

FIRST SUNDAY

OF

Advent

Watch therefore: you do not know
when the lord of the house is coming,
whether in the evening, or at midnight,
or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

Mark 13:35



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DECEMBER 3, 2017

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

Parish Information

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

NEW PARISHIONERS: All are welcome!
Stop by the Parish Office to register and learn more about our Parish.

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— Dec 6, Jan 9, Jan 23*

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.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC: Our RCIA (Rite to Christian Initiation for Adults) Process is for adults who were never baptized in any faith, who were baptized in another Christian faith but wish to become Catholic or who were baptized Catholics but never received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Contact the Parish Office for more info. Brochures available in the Gathering Area kiosk.

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

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

PRAYERS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL: Call the Parish Office to add a name of someone serving in the military, so our faith community can pray for their safety and service.

PARISH OFFICE

1201 E Anderson Drive, Palatine, IL 60074
Phone: 847-358-6999; Fax: 847-934-4919; www.stov.org
Parish Office Hours: Mon-Thu 9am—8pm, Fri 9am—5pm, Sat 9am—1pm

Rev. Tom Rzepiela, Pastor	Ext 204	fathertom@stov.org
Rev. Marcin Zasada, Associate Pastor	Ext 206	fathermarcin@stov.org
Rev. Mirek Kulesa, Associate Pastor	Ext 200	fathermirek@stov.org
Deacon John Breit, Business Manager	Ext 202	jbreit@stov.org
Ron Schaefer, Project Manager	Ext 208	rschaefer@stov.org
Deacon Tom Dunne, Minister of Care	Ext 201	deacontomdunne@yahoo.com
Jeff Walczynski, High School Youth Dir.	Ext 212	jeff@stvoices.org
Connie West, Bereavement Director	Ext 207	cwest@stov.org
Suzie Walczynski, Bulletin Editor/Admin	Ext 205	suzie@stov.org
Joseph Spano, Admin. Assistant	Ext 200	stvliturgysched@yahoo.com
Meaghan Spano, Admin. Assistant	Ext 200	stvrec@yahoo.com

STV SCHOOL

1141 E Anderson Drive, Palatine, IL 60074
Phone: 847-358-2110; FAX: 847-776-1435; www.stvschool.org

Mary Brinkman, Principal	stvprincipal@stvschool.org
Stephanie Hardy, Assistant Principal	seventh@stvschool.org
Darcy Moder, Admin. Assistant	stvoffice@stvschool.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1141 E Anderson Drive, Palatine, IL 60074
Phone: 847-358-2386; www.stvrec.org

Mary Strybel, Religious Ed Coordinator	stvrec@yahoo.com
Lisa Lechowicz, Religious Ed Admin Asst.	stvrec@yahoo.com
Meaghan Spano, Religious Ed Admin Asst.	stvrec@yahoo.com

Priests

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

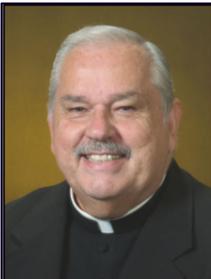
Permanent Deacons

Deacon John Breit
Deacon Mark Duffey
Deacon Tom Dunne
Deacon Bill Karstenson
Deacon Len Marturano
Deacon Rich Willer

Pastoral Council

Jane St. Pierre Murguia, *Chairperson*
Deacon John Breit
Lexine Cramm
Barb Howell
Ann Johnson
Norbert Krogstad
Rev. Mirek Kulesa
Steve Lundell
Pam Maloney
Rev. Tom Rzepiela
Gay Sladky
Connie West
Rev. Marcin Zasada

NOTE: Bulletin deadlines Articles for the bulletin are due on Fridays—9 days before publication



Second Homily

Dear Parish Family of St. Thomas,

Today, we begin the special season of Advent. We light at Mass today the first Advent candle in our Parish Advent Wreath. As Advent begins, we need to focus on our own moments of inner preparation instead of the world's moments of frenzy. During this wonderful season of Advent, we wait in joyful hope for the birth of Our Lord Jesus on Christmas morning. May we all have a quiet, reflective, prayerful and prayer-filled Advent! We pray during Advent for a deeper appreciation of Christ coming into our own personal life and world! Happy Advent!

As part of our Spiritual Preparation for Advent, I have invited a guest homilist for today's 9:30am and 11:15am Masses. If you were present today at one of those Masses, you heard a great homily from a dynamic speaker and friend of mine—Deacon Bill Johnson. If you missed him, he is also the homilist at next weekend's 9:30am and 11:15am Masses. We are blessed to have him with us these two Sundays as I have borrowed him from St. Patrick's Church in St. Charles, IL in the Diocese of Rockford. Happy listening!

The Holy Father has requested Cardinal Blase J. Cupich Archbishop of Chicago, to make a fraternal visit to Puerto Rico, as a means of drawing closer to the people and their pastors as they undergo the crushing trials following the recent devastating hurricanes, Irma and Maria. Pope Francis has asked Cardinal Cupich to express his deep concern, as a father would have for his sons and daughters suffering in his family, and to let them know that their situation weighs heavily on him. Cardinal Cupich undertakes this mission today. Please pray for the success of the Cardinal's visit.

It is gone but not forgotten. And neither are they. Many of you commented so favorably as we honored all of our Veterans on the recent Veteran's Day weekend. Our Parish Family did well to honor, celebrate and salute our Veterans—culminating in the playing of "taps" by our own Grant Cramer! Another awesome Liturgy.

I want to thank all of you who celebrated with us our Special Thanksgiving Day Liturgy. Thank you goes out to all of those in our "Voices" teen group who planned the Liturgy and served as Ministers at the Mass. Thank you to all who came bringing bags of food and groceries for our Food Pantry. And thank you to all who donated \$1,098.00 in our Thanksgiving Day Mass collection so that we can help our parishioners who are unemployed. Thank you for a great Thanksgiving Day of prayer and gratitude at St. Thomas.

I was gone three days this week as we experienced our special training and education for our "Renew My Church" program which begins in January. It's all part of the preparation as through "Renew My Church," we revitalize our Archdiocese and our parishes. You will be hearing on-going reports of this on-going initiative.

Our condolences to our own Deacon Tom Dunne on the passing this week of his mother-Elaine Dunne. She was a parishioner of St. Thomas of Villanova for the last eight years and a resident at St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly. Elaine and I go back a long way. I was also blessed to be her favorite Pastor for years in the nineteen eighties and nineties when I shepherded St. Constance Parish in Chicago. Elaine was 97 years young! May she rest in the arms of the Lord as she was a good and faithful servant!

Your Pastor,

Father Tom

Rev. Thomas R. Rzepiela

Parish Events

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 3

9:15am	Religious Ed Classes	School
9:40am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	MRD
10:30am	RCIA Classes	MRA
7:00pm	Polish Adult Volleyball	RAC

Monday, December 4

2:45pm	STV School Athletics	RAC
4:00pm	Religious Ed Classes	School
7:00pm	STV Scripture Study	MRB

Tuesday, December 5

8:45am	Smiling Thru the Tears	MRA
1:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry	MRB
2:45pm	STV School Athletics	RAC
6:00pm	St. Pat/St. Joe Meeting	MRC
9:00pm	Men's Basketball	RAC

Wednesday, December 6

4:00pm	VOICES Drop-In	TR/RAC
6:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00pm	Women's 2011 CRHP	MRC
8:00pm	A.A. (Closed Meeting)	MR4

Thursday, December 7

1:00pm	STV Scripture Study	MRB
2:30pm	Veteran's Ministry Mtg	MRC
7:00pm	Women's Club Guild 5	MRA
7:00pm	Choir Practice	Church

Friday, December 8

No Activities

Saturday, December 9

8:40am	Morning Bible Study	MRC
8:40am	STV Scripture Study	MRB
9:00am	Gift of Love Drop-off	RAC
6:00pm	Tree Lighting	School

Sunday, December 10

9:15am	Religious Ed Classes	School
9:40am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	MRD
10:30am	RCIA Classes	MRA
7:00pm	Polish Adult Volleyball	RAC

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

- DECEMBER 24 Bulletin: Submissions due on or before **Wed., Dec. 13**
- DECEMBER 31 Bulletin: Submissions due on or before **Tuesday, Dec. 19**

TODAY

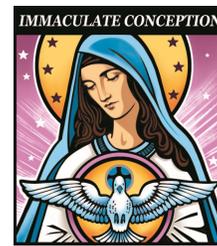
- **CHOIR CD GIVEAWAY** In the Gathering Area & Narthex after Mass (Page 5)
- **OPLATKI SALES** In the Gathering Area & Narthex after Mass (Page 5)
- **MONTHLY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION** Thank you!

UPCOMING

- **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS—Officers' Meeting** Wednesday, December 4 at 7pm at St. Theresa Parish in the Festle Board Room.
- **GOLDEN VILLANOVANS**
 - Monday, December 4 at 1pm—Ladies Luncheon at Toscana Restaurant, Central & Wilke Roads in Arlington Hts. RSVP to Kathy 847-358-7122.
 - Wednesday, December 13 at 1:30pm—Christmas Party at Palm Court. Must RSVP by Monday, 12/11 to Maureen 847-358-2586.
- **DIVORCE MINISTRY** Tuesday, December 5 - next session of the *Divorce Care* program. Topic: *New Relationships*. Location: O'Brien Room, (Lower Level, Northside Entrance) St. James Parish Center—820 N Arlington Hts Rd, Arlington Hts. For info: Deacon Jim Bannon jamesrbannon@sbcglobal.net / 224-345-7200
- **HOUR OF GRACE** Friday, December 8 (Page 5)
- **TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY** Saturday, December 9 (Page 5)

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

On **Friday, December 8th**, we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—the belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was preserved without sin for her entire life.. It is a holy day of obligation with Mass times at: 6:30am, 8:00am, 6:00pm. Polish Mass will be celebrated at 7:30pm.



ROSE OF LIFE OPENINGS

Each week in the bulletin, a "Rose of Life" highlights a personal intention of a parishioner choosing to remember a deceased loved one or celebrate an anniversary, a birthday or another special occasion or intention. A rose is purchased and placed near the Holy Family statue in church and remains there for the week. The suggested donation is \$3.50. We have immediate openings starting in January 2018! What a great gift to give someone this Christmas. Please call Barbara Doruff at 847-358-3852 to schedule your Rose of Life.



BEREAVEMENT

St. Thomas of Villanova Parish has a monthly grief support group which is called “Smiling Through the Tears.” It is open to anyone who has lost a loved one whether recently or awhile ago. It is an opportunity for you to share your grief with others who know exactly what you are going through. Our next meeting is this Tuesday, December 5 at 8:45am in Meeting Room A in our Parish Office building.



Also, you are reminded to please pick up your loved one’s picture from our Tabernacle Shrine. Hopefully, you remembered to do that at Mass today. If not, you can retrieve it at the Parish Office.

Connie West
Director of Bereavement

CHOIR CDs

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet? Our choir has the perfect gift for everyone in your family. We will be giving away CDs of our favorite St. Thomas of Villanova music. You can pick up your copy of “On That Blessed Night”, “Hail Mary, Gentle Woman”, and/or “Christmas at St. Thomas” after all the Masses today in the Gathering Area and Narthex. Available only while supplies last. All free-will offerings will be graciously accepted.



OPLATKI

As we begin to prepare ourselves during this season of Advent, we remember the traditional custom of the sharing of the Christmas wafer or Oplatki. Beginning next weekend, Oplatki will be available for you after all the Masses in the Gathering Area and Narthex. We ask for a donation of \$3.00 for each package which contains two wafers. It is a great family custom to break bread together—especially on Christmas Day.



TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

All are welcome to join in the first annual **TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY** hosted by the STV School on **December 9th, Saturday, after the 5:00 Mass**. This will be held in the front of the school by the Nativity Scene. The tree will light the days as we anxiously await the birth of our Savior.

Hot chocolate and cookies will follow, along with some Christmas songs around the tree. So come—join in this new tradition!



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Hour of Grace



Friday, December 8th—Noon to 1:00pm in Church

Come and Visit Our Mother on Her Special Day
Prayer aids will be provided.

During the “**Mystical Rose**” **Apparitions** in Montichiari, Italy 1947-1966, our Lady said: “It is my wish that every year, on the 8th of December, at noon, the Hour of Grace for the World be celebrated. Many divine and bodily graces will be received through this devotion. Our Lord, my Divine Son Jesus, will send His overflowing mercy if good people will pray continuously for their sinful brother.”

Our Blessed Mother’s Request:

1. The Hour of Grace: December 8th, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, to be started at noon and continuing until 1pm for one full hour of prayer.
2. During this hour, the person making the Hour of Grace must put away all distractions and totally concentrate on your union with God.
3. Begin by praying the 51st Psalm three times with out-stretched arms.
4. The rest of the Hour of Grace may be spent in silent communication with God or by using favorite prayers and hymns.



THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS PROGRAM

Two days before Thanksgiving this year, 51 families received your plentiful Thanksgiving meals! Your food fed 121 adults and 134 children for a total of 255 people! WOW! Turkeys, potatoes and the fixins' were more than plentiful, and the families who received the meals were amazed and grateful! Thank you also to the volunteers who helped gather and distribute all the food that evening. This program has grown because so many of our parishioners desire to help those less fortunate. Thank you for your continued generosity. Our community is blessed by you!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank all of our generous sponsors and the many volunteers who made our spaghetti dinner on Saturday, November 11th a success. Thank you to:

- Deerfield Bakery
- Gonnella Baking Company
- Jim and Mary Lou Arns
- Panera Bread and
- Pierre Zermatten

for their generous food donations and gift baskets. Due to their generosity we collected over \$2,500 for charity at this event. Thank you to all who made a difference!

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 10th, 2—4pm
St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly

80 W. Northwest Hwy, Palatine
It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... and we would like to invite you to join us for some Christmas cheer! ALL ARE WELCOME!



- Christmas carols with Scott Arkenberg and a children's choir
- Santa and games for the kids
- Beautifully decorated Christmas trees throughout our home
- Cookies & hot chocolate

For information: 847-358-5700 / www.LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org

CAROL-O-GRAMS

Sung by VOICES High School Youth Group

Friday, December 15th, 6—9pm

Palatine/Arlington Hts area ONLY!

\$7.00 per order



Carol-O-Grams are just like singing telegrams! Our VOICES Youth Group will personally carol to your friends, families, loved ones or any special someone who needs some Holiday Cheer. Proceeds will go towards expenses incurred from our weekend retreats. We will make every effort to deliver your Carol-O-Gram that night, going back as many times as we can throughout the night. Questions? Please call Jeff 847-358-6999 or email jeff@stvoices.org

Forms due to the **Parish Office by Wed, December 13th.**

Please make checks payable to St. Thomas of Villanova / VOICES.

CAROL-O-GRAM FORM
PLEASE PRINT

To: _____

Street Address: _____

PALATINE ARLINGTON HTS

Recipient's Phone Number: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Parish Family-

We find ourselves once again in the liturgical season of Advent. For many, this season is marked by shopping, cleaning, and preparing for Christmas morning. However, as we focus on the external preparations for Christmas, the internal life is often forgotten. Advent presents us with four weeks of active waiting. It is a time of preparation to enter into the great mystery of the Incarnation, of God becoming man in the flesh, being born of the Virgin Mary.



I hope I am not spoiling it for anyone, but we know how Advent ends. We would not be here in church today if we didn't know and believe God has come among us and visited his people in the person of Jesus Christ and continues to do so through the celebration of the Sacraments. In the First Reading, the cry of the prophet Isaiah can be echoed in our communities, and the cry can be heard throughout the world. We cry at the divisions in our human family created through racism, hatred, assault, and violence. We cry out to God to come to us, to save us, to redeem us. The Prophet writes, "Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage" (Isaiah 63:17b). We fail to remember, to celebrate, to believe, that Jesus Christ, God made man in human flesh, has come among us, and continues to come to us every time we celebrate the Mass, and not just on Christmas morning. At every Mass, we are given the opportunity to participate in the Incarnation, through the reception of Holy Communion, the act of welcoming Christ to work in us and through us, to bring light and love to this world of darkness and hatred.

During this Advent season, as we prepare to welcome once again God among us, let us begin to welcome God in those we encounter today, tomorrow and always. May we see Christ in those who wait in long lines with us as we shop for gifts, in those who seek clothing and food as we buy our Christmas meals, in those who come together with us around this altar for the eternal feast and the dining room table for the Christmas feast. Allow Advent to change you from the inside, to see that Christ is among us today, and that through our reception of the Eucharist, we are then invited to minister to others, as Christ ministers to us.

See you at the Advent Wreath!
Seminarian Andy Matijevic

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (YAM)

Young Adult Ministry—Northwest is gathering young adults in their 20s and 30s for the following events. Come out and join us for a great time and meet other young adults in the area!

- **Christmas Pot Luck Party:** Saturday, December 9 at 7pm. St. Hubert Church in Hoffman Estates. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.
- **Winter Wine Speaker Series:** January 17, 24, 31, February 7. Locations and Speaker info will follow.

For more info or to RSVP, find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/yamnwc/ or email us at yamnw.suburbs@gmail.com.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORTS



From: Mary Strybel, CRE

For the next few weeks we will begin to celebrate Advent with our Religious Ed. children. We do this by gathering around a beautiful Advent wreath with all of the children. Our wonderful Catechists lead us in an Advent prayer service that includes the lighting of one candle. We conclude the service by singing some Christmas Carols before they return to their classrooms.

It is so much fun for me to witness the excitement and joy that starts to build in each and every one of our children. The waiting for Christmas to come may seem to take forever when you're young, but I know that their parents feel the opposite. They feel that there is simply not enough time to get all of the decorating, baking, shopping, and entertaining done.

My prayer for both our young and old, is to please enjoy all that the Advent Season brings!!

God Bless You and Yours,
 Mary



From the Principal's Desk

We give thanks for our Thanksgiving break! We continue to count our blessings as we enter Advent. St. Thomas School is busy preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Our Gift of Love Chains brought in over \$800 for needy families at Christmas. Our teachers will be shopping for gifts for over a dozen individuals. God bless you for your generosity! The class with the highest donation per student was the 6th graders, who brought in over \$10 per student, followed by the 8th graders.

Thank you to FOSTOVs for a really exciting afternoon at Durty Nellies watching the Bear's Game and raising money for the school. Thanks to ALL who worked so hard, and who donated their time, treasure and talent to raise \$18,000.00 for the school.

Get ready to get on Facebook! We will continue the tradition begun last year with decorating our classroom doors. We will place the pictures of the doors on STV's Facebook page. Starting Wednesday, December 6th, you will be able to "like" your favorite door (s). The decorations receiving the most likes will win a prize!

FIRST ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

CEREMONY in front of St. Thomas School will be held on Saturday, December 9th after the 5:00pm Mass in front of school. We will sing a few Christmas carols, then enjoy some hot chocolate and cookies in the school halls. We hope you can make it.

God Bless,
Mary Brinkman

FOSTOVs FOOTBALL FUNDRAISER —THANK YOU!

Our 5th Annual Bears Football Fundraiser held on November 19th at Durty Nellie's was another huge success. Jim Cornelison thrilled the crowd with his rousing rendition of the national anthem. We raised \$18,000, all of which will be used to further help the kids of St. Thomas of Villanova School. Thank you to all who attended, donated auction and raffle items and helped with the event. We hope you had a good time.



STV SCHOOL LOTTERY WINNERS

Congratulations to our School Lottery Winners! Thank you for participating and supporting our STV School. Next month there will be an additional \$500 drawing just in time for Christmas. Who will be the lucky winner?



OCTOBER 2017

- **\$25: The Quinn Family**—sold by the Quinn Family
- **\$25: Maribeth Chambers**—sold by Matt Chambers
- **\$50: Kim Hubert**—sold by Jenna Hubert
- **\$50: Laarni Caleja**—sold by the Caleja Family
- **\$100: The Chudy Family**—sold by the Chudy Family
- **\$200: Patricia Mulhern**—sold by Peter Mulhern

NOVEMBER 2017

- **\$25: Shelley Hoffman**—sold by Violet Hoffman
- **\$25: Matt Dowling**—sold by the Morris Family
- **\$50: The Pasqualucci Family**—sold by the Pasqualucci Family
- **\$50: Margaret Royer**—sold by the Loftus Family
- **\$100: Nick / Emma Jahnke**—sold by the Jahnke Family
- **\$200: Scianna Family**—sold by the Scianna Family

STV SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS WANTED

We invite all parish members, friends and family of STV School to join. We are looking for people who are passionate in serving the STV School and in working with our teachers and administrators. We are in need of members of diverse talents to fill these roles:

- Administration Liaison
- Membership/Enrollment
- Treasurer
- Community Development

Please email Theresa Hubert, hubert898@sbcglobal.net, with your interest and questions. Refer to the school website for bylaws at www.stvschool.org

2017 FISCAL YEAR SUNDAY SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Date	Weekend Collection	On-Line Giving	Weekly Total	Over / Under Budget: \$23,700
Nov 5	\$ 24,458.80	\$ 2,928.00	\$ 27,386.80	\$ 3,686.80
Nov 12	\$ 16,710.26	\$ 1,643.00	\$ 18,353.26	(\$ 5,346.74)
Nov 19	\$ 19,995.76	\$ 1,768.00	\$ 21,763.76	(\$ 1,936.24)
Nov 26	\$ 18,218.86	\$ 1,678.00	\$ 19,896.86	(\$ 3,803.14)

YTD Totals	
YTD Budget	\$ 521,400.00
YTD Actual	\$ 474,310.83
Over / (Under)	(\$ 47,089.17)

THANK YOU!

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On the Second Sunday of Advent, parishes throughout the Archdiocese will participate in the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, benefiting more than 32,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests throughout the United States.

Our senior religious are a treasure. Their dedication and hard work laid the foundation for Catholic schools, hospitals, and numerous social service organizations. Many continue in volunteer ministry today. Their ongoing prayer and witness enrich our faith in countless ways. Personally, I am grateful for the service of religious, past and present. Perhaps you also recall a sister or brother who made a positive difference in your life.

Most elder religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a substantial gap in retirement savings. Rising health-care costs and decreased income compound the challenge to meet such day-to-day needs as medications and nursing assistance. The Retirement Fund for Religious offers financial support that helps religious communities provide loving care for older members while ensuring younger members can continue the good work of their elders.

In the past, the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago have led the nation in their generous response to this appeal. Though I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes, I invite you to contribute what you can at masses the weekend of December 9-10. Most importantly, please pray for God's continued blessing on all our women and men religious. Rest assured they are praying for you.

Wishing you every blessing during this Holy Season of Advent.

With kind regards I remain, sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich Archbishop of Chicago

Checks payable to St. Thomas of Villanova.
Write **"Religious Retirement Fund"** on the memo line.



First Sunday of Advent

"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come." MARK 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. Our lives are so busy, many of us are planning our time - our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to what God is saying to you.

Advent

*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

Here are a few popular ways to celebrate Advent. Take a look. Try one, two or all!

Advent Wreath: Each Sunday of Advent, say a prayer while lighting your candles.

Advent Dinners: Make the Sundays dinners of Advent special. Prepare a nice dinner or host a potluck with friends.

Prepare Seasonal Food: Many historically Catholic countries have traditional food for the Advent seasons. Do some research and start cooking.

Advent Devotional Reading: There are lots of great Advent books to spiritually prepare yourself for Christmas.

Special Prayers: Adopt special prayers during the Advent season. Say them daily.

Advent Calendars: Counting down the days to Christmas helps everyone anticipate patiently and to focus on waiting for the baby Jesus to be born.

Advent Music: Make your own playlist of music appropriate for Advent which anticipates Christ's birth.

Nativity Scenes: Display a nativity set during Advent. Wait until Christmas Eve to place the Baby Jesus into the scene. You can even ask your parish priest to bless your Baby Jesus figure!

Advent Penance Services: Confession is an important part of preparing for the coming of Christ into our hearts.

Small Sacrifices for the Christ Child: Because Advent is known as the "little Lent," prayer, alms and sacrifices are also a part of Advent. Try doing good deeds and sharing your generosity. Practice spiritual and corporeal acts of mercy.

Christmas Tree Blessing: When you finish decorating the Christmas tree, bless it with this Christmas tree blessing found at www.USCCB.org.

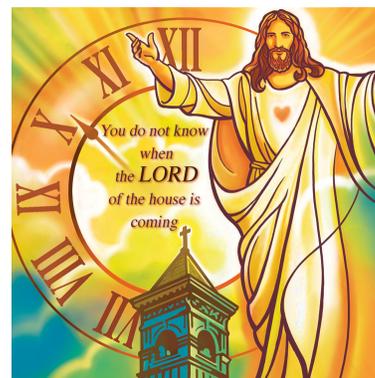
ON WHALE WATCHING, AND KEEPING WATCH

Decades ago, my wife and I spent maybe a week in Hawaii. I have several memories from that trip, but only a few that remain really vivid. Of these, one is the strawberry papaya pie we had for dessert at a local diner. I can't recall the meal entrée, but man, I remember the pie. It was sweet-but-not-too-sweet with a flakey crust that must have been home-made. This pie was amazing. It was so amazing, in fact, that I've never even tried to replicate it in my kitchen because I know I could never do it justice, and I want to keep the flavor of that pie in my memory unsullied by assorted misses--even near-misses--created by my own hand. And as strong as this memory is, another memory is even stronger. It's the memory of our whale-watching expedition somewhere off-shore of Maui. Yeah, we saw some breaching, spouting whales and they were very, very cool, but the memory I cherish doesn't have a single whale in sight...

Here's how it all went down. I'm thinking the whale-watching boat folks must have told us to be ready with our cameras because while they hoped to come upon whales for us, they couldn't be sure exactly where we'd see them, or exactly when. At that time in my life, I was totally into photography so I strapped my zoom lens onto my Canon AE-1, then--like pretty much everyone else on the boat--I waited. Perhaps others on the boat have the same memory as me. Actually, I'm sure they do if any of them did what I did. Specifically, I took my eyes away from the camera for a few seconds at one point just to rest them after having them glued for so long to the view finder. And that's when I saw the image that still stays

with me--totally in focus--after all these years. I saw everyone else on that boat with eyes to their respective view finders, scanning the horizon, cameras facing every which way, waiting for the whales to make an appearance.

It struck me then that all of us to an extent were missing the forest trying to capture the trees (or one specific tree, anyway). At the same time, I wanted the perfect shot like everyone else, and we needed to be ready. All of this comes to mind as I consider the Gospel reading for this First Sunday of Advent. "Be watchful! Be alert!" Jesus tells us. "You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on watch." Jesus goes on: "Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming..." It's hard to be ever-vigilant, to be constantly on guard, to be eternally focused. But that's the challenge, and I think we meet it by living our discipleship as best we can, and by asking for-giveness when we come up short. Yeah, it's no piece of pie--especially no piece of strawberry papaya pie--but what Jesus says to his disciples, he indeed says to all: "Watch!"



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Stay Alert

Jesus told a story. A man left his servants to watch his house.

Circle 7 differences in the 2nd picture.



Jesus also told the disciples something they should be careful not to do.



Use the calendar code to complete the sentence.

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
AM	E	I	O	U	L	H	T
PM	M	F	D	S	G	Y	N

“ _____ C _____
M/AM M/PM F/AM S/AM T/AM S/PM S/AM W/PM

W/PM W/AM T/PM T/PM S/AM Sat/PM Th/AM F/PM T/PM T/AM

Sat/PM T/AM Sat/AM Th/AM S/AM Sat/AM F/AM M/AM S/PM

M/PM M/AM Sat/PM T/PM F/PM T/AM W/AM

W/PM Th/AM S/AM S/AM P M/AM Sat/PM Th/PM

What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

LITURGY SCHEDULE for DECEMBER 9 / 10

	SATURDAY 5:00 PM	SUNDAY 7:30 AM	SUNDAY 9:30 AM	SUNDAY 11:15 AM	SUNDAY 1:30 PM
PRESIDER	Fr. Mirek Kulesa	Fr. Ray Yadron	Fr. Tom Rzepiela	Fr. Tom Rzepiela	Fr. Marcin Zasada
DEACON	Deacon Len Marturano Deacon Jacob Rouse	Deacon Bill Karstenson	Deacon Tom Dunne Deacon Bill Johnson	Deacon John Breit Deacon Bill Johnson	
HOMILY	Deacon Jacob Rouse	Fr. Ray Yadron	Deacon Bill Johnson	Deacon Bill Johnson	Fr. Marcin Zasada
LECTORS	Mark R. Long John Davis	Jill Cervenka Rob Dix	Randy Schappert David Asta	Carol Schaffnit Earl Schaffnit	
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	Marilyn Marturano Mary Bragiel Larry Coco Marian DeGroot Carol Gabiner Layne Gabiner Corinne Greico Helen Janicki Jack McCarthy Jo McCarthy	Sueann Karstenson Gay Sladky Bob Slanicky Lori Smithe Rita Snyder Bob Stanek Margo Stanek Marilynn Stone Don Ullmer Diane Zielinski	Sue Kadowaki Cindy Kane Roswitha Kist Paula Logsdon Steve Lundell Stacy Mccluskey Andrew Nalywajko Theresa Narantic Jackie Nogle	Donna Breit Ted Tomusiak Maureen Treanor Donna Casey Tom Cavenagh Bob Haas Lynn Haas Barbara Hedrich Laura Klotz Jeanie Landeweer	
SERVERS	Marty Davis Jose Aguilar-Rodriguez Garrett Colbrook Armando Aguilar-Rodriguez Jack Castelli	Lily Dix Caroline Kawiecki Maura McGarvey Thomas Smithe Alyssa Bourgeois	Madeline Hake Brianna Holmes Ethan Leigh Jackie Westfall Madalyn Chambers	Nate Carlson Michelle Weber Kiera Treganza Kyle Rady Katie Seligmann	
GREETERS	M Sylvia Schaffer G Bob & Nancy Bachmann N Pat & Maureen Driscoll	Tom & Marianne Greener Don & Geri Ullmer Bob & Margo Stanek	Mary Haig Ann Johnson Mary Ann Kenesey	Lynn Haas John & Jan Harahan Laura Klotz	

Our Weekly Prayers

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 4

6:30am Communion Service
8:00am † Helen Scavuzzo

Tuesday, December 5

6:30am Communion Service
8:00am † Richard Acton;
Int. for Andy Matijevic & his
fellow Seminarians

Wednesday, December 6

6:30am Communion Service
8:00am † Cliff Rees

Thursday, December 7

6:30am Communion Service
8:00am † Tom Digan;
† Joe Santoro

Friday, December 8

Immaculate Conception of Mary

6:30am Mass—ENGLISH
8:00am † Joseph Godfryt
Noon Hour of Grace
6:00pm Mass—ENGLISH
7:30pm Mass—POLISH

Saturday, December 9

8:00am † Frank Ball
5:00pm † Patrick Dolphin;
† Beatrice Miller;
† Joseph Patrick Sullivan

Sunday, December 10

7:30am † David Sladky;
† Michael Kerrigan
9:30am † Edith Hoffmann;
† Nicholas Dahm;
† Alice Hogan;
† Randy Pettry
11:15am All Living & Deceased Parishioners
1:30pm Mass—POLISH

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tue: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Lk 10:21-24
Wed: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thu: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-
27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6,
11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Sat: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6;
Mt 9:35 -- 10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sun: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14;
Mk 1:1-8

OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED

Theodore Ewald Kautz, IV
Marco Joseph Puglisi

Adam Joseph Weidner
Michael Leon Weidner

FOR OUR SICK

Barbara Amato	Jeanne Formanski	Harold Lewis	Elaine Romanchek
Lou Anderson	Jaime Forseth	Allan Loden	Ken Romanchek
Jim Baur	Kirk Forseth	Peggy Lowe	Dick Samojla
Vito Boffa	Faith Forseth	Baby Alexa Mang	Dan Schaffer
Cherie Bott	Parker Forseth	Helen Mariano	Carlos Serna
Andy Bouchonville	Daniel Gajewski	Bob Maruska	Shawn Smith
Charles Campagna	Mel Gass	Elayne Maruska	Russell Spano
Eleanor Campagna	Bill Gerl	Baby Benjamin Mauro	Kristina Sromek
Anna Marie Candorla	Ralph Gonzalez	Mike McGee	Alice Stedronsky
Tom Cook	Adeline Kaczmarek	Candida Morales	Anne Swaw
Baby Seamus Cullen	Mary Anne Kiesel	Mike Moran	Robert Szott
Brenda Darling	Wesley Knutson	JoAnn Moser	Sharon Tadsen
Jason Dean	Mary Alice Kobler	Paul Moser	John Welge
Emily Dempsey	Susan Kordell	Mary Obey	Tom Yadron
Beth Dix	Lauren Lambert	Rita Olles	Frances Zanetti
June Falardeau	Gene Lazich	Patty Reynolds	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. Air Force

- MSGT Dan Fialek
- SSGT Justin Godsey
- MSGT Matthew Grelck
- CPT Erin Killion
- CPT Sean McGee
- SrA Trenton J. Metyk
- SSGT Darrel J. Moe
- Lt Col Ross A. Mol
- SSGT Brian R. O'Donnell
- SrA Joshua Olszak
- MAJ Matthew Walz
- SF Joseph Kilcullen III, Green Beret
- LT Michael Labek
- 2LT Daniel Lloyd
- SSGT Dustin Lyles
- SPC Michael Medina
- SGT Kevin Miller
- CWO2 Timothy O'Cain
- CPT James Ruetsche, Ranger
- PFC Will Willis
- Troops in the Middle East

U.S. Coast Guard

- LT Kevin O'Brien

U.S. Army

- MAJ Robert Bland
- MAJ Bernadette O'Shea Bland
- PFC Ryan Camis-Sutherland
- CPT Ben Couchey
- SSGT Brian J. Dankowski
- CPT Joel Hilborn
- SPC Jeffry Ketelsen

U.S. Marine Corps

- MAJ Joey Cross
- CPL David Crouse
- PVT Nicholas G. Dean
- WO1 Thomas Grygowski
- PFC Jeffrey Daniel Krantz

- CPT Thomas McCarthy
- CPL Cameron Miller
- CPL Sam Miller
- SGT Conor O'Neill
- SGT Nicholas Regini
- SGT Kyle Rich
- LT Jake Schlenbecker
- SGT Corey A. White

U.S. Navy

- LTJG Jeremy Adams
- LCDR Kevin Brandwein
- LCDR John-Paul Falardeau
- CAPT Jason Haen
- SN Caleb Harrington
- PO2 David Holley
- LT Quinn Daniel Kilpatrick
- SN Gregory Minott
- AN James Steining



ROSE OF LIFE
A Special Intention

FOR OUR DEPARTED, REST IN PEACE

† Marie Atansio
Sister of Sharron Jozwiak

† Elaine M. Dunne
Mother of Deacon Tom Dunne

† Elizabeth Cinefro

† James John Redmond
Husband of Rosann Redmond

Informacje po polsku (Polish Information)

I Niedziela Adwentu – Czuwajcie...!

Głównym akcentem dzisiejszej Ewangelii jest wezwanie do czuwania... Nie jest nam ono obce, gdyż współczesny świat ustawił nas w stan ciągłego czuwania: na kolejny text message, kolejny e-mail, kolejną promocję czy superofertę, której nie możemy przegapić... Choć w tego typu sprawach warto by było, byśmy zredukowali ową 'czujność' do pewnego stopnia, to w sprawach duchowych często wcale jej nie posiadamy lub jej poziom jest bardzo niski. Jezusowe wezwanie do czuwania jest zaproszeniem do 'starania o wszystko' zarówno na płaszczyźnie materialnej, jak i duchowej. Nie chodzi przecież o to, by kosztem twardego stąpania po ziemi wyrobić w sobie wrażliwość duchową. Tak jak chrześcijaństwo wzywa do znalezienia właściwej harmonii pomiędzy duszą a ciałem, tak też wzywa nas do pełnego otwarcia się na rzeczywistość wieczną w naszym 'tu i teraz'...

Jak przeżyć kolejny Adwent?

Na początku Adwentu Kościół przypomina nam o Paruzji, czyli ponownym nadejściu Pana na końcu czasów i zachęca do czujności, wierności, wyciszenia i modlitewnego przygotowania.

Jezus w Ewangelii wg Św. Mateusza również czytanej w Adwencie odwołuje do czasów Noego. Były to czasy 'zsekularyzowane'. Codziennosc i przyjemności nie pozwalały koncentrować się na sprawach ducha ani dostrzegać widocznych znaków Boga. Ponadto panowało zepsucie i zło moralne: 'Bóg widział, iż ziemia jest skażona, że wszyscy ludzie na ziemi postępują niegodziwie (Rdz 6, 12)'. Konsekwencją był 'potop'. Tragedii uniknął jedynie żyjący w przyjaźni z Bogiem - Noe (Rdz 6, 8).

Współczesny świat przypomina czasy Noego: egoizm i egocentryzm, myślenie o sobie, przyjemności i brak troski o ducha, brak przejrzystości, niesprawiedliwość i nieliczenie się z prawami innych, zmysłowość i zaspokajanie wszelkich pożądań i pragnień, pomieszanie pojęć, wartości, wybieranie środków połowicznych, kompromisy, bezkarne zło, bezsilność, letarg wymiaru sprawiedliwości, społeczna aprobata grzechu, zła, promocja tych, którzy propagują zło...

Przypomnienie czasów Noego ma prowokować i być zachętą do świadomego czuwania i wytrwałości. Życie duchowe jest czuwaniem, oczekiwaniem, nadzieją. Jest przeciwieństwem bierności, duchowej apatii, lenistwa. Serce nie lubi pustki. Kiedy się pojawia pragnie ją czymś zapełnić. Gdy nie ma wartości głębszych, duchowych, ich miejsce zajmą sprawy drugorzędne: codzienne troski, zmartwienia, lęki, zmysłowe przyjemności, pokusy, grzechy... Konsekwencją jest rutyna i urządzenie się w przeciwności.

Lekarstwem na pustkę, nudę, bierność i apatię duchową jest modlitewne czwanie: 'Czuwajcie i módlcie się, byście nie ulegli pokusie' (Mt 26, 41). Czuwanie jest umiejętnością życia w teraźniejszości. Ważna jest przeszłość, pamięć. Ważna jest również przyszłość, cel życia. Ale nie można żyć skrajnościami. Najważniejsza jest teraźniejszość. To 'dziś, teraz', które jest nową szansą, nową łaską. Czuwać oznacza w sposób mądry i odpowiedzialny podejmować dziś – obowiązki, zadania, trud codzienności, z wiarą, że w tym wszystkim jest Bóg i On sam prowadzi.

W czym moje życie przypomina czasy Noego? Co powinienem zmienić w moim stylu życia? Co dla mnie znaczy czuwać? Czy ulegam duchowej apatii i bierności? Jak sobie radzę z rutyną? Czy żyję dniem dzisiejszym? Czy raczej oscyluję między przeszłością a przyszłością? Czy w codziennym zabieganiu znajduję chwilę na zatrzymanie i wyciszenie się? Jak chcę przeżyć kolejny Adwent?



NIEDZIELNA SKŁADKA

5 listopada 2017 r	\$ 1,788.00
12 listopada 2017 r	\$ 1,476.00
19 listopada 2017 r	\$ 1,718.00
26 listopada 2017 r	\$ 1,557.00

W sumie: \$ 6,539.00

Dziękujemy!

INTENCJE MSZALNE I REJESTRACJA

Intencje mszalne można zamówić po Mszy św. niedzielnej w pokoju marszałków lub zakrystii.

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, Msza św. o godz. 7:30pm;

Pierwsza Sobota miesiąca:

Nabożeństwo 'Pierwszych 5. Sobót' i Msza św. o godz. 7:30pm;

Trzeci Piątek miesiąca: Nabożeństwo do Bożego Miłosierdzia i Msza św. o godz. 7:30pm.

SAKRAMENT CHRZTU ŚW.

Sakrament Chrztu Św. w jęz. polskim jest udzielany w każdą niedzielę miesiąca po Mszy św. w języku polskim—prosimy o wcześniejszy kontakt z ks. Marcinem.

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.

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