

December 25, 2016 • Christmas

*Suddenly there was a multitude  
of the heavenly host with the angel,  
praising God and saying:*

*“Glory to*

*God*

*in the highest.”*

**Luke 2:13-14**

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**ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA**  
A CATHOLIC PARISH FAMILY-PALATINE, IL

# Parish Information

**HERE TO SERVE YOU**  
**847-358-6999**

## Priests

Rev. Tom Rzepiela, Pastor  
Rev. Marcin Zasada, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Mirek Kulesa, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Martin Luboyera, Weekend Assoc.  
Rev. Ray Yadron, Pastor Emeritus

## Senior Deacons

Deacon Tom Dunne  
Deacon Rich Willer

## Permanent Deacons

Deacon John Breit  
Deacon Bill Karstenson  
Deacon Len Marturano

## Seminary Deacon

Deacon Jon Thorsen

## Bereavement Director—Connie West

## Ministry of Care Director—Deacon Thomas Dunne

## Music Minister—Marcy Weckler Barr

## Parish Manager—Ron Schaefer

## Financial & Technology Manager—

Deacon John Breit

## Parish Office Staff

Joseph Spano, Admin. Assistant  
Meaghan Spano, Admin. Assistant  
Suzie Walczynski, Bulletin Editor

## Youth Minister—Jeff Walczynski

## Pastoral Council

Norbert Krogstad, Chairman  
Ann Johnson      *Rev. Thomas Rzepiela*  
Steve Lundell     *Ron Schaefer*  
Jane Murguia     *Rev. Marcin Zasada*

## School Information: 847-358-2110

Mary Brinkman, Principal  
Stephanie Hardy, Assistant Principal  
Darcy Moder, Admin. Asst.  
1141 E Anderson Dr. Palatine, IL 60074  
FAX 847-776-1435  
*email: stvoffice@stvschool.org*

## Religious Education: 847-358-2386

Mary Strybel, Coordinator  
Lisa Lechowicz, Admin. Assistant  
Meaghan Spano, Admin. Assistant  
1141 E Anderson Dr, Palatine, IL 60074  
*email: stvrec@yahoo.com*

## ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH INFORMATION

1201 E. Anderson Drive, Palatine, IL 60074  
Phone: 847-358-6999 Fax: 847-934-4919

### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00pm  
Sunday 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:15am  
1:30pm (*Polish*)  
Weekday 6:30am (*Communion Service*)  
8:00am (*Including Saturday*)

### RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 8:30am—9:30am

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9am—8pm  
Friday 9am—5pm  
Saturday 9am—1pm

**BAPTISM:** Parents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation class preferable before the baby is born to avoid babysitting concerns. Baptisms are celebrated on most Sundays following the 11:15am Mass. Call the Parish Office for more information.

**Upcoming Baptism Prep Classes:** Jan 12—Donna & John Breit 847-359-2870 ;  
Feb 15—Brigid & Marc Janiak 847-826-5493

**MARRIAGE:** Arrangements for the celebration of marriage should be made at least six (6) months prior to your planned wedding date. Call Deacon Tom Dunne for more information.

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** All are welcome! Call the Parish Office to set up an appointment to register and learn more about our Parish.

**BECOMING A CATHOLIC:** Adults who were never baptized in any faith, who were baptized in another Christian faith and who wish to become Catholic, and baptized Catholics who have never received the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist. *Contact Tom at 847-971-4419 / tom.note@icloud.com. Brochures are in the Gathering Area.*

**COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND:** Ministers of Care are available to bring Communion to the homebound. Contact Deacon Tom Dunne for more information.

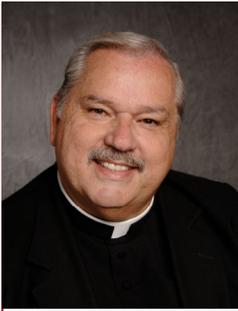
**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Call the Parish Office to add your name to our sick list. Due to patient privacy (HIPAA Law), only the ailing person or, in case of their incapacitation, the person delegated for their medical care, can add their name to the sick list.

**PRAYERS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL:** If you know someone serving in the military, please contact the Parish Office so our faith community may pray for them.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Articles for the bulletin are due by Friday—9 days before publication date and can be emailed to: [suzie@stov.org](mailto:suzie@stov.org)

### **Our Websites**

- ◆ Parish: [www.stov.org](http://www.stov.org)
- ◆ Religious Education: [www.stvrec.org](http://www.stvrec.org)
- ◆ School: [www.stvschool.org](http://www.stvschool.org)
- ◆ GIFT: [www.stvgift.weebly.com](http://www.stvgift.weebly.com)
- ◆ Youth Group: [www.stvoices.org](http://www.stvoices.org)



## *Second Homily*

Dear Parish Family of St. Thomas,

On this Christmas Day, the Lord is made known to His people. And we need to proclaim His love and peace to all who are a part of our lives. The opening prayer of today's Mass says to all—"Great Almighty God, that, as we are bathed in the new radiance of your Incarnate Word, the light of faith, which illuminates our minds, may also shine through our deeds." And so we are called—like John the Baptist—to "Prepare the way of the Lord!" And for the past weeks, we have been "preparing" for Christmas by doing all of those frantic things—like shopping, wrapping, card-writing, baking, partying and much more. And we were also to get ourselves ready spiritually so that we can be readying ourselves to kneel at the Manger and understand again this tremendous gift of Our Lord Jesus as given to us by God Our Father. It is with that spiritual readiness that we come with wonder and awe and love for the birth of Jesus in that Manger.

While at the Manger we sense a certain deep peace of what "life" should be like—loving and loveable, infant-like and parent-like, simple yet complicated! The "Word" of our Lord's birth at Bethlehem spread throughout that countryside. The "Word" now must live in us as we speak and live Jesus' words of life to our "cityside." The true love miracle of Christmas need to take place in the Bethlehem of our hearts, and our families, and our cities. We are all called to bring a little of Bethlehem to our own world by what we say and by what we do! People who are hurting in any way need to hear and feel God's love from you. People who are sad need to see and feel your joy for the Lord. People who are grieving need to tearfully see and feel the reality of Jesus' love in the mystery of the Resurrection!

I share with you the Christmas greetings and prayers from our Chief Shepherd—Cardinal Cupich:

*Peace be with you and with all people of good will in this holy season.*

*After observing the Jubilee Year of Mercy and as we begin a journey of renewal in the Archdiocese of Chicago, we have come to know fresh hope in our hearts. We do not find the source of our hope in our own strength. With the Blessed Virgin Mary we recognize that our hope comes from God. As her son took flesh within her womb, she proclaimed, "God has remembered his promise of mercy." The birth of her son Jesus is also the birth of our true and lasting hope.*

*In this moment, we find ourselves challenged in so many ways. Together, we face the plague of war, violence and a lack of respect for life and for the dignity of all people. On a personal level, we all struggle in different ways, whether with family issues or work or illness or in trying to do the right thing. Still, we hope, because "God has visited his people."*

*Pray with me that our celebration of the birth of Jesus may truly renew our hope in God, the only hope that can sustain us on the journey.*

As Pastor of our Parish Family, I speak on behalf of Father Ray, Father Marcin, Father Mirek, Father Martin, all of our Deacons, our entire Pastoral Staff, all of our employees and all of you who are involved in any Parish Ministry—to wish you the peace that Christmas brings to our world.

Your Pastor,

*Father Tom*

Rev. Thomas R. Rzepiela

# Parish Events

## PARISH CALENDAR

**Sunday, December 25**  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**Monday, December 26**  
Parish Office Closed

**Tuesday, December 27**  
10:00am STV School Athletics RAC

**Wednesday, December 28**  
2:30pm STV School Athletics RAC  
4:00pm VOICES Drop-In TR/RAC  
6:00pm Eucharistic Adoration Church  
8:00pm A.A. (Closed Meeting) MR4

**Thursday, December 29**  
10:00am STV School Athletics RAC

**Friday, December 30**  
NO ACTIVITIES

**Saturday, December 31**  
5pm Mass on New Years Eve

**Sunday, January 1—HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
Come ring in the New Year with Mass  
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:15am  
and 1:30pm in the Polish Language



## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Our Parish Office Hours will change for this week.:

<b>Mon 12/26</b>	Closed
<b>Tue 12/27</b>	9am—5pm
<b>Wed 12/28</b>	9am—5pm
<b>Thu 12/29</b>	9am—5pm
<b>Fri 12/30</b>	9am—5pm
<b>Sat 12/31</b>	9am—1pm
<b>Mon 1/2</b>	Closed

# UPCOMING

- **CHILI's DINE-N-SHARE** All December
- **GOLDEN VILLANOVANS**
  - Wednesday, December 28 at 1pm. Group Luncheon at Olive Garden - 630 E Rand Road, Arlington Heights. Call Lydia 847-496-7544.
  - Monday, January 2 at 1pm. Ladies Luncheon at Billy's Pancake House—440 W Northwest Highway, Palatine. Call Lydia 847-496-7544.
- **DIVORCE MINISTRY** St. James Divorce Ministry is offering the *Divorce Care* (10 session) program beginning January 3, 2017. Sessions are most 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month. Attend one or all sessions. *Location: O'Brien Room, (Lower Level, Northside Entrance), St James Parish Center—820 N Arlington Hts Rd, A.H. For more info: Deacon Jim Bannon 224-345-7200 jamesrbannon@sbcglobal.net*
- **PADS SIGN-UP—SAVE THE DATE:** January 14/15 in the Gathering Area!

## 8th ANNUAL STOV BAGS TOURNAMENT

**ALL COUPLES (Married, engaged or dating) ARE INVITED!**

**SUMMERTIME IN JANUARY!**

**Saturday January 21, 2017**

**6:30 p.m. until ????** In the Rowley Activity Center



**\$20.00 admission per couple Includes:**

- Pizza
- Non-Alcoholic Liquid Refreshments
- Inclusion in the Prize Pool

*Note: Bring your own wine or beer*

**PLEASE RSVP (by January 18) TO: John or Donna Breit (847) 359-2870**



Dear Parish Family:

During the Advent season, we prepared our minds and hearts for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ by pondering the mystery of his Incarnation. Our preparation included seeking forgiveness from our all merciful God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We have prepared our homes by stringing up lights, hanging wreathes and setting up our nativity scenes to remind ourselves of what Christmas is all about—the coming of God in human flesh.

The Incarnation is not a one-time event that took place 2000 years ago in faraway Bethlehem. It is not an historical event that we recall like we might the events in our American history, for example, the signing of the Declaration of Independence. No, our remembering the event of the Incarnation sustains the mystery into our own day. At every Mass we attend, Jesus becomes present to each of us as we gather in community to hear his Word and share in the breaking of the Bread. Just as every Mass is a remembrance of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, it is equally a remembrance of his humble birth. By taking on human flesh, Jesus is able to save those in human flesh from sin and death (cf. I Cor 15:

20-21). We are saved from sin and death through baptism, and through our sharing in the Holy Eucharist. In the Eucharistic banquet, we who share in the one Bread and one Chalice share in the gift of eternal life as Christ dwelling within us transforms us.

When Mary placed Jesus in the manger, she showed us that Jesus would soon become food for humanity. As the manger held food for all types of animals, so now does Jesus give himself as food for all people, from all walks of life. And whoever eats of this food will live forever as Jesus promised in the Bread of Life discourses (cf. John 6). By receiving this food, this bread from heaven, we welcome Jesus into our lives on a more deeply personal level, and we ask him to shine through us for the world to see. The world we find ourselves in today is very dark, filled with anger, disillusionment and hatred, a place where there is little respect or kindness toward others. May we who receive the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, in Holy Communion, allow his light to shine through us into the dark places of our world. May Jesus work through us, to bring forth the Kingdom of God through love, mercy and respect. Jesus took on our human flesh to reveal God's loving and redeeming presence to us. May we in turn reveal to others the ever present mystery of the Incarnation: Jesus is living among us and we can see his glory in the face of every person we encounter.

In Christ our Joy,  
*Seminarian*  
*Andy Matijević*

## RESPECT LIFE EVENTS

### March for Life Chicago Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

Reserve your seat for easy travel to and from the March for Life Chicago.

- **10:00 am Mass at St. Theresa**
- **11:00 am** Bring your own lunch and join us for fellowship in the St. Theresa Pauline Center
- **12:00 pm** Board the bus from east parking lot for March for Life Chicago at Federal Plaza
- **5:00 pm** Arrive back at St. Theresa

Contact Mary Ann Kenesey or email NWFL526@gmail.com for more info.

### 44th Anniv. of Roe v. Wade Daily Herald Ad Project

On January 22, 2017 we will mourn the 44th year since the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion **through all 9 months of pregnancy.**

- Catholic Parishes in Vicariate I are again sponsoring ads in the Daily Herald to acknowledge the dignity and humanity of each of these lives.
- Please consider contributing \$5.00 (minimum) toward the cost of the ad. **The ad will run on Sunday, January 15 and 22** in the first section of the Daily Herald.

Members of the Respect Life Team will be available to accept your donations after Mass the weekend of Jan. 7 & 8. You can also see a sample of the ad at the tables that weekend.

Sponsored by:  
 St. Theresa /St. Thomas Respect Life Team and  
 NorthWest Families for Life

# St. Pat / St. Joe Parish Fundraiser



Yes—We know it's early, but mark your calendar now for a great evening!

## **MARCH 4th, 2017** **ST. PAT / ST. JOE'S** **ANNUAL PARISH FUNDRAISER**

What's it all about? Well, let us tell you; please read the story below...

- ◆ **HEADS OR TAILS** (Win up to \$750.00) Every person is entered to play
- ◆ **EVERY ONE WINS** Buy an envelope or 2 or more and win anywhere from \$25.00—\$100.00 in certificates, gift cards or pure cash
- ◆ **GREAT ITEMS** To bid on in both the silent and live auctions
- ◆ **12 DOOR PRIZES** Free... drawn at will with values from \$25.00 to \$50.00
- ◆ **RAFFLE TICKETS** Available for Cubs and Sox games and \$500.00 worth of gift cards. To be sold after Mass each weekend in February and the evening of the fundraiser. You pick which prize you want to win.

**MOST IMPORTANT** we have the **GRAND RAFFLE** tickets for sale after Mass each week. Chances are still only \$100.00 for the following prizes:

- **1ST PRIZE** A \$3,500.00 vacation package in North Redington Beach, FL for up to 8 people or a 1 week stay for up to 6 people to a select destination in the continental United States to be mutually determined by the winner and donor. Either stay includes 2 airfare tickets to a destination in the continental United States
- **2ND PRIZE** \$2,500.00 cash
- **3RD PRIZE** \$1,500.00 cash

***Only 200 Grand Raffle tickets will be sold. Therefore, odds are 1 in 66 that you will win!***

- ◆ **GREAT BUFFET** Food tables (All-you-can-eat) with a fine selection of entrees: Corned Beef, Roast Turkey, Italian meatballs with farfalle pasta in Marinara Sauce
- ◆ **SIDE DISHES** Mashed potatoes, string beans almandine, green cabbage, deviled eggs, fresh fruits, taffy apple salad, condiments, relishes, oven-fresh rolls, rye and white bread and Irish soda bread
- ◆ **REFRESHMENTS**—Cash bar including beer, wine, mixed drinks, authentic Irish coffee, and complimentary soft drinks and water.
- ◆ **DESSERT** A huge and delicious St. Joseph sweet table with many home baked items provided by our wonderful parishioners—You won't believe the size of this table!

**SPECIAL THIS YEAR** Our entertainment will be **VITO ZATTO** A Las Vegas type show here at St. Thomas!

*Vito is a singer & entertainer who appears in Chicago and the surrounding area. Vito has earned a reputation for delivering quick-witted, spontaneous and high-energy entertainment. You'll feel like you're in a Vegas nightclub where a fun-filled time is in store for you when highly-acclaimed, Vegas-style Singer & Entertainer, Vito Zatto brings you a lounge show full of hilarious stand-up comedy, celebrity impersonations, incredible singing, audience participation and lots of good times! Audience members of THE VITO ZATTO SHOW can be guaranteed one thing...they will somehow be part of the show. Because Vito is spontaneous and "plays" off his audience you can be assured that each show will be unique. Vito offers a variety of impersonations with styles that continue to appeal to all ages and types of people including: -The Rat Pack -Willie Nelson -Julio Iglesias -Elvis Presley -Shania Twain -Michael Jackson -Santana -Ray Charles -Stevie Wonder -...and more.*

OK, so now you know all about this fabulous night of fun and enjoyment so plan a night with your friends.

**ALL THIS FOR JUST \$50.00 PER PERSON, \$60.00 AFTER FEBRUARY 20TH**



From the Principal's Desk



On the Front Lawn



At the School Office



In our Halls

Our school is filled with the reason for Christmas— both inside and out!

May your home be filled with the reason for Christmas, too!

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Every day at 2:15pm, I get on the PA and tell the students a joke. It is tradition now, and you can hear the students all "shhhhhhing" each other when I say "Good Afternoon, this is your Principal." After the joke, you can hear all the groans...and chuckles. It is a really fun way to end the day.

So, here was my joke before Winter break: "What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?" "It's Christmas, Eve!" (Did you chuckle?)

The school children are keeping the entire Parish Family in our prayers.

Merry Christmas!  
Mary Brinkman

CHILI'S DINE-N-SHARE

All December!

Visit either the Arlington Heights or Kildeer (or both!) Chili's location and present the voucher below to your server. Chili's will then donate 15% of your pre-tax purchase back to St. Thomas of Villanova School.

What a great time to take a break from the hustle and bustle of holiday events and allow someone else to do the cooking AND cleaning for you!



BRING THIS VOUCHER WHEN YOU VISIT (DINE IN OR TO GO) THE CHILI'S LOCATION IDENTIFIED BELOW AND 15% OF YOUR PRE-TAX PURCHASE WILL BENEFIT:

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA SCHOOL

Group/Charity

12/1/16 - 12/31/16

Event/Exp. Date

One coupon per person, per visit at participating Chili's restaurants only. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer ends per expiration date above.

Arlington Heights & Kildeer Locations

Chili's Locations

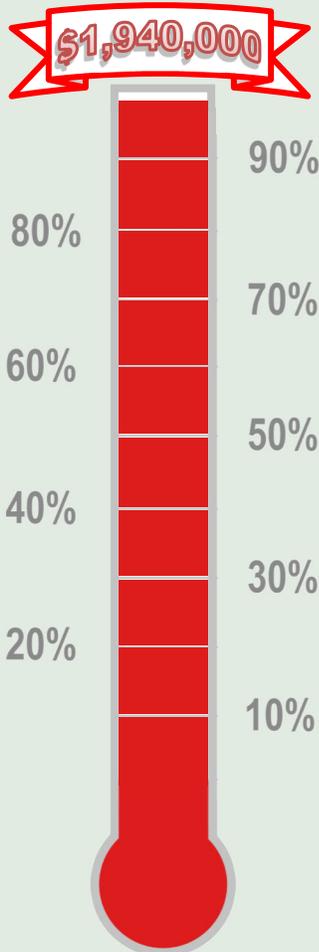
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# "To Teach Who Christ Is" Capital Campaign

"TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS"

UPDATE AS OF  
12/18/16

<b>Goal</b>	<b>\$ 1,940,000.00</b>
Total Pledged	\$ 1,905,570.00
% of Goal	98%
Parish Share	\$ 1,143,342.00
# of Pledges	493
Average Gift	\$ 3865.00
# of Volunteers	34



TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

*A Campaign for Parishes, Catholic Education and Faith Formation*

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

*(As of December 16, the bulletin due date for this Christmas Bulletin)*

Officially begun on August 1st by then Archbishop Blase Cupich, Phase VI of the Archdiocesan TTWCI Campaign is in the final stage.

As one of the 59 parishes in Phase VI, our St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Family has been focused on meeting our assigned goal of \$1,940,000.00. Fr. Tom has been working with campaign chairs, Tom and Nancy Hulsebosch and Jane Murguia and over 30 parishioners who comprise the Campaign Executive Committee (CEC).

Through personal calls, meetings, mailings and our in-church commitment weekends, at this early bulletin publication date of December 16th, we are at 98% of goal with 493 parish households having pledged to finance Archdiocesan ministry projects and these four Parish Family needs:

- Campus Safety and Security
- Parish Office Technology Upgrades and Social Media Endeavors
- On-campus New Rectory
- Campus Restoration & Renovation Fund

As we celebrate our Savior's birth, we are grateful for all who are praying, as well as for all who have pledged to enable our Parish Family to continue "To Teach Who Christ Is" now and into our future.

We invite all who have yet to pledge to join us in this intentional effort for the future of our Faith Community. Please consider submitting your sacrificial pledge prior to December 31st. You'll have five years to complete it and can choose your pledge payment schedule and its starting date. Pledge forms are available at the church exits.

40% of pledge receipts to goal benefit the Archdiocesan ministry projects and 60% will pay for our Parish Family's needs. However, 100% of **over goal** pledge receipts remain with us!

Thank you for all your prayers and for all you do to ensure that your St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Family has what it needs to proclaim our Lord Jesus, our Savior and Teacher!

**Merry Christmas!**

**2017 Fiscal Year Sunday Sacrificial Giving**

YTD Budget	\$ 568,800.00
YTD Actual	\$ 550,299.95
<b>Over / Under</b>	<b><i>(- \$ 18,500.05)</i></b>

Date	Weekend Collection	On-Line Giving	Total	Over / Under Budget: \$23,700
Dec 4	\$ 28,197.53	\$ 1,728.00	\$ 29,925.53	\$ 6,225.53
Dec 11	\$18,739.52	\$3,143.00	\$21,882.52	<i>-( \$ 1,817.48)</i>
Dec 18	<i>Not Available due to early bulletin deadlines.</i>			
Dec 25				

**THANK YOU!**



GiveCentral ONLINE GIVING is a convenient way for St. Thomas of Villanova to receive your SSG support, as well as your Parish Christmas Gift, especially if you will be away for Christmas. It is a secure online system with payment options from direct debit (ACH) to all major credit cards: Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover.

You can donate to these funds:

- Sunday Giving
- Parish Christmas Gift
- Christmas Flowers
- Sharing / Ministry of Care
- "To Teach Who Christ Is"

**How to sign up:**

1. Go to [www.givecentral.org](http://www.givecentral.org)
2. Click the "START GIVING" button.
3. Type St. Thomas of Villanova in the search box and click on our picture when it appears.
4. Choose a fund to which you would like to donate, entering the frequency, date range and dollar amount, then click "ADD TO MY GIFT BASKET."
5. You may click "CHECKOUT" at any time, or add more donations, if you wish.
6. When you are ready, click "MY GIFT BASKET" at the top of the page and verify your gifts.
7. Click "CONTINUE," then "COMPLETE PROFILE" to register.
8. Complete the registration form, then click "REGISTER AND CONFIRM GIFT."
9. *You're registered!* You will receive a confirmation email from GiveCentral.

**PARISH FAMILY CHRISTMAS GIFT**

Thank you for your special SACRIFICIAL Christmas gift to your Parish Family.

*Forgot your Christmas gift? We still gratefully accept your Christmas gift until Monday, January 9, 2017. Christmas checks dated December 31, 2016 can still be included in your 2016 charitable donations. Thank you!*

**THANK YOU—FROM 8th GRADE**

We would like to thank the STV Parish Family for all their support in our fundraising efforts toward our Washington DC class trip in the Spring of 2017. Together, we raised **\$13,592.98** which help offset the cost of the trip. This trip has been an STV School tradition for the past 19 years. We are looking forward to learning about our Nation's capital and making memories to last a lifetime. THANK YOU, so much!



**STV SCHOOL SECRETARY WANTED**

Our school is looking for an energetic, tech savvy individual with fantastic people skills to join our front office. Do you like a fast paced environment? We have the friendliest and nicest faculty, staff and students you can find! We are looking for someone daily from 11:00am until 3:00pm. We can promise, you will never be bored! Please call the School Office to set up an interview. If you have any questions, please call Principal, Mary Brinkman at 847-358-2110 or Fr. Tom at 847-358-6999.



# STVSS

## ST. THOMAS of VILLANOVA SCRIPTURE STUDIES Winter Offerings

### Exodus: Called to Freedom A 10-Week Study

On Saturday mornings beginning  
January 7th, 2017  
from 8:45-10:15am

\$24 per person

AND

### The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy A 10-Week Study

On Monday evenings beginning  
January 9th, 2017  
from 7-8:30pm

\$24 per person

Contact Nancy Hulsebosch  
at [nhulsebosch@gmail.com](mailto:nhulsebosch@gmail.com) or  
847-705-9314 to register.

## ON APPALACHIAN ADVENTURES, AND CHRISTMAS

To celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in late November, my wife and I both took a week off work prior to the actual day for a road trip to Charleston, SC (Gail mostly mapped it out but I'm cool with that because in both a literal and metaphorical context, I love her sense of direction). While we had a nice time in Charleston, we agreed later that the heart-and-soul of the trip was the journey, not the destination. Upon leaving Chicago, our first stop was Gatlinburg, TN, where we stayed for two nights at the Eight Gables Inn. The place was wonderful, but days after our visit, the place was no more.

Yeah. I checked the inn's website not long after our return and found this news: "With heavy hearts, we are sad to report that Eight Gables Inn has been completely destroyed by the devastating wildfires in Gatlinburg..." Gail and I had a couple of great breakfasts there. Had coffee on the porch. Fell asleep exhausted in our room after hiking on the nearby Appalachian Trail. I even secretly sent her an anniversary card from there so the mail would be waiting for her with a Tennessee postmark when we got home. We came to know the Eight Gables just in time, I guess, but not nearly soon enough.

Returning from Charleston through Asheville, NC, we drove several miles on the Blue Ridge Parkway, an awesome stretch of forested road connecting Great Smoky Mountains National Park (where we hiked the trail) to Shenandoah National Park in VA. I told Gail that we had to go back there--had to spend more time there--as the depth and beauty of the mountains touched and uplifted me.

She understood, and concurred. So as much as neither of us wanted to exit the parkway, we did, and while on 19E toward Knoxville and north, we stopped in Burnsville, NC for lunch. And shopping. And what proved to be for me another golden highlight of the trip: an Appalachian Christmas.

It was still November, true, but when Gail went to the five-and-dime, I went to *Appalachian Java and Café* looking for a coffee drink. The young woman at the counter suggested their "Appalachian Christmas" blend. It was delicious! I didn't think of it at the time, but I actually lump good coffee in with my many joys of the season. I make my own Christmas cards each year, and in two recent offerings, the messages have included "Picture this: Jack-Frosted windows in the bright morning sun/ a great cup of coffee, a cinnamon bun..." and "May you sing *Silent Night* at least once, letting the words flavor your soul/ May you savor a really good cup of coffee with someone you adore." Today we celebrate the Child and everything he stands for. All the love and gladness, yes, but also all the pain and sorrow that we know *through him* leads ultimately to glory. I pray Eight Gables Inn rises again. I pray a great cup of coffee is always waiting somewhere for each of us. And I pray the beauty and depth of the mountains be forever in our hearts. Merry (Appalachian) Christmas.

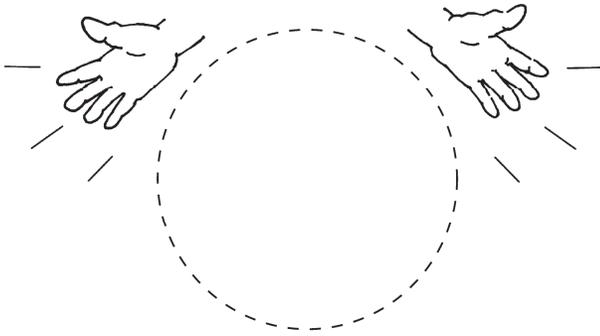
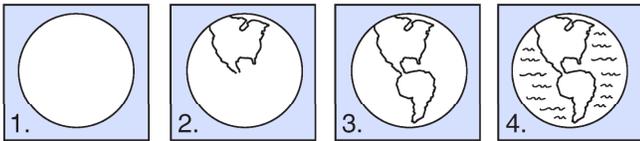


# Just For Kids

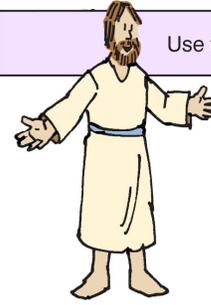
## The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made.

Draw the world.



Use the graph code to write in the missing letters.



◆	D	S	T	K	H
●	M	E	R	I	Y
×	U	G	N	C	O
■	W	F	L	V	A
	□	○	◇	△	♡

Graph code practice area with multiple rows of symbols and lines for writing.

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### LITURGY SCHEDULE for DEC. 31 / JAN. 1

	SATURDAY 5:00 PM	SUNDAY 7:30 AM	SUNDAY 9:30 AM	SUNDAY 11:15 AM	SUNDAY 1:30 PM
<b>PRESIDER</b>	Fr. Ray Yadron	Fr. Mirek Kulesa	Fr. Marcin Zasada	Fr. Marcin Zasada	Fr. Mirek Kulesa
<b>DEACON</b>	Deacon Rich Willer		Deacon Len Marturano	Deacon John Breit	
<b>HOMILIST</b>	Fr. Ray Yadon	Fr. Mirek Kulesa	Fr. Marcin Zasada	Fr. Marcin Zasada	Fr. Mirek Kulesa
<b>LECTORS</b>	Ed Boduch Theresa Mitchell	Margo Stanek Bob Stanek	Denise Giuntoli Phil Giuntoli	Lee Fialek Conrad Bertz	
<b>MINISTERS OF COMMUNION</b>	<i>Sign up in the Sacristy</i>	<i>Sign up in the Sacristy</i>	<i>Sign up in the Sacristy</i>	<i>Sign up in the Sacristy</i>	
<b>SERVERS</b> * Shadowing	Olivia Walczynski Joey VanMeter Victoria Walsh	Luke Hulsebosch Ethan Leigh Madeline Hake	Ian Cameron Marty Davis Ruth Hall	McKenzie Maude Emmett Maude Kieran Maude Ryan Maude	
<b>GREETERS</b> M G N	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	

# Our Weekly Prayers

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, December 26

6:30am *No Communion Service*

8:00am ✠ Bob Greenhill

7:00pm Mass—POLISH

### Tuesday, December 27

6:30am Communion Service

8:00am All Who Are Sick

### Wednesday, December 28

6:30am Communion Service

8:00am ✠ Rosie Casarez;

✠ Thomas Yadron

### Thursday, December 29

6:30am Communion Service

8:00am ✠ Bernadette Dempsey;

✠ Jennifer Lis

### Friday, December 30

6:30am Communion Service

8:00am Adam Sochacki

### Saturday, December 31—New Year's Eve

8:00am For the Sanctity of All Human Life

5:00pm Thomas Yadron

### Sunday, January 1—2017

7:30am All Living & Deceased Parishioners

9:30am All Living & Deceased Parishioners

11:15am All Living & Deceased Parishioners

1:30pm Mass—POLISH

## DAILY READINGS

Mon: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Tue: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wed: 1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Thu: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:36-40

Fri: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21; Ps 128:1-5; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Sat: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Sun: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

## FOR OUR SICK

Lou Anderson  
Kathy Bell  
Cherie Bott  
Andy Bouchonville  
Baby Billy Callahan  
Baby Ray Callahan  
Anna Marie Candorla  
Tom Cook  
John Cooney  
Abbey Corbett  
Baby Seamus Cullen  
Brenda Darling  
Jason Dean  
Emily Dempsey

Beth Dix  
William Dvorak  
Jeanne Formanski  
Kirk Forseth  
Faith Forseth  
Parker Forseth  
Mel Gass  
Lena Grieco  
Ronald Grieco  
RJ Hubka  
Adeline Kaczmarek  
Mary Anne Kiesel  
Wesley Knutson  
Mary Alice Kobler

Susan Kordell  
Lauren Lambert  
Gene Lazich  
Harold Lewis  
Bob Maruska  
Elayne Maruska  
Joan Mayer  
Candida Morales  
Carolyn J. Moran  
Paul Moser  
Mary Obey  
Ken Oeschger  
Rita Olles  
Boni Quiaoit

Patty Reynolds  
Jack Riedy  
Elaine Romanchek  
Ken Romanchek  
Shawn Smith  
John Socha  
Anne Swaw  
Robert Szott  
Kathy Tomusiak  
Marcy Weckler Barr  
Jeri Sue Welty  
Connie Wilberding  
William Yadron  
Martha Zara

## IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

Lord, bless the men and women of our military as they answer the call to serve our nation and defend our freedom. Protect and heal them-- body, soul, mind and spirit--especially those in harm's way. Most of all let them know your love; that you are with them, and that you will never forsake or abandon them. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### U.S. Army

- SPC William Banville
- MAJ Robert Bland
- MAJ Bernadette O'Shea Bland
- PFC Ryan Camis-Sutherland
- CPT Ben Couchey
- SGT Brian J. Dankowski
- CPT Joel Hilborn
- SPC Jeffrey Ketelsen
- SF Joseph Kilcullen III, Green Beret
- LT Michael Labek
- 2LT Daniel Lloyd
- SSGT Dustin Lyles
- SPC Michael Medina
- SGT Kevin Miller
- CPT James Ruetsche, Ranger
- CPT Jesse Turner
- CPT Tina Stowick Turner
- PFC Will Willis

### U.S. Air Force

- TSGT Dan Fialek
- A1C Justin Godsey
- MSGT Matthew Grelck
- CPT Erin Killion
- CPT Sean McGee
- SrA Trenton J. Metyk
- SSGT Darrel J. Moe
- SSGT Brian R. O'Donnell
- A1C Joshua Olszak
- MAJ Matthew Walz

- PFC Jeffrey Daniel Krantz
- CPT Thomas McCarthy
- LCPL Cameron Miller
- CPL Sam Miller
- SGT Conor O'Neill
- SGT Nicholas Regini
- CPL Kyle Rich
- SGT Corey A. White

### U.S. Navy

- ENS Jeremy Adams
- LCDR Kevin Brandwein
- LCDR John-Paul Falardeau
- CAPT Jason Haen
- PO2 David Holley
- SN Gregory Minott

### U.S. Coast Guard

- LT Kevin O'Brien

### U.S. Marine Corps

- MAJ Joey Cross
- CPL David Crouse
- MSGT Jason Dean
- SGT Thomas Grygowski



## ROSE OF LIFE

In Loving Memory of My Father  
CARL WEICHMANN

## FOR OUR DEPARTED, REST IN PEACE

✠ Sharon Mary Lasiewicz

~ Wife of Mick Lasiewicz

✠ Joan Marie Mayer

✠ Lottie Olesky

✠ Lorraine Pichler

In this home we keep  
*Christmas*

## Informacje po polsku (Polish Information)



**'Boże Narodzenie w naszych sercach...'**

Pan Jezus przychodzi na świat na sianie. Rodzi się w bardzo ubogich warunkach. Do betlejemskiej szopki przychodzili różni ludzie. Jedni czynili to z pobożności, po to, by oddać Mu pokłon, złożyć dar i odejść... Przynosili to, na co ich było w tym momencie stać... Takimi ludźmi byli pasterze, którzy wiedzieli sami co to ubóstwo - mieszkali sami w szopie ze zwierzętami - dlatego też i łatwiej było im się wczuć w to co przeżywali Józef i Maryja.

Inni przybywali do Jezusa z ciekawością. Dziwne wypowiedzi pasterzy o znakach na niebie prowadziły ich do szukania bardziej sensacji, czy też ujżenia czegoś niezwykłego, czym później będą mogli się podzielić z innymi ludźmi. Żyli sensacjami... zwracając przy tym bardziej uwagę na samych siebie.

Do naszych czasów zachowały się tzw. ewangelie apokryficzne mówiące o kimś kto pojawił się u Jezusa nie z ciekawości, ani z pobożności, ale ze zwykłej ludzkiej życzliwości. Kiedy zobaczył w jakich warunkach znalazła się młoda matka wówczas dał Jej swoje mieszkanie. Zabrał Marię, Józefa i Dzieciątka do siebie. Okazał swoim czynem konkretną pomoc...

Dzisiaj to już 2000 lat od tamtych dni. Tyle czasu minęło od momentu gdy 'Słowo stało się Ciałem...' Ale człowiek wciąż pragnie w swoim sercu miłości. Chce tą miłością się dzielić... W naszym codziennym życiu w relacjach do drugiej osoby możemy podejść, czy prezentować różne postawy. Być pobożnymi alologicznie do pasterzy, wczuwać się w sytuację drugiej osoby i ... odejść...

Możemy też spotkać się z drugą osobą, by zdobyć informacje, by później tymi sensacjami o niej zwracać na siebie uwagę - szukać tematów zastępczych. Możemy jednak przyjąć postawę człowieka, który ani z ciekawości, ani z pobożności, ale z ludzkiej życzliwości pragnie pomóc drugiemu.

To chyba miał na myśli Bóg, kiedy swego Syna zesłał na świat. Bóg chciał, byśmy wpatrując się w Jezusa nauczyli się posługiwać językiem miłości, życzliwości. Bóg wie, że w momencie gdy każdy z nas zacznie posługiwać się tym językiem, wówczas złączą się na świecie cudowne rzeczy.

Pan Bóg pragnie, byśmy zapomnieli co to język zła, nienawiści, agresji. Pragnie byśmy posługiwali się językiem życzliwości i starali się dla siebie być wciąż co raz lepsi...



2000 lat. temu przez fakt Wcielenia Boży Logos wszedł w ludzką rzeczywistość. Nie zrażając się tym, że na tle światła wielkich metropolii tak niepozornie wygląda światło z betlejemskich stepów, stwarza nam szansę przewyciężenia wewnętrznych rozdarć i lęków. W wielkiej pokorze przykłękamy zatem prosząc Nowonarodzonego Emmanuela o dar pokoju, prawdziwego rodzinnego ciepła i miłości, zbliżenia serc i szczerego pojednania...

Niech mały Jezus stanie się dla Was źródłem natchnień i szlachetnych poczynań, niech nadaje najgłębszy sens wszelkim Waszym planom i działaniom błogosławiąc na ich stawianie się 'ciałem'.

***Christus natus est nobis – venite adoremus***  
***Z najlepszymi życzeniami –***  
***ks. proboszcz Tomasz, ks. Marcin, ks. Mirosław i ks. Ray***

### **INTENCJE MSZALNE I REJESTRACJA**

Intencje mszalne można zamówić po Mszy św. niedzielnej w pokoju marszałków. Prosimy o zamawianie Mszy św. z przynajmniej tygodniowym wyprzedzeniem. Formy rejestracyjne dostępne są również w pokoju marszałków.

### **MSZE ŚW.**

Parafia Świętego Tomasza z Villanova zaprasza całą wspólnotę polskojęzyczną do wspólnej modlitwy i nabożeństw.

Msze św. w jęz. polskim—niedziela: 1:30pm;  
Pierwszy Piątek miesiąca: spowiedź od 5:30 do 7:15pm, Msza św. o godz. 7:30pm

### **SAKRAMENT CHRZTU ŚW.**

Sakrament Chrztu Św. w jęz. polskim jest udzielany w pierwszą i trzecią niedzielę miesiąca po Mszy św. w języku polskim—prosimy o wcześniejsze potwierdzenie daty z biurem parafialnym! Rodzice zobowiązani są do uczestniczenia w przygotowaniu do Sakramentu Chrztu Św.

### **SAKRAMENT MAŁŻEŃSTWA**

Pary proszone są o kontakt z biurem parafialnym przynajmniej 6 miesięcy przed planowanym ślubem w celu ustalenia daty ślubu i spotkania się z księdzem.

### **SAKRAMENT POKUTY**

Niedziela 12:45pm- 1:15pm.

### **SAKRAMENT NAMASZCZENIA CHORYCH**

Duszpasterstwo dla osób starszych i chorych. Wizyta w domu chorego z Komunią Św. oraz wspólna modlitwa. Prosimy o kontakt z ks. Marcinem.

### **RÓŻA RÓŻAŃCOWA**

Spotkania w drugą niedzielę miesiąca po Mszy św. Serdecznie zapraszamy do wspólnej modlitwy różańcowej w każdą niedzielę przed Mszą św. o godz. 1:00 pm.

### **KONTAKT Z KANCELARIĄ**

Poniedziałek—Czwartek: 9:00 am—8:00pm  
Piątek: 9:00 am—5:00 pm  
Sobota: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

**Telefon: 847-358-6999**

### **NIEDZIELNA SKŁADKA**

04	grudnia	\$ 1,651.00
11	grudnia	\$ 1,442.00
18	grudnia	N / A
25	grudnia	

***W sumie: \$ 3,093.00***  
***Dziękujemy!***