



**St. Thomas of Villanova
Catholic Church**

1229 East Lancaster Avenue
Rosemont, PA 19010

<https://www.stthomasofvillanova.org/>

Office: 610.525.4801

*An Augustinian
Stewardship Community
Sharing our Time, Talent
and Treasure*



WELCOME



St. Thomas of Villanova - Our Patron

The Augustinian Order has adopted St. Thomas as the Patron of Students. Thus a number of Augustinian educational institutions are named after Thomas. The most notable of these institutions is Villanova University.

Our church is named in honor of St. Thomas of Villanova, a sixteenth century Spanish Augustinian. Thomas was born at Fuenliana in the diocese of Toledo, Spain, in 1488 and was brought up in Villaneuva de los Infantes, a nearby town; hence his name, Thomas of Villanova. He went to the local school at Villanova, and then proceeded to a brilliant career as a university lecturer at the universities of Alcala and Salamanca. But academic success alone did not seem to provide him with a completely satisfying goal in life.

Thomas joined the Augustinian order in November 1516. In 1518, he was ordained a priest, and was immediately employed in preaching and administering the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He taught, with great acclaim, a course of theology at the Augustinian school at Salamanca. Although leading a busy life, Thomas kept up his daily life of prayer as an Augustinian religious.

In the year 1544, King Charles V of Spain appointed Thomas as Archbishop of Valencia. He was fifty-six and keen to begin the task allotted him. He set out for Valencia, 530 kilometers away, on foot after his Episcopal ordination.

Thomas succeeded in the spiritual renewal of his diocese, and gained the title "Father of the Poor". He gave two-thirds of the income of his diocese to care for the poor in various ways. Each day up to 500 people came to his door to be fed and to receive money.

During his eleventh year at Valencia, Thomas contracted a serious illness which resulted in his death. In keeping his request, he was buried in the Augustinian religious habit. sometime later his remains were removed to the Cathedral of Valencia where they are venerated still. In 1658 Pope Alexander VII declared him a saint.

Thomas of Villanova, "Father of the Poor" is remembered to this day because of his generous and dedicated way of life. He saw what Christ wanted of him, and accepted God's grace in order to fulfill it.

Catholic Parochial Education

Elementary School Opportunities

St. Thomas of Villanova Parish does not have a parish elementary school. We do encourage attendance at one of the local Catholic Parochial Schools and will assist those who choose to attend. Presently our children attend the following schools:

St. Katharine of Siena
235 Windermere Avenue Wayne, PA 19087
(610-688-5451)
Website: www.stkatharineofsiena.org
Email: acondello@sksschool.org

St. Margaret
227 N. Narberth Avenue Narberth, PA 19072
(610-664-2640)
Website: www.saintmarg.org
Email: info@smsnarberth.org

Sts. Colman/John Neumann
372 Highland Avenue
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
(610-525-3266)
Website: www.scjnschool.org

Celebrating Sacraments

BAPTISM

Baptism is a community celebration of new life welcoming a child or an adult into our Christian faith community. Procedures for Child's Baptism

1. Be a registered member of our parish.
2. Contact the Parish Office to receive a Baptism packet.
3. Contact our Director of Liturgy, for scheduling after reviewing the contents of the Baptism Packet.
4. Participate in the Baptism Preparation sessions held each month except during Lent.
5. Infant baptisms are generally celebrated during or following Sunday liturgies, except during Lent.

FIRST EUCHARIST/FIRST RECONCILIATION

First Eucharist and First Reconciliation are celebrated once a year at St. Thomas for children in grade 2. Children enrolled in our Religious Education programs receive these sacraments.

Procedures

1. Regular attendance in our parish school programs and our Religious Education programs
2. Baptism certificates required of students not baptized at St. Thomas of Villanova
3. Parents and children participate in special retreat workshops previous to the Celebration of the Eucharist and the Celebration of Reconciliation.
4. Parents participate in all preparation programs scheduled for First Eucharist and First Reconciliation.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is held every year at St. Thomas of Villanova for our parishioner students in 7th grade who are enrolled in our Religious Education program or other area private schools.

Procedures

1. Be a registered member of our parish.
2. Complete registration and information sheets in school year of confirmation.
3. Baptism certificates required of students not baptized at St. Thomas of Villanova.
4. Sponsor eligibility forms required of sponsors not baptized or registered at St. Thomas of Villanova
5. Parents and/or sponsors participate in all preparation programs for Confirmation candidates.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Anointing of the sick is available to those whose health is threatened due to aging, injury or serious chronic illness. If you would like a priest to visit you for anointing, please contact the Parish Center to make arrangements 610-525-4801. This sacrament is also celebrated annually at a regular Sunday liturgy, in the early fall.

WEDDINGS

Parishioners of St Thomas and undergraduates alumni of Villanova University are eligible to have their wedding at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish. Please contact our wedding coordinator, Mrs. Patty Greenhalgh 610-520-1242.

FUNERALS

When a death occurs in the family, the parish priests are available to offer family members consolation, support and follow-up care.

In the event of death, and to help you through this difficult time, please contact a funeral director who will schedule the funeral with the Parish. Our Director of Liturgy will meet with the family members to plan the funeral Liturgy.

A History of the Parish

On Oct. 13, 1841, the Rev. Thomas Kyle, OSA, and Fr. Patrick Moriarty OSA, purchased for \$18,000.00 John Rudolph's estate "Belle Air", which they renamed "Villanova."

1841

1848

The parish registry officially opened with the baptism of Michael Horton on August 15, 1848, which established St. Thomas of Villanova Parish as a separate community from St. Augustine's Parish in Philadelphia..

Ground was broken on March 29th, 1883 for construction of the present St. Thomas of Villanova Church, and on June 3rd, the cornerstone was laid. The Church was completed in 1887, at a cost of \$43,828.25; it was Blessed by Archbishop Ryan on Sunday, July 3, 1887.

1883-1887

1908

On September 21, 1908, the first group of forty-two boys and sixty girls were enrolled for classes in the parochial school in the former "Total Abstinence Beneficial Social Hall".

In 1914, the first convent was built to house the Sisters of Mercy who taught at the school.

1914

1921

In 1921, the Augustinian Community of Rosemont was erected as a new Priory and the pastor of the Villanova Parish was made Prior of the new establishment. At this time there was also a formal severance between the monastery and college of Villanova and the St. Thomas of Villanova Parish.

In 1923, a new school building was finished. This building now serves as the Parish Center.

1923

1953-1957

A period of expansion: In 1953, a new convent was completed (currently St. Thomas of Villanova Preschool); on Christmas 1956, the present Rosemont Chapel was used for the first time, replacing the Temperance Hall; in 1957 an addition to the parish school was opened (now called the St. Augustine Annex and leased by Wolf Performing Arts Center).

Parish school consolidated with Our Mother of Good Counsel to form the St. Thomas-Good Counsel School. It closed in June 2006.

1981

1991

Stewardship was initiated in the parish as a way of sharing our Time, Talent and Treasure.

In 1992, renovations of the Villanova Church were started, and the Church as we know it today was completed in that same year.

1992

2001

The renovations of the Rosemont Chapel and property are completed in 2001.

Villanova celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church. St. Thomas of Villanova Parish continues growing in faith to the present day.

2012-present

St. Thomas of Villanova's Tithing Program - "God's Plan for Giving".

TITHING IN THE BIBLE... Tithing is mentioned more than forty times in the Scriptures. Numerous Old Testament stories recount how God asked that the first ten percent of the land's produce be set aside as a sign of gratitude for His goodness. The early Church had no tithing system, but as it grew, so did its material needs. Gradually, the Old Testament model of tithing was adopted. A number of regional Church Councils and finally the Council of Trent made the tithe Church law. With the later separation of Church and State, tithing was abandoned.

AND TODAY... In our time, the difficulty of raising funds for the growing needs of the Church has led to a modified and **voluntary** system of tithing. Since 1977, more than 700 Catholic parishes in the Northeast have become tithing parishes and St. Thomas is one of them.

WHAT IS A TITHE? The word tithe means tenth. A tithe is the first tenth of a wage earner's income. It's giving back to God something God gave in the first place. Tithing is not any tenth; it's the first tenth of one's income – salary, dividends, and interest – income from any source.

HOW DOES TITHING WORK? Five percent on one's income is given to God through the parish church. The other 5% can be used for the Bishop's Appeal, Catholic school tuition, care of one's parents, special diocesan collections and private charities. The spirit of tithing, the most important part of the program, means giving to God, not to me, your pastor, or to this church. And it means giving to a point of sacrifice, for the word sacrifice means "to make holy". The spirit of tithing means not caring what anyone else gives; it's spiritual giving in every sense. What you give to God is between you and God. The ideal tithe of 5% to God's Church and 5% to His other works can best be explained by an example.

If your income from all sources before taxes is \$300 per week, the 5% Sunday Mass offering would be \$15. You give the other 5% to charities or your choice. Tithing is really logical. Everything we have comes from God, and when we give back the first 10% of our earnings, we're saying to Him, "Thank you, God, for letting me use the other 90%!"

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO THE TITHER AND TO THE PARISH?

Every parish that has adopted this method has improved its spiritual and material status. It means one collection at the Offertory of the Mass with the true spirit of offering oneself with the offering of Christ. And for the individual, tithing tells us exactly what God expects. Most important for the tither, however, is the spiritual effect. Tithing helps to establish a proper sense of values. It helps us to remember that God comes before all else and that everything we have comes from Him.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Much will happen should you choose to tithe. It's your choice. You will not be asked to sign anything, no one will call on you, and there are no meetings or pledges. Remember, God said, "Try me in this." You will find that God will not be outdone in generosity!

simple secure convenient



St. Thomas of Villanova Parish

St. Thomas of Villanova is pleased to introduce "Enhancing Stewardship through Electronic Funds Transfer." We have partnered with Parish Giving to offer this program to all of our parishioners.

It's Simple

Log on to our website @ www.stthomasofvillanova.org and click on the Parish Giving Logo and follow the easy registration instructions.

It's Secure

Parish Giving is Payment Card Industry compliant and uses the strongest TLS (Transport Layer Security) encryption technology available.

It's Convenient

No more searching for the checkbook or Sunday morning stops at the ATM machine.

Tax benefits

You will be able to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year.

To get started log on to: www.stthomasofvillanova.org and click on the Parish Giving Logo and follow the easy registration steps.



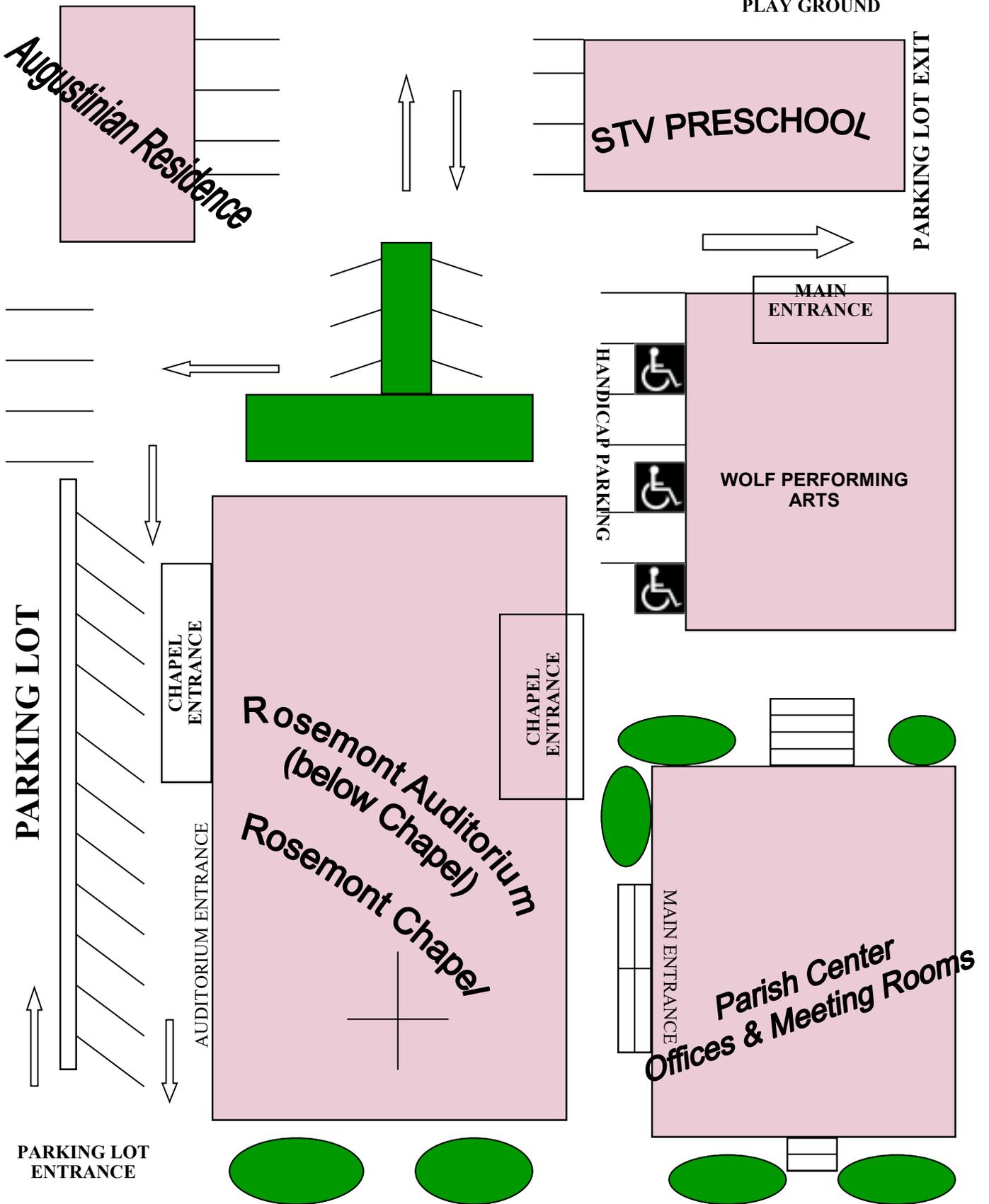
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