the sights of the night sky. His fascination is with the universe as a whole, as well as its stars and galaxies.

No RSVP is necessary. Bring your lunch; beverages provided. Bring your friends.

TOILETRY SAMPLES NEEDED

This is just a reminder that your toiletry samples are always needed for the homeless. Please drop off those miniature soaps,

shampoo, conditioner, lotions, and other toiletries to the Parish Center, and we will make sure they are delivered to those in need. Thank you.



Join us for Brown Bag Lunch and Movie

Monday, April 22nd at 12:30pm in Harten Hall under the Rosemont Chapel of St. Thomas of Villanova Parish

Synopsis:

This is an award-winning documentary focusing on the life experiences of Distinguished Flying Cross Recipient, WWII B-17 pilot and Pearl Harbot survivor, LTC William Bonelli, who reached his goal of seeing 100. it's about a soldiers luck, his reflections of hardship, loss and survival... and the triumph of love. It's storytelling delivered with heartfelt authenticity, while capturing the plight of one man's reconciliation with the life he lived — both within and outside of his military service.

Desserts, popcorn and drinks available. Bring your friends.



Attention parishioners! There are "lost and found" boxes in both churches. The one in Villanova is getting particularly full. It is on the right side of the church behind the last pew. If you are missing something, please take a look! In Rosemont the box is in the hallway near the restroom. Thank you.

May 3 rd -5 th Friday 6:00pm – Sunday 2:00pm	
Event: OMYA Young Adult Retreat with Fr. Steve DeLacy & Fr. Timothy Tarnacki, OSPPE	
Young Adults in their 20s & 30s are invited to Malvern Retreat House for a weekend retreat co-sponsored by the Office of Ministry for Young Adults. This retreat will explore the power of the liturgy and the Holy Eucharist to effect healing and transformation in our lives. This is a perfect opportunity to prepare for the 2024 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage passing through Philadelphia in June. The weekend will include Holy Mass, Confession, Eucharistic Adoration, fellowship, spiritual direction, exploration of the BI. Carlo Acutis Shrine and time for prayerful reflection amidst the peace and beauty of	2024 RED CR Monday 2:00 at St. Thom Harten Hall (F Please call 1- RedCrossB StThor to schedule A FEW MINUTE
Malvern Retreat House.	CAN S
 "Behold now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation!"- 2 Cor 6:2 Cost: \$175 (includes meals & lodging; scholarship is available) Location: St. Joseph's Hall, Malvern Retreat House, 	There is no substitute fo only supply of life-savi Donating is simple, fast, process can take as little but can make a lifelong of else. Please sign up too
Malvern, PA 19355 More Information: Please contact pland@malvernretreat.com or 484-321-2538	Give the gift o blood For questio



2024 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES Monday, May 20, 2024 2:00pm to 7:00pm at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Harten Hall (Rosemont Auditorium)

Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and Enter: StThomasRosemont to schedule an appointment.

A FEW MINUTES OUT OF YOUR DAY CAN SAVE A LIFE!

There is no substitute for blood. **Donors provide the only supply of life-saving blood for those in need**. Donating is simple, fast, and convenient. The donation process can take as little as 45 minutes of your time, but can make a lifelong difference for someone else. Please sign up today.

> Give the gift of life. Sign up to be a blood donor today! For questions about eligibility: call 1 800-RED-CROSS

If you're curious about sustainability but unsure what actionable steps you can take to make a difference, you won't want to miss Villanova University's inaugural <u>Lifelong Learning Speaker Series</u>! For those unable to join in-person, this event will also be livestreamed.

Campus Kickoff of the Lifelong Learning Speaker Series: Pathways to an Ethos of Sustainable Living

Ápril 24, 2024 - 6:00-8:30pm Villanova Room, Connelly Center Villanova University

Keynote speaker Laura Tenenbaum, an award-winning innovator in science and climate communication, will share her expertise on how each of us can achieve the "ethos" of sustainable living by leaning into our communities and one another. Advance registration is needed on Villanova University Lifelong Learning event website.