

# THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME NOVEMBER 17, 2024



## A Note from Fr. Joe.....

As promised last weekend when I spoke at all the Masses, I'm providing here a more detailed explanation and outline of the plan I discussed, including complete Mass schedules. As I noted, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has been examining and planning for the future of parish ministry over the past 18 months – and on January 4-5, 2025 a letter from Archbishop Perez will be read to the entire Archdiocese unveiling the way forward. The key word he repeatedly emphasizes is **collaboration**. This is especially the case for working in tandem with neighboring parishes. It seems only natural then that we would **build on efforts for ongoing collaboration with our Augustinian sister parish – Our Mother of Good Counsel (OMGC) – just down the road**. Among other things, we already share a Youth & Young Adult Minister, as well as participation in the Catholic Youth Organization and events, such as the Fall Festival and Breakfast with Santa. Fr. Joe Mostardi, O.S.A., pastor of OMGC, and I will explore other areas, along with our Pastoral Councils and Staffs, but have agreed that the next step is to ensure that we avoid any overlap in our Mass schedules and provide a variety of times to our parishioners. We currently both have a Saturday 5:00pm Vigil Mass and a Sunday 7:30am Mass. **So, effective the weekend of January 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>**, we will be moving our St. Thomas of Villanova Saturday Vigil Mass in Rosemont from 5:00pm to 4:30pm – and OMGC will be moving their Sunday 7:30am Mass to 8:00am. **Here is what the complete Mass schedule will look like at both parishes:**

### St. Thomas of Villanova Parish

Saturday Vigil – 4:30pm - Rosemont Chapel  
Sunday – 7:30am - Villanova Church  
9:00am - Rosemont Chapel  
10:30am - Villanova Church

(In addition, University led Masses at 5pm, 7pm, & 9pm at the Villanova Church, when the University is in session)

### Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish

Saturday Vigil – 5:00pm  
Sunday – 8:00am  
10:00am  
11:30am  
7:00pm

We have ensured, as well, that there will be no overlap in our Christmas and New Year's Mass schedules – again, affording our parishioners and visitors a variety of opportunities. The one change of note for our parish is that **the 4:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve at the Rosemont Chapel will move to 4:30pm**. This actually has to do more with avoiding any overlap within our own parish, as there also is a 4:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve at the Villanova Church, which by all reports was very overcrowded last year; thus, we want to ensure the safety of everyone. Moving the Rosemont Chapel Mass from 4:00pm to 4:30pm potentially will provide another reasonable option and help with any overflow. If it becomes too crowded, we can use livestream in Harten Hall below the Chapel. In addition, OMGC's first Christmas Eve Mass will be at 5:00pm. **So, here is what the complete Christmas and New Year's schedule will look like at both parishes:**

### St. Thomas of Villanova Parish

Christmas Eve – 4:00pm - Villanova Church  
4:30pm - Rosemont Chapel  
6:00pm - Villanova Church  
10:30pm Villanova Church  
(Music Prelude at 10:00pm)  
Christmas Day – 10:30am Villanova Church

### Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish

Christmas Eve – 5:00pm  
9:00pm  
Christmas Day - 8:00am  
10:00am

New Year's Eve (Solemnity of Mary Mother of God)  
5:30pm Vigil Rosemont Chapel  
New Year's Day – 9:00am Rosemont Chapel

5:00pm Vigil  
10:00am

**Our parish, of course, also will continue to build on efforts for ongoing collaboration with Villanova University – a vital part of our Augustinian Community on the Main Line.** Our joint Advent Communal Reconciliation Service will be on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Villanova Church, with the University in the lead.

**Finally, please let me reemphasize that the overall goal in all of this is to collaborate, avoiding duplication of effort and any overlap in schedules. It is not a consolidation or a merger of our parishes.** But Fr. Joe Mostardi and I welcome our parishioners availing themselves of opportunities for worship and events at OMGC and St. Thomas. Mass schedules for both our parishes will be included in each of our weekly bulletins and we will cooperate in sending back and forth envelopes that belong to the respective parish, keeping our finances distinct. To paraphrase Fr. Joe from his note to OMGC, he and I 'will strive to keep our Augustinian charism of community and hospitality as a cornerstone of what has been our tradition for years...and we will keep our unique chemistry intact in both parishes, while sharing with each other sacramental, spiritual, educational, and social opportunities.' We look forward to doing so in ever new and exciting ways, as we accomplish the goal of collaboration envisioned in Archdiocesan planning for the future of parish ministry.

Thank you and God Bless! Fr. Joe