

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 8, 2023



Scripture Reflection...

EPIPHANY

The feast of the Epiphany is closely associated with two symbols: the Star and the Magi. Scripture study has pointed out that the specifics of this feast are open to some speculation. There are questions about whether the Magi were wise men from the east, kings from distant lands, or astrologers following a cosmic event. Happily for us, the purpose of recounting this story is not dependent on who they were so much as to emphasize that these visitors were gentiles whose acknowledgment of Jesus as Savior gives credence to him as the Messiah for all the world, not just the Jews. Rich imagery of caravans and exotic gifts adds to the mystique of such persons of importance recognizing the greatness of a Savior whose power derives from his humanity unencumbered by such riches or social status, divinely designated as Savior of the world for all, no matter their race, ethnicity or influence.

Nowadays there seems to be a resurgence of interest in things like healing crystals and the influence of the stars on human endeavors. We gaze in wonder at the vastness of the universe, strive to comprehend its origins, and attribute powers to cosmic events beyond our abilities. Thomas Aquinas, in his writings about the existence of God, referring to this inclination on the part of humans, reasoned that if we can accept that there is a power greater than us that designed and created the universe, no matter what we call it, it is still beyond our ability to replicate. We Christians choose to call it God. This is humility, acknowledging the truth, and the truth is that God is God, and we are not God.

And so today we celebrate this manifestation to the world that our God, powerful beyond our imagination, has graced us with his presence in human form so that we, the people he lovingly created – all of us, not just a chosen few – have a chance to be saved for all eternity. Like the Magi who recognized true royalty in the simplest, most innocent child to whom they were led by a star, we are inspired to seek the truth and follow his way to salvation. It is not the way of leaders who wield power and threaten with force, but the way of the Gospel whose proponent, Emmanuel, God-with-us, an innocent child, is the most powerful instrument of God's love who eschews violence in favor of compassion, ruthlessness in favor of gentleness, conflict in favor of peace.

The dictionary defines epiphany as “a sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something.” For us who are willing to see with the eyes of faith, this is a celebration that indeed goes directly to our essential nature, manifested to us in the most basic image of a poor baby in a stable, not rich or powerful, but fully human, Jesus Christ the true Savior of the world.

Stewardship Thought for the Week

“Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

Matthew 2:11

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all of our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

Readings for the Week:

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17
Tuesday: Heb 3:5:12 / Mk 1:21-28; or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12; Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14 / Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34



Mass Schedule

Mon., Jan. 9th 12:05PM-RMCH	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD The Parishioners of St. Thomas
Tues., Jan. 10th 12:05PM-RMCH	Weekday (First Week in Ordinary Time)
Wed., Jan. 11th 12:05PM-RMCH	Weekday
Thurs., Jan. 12th 12:05PM-RMCH	Weekday
Fri., Jan. 13th 12:05PM-RMCH	Weekday; Saint Hilary
Sat., Jan. 14th 9:00AM-RMCH 5:00PM-RMCH	Weekday Martha Sanfacon - Cathy Van Kula
Sun., Jan. 15th 7:30AM-VNCH 9:00AM-RMCH 10:30AM-VNCH	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time For the Parishioners of St. Thomas Dorothy D. Madden - Kelleher Family Michael & Barbara Hendrixson - (50th Wedding Anniversary)

Thank you for your generosity for the weekend of December 24 and 25, 2022:

Number of Envelopes	156
Envelope Amount	\$4,467.66
Loose Cash	
Electronic Offerings	\$9,508.19
Other	\$269.91
Total	\$14,245.76
10% Tithe	\$1,424.58
December 26, 2021	\$32,636.24

Christmas, 2022

Number of Envelopes	299
Envelope Amount	
Loose Cash	\$6,873.25
Electronic Offerings	\$81,357.05
Other	\$300.00
Total	\$88,530.30
10% Tithe	\$8,853.03
December 25, 2021	\$21,877.26

Weekend of December 31 and January 1st:

Number of Envelopes	231
Envelope Amount	\$13,042.01
Loose Cash	\$806.00
Electronic Offerings	\$11,796.03
Other	\$446.26
Total	\$26,090.30
10% Tithe	\$2,609.03
January 2, 2022	\$56,862.26

Schedule of Events for the week of:

January 8, 2023

Recitation of the Rosary
after the daily Liturgy.



Monday, January 9, 2023

Centering Prayer	8:00AM
Rosemont Care Ministry	10:00AM
Synod Session Discussion - Harten Hall	7:00PM

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Scripture Reflection - PC1	10:00AM
Blood Pressure Screening after 12:05 Mass	

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

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

Thursday, January 12, 2023

Men's Gathering - RMCH & Harten Hall	6:30AM
Walking with Purpose - Harten Hall	9:00AM
Walking with Purpose - PC-1	7:00PM

Friday, January 13, 2023

Family Movie Night - Harten Hall	5:00PM
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Saturday, January 14, 2023

Sunday, January 15, 2023

St. Francis Inn	10:00AM
No Religion Education Classes	
Confirmation Classes— Virtual Class	10:10AM
Mansion at Rosemont Communion Service	11:00AM
Baptism-VNCH	12:00PM

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

Our parish and Good Counsel, Bryn Mawr, will collaborate to highlight unity among all faith groups in a spirit of peace and common understanding. On Tuesday, January 17, Good Counsel is hosting a gathering in their church. Rev. Rebecca Fitzpatrick from Bryn Mawr Presbyterian is speaking on her vocation story and the role of women in the Presbyterian Church.

On Wednesday January 18, our parish will welcome a speaker from the Muslim Community of Peace Island. Both will begin at 7:00 pm. More details will be forthcoming. We invite everyone to join us for these events to promote good will and understanding with our neighbors of other faith traditions.



Resting in Peace:

Ms. Jennifer Wallace

Remember those in need of our prayers, especially:

Katherine Breck, Brynn Busby, Peter Cellucci, Austin DePetrus, Lina Fulton, James Gibbons, Jr., Martin Gollin, Patricia Ann Harley, Joe Hopko, Sam Horsey, Bridget Kelly, Sara Keohane, Kelly Clarke, Ashley Lythgoe, Pamela LaMonaca, Joe Massaua, Joseph O'Malley, Bruno Petrillo, Bill Riley, Michael Salucci, Theresa Sherwin, Kevin Sousa, Peter Sousa, 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.

**MARCH FOR LIFE 2023 -
SAVE THE DATE
Friday, January 20, 2023**

A bus will leave from the parking lot of St. Katharine of Siena Church in Wayne promptly at 6:30am. A \$20.00 fee is requested and will be collected on the bus. We will attend the Mass for Life at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., then progress to the Mall by bus to join the March. We plan to be home by 7:00pm.

Please reserve by calling
Robert Giuliano (610) 761-4917, or by
email: robertgiuliano@gmail.com.

Fr. Michael's Scripture Session Resumes

Fr. Michael resumed his weekly Scripture Reflection Sessions on Tuesday, January 3rd. The group will meet in PC1 in the Parish Center on Tuesday mornings from 10:00AM to 11:00AM. The Sunday Mass readings for the upcoming week will be discussed and prayerfully reflected on at these sessions. Our goal is to gain insights into the Sunday readings in order to enhance our worship experience. All are welcome, and texts will be provided.

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. Home-made 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 St. Francis Inn in Kensington on Sunday, January 15th. 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 Cathy Van Kula at service@stvparish.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 **date** your casserole with masking tape.

If you have any questions, or need recipes for the casseroles, please contact Cathy Van Kula at service@stvparish.org.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) CELEBRATES CONGRESS'S PASSING OF THE "FEED THE FUTURE" INITIATIVE

Great news! Congress passed the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act, which will reauthorize the "Feed the Future" initiative to address root causes of hunger in vulnerable countries. This is a huge legislative win to help end hunger. Thank you for all of your advocacy to help move this important issue forward. Visit www.crs.org to learn more. "This is a huge legislative win for the fight against global hunger," said Bill O'Keefe, executive vice president of Mission, Mobilization and Advocacy for CRS. "By passing this bill into law, Congress rightly acknowledges the negative impacts of extreme weather on food security, made worse in the era of climate change." If you are interested in getting involved with CRS at the parish level, please contact Cathy Van Kula at service@stvparish.org or call 610-525-4801, ext. 221, to learn more about our CRS Chapter, a joint effort with our sister parish, St. Cyprian.



Be a Part of the Conversation!

We are excited about the next steps in our Synod process and invite all in the St. Thomas of Villanova Community to provide input on parish priorities. We pray that you will participate in this initiative to build up our parish community.

December – mid-January

Complete the Synod Questions if you have not yet completed and/or did participate in a parish listening session. We invite you to offer your input to the Synod through an individual response. Please stop by the parish office or see the website to get a form or submit online.

Mid-January - Mid February

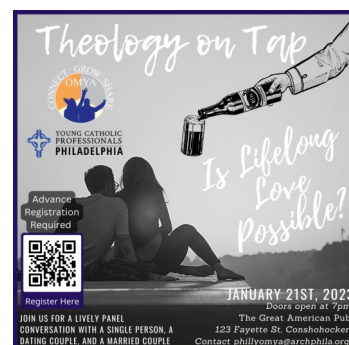
Review & comment on draft priorities. Draft priorities will be made available for comment by January 23, 2023. All comments will be due back to the parish by February 12, 2023. We will also have listening sessions on the draft priorities on the following dates:

- February 4, after the 5:00pm Mass in Harten Hall/Rosemont Auditorium
- February 5, after the 9:00am Mass in Harten Hall/Rosemont Auditorium

RSVP to office@stvparish.org to attend a session.

The comments will be synthesized into a Parish Priorities plan that will be submitted to the Archdiocese by February 26, 2023.

Theology on Tap Is Lifelong Love Possible?



The Office for Ministry with Young Adults alongside Young Catholic Professionals (YCP) is hosting a Theology on Tap with the theme "*Is Lifelong Love Possible?*" Come join us for a lively panel conversation with a single person, a dating couple, and a married couple.

Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023

Location: **The Great American Pub**
123 Fayette Street,
Conshohocken, PA

Time: Doors open at 7:00pm

Advance Registration Required

RSVP here: <https://www.ycppphiladelphia.org/events/panel-discussion-with-omya>

MARRIED COUPLES

Resolve to "Live your best life in love" in 2023: Why not give yourselves some time together by making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend? In-person experiences in the new year are: February 10-12 and April 21-23 at Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown. For more info visit: <https://www.wmme-philly.org/>.



LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

Prayerful Concert for
PEACE to end all Violence.

January 8, 2023 - 3:00PM
St. Katharine of Siena Church
Wayne, Pennsylvania

January 22, 2023 - 2:30PM
St. Thomas of Villanova Church
Villanova, Pennsylvania

Featuring:

St. Katharine of Siena Choirs:
Parish, Teen and Children

St. Thomas of Villanova Choirs:
Parish, Teen and Children

St. Martin de Porres —
God's Men Choir

Blessed be the peacemakers, for they shall
be called children of God.

Please join us.

Support Our Afghan Resettlement Efforts

As you may know, in early 2022, our parish, together with Our Mother of Good Counsel, sponsored a family of four from Afghanistan. The family has settled into a home in Rosemont and they are acclimating to their new life in the United States. The father has a job at Vanguard and the mother is busy learning English and caring for her two children, ages 2 and 3. Our efforts have been blessed by the tremendous generosity of our communities, including the donation of a car, household items, and countless hours of time spent assisting the family with appointments, immigration matters, and other areas of accompaniment. We were happy that the family was able to join us at "Breakfast with Santa" so that they could experience some of our American Christmas traditions.

Our parishes have since taken on the support of two additional households. One household consists of three men, all former soldiers who assisted the US military's efforts in Afghanistan and were forced to evacuate when the US withdrew from the country. The three men, all of whom are working, recently relocated from Philadelphia to Upper Darby, and are in need of a small monthly stipend to assist with their rent and other expenses. The third family resides in South Philadelphia and consists of two adult sisters, their teenage brother, and two children (twins who are a year old). One of the women was a dentist in Afghanistan and is working in a dental office as a dental assistant with the hope that she will eventually be able to practice as a dentist in this country. We are providing this family with rental assistance.

We continue to accompany all three households, but each is growing in independence and all are determined to survive on their own. This will take time and patience. Our parishes are committed to supporting them as best we can and we welcome any and all financial support which will be set aside in a specifically designated account maintained by our two parishes for Afghan Resettlement purposes.

If you would like to make a donation, please send a check to the parish office made out to "St. Thomas of Villanova" with "Afghan Resettlement" noted on the memo line. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Joe Genito at pastor@stvparish.org or Cathy Van Kula at service@stvparish.org.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

"For I was...a stranger and you welcomed me...."
Matthew 25:35

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.

HOME VISITS

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



DO you have stocks you want to donate to St. Thomas of Villanova Parish? Go to the front of the website and click this logo for instructions.



2023 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Monday, May 22, 2023

2:00pm to 7:00pm

**at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish
Rosemont Auditorium**

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

While the need for blood and platelet donations is constant, a severe cold and flu season can result in fewer donations if many become sick and need to postpone a blood donation until they are well. According to health officials, both influenza and COVID-19 cases are expected to surge simultaneously this winter. With an increase in flu cases already being seen in some communities, it's particularly important that those who are in good health share their good health by giving blood.

The Red Cross urges blood donors of all types and those who have never given before to book a time to give blood or platelets now and help keep the blood supply strong for hospital patients.

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

ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR FAMILIES ARRIVING VIA BUSES SENT FROM TEXAS

Several buses transporting asylum seekers have arrived in Philadelphia from Texas. More are on the way. One of our parish ministry partners, the Aquinas Community Center, has been actively involved in the response effort, and has provided the following links for those who are interested in offering monetary assistance:

You can help by:

1. Donating directly to the Aquinas Community Center via <https://staquinas.com/donate/>. Specify that you are sending it to the asylum seeking families fund; or
2. Donating to the city welcoming fund <https://www.phila.gov/2022-11-15-how-you-can-help-people-seeking-asylum-arriving-in-philadelphia/>

"...I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Mathew 25: 35

SAVE THE DATE!
January 16, 2023 — MARTIN LUTHER KING
Service Ministries for All Ages

FAMILY — MORNING OF SERVICE
Harten Hall (Rosemont Auditorium)
10:00am-Noon

Preschool and elementary school children and their parents and/or caregivers are welcome to join us for this Family Morning of Service. We will be making sandwiches, assembling toiletry bags, designing cards and participating in a variety of other service-oriented activities. Help is needed to assist at the various stations which will be set up that morning. If you are able to help, please contact Cathy Van Kula at service@stvparish.org or call 610-525-4801, ext 221.

Join Youth Ministry for

MARTIN LUTHER KING
DAY OF SERVICE

Monday, January 16, 2023
at the Joy of Sox Warehouse at
400 Taylor Street,
Phoenixville, PA 19460
to pack & sort donations.

We will have 2 shifts:
10:00am—12:00pm
1:00pm—3:00pm

This is open to all students in Grades 7th to 12th.
Meet at the Warehouse. May carpool to location.
Limited spots for each session.

Contact Maria Luby to register for this event:
fl-youth@stvparish.net or scan this code to register:



VOLUNTEER
ENGLISH
PROGRAM

The Volunteer English Program in Chester County will sponsor a 3-session training workshop for those who wish to tutor English as a second language to an adult immigrant or refugee. The workshop will be held via Zoom on January 24th (Tuesday), January 26th (Thursday), and January 31st (Tuesday), 2023. Each session will run from 9:00am to 11:00am.

For more information about this exciting and rewarding volunteer opportunity or to register for the workshop, contact (610) 918-8222 or visit the website at www.volunteerenglish.org. A one-year commitment of approximately 3 hours a week is requested.

St. Thomas of Villanova is hosting a
FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP
every Wednesday Evening at 7:00pm
in the 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.



During the **HOLIDAY SEASON** we wish to express our **APPRECIATION** to everyone for your support of The Joy of Sox Mission.

Without your ongoing concern and compassion,
we would not be able to do what we do.

And if you can, please share something of what you have with the less fortunate.

May **PEACE**, **JOY**, **HOPE** and **GOOD HEALTH** be your treasures in the new year.



Going for a Million in 2023

We've been busy. As you can see in this photo from our warehouse, we've distributed over 848,000 pairs of new socks to date.

Which means we only need to distribute about 151,000 more pairs **to reach one million pairs!**

That's amazing! **And with everyone's extra help we should make one million in the fall of 2023!**

I'll keep you posted on our plans for this exciting goal.

NEW WEBSITE

Our new website, www.TJOS.org, is up and running! Please check it out when you get a chance. You can view the sock distribution that we did on Thanksgiving in the Kensington section of Philadelphia.

Our mission is to provide joy and health for those experiencing homelessness by giving them new socks.

With much gratitude,
Tom Costello,
Chief Sock Person and Founder



RESTLESS? SEARCHING FOR PURPOSE AND FULFILLMENT IN YOUR LIFE?

"Do not be content with what you are if you want to become what you are not yet". St. Augustine

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.



**St. Thomas of Villanova proudly begins our
HUGS FOR HEROES
Now through Sunday, February 12th**

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

ITEMS NEEDED:

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

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 Bonnie Cotter: 610-715-9591 or bonnie.cotter@verizon.net.

Thank you in advance for your generosity in honoring and supporting the women and men who have served and continue to serve our country.



LAUNDRY ANGELS NEEDED!!

Would you be interested in a "behind the scenes" ministry at St. Thomas of Villanova?

We have Laundry Angels who assist at the Rosemont Chapel. Laundry Angels pick up the Altar linens used each week and launder them for a one month period of time. We have some openings for 2023.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Tanya at 610-525-4801, ext 203, or email liturgy@stvparish.org. Thank you.



Go Forth

**Deepen Your Discipleship -
Grow in Mission**

Join Archbishop Perez in his mission to create a culture of missionary disciples in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia! Subscribe to receive a weekly text from the Archbishop with one action step you can take that week to deepen your friendship with Jesus or grow in your mission to bring Jesus to others. Texts will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023.

To subscribe: Text *goforth* to the number 84576 or visit phillydisciples.org/goforth