SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA CHURCH

An Augustinian, Roman Catholic Parish 1229 E Lancaster Ave., Rosemont, PA 19010 www.stvparish.net

Office Telephone: 610-525-4801 Fax: 610-525-6041 A Stewardship Community - Sharing our Time, Talent and Treasure

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THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 21, 2024



SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Matrimony: Please call the Parish Center to make arrangements to meet with a parish priest at least 12 months prior to the wedding date.

Reconciliation: Saturday after the 9:00am Liturgy in Rosemont Chapel, First Fridays after 12:05 Mass or call the Parish Center to make an appointment.

Anointing of the Sick: We are happy to offer many support services to the sick and homebound. Visits are made by the Pastoral Staff and Eucharistic Ministers to homes and hospital care facilities. Call the Parish Center to make arrangements.

Baptism: Baptisms are celebrated each month, except during Lent. Call the Parish Center to make arrangements and to receive materials.

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation): Please contact us for information on becoming a Catholic or completing your Sacraments. We can be reached at RCIA@stvparish.org.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 7:30am, 10:30am Villanova Church **Rosemont Chapel**

#225

Saturday: 9:00am Vigil Mass: 5:00pm

Sunday: 9:00am

Daily Mass: Mon–Fri: 12:05pm

Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day Mass: 9:00am

PARISH CENTER SCHEDULE

MONDAY — THURSDAY 9:00am - 4:30pm FRIDAY HOURS are 9:00am-1:00pm. The Parish Center is closed from 12:00pm-1:00pm; Monday-Thursday.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 21, 2024



Scripture Reflection...

The word of the Lord comes to Jonah with a message for Nineveh, Israel's mortal enemy. Much to the prophet's chagrin, the people of Nineveh heeded the message, believed in God, and proclaimed a fast. The incongruities of the story are striking. First and most important, God is concerned with the salvation of a nation other than Israel. Second, the city renowned for its wickedness repented of its sins as soon as it heard the proclamation. Third, the comprehensiveness of the spirit of repentance was exceeded only by its geographic breadth. All people, great and small, put on the garments of penance. Even the worst sinners can repent and be made new.

The psalm response opens with a prayer for divine guidance in one's style of life. The psalmist first asks for insight into God's saving ways, presumably in order to sing God's praises and to offer thanks for God's goodness. Covenant language—compassion and lovingkindness—is very strong in the second stanza (vv.6-7). The psalm is speaking of God's remembrance of covenant commitment and not of the psalmist's former sins. This plea that God remember may be the psalmist's way of asking for God's forgiveness. Both sinners and the humble are taught the way of the Lord, the way that God acts toward people's loyalty and infidelity. The psalmist ends with a prayer: Teach me your ways.

Paul is teaching about the endtime. Unlike the regular unfolding of time (*chrónos*), this time is of the greatest theological significance (*kairós*). It refers to decisive moments, those that mark the inbreaking of God's action. It is frequently the time of fulfillment, of divine revelation. The normal priorities of life must give way to very different behavior, a way of living and acting that is extraordinary. Paul suggests that the *kairós* is fast approaching, but has not yet arrived. He advises the Christians to live in the present age as though it had already come. Time is running out and the world as they know it is passing away. Paul wants them to be ready for Christ's return.

The failure of Israel's monarchy prompted the people to look to the future, to a time when a king who was totally faithful to God would establish God's kingdom. Jesus inaugurates his ministry with the bold declaration: The kingdom of God is at hand! The time (*kairós*) has arrived. After this initial announcement, Jesus issues a call for repentance. Just like the prophets of old, he calls for a change of heart, a return to God. Jesus then calls the fishermen Simon, Andrew, James, and John. He summons them to follow him, to cast their nets and together gather up other followers. The abruptness with which they respond to him is an indication of the radical nature of life in the kingdom of God.

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Stewardship Thought for the Week

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."-Mark 1:17

Jesus' call to "follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule, but that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

Readings for the Week:

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Mk 3:22-30 Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12B-15; Mk 3:31-35 Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20 Thursday: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22;

Mk 16:15-18

Friday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5;

Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17;

Mk 4:35-41

Sunday: Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35;

Mk 1:21-28



Mon., Jan. 22nd

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children 12:05PM-RMCH

For the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Tues., Jan. 23rd

Weekday; Saint Vincent; Saint Marianne Cope

12:05PM-RMCH Wed., Jan. 24th 12:05PM-RMCH

John & Margaret Gallagher Saint Francis de Sales Br. Edward Gallagher, F.S.C. -Edward & Barbara McDade

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

The Conversion of St. Paul Edward Powers - Ted & Lori Powers **Saint Timothy and Saint Titus** Catherine Graham -

Sat., Jan. 27th

Jim & Ann Costello Weekday; Saint Angela Merici

9:00AM-RMCH 5:00PM-RMCH Sun., Jan. 28th 7:30AM-VNCH 9:00AM-RMCH 10:30AM-VNCH

Gregg Mervine - Connie Mervine **Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time** For the Parishioners of St. Thomas Edward P. Farley - Family Gregory Trosset -George & Cathy Van Kula



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY NEWS

Thursday, February 8th is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of the victims of human trafficking and is one of the special days of prayer promoted by Pope Francis on the Church's calendar. Villanova University will be marking this date to increase public awareness of this grave social sin with a Movie and Panel discussion in the Connelly Center Cinema at 7:00pm.

On the panel will be a victim of trafficking, the director of Dawn's Place, a refuge for victims, the university representative to the National Alliance Against Trafficking and a representative of the Law School's Institute Against Sexual Exploitation.

All are invited to participate.

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



10:00AM

Monday, January 22, 2024

Rosemont Care Ministry

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Weekly Scripture Class - PC1 10:00AM 1:00PM Staff Meeting Rosemont Care Center Mass 2:00PM

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

10:00AM Exercise Class - Harten Hall Religion Education Classes 4:45PM Family Support Group - Harten Hall 7:00PM

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Walking with Purpose - Harten Hall 9:00AM Walking with Purpose - PC1 7:00PM Handbell Practice - RMCH 7:15PM

Friday, January 26, 2024

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Religious Education Classes 10:10AM Mansion at Rosemont Service 11:00AM Catechist Lynch & Workshop — Harten Hall 12:00PM 7th & 8th Grade Youth Group at STV 3:00PM High School Youth Group at STV 4:30PM

HOME VISITS

Would you like Holy Communion brought to you in your home? Please call our parish office to schedule a visit.



2023 Contribution Statements

This year we are not automatically mailing the 2023 Contribution Statements to all parishioners. If you would like to receive a 2023 Statement, please email bizmgr@stvparish.org or call the parish office at 610-525-4801, and we will be happy to email, mail or you can pick up one in the office. Statements will be available beginning February 1, 2024.



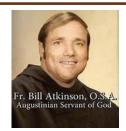
We wish a warm welcome to the newest members of our parish:

John & Autumn Lincoln & Family of Wayne Lee and Lauren Zoeller & Family of Wayne

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., Martin Gollin, Patricia Ann Harley, Joe Hopko, Sam Horsey, Bridget Kelly, Sara Keohane, Kelly Clarke, Ashley Lythgoe, Pamela LaMonaca, Mary Moran, Bruno Petrillo, Bill Riley, Michael Salucci, Theresa Sherwin, Terry Sousa 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.



FR. BILL ATKINSON MEMORIAL

The plans for a memorial burial site for Servant of God, Fr. Bill Atkinson, O.S.A. I in the Villanova church are moving forward. A design has been made to place this site in the niche opposite the Blessed Sacrament with the picture of Our Mother of Good Counsel. The Augustinians, in collaboration with the St. Jude Shop, have begun a campaign to raise the funds needed for this memorial for which the materials and workmanship ill be costly. Therefore, we are seeking donations to assist the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova in this endeavor. If you would like to contribute. please indicate on your donation "for the Fr. Bill Atkinson memorial." Currently, he has been designated "Servant of God" and the next step is "Blessed" on the way to "Saint." Thank you for any assistance you may provide.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

PRAYER LINE

The parish prayer line is waiting for your prayer requests. Please contact stvprayerline1@gmail.com 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, February 18th. 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 suzannefoley@yahoo.com or Renee Massaua at service@stvparish.org.

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

STV's Centering Prayer Group meets in person every Monday, including holidays, at 8 AM in the Rosemont Chapel. Mask-wearing is optional.

Centering Prayer is a method of meditation used by Christians placing a strong emphasis on interior silence, which takes 20 minutes. Thomas Keating offers a detailed description of the process in a you-tube clip at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FWvxwfN_CE. All are welcome.

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

A special thank you to Susan Gaffney and Donna Shovlin For their donations of roses to Honor Mary. One deep red bouquet and one red bouquet with a hint of pink.



The rose is mentioned in Solomon's love poem, the Song of Songs. So it was natural that Christian devotion in East and West should use the rose as a symbol of the beauty and attractive power of the Mother of God. Then, in the Christian West, the recitation of Mary's Psalter—that is, of the 150 Hail Marys in honor of the mysteries of her life and that of her Divine Son—was popularly called a *rosarium*, that is, a rose garden. From this we get the name of the rosary. This was popularized by Bl. Alan de la Roche, who was the Dominican friar who most of all preached the devotion to the holy rosary and the formation of confraternities to promote it.

Weekly Scripture Classes

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 ignorance of scripture is to be ignorant of Christ."

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

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

CRS Spotlight

As a new congressional session begins and lawmakers reassess their priorities for the year, now is the time to ensure your members know you care about communities impacted by hunger and climate change. Congress can and must help address global food insecurity and the impacts of climate change by passing a new Farm Bill that strengthens critical international food assistance programs. 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 service@stvparish.org to find out more about our parish CRS chapter, a joint effort with our sister parish, St. Cyprian.

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.

<u>2024 MASS BOOK</u>

Our 2024 MASS BOOK is now open.
The donation for each Mass is still \$10.00.
You can make arrangements for an
Announced Mass at the Parish Center.



8. Afterward



Afterward, don't just rush off out of the Church. Take some moments inside to reflect on what just happened. Was there anything that struck you? How should this change your life? Is there anything you need to do to change? You could reflect on this at home if that is better for you. Don't be afraid to introduce yourself to the priest afterward.

9. Finally- Don't Expect Perfection

Sometimes when we go to Mass, things don't go as well as we would wish. In an ideal world, the congregation at Mass would be full of life and joy, the priest would give an inspirational homily and everyone would go away feeling completely one with God.

But other times Mass can feel different; others around us may look bored, still half asleep, the priest may give a lackluster homily. Regardless of your experience of Mass, remember this -Christ is truly and objectively present in the Mass. He is not limited by our human imperfections. He still wants to be with us, in every part of our lives, even when Mass may feel disappointing. *Christ is still there*, even if it feels like others are not truly present themselves. A strong familiarity with the Mass can sadly lead to tedium or apathy if we are not careful, but remember that Christ is still deeply interested in us and He does not stop gently calling us to deeper participation in the Mass. He came to bind the wounded and gather us all up together in Him. Focus on giving your all to the Mass, making connections if you can with those around you, and remember, Mass is an act of faith. Don't worry if you don't *feel* anything, but please be assured that Christ is delighted to see you back and so are we.

Lent is just around the corner, starting next week, WHAT SHOULD I DO FOR LENT? Pope Francis' 10 tips!

As part of our parish Care for Creation Ministry, there are two upcoming programs of interest:

Wednesday, January 31st at 1:00pm.
'Exploring Climate anxiety Through the Lens of Laudate Deum'.

This event will be held at the Connelly Center on Villanova's campus in the Villanova Room. The program is hosted by Villanova's Office os Sustainability in Mission and Ministry, in collaboration with Merrimack College.

Saturday, February 24th
St. Thomas of Villanova Parish
will host the EcoPhilly Annual
Conference.

This is always a popular, lively, and inspiring meeting. The session will focus on "Laudato Si' and Care for Creation initiatives. Topics Include: composting and sustainability, protecting biodiversity and environmental justice. The program will be held in Harten Hall from 9:00am to 12:30pm - lunch is provided. All are welcome to attend.

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISHIONERS

are invited to

Take to the Ice at the

Philadelphia Skating Club



Enjoy twirling and gliding on the ice on Saturday — February 17, 2024 from 5:30pm-7:30pm

Skate with your family at the famous Philadelphia Skating Club (incorporated in 1861) located at 220 Holland Ave., Ardmore, PA 19003

Pizza and drinks will be provided. Bring a finger dessert / snack to share. You can bring your own skates. Skate rentals are available (\$4). Questions or to RSVP, contact Kathy at office@styparish.org or call 610-525-4801.



Theology on Tap is back!

All young adults are invited to join us in February for Theology on Tap.

Friday, February 9th, 7:30pm-9:30pm at Iron Hill Brewery in Ardmore, PA

Our speaker will be Fr. Stephen Thorne, Chair of the Archbishop's Commission on Racial Healing. Please join us for this fun and important event. All are welcome!

You must RSVP for this event as space is limited.
Please email Megan at youth@stvparish.org

A gentle reminder to all of our wonderful parishioners, let us all be good stewards to work together to keep our churches looking beautiful. Please remember to place the gathering books and supplemental Augustinian binders neatly back into the hymnal racks at the end of Mass.

Thank you.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL





2024 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES Tuesday, February 13, 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

MASS AND BASKETBALL

All young adults are invited to join us on **Sunday, January 21, 2024** for Mass and Basketball! Join us at the 10:30am Mass on campus followed by a Villanova Women's Basketball game at the Finneran Pavilion.

Here is the link for ordering tickets:

Promo Code: STVPARISH

This link is also on our website.

Go Wildcats!!

SECOND GRADE TEACHER NEEDED

St. Francis de Sales Elementary School is located at 917 S. 47th Street in West Philadelphia. It was established by the IHM Sisters to fully educate children in Catholic tradition. The school educates children of all nationalities and faiths.

Our parish has a group of parishioners who work with students every Tuesday. The tutors LOVE this very special school.

Principal Sr. Mary McNulty, IHM is in need of a 2nd grade teacher. If you or anyone you know might be interested contact Sr. Mary at 215-387-1749.

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, canned chicken, cold cereal, oatmeal, pasta and pasta sauce, rice, stew, chili and soup, toilet paper and diapers.

Food may be dropped off Monday-Thursday, 9:00am to 4:30pm and on Fridays from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Please drop off at the Parish Center and on weekends to the back of the Rosemont Chapel (around Mass times when the Church is open.)

Please be mindful of expiration dates. We cannot deliver food items which are past their expiration dates. Thank you.

If you would rather not shop, please know that financial contributions are welcome and will allow parish volunteers to buy items for the parish food closet that directly benefit the food pantry at our sister parish, St. Cyprian. You may either send a check made out to St. Thomas of Villanova (with "Parish Food Closet" on the memo line) to the parish office or drop a check in the collection basket. Electronic contributions are also an option via the parish website.

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.

Now Through February 18th



This year, we are collecting items for our veterans through the Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service Center.

ITEMS NEEDED:

ADULT CLOTHING: Belts, gloves, ponchos, men's T-shirts/undershirts, men's and women's underwear, shower shoes/flip flops, shorts and sweatpants.

FOOD/DRINK ITEMS: Bottled water and other individual drinks, coffee and powdered creamer, fruit cups, granola/protein bars, snack size items (crackers/chips/etc.), microwavable meals, small value gift cards (Wawa, supermarkets, etc.) and tea bags.

PAPER PRODUCTS: Dryer sheets, Lysol wipes, plates, cups, napkins, paper towels, plastic ware, and tissues.

ADULT PERSONAL PRODUCTS/TOILETRIES: Hair brushes (for natural hair), hand warmers, laundry detergent pods, disposable and shaving razors, shower towels and wash cloths, travel size toiletries (body wash, toothbrush, deodorant, toothpaste, soap, lotion), full size lotion, full size women's hair products (for natural hair), and reusable or drawstring bags.

Please drop off donations (Marked "Hugs for Heroes") at the Parish Center during the week or at the Rosemont Chapel on weekends (during liturgies). All contributions will be sent to the Multi-Service Center the week of Valentine's Day. For questions, please contact Renee Massaua at 610-525-4801, ext 221, or service@stvparish.org.



RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program will be held February 16 - 18, 2024 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Join us for Brown Bag Lunch and Lecture



Monday February 12 at 12:30pm in Harten Hall under the Rosemont Chapel of St. Thomas of Villanova Parish 1229 E Lancaster Ave, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Lecture: Palliative Care and Hospice - What Is the Difference?

How is care provided and by whom. More importantly, how Palliative Care

and Hospice help us.

Speaker: Terre Mirsch, Executive Director of Main Line Health and Hospice

Bring your lunch and your friends. Coffee and desserts provided.

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 service@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: \$15 for four classes--checks made payable to Ageless Exercise, Inc.

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