

Welcome to the ministries of St. Thomas of Villanova Parish!

Please take the time to experience who we are as a parish, committed to sharing our time, talent and treasure. This is manifest in the work of our community. We present you with the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the work and ministries that are rooted in the charism of St. Thomas of Villanova, our patron, who loved and served the Church and was intimately connected with society.

We invite you prayerfully to discern how you can use your gifts in service to God and our community.

Table of Contents

Parish Mission Statement	Page 3
Parish Goals	Page 3
Registering as a Parishioner	Page 3
Sacramental Information	Page 4
Contact Information	Page 5
Preschool Information	Page 6
What is my Ministry?	Page 8
Stewardship Ministries	Pages 9 -15

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

St. Thomas of Villanova Parish 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 the Christ and strive to love and experience God through worship, social justice, education, and evangelization.

PARISH GOALS

To achieve the mission of the parish, the resources of the parish are focused on achieving each of the following goals:

- To model and live stewardship in all aspects of our parish and to challenge a fuller commitment by the parish community to embrace stewardship as a way of life.
- To enhance the level of faith understanding within our parish community through education at all levels.
- To bring our everyday experiences to the source and summit of our Christian life, the liturgy, in order to foster awareness of the vision necessary to respond to the heartfelt needs of the world.
- To strengthen the sense of community within the parish and to create an atmosphere of Catholic Christian fellowship, welcome and love at all times.
- To transform the hearts and minds of our parish community so that we can be a powerful force for bringing about a kingdom of love and justice.

REGISTERING AS A PARISHIONER

All parishes in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia have boundaries. St. Thomas of Villanova's boundaries are: *Old Gulph Rd. from Matsonford Rd. to Roberts Rd. to Robinhood Rd to Yorkshire Rd to Wyldhaven Rd. to Marlbridge Way to Ithan Ave to Clyde Rd to Sproul Rd. to Chandler Rd. to Sproul Rd. to Conestoga Rd. to Radnor-Chester Rd. to Matsonford Rd. to Old Gulph Rd.*

If you live within these boundaries and would like to register in the parish, please come to the Parish Center or call 610-525-4801 to make other arrangements.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Pastoral Staff and Eucharistic Ministers visit the sick and homebound. Due to privacy laws, please contact the parish to advise if anyone is in need of these services, as hospitals and health facilities will not.

BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated each month, except during Lent. Baptism dates and class dates are listed on the parish website. Call the Parish Center to receive the Baptismal packet and arrange a Baptism date.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is celebrated each year in the spring. Eligible candidates are baptized Catholic children in grade 6 and higher. Please contact the Religious Education Department for details.

EUCHARIST

Eucharist is celebrated according to the liturgy schedule. The Pastor and Eucharistic Ministers visit and bring Holy Communion to the homebound on a regular basis. Please call the Parish Center to have Holy Communion brought to anyone who may be homebound due to illness, disability or other conditions.

MATRIMONY

Please call the Parish Center to make arrangements at least eight months prior to the expected wedding date.

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is celebrated in the Rosemont Chapel on first Fridays after the 12:05 p.m. Mass and on Saturdays after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Communal services and additional times are offered during Advent and Lent. Please call the Parish Center to make special arrangements, if need be.

R.C.I.A. (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)

Each year adults are initiated or brought into full communion with the Catholic Church. R.C.I.A. fosters a learning and loving process supporting the conversion of the heart. Please contact Deacon Don DiCarlo for additional information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Center	610-525-4801	
Parish Center Fax	610-525-6041	
Pastor <i>Father Joe Narog, OSA</i>	Ext 210	pastor@stvparish.org
Parochial Vicar <i>Father Art Johnson, OSA</i>	Ext 206	pv@stvparish.org
Deacon <i>Don DiCarlo</i>	Ext 200	deacon@stvparish.org
Administrative Assistant/Receptionist <i>Kathy Roethlein</i>	Ext 200	office@stvparish.org
Administrative Assistant <i>Jeanmarie Lorello</i>	Ext 208	admin@stvparish.org
Business Manager <i>Karen Farley</i>	Ext 202	bizmgr@stvparish.org
Director of Christian Service/Family Life <i>Anne Murphy</i>	Ext 205	service@stvparish.org
Director of Liturgy <i>Alice Obarski</i>	Ext 203	liturgy@stvparish.org
Director of Maintenance <i>Charlie Gilmore</i>	Ext 201	maintenance@stvparish.org
Director of Music <i>Don Giannella</i>		don.giannella@villanova.edu
Director of Religious Education <i>Dr. Ernie Sherretta</i>	Ext 204	rel.ed@stvparish.org
Religious Education Secretary <i>Helen Savini</i>	Ext 211	savini@stvparish.org
Director of Weddings <i>Patty Greenhalgh</i>	Ext 217	weddings@stvparish.org
Parish Nurse <i>Mary Kate McCauley</i>	Ext 209	nurse@stvparish.org
Pastoral Visitor to the Sick and Homebound <i>Denise DiCarlo</i>	Ext 225	p.care@stvparish.org

PRESCHOOL INFORMATION

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PRESCHOOL "MARY'S HOUSE"

1236 Montrose Ave., Rosemont, PA 19010

Phone: 610-525-7554

Director: Mary Kurek, stv.maryshouse1@gmail.com

Preschool Website: www.stvpreschool.org

At "Mary's House," the preschool provides a positive, Catholic early educational experience for 2, 3, 4 and 5-year-old children. Through the guidance and dedication of our faculty and staff, we work together to build a safe and loving environment that encourages socialization, creativity, experimentation and an eagerness to play and learn. We admit students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities made available to the children at our school.

Classes Available:

Three-day classes for ages 3, 4 and 5

Five-day classes for ages 3, 4 and 5

School Hours:

8:20 a.m.-11:45 a.m. with extended day hours for early arrival (7:30 a.m.) and late pickup (5:45 p.m.)

Me and You Toddler Two's is a program for parents and their young children who will turn two before or during the session they are registered for. Each child is accompanied by a parent or caregiver for a weekly one hour class on Wednesday mornings from 9:30am to 10:30am. The goal of this program is to help the children with independence, self-help skills and to foster their social development. Three sessions are offered during the school year. Each session consists of 8 weeks. Additional information is available upon request.



WHAT IS MY MINISTRY?

This guide for personal reflection is offered to help you think about that question. This can be used for an individual, a couple or a family. We invite you to reproduce this tool as needed.

Please take a few moments to reflect on the following passage before thinking about each of the questions.

You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. **You are the light of the world.** A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, **your light must shine** before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father. (Matthew 5:13-16)

My light shines in St. Thomas of Villanova Parish by _____

_____.

I season other people's lives by _____.

I am good at _____.

I enjoy _____.

I would like to try to _____.

I like helping people by _____.

I would like to serve our parish community by _____.

May your reflection and the answers to these questions help you as you prayerfully read this Stewardship Book. Then please be sure to follow-up with contact persons for ministries in which you are interested in sharing your time and talent.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

ADMINISTRATIVE

Contact: Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

OFFICE ASSISTANT

A volunteer helps to answer the phone. Some computer knowledge is needed for assistance during staff meetings and special events. The time commitment is approximately two or three hours, twice a month.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Contact: Director of Religious Education

BIBLE STUDY FACILITATORS

Volunteers assist in leading small Bible study groups. Length and dates of the sessions are designed according to the participants' schedule. The meetings can be held in the Parish Center or a parishioner's home. Training and materials are provided.

FAITH-SHARING DISCUSSION GROUP FACILITATORS

Volunteers assist in leading faith sharing using program materials, spiritual books or other approved materials. Participants will determine the schedule of times and dates as well as the location. Training and resources are provided.

MEN'S MONTHLY GATHERING

Contact: Rev. Joseph L. Narog, O.S.A.

Men in the parish meet the third week of each month (September–June) at 6:30 a.m. in the Rosemont Chapel for Mass or a Communion Service followed by fellowship and occasional speakers in the Parish Auditorium.

R.C.I.A. CATECHISTS

Contact: Deacon Don DiCarlo

Parishioners who join the R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) team guide and teach other adults interested in becoming Catholics. Sessions are conducted in small groups and are held periodically at the Parish Center and scheduling is flexible. Training and resources are provided.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – WALKING WITH PURPOSE

Contact: Karen Farley

Women in the Walking With Purpose (WWP) Bible study meet in the Parish Auditorium on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m. or Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. for fellowship and Bible study from September–May. (No actual walking involved!)

CHRISTIAN SERVICE MINISTRY

Contact: Director of Christian Service

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Buyers, wrappers, sellers and delivery people are needed for this ministry. During the Advent season, parishioners make donations by purchasing Advent angels after each liturgy. Volunteer buyers then purchase specific gifts for parishioners in five inner-city parishes. Costs are fully covered. Gifts are wrapped during pre-scheduled times. Wrapping sessions are usually 2 1/2 hours long. On the last Sunday of Advent, volunteers drive and deliver the Christmas gifts to the inner-city parishes.

ALLELUIA MINISTRY

Serve as a hospitality ministers to Welcome parishioners, extended families and guests to Easter Liturgy. (Whatever Mass you plan to attend)

BLOODMOBILE

The American Red Cross holds a bi-annual bloodmobile event at the parish. Volunteers are needed to coordinate and assist with the event and makes phone calls to donors.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD

The parish is a member of Bread for the World, a nationwide Christian movement that seeks justice for the world's hungry people by lobbying the nation's decision makers. Parishioners participate in a letter-writing campaign in June. Teens and adults are needed to distribute packets and staff tables to encourage participation at the liturgies.

BUTTERFLY BLESSING

Parishioners Knit or crochet baby blankets, hats, lap blankets (for wheelchairs) for children at local children's hospitals. You make as many baby gifts as you can at home.

CAP MINISTRY

CAP (College Application Process) volunteers mentor juniors and seniors of our sister parish through the common application process and college essays. This short-term ministry is held in June and July.

CASSEROLES FOR ST. JOHN'S HOSPICE

Volunteers prepare casseroles each month. Suggested recipes are available, and the casseroles can be dropped off at the Parish Center. The casseroles are picked up by the staff of St. John's Hospice, a shelter and meal center for transient men in Philadelphia.

CRADLES TO CRAYONS

Parish volunteers go to the Cradles to Crayons' warehouse in Conshohocken throughout the year to sort and process new or nearly new children's items donated by the local community. Volunteers package items that are distributed to disadvantaged children in a five-county area through a collaborative network of social service agencies and school partners.

DAY OF SERVICE – MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY

On Martin Luther King Day, parishioners participate in a full day of service projects in the Parish Auditorium and in outreach events all over Philadelphia. Activities include a children's global craft fair, several outreach trips as well as fellowship activities that bring together teenage parishioners with teens from the inner city for lunch and stewardship projects.

DAY OF SERVICE WITH VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

Parishioners work on-site at the parish or off-site with Villanova students one Saturday in September.

DINNERS TO THE DOORSTEP

Volunteers make dinners for fellow parishioners who have welcomed a new baby or who are in crisis. The volunteers then deliver the dinners to the families' homes. Two parish coordinators call volunteers as needed.

ESL

The ESL (English as a Second Language) program pairs volunteer tutors with adult immigrants seeking to gain English language skills to better prepare them for learning and job skills. The commitment includes a three-hour training course and a weekly, three-hour tutoring session with a client in a convenient location.

FEED THE HUNGRY

Volunteers serve dinner on the first Saturday of every other month from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County in Upper Darby. Volunteers also can prepare food that will be taken to the Life Center, including meat, potatoes, dessert and pre-made, wrapped sandwiches.

FOOD DRIVE COORDINATORS

Volunteers needed to organize and deliver large food collections in the parish. Canned food deliveries will be made to our sister parish in West Philadelphia.

GOOD STEWARDS CAMP

The Good Stewards Camp is a week-long, parish camp held from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in June. It is open to students in grades 6, 7 and 8. Students learn about stewardship, homelessness and social justice issues. The week ends with a trip to Dorney Park. Parishioners in grades 9-12 serve as counselors during this week.

HOLIDAY HUGS FOR HEROES

Volunteers pack and mail a collection of personal items, CDs and phone cards to military personnel serving overseas. The drive begins in mid-January and ends in February.

HONICKMAN MINISTRY

Parish volunteers tutor adults who are striving to reach personal goals such as obtaining a GED, learning to read or write or improving basic computer skills. Training and materials are provided. Volunteers assist on Wednesdays from 10:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Honickman Center in North Philadelphia. Volunteers carpool from the Parish Center and return by 2:00 p.m.

INNKEEPERS MINISTRY

Serve as a hospitality ministers to Welcome parishioners, extended families and guests to Christmas Liturgy. (Whatever Mass you plan to attend)

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Every 10 weeks, the parish hosts homeless families for a one-week stay in the Parish Center. Overnight hosts, cooks, dinner hosts and furniture movers are needed. The families move in on a Sunday afternoon and leave the following Sunday afternoon. Movers are needed for light lifting and moving during these Sunday hours. Parishioners prepare meals each night for the families, and two parishioners stay overnight to accommodate the families as needed.

JOY OF SOX

The Joy of Sox, a non-profit, public charity based in Philadelphia, provides socks for the homeless. Parishioners are needed to help with office management; computer skills are helpful since this ministry can be done at home. Volunteers also assist with sorting and coordinating the delivery of donated socks.

KIDS CARE CAMP

Kids Care Camp, a week-long, parish camp held from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in July, teaches stewardship principles to children in grades 3, 4 and 5. Parishioners in grades 9-12 serve as counselors during this week.

LAZARUS MINISTRY

Volunteers serve as acolytes at funeral liturgies and host an annual Mass of Remembrance. A parish coordinator calls volunteers, as needed, for funerals.

PARISH FOOD CUPBOARD

Parishioners help to maintain the food donations for the parish food cupboard in the Parish Auditorium. Volunteers help to sort and deliver canned food donations that are given to the parish throughout the year.

PARKING MINISTRY

A group of parishioners facilitate parking outside of the Rosemont Chapel during large Liturgical celebrations.

PRAYER LINE

As part of a phone and/or email chain, volunteers are contacted to pray for special intentions and assist those in need of special prayers.

PROJECT H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Everyday)

H.O.P.E. Volunteers drive parishioners weekly for medical appointments and food marketing. The hours are flexible, and volunteers assist once a month or more.

SHARE THE HARVEST

Parishioners are needed to grow or purchase fresh fruit and vegetables throughout July, August and September. Drivers are needed to deliver the produce to the food cupboard at our sister parish in Philadelphia.

ST. FRANCES CABRINI MENTORS

Teens and adults work as one-on-one mentors for the children of this regional school in West Philadelphia, every Tuesday from 2:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Volunteers help students with their homework. No experience is necessary, and transportation can be provided.

ST. FRANCIS INN MINISTRY

Parishioners serve mid-day meals to several hundred impoverished families at St. Francis Inn in Kensington on the third Sunday of the month throughout the year. Volunteers leave from the Rosemont Chapel after the 9:00 a.m. liturgy and return at approximately 2:00 p.m.

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA/OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Parishioners join fellow committee members from Our Mother of Good Counsel, a neighboring Augustinian parish in Bryn Mawr, to encourage the parish communities to act both in direct ministry and advocacy to bring about social justice. Committee members meet monthly to plan and implement peace and justice ministries for both parishes including prayer, Bible study, speakers and presentations.

TURKEYS TO THE TABLE

Parishioners purchase the ingredients for a complete turkey dinner and bring it to a liturgy on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Volunteers collect and transport numerous turkey dinner boxes to our sister parish in Philadelphia on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY
Contact: Director of Family Life

PENTECOST BRUNCH

This annual brunch is held after Easter for families to gather and teach young children the value of service through craft activities. Volunteers assist with setting up and creating crafts.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Parish families attend a Saturday breakfast with Santa in December. Volunteers assist with coordinating activities and entertainment for the children.

FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE

The Family Life Committee meets quarterly to plan and implement ministries and events designed to strengthen our families in faith. Throughout the years, the Family Life Committee has sponsored programs that support marriage, families with young children and parenting in today's world.

LIVING IN LOVE

Living in Love, a parish-based retreat for married couples is held one weekend in February. Parish volunteers set up, register, facilitate talks and provide a romantic candlelight dinner.

MOTHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Mothers gather monthly in September-May to hear speakers on relevant issues and attend social gatherings for families. Volunteers help with coordinating the events, recruitment, service projects.

PREPARING TO LIVE IN LOVE

Preparing to Live in Love, the parish's ministry to engaged couples, matches a parish mentor couple with an engaged couple. They meet once a week for seven weeks at the home of the mentor couple to complete a marriage education course. Mentor couples receive training for this ministry through the "Living in Love" retreat and eight, two-hour training sessions.

SENIORS LUNCH & LECTURE SERIES

The Lunch & Lecture series for senior parishioners is held monthly after the 12:05 p.m. liturgy in the Parish Center auditorium. Parishioners are needed to help organize and serve refreshments.

SPLASH PARTY

Families gather one evening in June for a party at a local swim club. Volunteers help with setup, serving dinner, games and cleanup.

WINTER WOMEN'S BASKETBALL DAY AT VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

Tickets, games, fun and food are available for Family Day each January. Volunteers are needed to set-up and clean-up after the reception.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young Adults Volunteers are needed (ages 21 -35 single and/or married) to develop and lead a parish Young Adult Ministry.

MUSIC MINISTRY
Contact: Director of Music

BELL CHOIR

Genesis Bells, a hand-bell choir, plays at seasonal liturgies and concerts. Members must be able to read music, but prior experience with hand bells is not required. Rehearsals are held weekly on Tuesday evenings.

CANTORS

Cantors serve as the primary music leaders at the weekend liturgies. Cantors are required to have basic music training as well as attend a monthly, two-hour rehearsal.

CHOIR

The choir is a four-part choral group that leads the assembly in song at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday liturgy. The choir learns music from a broad spectrum of liturgical music, from traditional to contemporary. Prior choral experience is helpful, but not necessary. Practice is held weekly on Tuesday evenings in the church.

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Brass, percussion, piano, organ, guitar, or flute instrumentalists accompany the liturgies. Ordinarily, instrumentalists play in the ensemble with other instruments and vocalists. Occasionally, instrumentalists may play a solo piece or be accompanied by one other instrument. Proficiency in the particular instrument is expected, as is attendance at weekly rehearsals.

PARISH NURSE/PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY
Contact: Parish Nurse

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Blood pressure screenings take place on the first and third Tuesday of each month after the 12:05 p.m. liturgy in the Rosemont Chapel. Nurses are needed to take blood pressures at scheduled times.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS TO THE HOMEBOUND

New or retired Eucharistic Ministers are needed to bring Holy Communion to homebound parishioners on a weekly basis at a mutually convenient time during the week or on a weekend.

HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Volunteers are needed to present health education programs to the parish community. The topics should be health-related with an emphasis on treatment, prevention and ways to deal with an illness.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
Contact: Director of Religious Education

The Religious Education Program meets weekly on Sunday mornings from 10:10 a.m.-11:25 a.m. and on Wednesday afternoons from 4:30 p.m.-5:45 p.m.

PARENT CONTACTS

Adult volunteers serve as parent contacts for each class to help coordinate the program and inform parents.

RECEPTIONISTS & HALL MONITORS

Volunteers serve as receptionists and hall monitors to greet families, record attendance slips and assist teachers with directing children and getting supplies.

TEACHERS & ASSISTANTS

Parishioners teach or assist other teachers each week. Training is provided. No experience is required, but volunteers must be confirmed adults age 18 or older.

WELCOME COMMITTEE

Contact: Administrative Assistant

WELCOME EVENTS

Parishioners are needed to help plan activities to welcome new parishioners twice a year.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Contact: Director of Liturgy

ALTAR SERVERS

Young parishioners assist at the celebration of the Sunday Liturgy and special liturgical events. The servers are responsible to fulfill all assignments, secure a substitute when necessary and dress appropriately. Training is provided. This ministry is open to baptized parishioners in grade 6 or older.

BAPTISM TEAM MINISTRY

Team members are present to assist with the celebration of the Sacrament twice each month. Members of this ministry serve in this capacity on a rotating basis.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPEDITORS

For the liturgical seasons of Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas, many volunteers assist with creating the church environment. Volunteers are contacted with dates and times to assist in the church.

LAUNDRY ANGELS

Parishioners volunteer to pick up the linens used each week at the liturgies and launder them for a rotating, one-month commitment. Linens are picked up from and returned to the Rosemont Chapel.

LECTORS

This ministry requires well-prepared, reverent proclamation of the Word of God for the liturgies and special liturgical celebrations. Training is provided. This ministry is open to fully initiated parishioners.

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Hospitality volunteers greet and welcome parishioners at all of the liturgies. Volunteers are expected to arrive 20 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass.

PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

Committee members prepare the liturgical seasons, evaluate the overall liturgical life of the parish and offer education sessions to parishioners. Members are a consultative committee to the Director of Liturgy and to the Pastor.

USHERS

At Sunday liturgies, volunteers take up the collection, assist with the Communion procession and distribute the bulletin. Ushers also assist the Hospitality Ministers, as needed.

WORD OF GOD

Word of God volunteers teach and minister to children ages 3-7 during part of the 9:00 a.m. liturgy in the Rosemont Chapel from September-April. The children are separated into two groups based on their ages, and volunteers either help the children with a hands-on activity from scripture or proclaim and preach the scripture. Ministers are scheduled on a rotating basis, and resources are provided.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact: Deacon

YOUCAT

YOUCAT is St. Thomas' Youth Ministry group, which is open to parishioners in grades 7-10. The group meets periodically for a coordinated service project or faith-filled discussion, based on the Bible and the Youth Catechism, to foster personal and spiritual growth post-confirmation. Group members are invited to take on the "YOUCAT Challenge" and earn points throughout the school year by community and liturgical service projects and participation in faith based events. Successful members are recognized at the end of the school year with a Servant/Leadership Award.