

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 7, 2025



A Note from Fr. Joe...

If Advent is a wake-up call, as I described it in my homily last Sunday at the 7:30am Mass, then it's time this 2nd Sunday of Advent to focus a bit more on that to which God is waking us up. A central figure in our Gospel – and in this Season – helps us do just that, namely, St. John the Baptist. Matthew introduces him with these simple words – “John the Baptist appeared.” And, quoting from the prophet Isaiah, the Gospel passage further tells us that he was “A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord.” Among other things, John reminds us, he wakes us up to seeing the importance of the virtue of humility in our lives, as well as the difference that one person can make in the lives of others.

With regard to humility, our culture tends to emphasize it as a weakness, as opposed to a virtue, doesn't it? But true humility requires strength and courage; the strength to admit our dependence on God, to let go of our need to control; the courage to put our egos, our pride aside. Humility means recognizing our flaws – and our gifts. It's giving credit to God for everything we are, for everything we have. St. Augustine puts it this way, “We should take our lesson from John the Baptist. He is thought to be the Christ; he declares he is not what they think. He does not take advantage of their mistake to further his own glory...He pointed out clearly who he was; he humbled himself.” And Augustine concludes, “He saw where his salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and his fear was that it might be blown out by the wind of pride.” (*Sermon 293, 3*)

Yet, to deny one's talents and abilities would be false humility, since, as a virtue, humility actually entails acknowledging our gifts too – and then using them. This gets to the other lesson from John the Baptist. Each and every one of us can make a difference. As Clarence the Angel declares in my favorite movie (and one of Pope Leo's!) *It's a Wonderful Life*, “Each person's life touches so many others.” The same “spirit of the Lord,” mentioned in today's 1st Reading from the prophet Isaiah, rested upon John the Baptist; rested upon Augustine and Thomas of Villanova; and now rests upon you and me. This Advent, God wants to wake us up to that Spirit which enlivens us, bringing us gifts, such as ‘wisdom, understanding, counsel, and strength.’

But do we still sometimes doubt the difference that we can make? Are we overwhelmed by the complexity of our world's problems? Does the haunting voice of insecurity or lack of self-confidence hold us back, tempting us to question what good one person can do? Remember, God wants to wake us from those assumptions, or perhaps the slumber of what may be our indifference or laziness. John the Baptist remains “a voice of one,” who humbly – yet forcefully – calls us to “bear good fruit,” as we prepare the way for Christ in our lives and in our world.

Each one of us can make a difference – and many humbly do in our parish. Just look at the “Turkeys to the Table” project from a couple weeks ago. Since we each believed that we could do something – we did a lot! Please check out the results in this bulletin. And, currently, angels are flying onto the trees at the back of church, as we participate in the annual “Advent Giving Tree” campaign. Thank you!! Let's continue to be ‘lamps,’ sharing the light, sharing the gifts of our time, talent, and treasure – making way for Jesus, just as did John the Baptist.

Stewardship Thought for the Week

“Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” MATTHEW 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church or do you buy more things that go unused? Our time, talent, and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?



ADVENT SEASON

We have Reconciliation after our 12:05pm Liturgy in the Rosemont Chapel every Tuesday during the Advent Season and every Saturday following the 9:00am Liturgy.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8th - FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Holyday Mass - 12:05PM - Rosemont Chapel

St. Thomas of Villanova Church
12:05PM - 5:30PM

Our Mother of Good Counsel Masses
6:30AM - 8:00AM - 7:00PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9th **LESSONS AND CAROLS**

7:00PM - Villanova Church
Please join us.



CHRISTMAS LITURGY **SCHEDULE**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
Daily Mass - 9:00am - Rosemont Chapel

CHRISTMAS EVE - DECEMBER 24TH

4:00PM (Villanova Church)

4:30PM (Rosemont Chapel)

(Please bring formula and/or diapers for the Presentation of the Gifts to be given to St. Cyprian, our sister parish.)

6:00PM (Villanova Church)

10:30PM (Villanova Church)

(Musical Prelude begins at 10:00PM)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:30AM - Villanova Church
(Only one Liturgy on Christmas Day)

Masses for the January 1, 2025 Holyday

Wednesday, December 31st: 5:30PM Vigil

Thursday, January 1st: 9:00AM

Both in the Rosemont Chapel.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITIES AT OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL PARISH

COMMUNAL CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Monday, December 22nd at 7:00pm
and every Saturday at 11:30am.

Readings for the Week:

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a,
12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or
Lk 1:39-41

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10;
Mt 11:2-11

OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve

5:00PM

9:00PM

Thursday, December 25th
Christmas Day

8:00AM

10:00AM

New Year's Eve - New Year's Day
(Solemnity of Mary Mother of God)

Wednesday, December 31st:

5:00PM Vigil Mass

Thursday, January 1st: 10:00AM



Mon., Dec. 8th	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
12:05PM-RMCH	In Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary - Petrizzo Family
Tues., Dec. 9th	Advent Weekday; <i>Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin</i>
12:05PM-RMCH	Eleanor Pruss - Bob Schreiber
Wed., Dec. 10th	Advent Weekday; <i>Our Lady of Loreto</i>
12:05PM-RMCH	Wasył & Anastasia Maruszczak - Bill Maruszczak
Thurs, Dec. 11th	Advent Weekday; <i>Saint Damascus I</i>
12:05PM RMCH	James R. Friel, Sr. & Mary P. Friel - Friel Family
Fri., Dec. 12th	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
12:05PM-RMCH	Harold L. Yok, Jr. - Murphy Family
Sat., Dec. 13th	Saint Lucy
9:00AM-RMCH	Leo Stensen - Anne McShea
4:30PM-RMCH	James J. Stokes - Ted & Lori Powers
Sun., Dec. 14th	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
7:30AM-VNCH	Bridget Sargent LeSizza - Kirkwood Family
9:00AM-RMCH	All Living and Deceased Members of the Parish
10:30AM-VNCH	Clifford Alexander - Clarkin Family



Schedule of Events for the week of: December 7, 2025
Recitation of the Rosary after the daily Liturgy.

Monday, December 8, 2025 - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Centering Prayer - RMCH	8:00AM
Rosemont Care Ministry	10:00AM
HOLY DAY MASS - RMCH	12:05PM
HOLY DAY MASS - VNCH	12:05PM - 5:30PM
Handbell Practice - RMCH	7:15PM

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Scripture Study Class - PC1	10:00AM
Reconciliation after 12:05 Mass	
Blood Pressure Screening after 12:05 Mass	
St. Francis de Sales Tutors	2:00PM
Walking with Purpose - PC1	5:15PM

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Exercise Class - Harten Hall	10:00AM
Religious Education Classes	4:45PM
Aquinas Tutors - Zoom	5:00PM
Family Support Group - Harten Hall	7:00PM

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Men's Gathering - RMCH and Harten Hall	6:30AM
Walking With Purpose - Harten Hall	9:00AM

Friday, December 12, 2025

Family Movie Night and Cookie Decorating - Harten Hall	5:30PM
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Saturday, December 13, 2025

Men's Gathering Advent Retreat - IHM Center 8:30AM
ADVENT GIVING TREE

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Nativity Play - RMCH	10:30AM
Mansion at Rosemont Ministry	11:00AM
Baptism - VNCH	12:00PM

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Thank you for your generosity for the following weekends:

November 22 and 23, 2025

Number of Envelopes	330
Envelope	\$16,778.00
Loose \$ / NP	\$2,265.00
Electronic	\$16,778.00
Other	\$550.00
Total	\$32,950.00
10% Tithe	\$3,295.00
Last Year	\$22,694.00

November 29 and 30, 2025

Number of Envelopes	294
Envelope	\$16,107.00
Loose \$ / NP	\$2,288.66
Electronic	\$9,467.00
Other	\$150.00
Total	\$28,012.66
10% Tithe	\$2,801.27
Last Year	\$20,656.00

The St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Celebration of Lessons and Carols

Be part of a Villanova Holiday Tradition

Join us for a Christmas Concert featuring the St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Choir, St. Thomas Boys Choir and Laetare Bell Ringers for an Evening of Advent and Christmas Music and Readings

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 7:00pm
St. Thomas of Villanova Church

All are Welcome!!



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

Kathleen Coppola & Family of Wayne
Mike and Chrissy Milliken of Wayne

Remember those in need of our prayers, especially:

Angelina Arcamone PHD, Nicola Bonelli, Linnea Bramble, Katherine Breck, Brynn Busby, Peter Cellucci, Kelly Clarke, Jackie Colligan, Austin DePetris, Dorothy Dolan, Ella, John Joseph Flood, Jim Foley, Lina Fulton, Ian Gallagher, James Gibbons, Jr., Mary Jane Girondi, Patricia Ann Harley, Sam Horsey, Bridget Kelly, Sara Keohane, Tom Kosinski, Ashley Lythgoe, Pamela LaMonaca, Jubilee Elizabeth Meadows, Mary Moran, Bob O'Driscoll; Denise Paviglianiti, Bruno Petrillo, Bill Riley, Shirley Sagan, Michael Salucci, Millie Seeds, Theresa Sherwin, Terry Sousa, Lou Villa, Greta Wagner, Ron Weber 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.

Calling All Men!

Join Us for Our Monthly Men's Gathering Mass and Fellowship

This Thursday, December 11th, please come and celebrate **Mass at 6:30am in the Rosemont Chapel**, as we continue our Advent journey towards Christmas. **Fellowship will follow in Harten Hall, below the Chapel**, as Steve Torbeck, a St. Thomas parishioner, shares some of his own story and talks about his experience with St. Frances Cabrini School in Philadelphia. Refreshments will be available, as well. **So, please join us and invite a friend!**

P.S.- There is a Men's Gathering Mass and Fellowship the second Thursday of each month, from September through June.

There also is a Weekly Men's Gospel Reflection in the St. Thomas of Villanova Rosemont Parish Center from 6:30am to 7:30am, every Thursday of the month, except when there is Mass and Fellowship.

For questions or more information, please contact Kraig Null at stv.mensgathering@gmail.com

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 the St. Francis Inn in Kensington. 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.

DECEMBER, 2025
JANUARY, 2026
PARISH OFFICE HOURS

As of Monday, December 1, 2025 and through the end of January, 2026, the Parish Office Hours will be changing from
9:00AM - 4:30PM
to
8:30AM - 3:30PM
Monday through Thursday

The Friday hours will remain
9:00AM to 1:00PM.

Please note that additional security measures have been added at the Parish Office door. You must ring the bell before we can unlock the door for your entry. Thanks for your cooperation.

PLAN AHEAD

It's not too soon to consider the various options available for attending Mass this Christmas. In a spirit of hospitality, we want to be welcoming of everyone, but we also want everyone to be safe. So, once again, at the 4:00pm Mass at the Villanova Church on Christmas Eve, there will be no standing allowed in the aisles or doorways – and chairs will be added in the back. Once Villanova University Public Safety determines that we are at capacity (when all the pews, marble benches, and chairs are filled,) people will be directed to the 4:30pm Mass at the Rosemont Chapel. Harten Hall, underneath the Chapel, also will be set up for any overflow, with upgraded livestreaming available. There will be a 5:00pm Mass at Our Mother of Good Counsel (OMGC) Parish, as well.

Please plan accordingly and check out the full schedule of Christmas Masses at St. Thomas and OMGC in this bulletin and on our parish website. Finally, I'd ask that we all observe these simple acts of hospitality:

Unless you have a physical reason that you need to be at the end of a pew, please move in to accommodate others.

Limit seat saving, with as many of your loved ones coming together as possible, so as to be fair to all those who would like to attend.

Ultimately, let's keep in mind the reason we're coming together, remaining courteous to one another, Public Safety, and our Innkeeper volunteer hospitality ministers (if you're interested in helping, please contact Tanya Braithwaite at liturgy@stvparish.org).

THANK YOU!

FR. JOE



HELP US SPREAD THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS— JOIN THE INNKEEPER MINISTRY

As we prepare for our upcoming Christmas liturgies, we are in need of volunteers to welcome parishioners and guests as they join us for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. **What is required?** Volunteers should arrive 30 minutes prior to the Mass they are planning to attend, to stand at the doors to greet people and assist as needed.

We will also need assistance with parking at the Rosemont Chapel 4:30pm Mass and directing parishioners at the 4:00pm Mass. We will need you to arrive 30 minutes before and approximately 15 minutes after the conclusion of Mass. This is an excellent opportunity for families to volunteer together.

To join the team of “Innkeepers”, please contact Tanya Braithwaite, at liturgy@stvparish.org or 610-525-4801 ext. 203.

Thank you..



Thank you for the tremendous outpouring of support for our annual Turkeys to the Table effort this year.

On Sunday, November 23, we delivered 470 turkeys to our sister parish, St. Cyprian, along with hundreds of boxes full of cranberries, vegetables, potatoes, stuffing, pies and more. Generous monetary contributions were donated as well by many parishioners. Special thanks to:

- Jamie Viggiano and the Tobia, Schreder and Strid families who provided trucks and expertise needed for this outreach; and
- Peggy Schumann, Director of Family Life, and the youth of our parish who met every car with smiles and enthusiasm as they received donations and loaded the trucks.

Thank
you!

We are grateful for all who helped to share these blessings with families in West Philadelphia this Thanksgiving!





The Parish Community of St. Thomas of Villanova announces the 2025 Advent Giving Tree

For many years our parish community has worked with Mission and Ministry of Villanova University to buy hundreds of gifts of clothing and gift cards for children and adults from the faith communities listed below.

St. Cyprian Parish, our sister parish in Philadelphia
Providence Center, founded by the Sisters of the Holy Child
Helen Brown Community Center (Project HOME)
Holy Family Home, founded by the Little Sisters of the Poor
Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, founded by the Sisters of Mercy
Connect by Night, founded by Christ Community Church
Aquinas Center, in Philadelphia

Tin Angels will be available for purchase at the rear of both Churches
on the weekends of
DECEMBER 7th and 14th, 2025.

If you would like to make a donation online go to www.stvparish.net.
Your gift will be used to buy a specific clothing item or a gift card.

Watch the Christmas Trees radiate with Angels throughout the Advent Season!

"Marie's Closet Ministry" St. Francis Inn

St. Francis Inn is in need of items for their "Marie's Closet" ministry. Marie's Closet provides clothing, shoes and linens to the homeless and others living in extreme poverty.

You can bring your donations to the parish office or email Sheila Holst at hagan1126@verizon.net to let her know that you have items to be picked up.

Please clearly label your bagged donations "Marie's Closet/St. Francis Inn." The following items are especially needed:

Blankets — Sheet sets — Bath towels and Washcloths — Backpacks — Kid's Clothing and Shoes — Men's Boxer Briefs — Women's and Men's Shorts and Pants — Men's T-shirts — Men's Ankle Socks — Women's and Men's Sneakers — Women's Underwear - Women's Ankle Socks — Maternity Clothing



Family Life Cookie Decorating Party! Thursday, December 18th - 4:30pm - 6:00pm

Please join us for pizza and cookie decorating!
All are welcome!

WELCOME VISITORS

Thank you for worshipping 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 community, please call the parish office at 610-525-4801 or register on our website at www.stvparish.net.



The Joy of Sox

wishes to thank

Fr. Joe Narog, OSA, Parish Staff, and St. Thomas of Villanova Parishioners for your generous support of our recent Socktober Fest.

We were able to exceed our goal!

Due to the generosity of so many, **thus far in 2025**, we have been able to distribute **76,269** pairs of new socks to men, women and children experiencing homelessness. This makes a grand total of **1,269,051** pairs of new socks distributed in our local community as well as in 35 states and 15 countries since our inception in 2010.

Thanks to you, so many will enjoy the comfort of a warm, cozy pair of socks this Christmas season.

The Joy of Sox Team

To learn more about our mission: www.tjos.org

WHAT DOES GOD WANT YOU TO DO WITH THE LIFE GOD'S GIVEN YOU?

"We need to lift our eyes, to look upwards, to the things that are above (Col 3:2), to realize that everything in the world has meaning only insofar as it serves to unite us to God and to our brothers and sisters in charity."

Pope Leo XIV

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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL
Giving Hope 2025
Please Give Generously!

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Looking for Advent prayers to use with your wreath? Inspired by the words of Pope Francis, the Catholic Relief Services' Advent prayer guide invites you to prepare your heart for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Use the guide each week as you light the candles of your Advent wreath, reflecting on the gifts Jesus brings into our lives — hope, faith, joy and peace — and on our Gospel call to share these gifts with our global family. Sign up now to access the full Advent Wreath prayer and reflection guide and receive weekly reminders directly to your inbox at <https://www.crs.org/join/crs-advent-wreath>.

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.



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, 8:30am to 3:30pm and on Fridays from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Please drop off at the Parish Center and on weekends at 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.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025
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.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients. If you are an eligible type O, B- or A-donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting **RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass** to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Give blood. Help save lives.

**For questions about eligibility:
 call 1 800-RED-CROSS**

Bereavement Support Group at OMGC

Hosted by Fr. John Deary, O.S.A.

Thursday: 6:30pm

December 18, 2025

**Location: Our Mother of Good Counsel
 Social Center**

All are welcome who are suffering the effects of bereavement and may benefit from some support from others in the same situation. The bi-monthly meetings are safe, friendly, welcoming and confidential.

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.**

"Building A Better World:
 On the Road to Sainthood"
 Leaders of African Descent

**Servant of God Julia Greeley
 (1833 and 1848-1918)**

Servant of God Julia Greeley was born into slavery in Hannibal, Missouri sometime between 1833 and 1848. Freed by Missouri's Emancipation Act in 1865, Julia subsequently earned her keep by serving white families in Missouri, Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico — though mostly in the Denver area. Julia entered the Catholic Church at Sacred Heart Parish in Denver in 1880 and was an outstanding supporter of all the parish. The Jesuits who ran the parish considered her the most enthusiastic promoter of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus they had ever seen. Every month she visited on foot every fire station in Denver and delivered literature of the Sacred Heart League to the firemen, Catholics and non-Catholics alike. A daily communicant, Julia had a rich devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin and continued her prayers while working. She joined the Secular Franciscan Order in 1901.

Source: USCCB

Butterfly Blessings



Saint Thomas of Villanova Parish is looking for volunteers who can knit, crochet, sew or do needlework to make handmade baby items for babies facing challenges in our local hospitals.



Ideas include baby caps, blankets, sweaters, booties, bibs, anything you can create!



Each item will be tagged with this blessing:

*"May you be blessed with the ability of a butterfly to grow gracefully.
 May your beauty radiate like the colors of a butterfly lighting up the world.
 May your love spread like the wings of a butterfly, gently touching souls."*



**For more information contact
 the parish office at 610.525.4801**