

December 11, 2016

THIRD SUNDAY

of

*Advent*



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Jesus said,  
“Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight,  
the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear,  
the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.”

Matthew 11:4-5

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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)

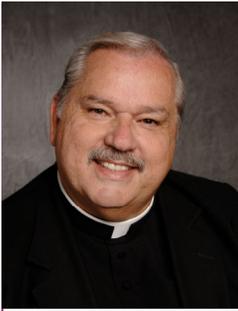
### **HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES**

**12/25/16 Bulletin: Articles due Tuesday, Dec. 13**

**1/1/17 Bulletin: Articles due Monday, Dec. 19**

### **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,

Today we light the third candle of our Advent wreath. I hope you noticed that the candle is pink because the theme of this week is joy! We become more joy-filled as we are getting closer to the celebration of the birth of our Lord. Most of us still have so much to do to get ready for Christmas. And we know that life often presents us with challenges when we least expect. So... how cheerful will you be this week for yourself, for your family and for God?? Will you live this week with your joyful moments or your joyless list of things to be done yet?

Tomorrow, Monday, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Please remember in your prayers our friends at Mission San Juan Diego on their special day. I invite you to pray the following to Mary:

*Most merciful mother, you came to tell us of your compassion through St. Juan Diego, whom you called the littlest and dearest of your sons. Give your strength and protection to all who live in poverty today, especially the young, elderly, and vulnerable. Plead for them to the Father, that they might experience the Divine Love tangibly in their daily lives, and that all who work for justice on behalf of the poor might grow in fortitude and humility. In these ways, manifest your charity and concern in our lives, that the weeping of humanity may be heard, and all our suffering, pain, and misfortune may be filled with divine comfort and healing. May we always know the peace of being in the cradle of your arms, and bring us safely home to your son, Jesus. Amen.*

Could you believe what you witnessed last weekend at the Mass you attended? The number of people at every Mass who walked up and presented their pledge to me was a very heart warming experience as I witnessed all of you not only being good stewards but committing yourselves to the future of our St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Family as well as the Archdiocese of Chicago. Last weekend at Mass, I accepted your pledge cards indicating your intentions. I appreciate all who have already made a pledge, all who made their pledge last weekend, all who were still prayerfully considering their decision and all who could not pledge for whatever reason because of their financial situation. Your generosity, as always, is overwhelming and truly a blessing. Your love for the Lord and your deep faith were overflowing. As your Pastor, last weekend was truly a humbling experience for me. Thank you.

Last weekend, our Parish Family pledged \$369,815.00 from 178 new gifts. And two of those were increases to their original pledges. As of right now, we are almost at our goal. A total of \$1,883,780.00 has been pledged which is 97% of our goal. This means only \$56,220.00 left to raise. And when we hit our goal, anything pledged after that remains with us 100%. We would like to wrap-up the Campaign before Christmas. (So... hurry up!) If you are still prayerfully considering your pledge, we ask your prompt response to help us reach our goal. We have extra pledge cards at the doors in Church today, if you need one to take with you. And we ask you to give your pledge next weekend when you come to church.

Your Pastor,

*Father Tom*

Rev. Thomas R. Rzepiela

*P.S. We are still interviewing for a part-time school secretary. Call us!*

# Parish Events

## PARISH CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 11

9:15am	Religious Ed Classes	School, MRB & TR
9:40am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	MRD
10:00am	RCIA Class	MRA
3:30pm	STV School Sports	RAC
7:00pm	Polish Adult Volleyball	RAC

### Monday, December 12

2:45pm	STV School Athletics	RAC
4:00pm	Religious Ed Classes	School

### Tuesday, December 13

2:45pm	STV School Athletics	RAC
6:45pm	STV Scripture Study	MRD
7:00pm	Family School Assoc.	MR1
9:00pm	Men's Basketball	RAC

### Wednesday, December 14

4:00pm	VOICES Drop-In	TR/RAC
6:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00pm	GIFT I Christmas Party	MRA /B
8:00pm	A.A. (Closed Meeting)	MR4

### Thursday, December 15

4:00pm	STV School Girls' Basketball Tournament	RAC
7:00pm	Adult Choir Practice	Church
7:00pm	GIFT II Christmas Party	MRA /B

### Friday, December 16

8:45am	STV Scripture Study	MRA—D
12:30pm	Church Decorating	Church
4:00pm	STV School Girls' Basketball Tournament	RAC
6:00pm	VOICES Carol-O-Grams	TR/RAC

### Saturday, December 17

8:00am	STV School Girls' Basketball Tournament	RAC
8:40am	Morning Bible Study	MRC

### Sunday, December 18

9:15am	Religious Ed Classes	School, MRB & TR
9:40am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	MRD
10:00am	RCIA Class	MRA
3:30pm	STV School Sports	RAC
7:00pm	Polish Adult Volleyball	RAC

# TODAY

- **BAKE SALE—8TH GRADE FUNDRAISER** In the Gathering Area after Mass
- **EYEsee EYEGLOSS COLLECTION DRIVE** In the Gathering Area after Mass
- **OPLATKI SALES** In the Gathering Area and Narthex after Mass

# UPCOMING

- **CHILI's DINE-N-SHARE** All December (Page 10)
- **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**
  - BLOOD DRIVE: Sunday, December 11 from 7:45am—1pm at St. Theresa Lower Level of the Dolan Center
  - Monday, December 12 at 7:30pm. Monthly Business Meeting at St. Theresa, Lower Dolan Center. Ham raffle after the meeting. So, come to learn how to help those in need, serve your parish, grow your faith and then maybe win a ham! Contact: Jim Arns grandknight4977@gmail.com
- **GOLDEN VILLANOVANS** Wednesday, December 14 at 1:30pm. Christmas Luncheon at Palm Court—1912 N Arlington Heights Rd, Arlington Heights. Call Maureen at 847-358-2586 for reservations or cancellations. Make checks payable to "Golden Villanovans."
- **CAROL-O-GRAMS** Forms due Wednesday, December 14. (Page 6)
- **CHURCH DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS** Our STV Art & Environment Team is looking for some extra hands to help light up the church for Christmas. Please be a helping angel for this huge endeavor: Phase 1: Friday, Dec 16 at 12:30 pm and/or Phase 2: Friday, Dec 23 at 12:30 pm. Thank you so much
- **CHRISTMAS FLOWER TRIBUTES** Due Monday, December 19. (Page 7)
- **ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE** Monday, December 19 (Page 7)

## 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.



**KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS—NEW MEMBERS**

Our Holy Ghost Council heartily welcomes and congratulates three new Brothers to our Fraternal Order! These fine gentlemen completed their Admission (1<sup>st</sup>) Degree Saturday morning, Nov.19, 2016 (sponsored by the Holy Family Council #11981 in Inverness).



Left to Right : Brett Pfister, Paul Ackermann; George Sokulski welcome to the Knights of Columbus!

**RCIA UPDATE**

Since celebrating the Rite of Welcoming, our candidates (those already baptized and seeking full Communion with the Catholic Church) have been studying the Catholic faith in greater depth. They spend time reflecting on Scripture, participating fully in the Liturgy of the Word, and are beginning to take an active role in the life of the church community. Showing our love for God through serving others is emphasized throughout the RCIA process.



Recently, our candidates, participated in the Thanksgiving Dinner program and on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> our class members were given the opportunity to put their love for Jesus into action by participating in STV's annual Gift of Love program. This activity provides Christmas gifts to local families who are less fortunate. Class members and their sponsors, their friends and family members, and our catechists gathered together to enjoy a pizza dinner at the church followed by a shopping spree at area retailers. Then, in the spirit of Christmas, our joyful team of elves returned to STV to adorn the gifts they purchased with Christmas wrapping paper and fancy ribbons and bows.

During this Christmas season may the families sharing in the Gift of Love and our candidates be blessed with a heart that knows the love of Jesus. Blessings and Merry Christmas!



**KAIROS OUTSIDE  
Prison Ministry**

*Kairos Outside is part of Kairos Prison Ministry International (KPMI). It supports the families of those who are behind prison walls by giving the women (mothers, wives, sisters, etc.) a special faith-filled and hope-generating weekend of unconditional love and God's healing grace. The next weekend will be presented on December 16-18.*

*You can support Kairos Outside by providing a "meal ticket". Each meal ticket is placed at a guest's table and represents not just your financial support but also a visible reminder of the larger Christian community that is praying for her and the other guests. The suggested donation is \$10.00.*

*Please complete the form below using FIRST NAMES ONLY and send your check made payable to "KPMI" to KPMI, c/o Carol Prunty, P.O. Box 235, Amboy, IL 61310. (KPMI is a 501 (c)(3) organization.)*

*Thank you and God bless you!  
Pat Fialek & Vera Muir, Parishioners*

**ILL. Kairos  
Outside #2**



This meal provided by:

NAME:

CITY:

*A new command I give you:  
Love one another. As I have loved  
you, so must you love one another.  
John 13:34*

# Advent & Christmas



## Advent Prayer Wreaths

Advent is a time of hope and expectation. It is a time when we remember fondly the past and bring those memories forward as our hopes and prayers for the future. Advent can also be a time of looking to your faith community to help by sharing your prayers.

Please take a moment to stop in the Gathering Area or Narthex and add a prayer to the Advent Prayer Wreath. Use the small slips of paper to write your prayer. Then, hang your paper with the others, using the ribbon provided. **NO NAMES PLEASE.**

On Christmas, your individual prayer slips will be taken off the wreaths, bundled together and placed in the crèche with baby Jesus.

Sincerely,  
*The Faith Formation Team*

### OPLATKI

As we prepare ourselves during this season of Advent, we remember the traditional custom of sharing the Christmas wafer or Oplatki. Beginning today, Oplatki will be available for you after all the Masses in the Gathering Area and Narthex. We ask for a donation of \$3 for each package of two wafers. It is a great family custom to break bread together, especially on Christmas morning.



### CAROL-O-GRAMS

Sung by VOICES High School Youth Group  
**Friday, December 16, 6 - 9pm**  
Palatine/Arlington Heights area **ONLY!**  
**\$7.00 per order**

What happens when you combine caroling with a singing telegram? You get a Carol-O-Gram! 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](mailto:jeff@stvoices.org)



Forms due to the **Parish Office** by  
**Wednesday, December 14th.**

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



### CAROL-O-GRAM FORM PLEASE PRINT

To: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

PALATINE or  ARLINGTON HTS

Recipient's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

Please come, pray and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Singing and caroling will begin 15 minutes before English Masses.



**Saturday, December 24—Christmas Eve**

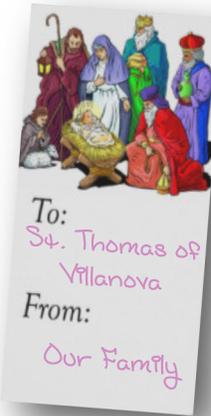
- ◆ 3:00pm—Children’s Liturgy (Children’s Choir & Brass Ensemble)
- ◆ 5:00pm—English Mass (Adult Choir & Brass Ensemble)
- ◆ 10:00pm—English Mass (Cantors & Brass Ensemble)
- ◆ Midnight—Polish Mass

**Sunday, December 25—Christmas Day**

- ◆ 9:30am—English Mass (Cantors & Brass Ensemble)
- ◆ 11:30am—English Mass (Adult Choir & Brass Ensemble)
- ◆ 1:30pm—Polish Mass

**PARISH CHRISTMAS GIFT**

Along with your Sunday offering, our collections on Christmas, Easter and other Holy Days provide the income which pays our Parish Family’s operational expenses. We definitely need and appreciate your sacrificial offerings in the Christmas envelope. To meet our goal of \$135,000, we suggest that each parish household donate a gift of at least \$175.00. For some, this might be impossible. For others, a larger gift might be a fitting expression of thanks and of praise to God for all of His blessings, especially the gift of His Son. If possible, you might increase your Christmas gift in the name of those parishioners who cannot give as they would like because of their current financial situations. *To provide your Christmas donation electronically, use GiveCentral—see page 9.*



**THANK YOU** for all your sharing of Treasure, Time and Talent which enables our Parish Family to proclaim Jesus in so many ways.

*- Your Finance Committee*

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS**

This year, you can donate to the Christmas Flower fund by:

- 1 Using your envelope in the November / December Sacrificial Giving Packet
- 2 Logging on to [www.GiveCentral.org](http://www.GiveCentral.org) and clicking on “Christmas Flowers”



Both options allow for you to donate in honor / in memory of your loved ones. Either write on the back of the envelope the name(s) for your tribute or, if you are donating online, just fill in the space labeled “Tribute Gift.” We will publish donor names and tributes in the January 1, 2017 bulletin; however donations must be received by: **Monday, December 19th** to be published in the bulletin. *Questions? 847-358-6999 or [suzie@stov.org](mailto:suzie@stov.org)*



**Reconciliation Opportunities**

During Advent, take the time to prepare your heart for the birth of Our Lord. You can receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on:

- ◆ **Saturday, December 17 from 8:30am—9:30am**
- ◆ **Penance Service on Monday, December 19 at 7:00pm**

*Cut out and bring with you to confession, if needed.*

**ACT OF CONTRITION**

**Traditional**

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you, and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life. Amen.

**Contemporary**

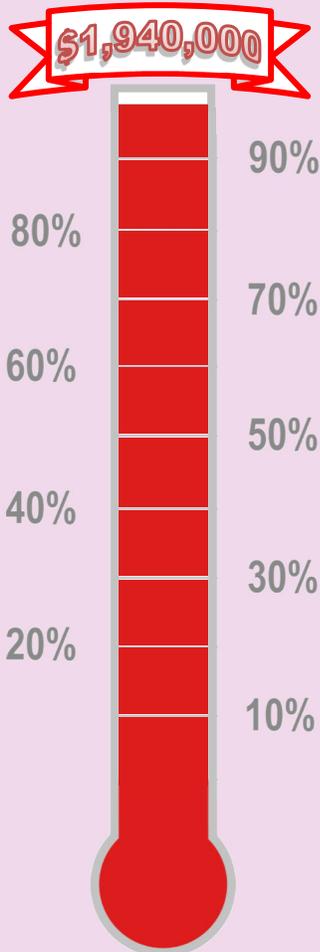
O my God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I fully intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Amen.

# "To Teach Who Christ Is" Capital Campaign

"TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS"

UPDATE AS OF  
12/4/16

<b>Goal</b>	<b>\$ 1,940,000.00</b>
Total Pledged	\$ 1,883,780.00
% of Goal	97%
Parish Share	\$ 1,130,268.00
# of Pledges	496
Average Gift	\$ 3,797.94
# of Volunteers	34



**TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS**

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

## PARISH COMMITMENT WEEKEND

Thank you for giving and for helping "To Teach Who Christ Is" with your very generous pledges. The weekend total was \$369,815.00—Thanks be to God!



**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**  
Your generosity is incredible!

**2017 Fiscal Year Sunday Sacrificial Giving**

YTD Budget	\$ 545,00.00
YTD Actual	\$ 528,417.43
<b>Over / Under</b>	<b><i>(- \$ 16,682.57)</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				
Dec 18				
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.

**THANKSGIVING MEALS**

Two days before Thanksgiving this year, 52 families received your plentiful Thanksgiving meals! Your food fed 150 adults and 117 children for a total of 267 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 meals 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!

**FOOD COLLECTION**

A great big thank you to everyone who brought food or donated money at the 10am Mass on Thanksgiving Day. Your generosity was overwhelming! Your donations of non-perishable food filled in the gaps on the pantry shelves. Your monetary donations of \$305.00 will enable our volunteer pantry shoppers to purchase fresh meats. Our food pantry thrives from your generosity. Thank you!



**2nd COLLECTION TODAY**

**Retirement Fund for the Religious**

This is an opportunity to honor and thank retired Catholic sisters, brothers and religious-order priests for their generous service to our Church and world. Make checks payable to: St. Thomas of Villanova. Write: Retirement for Religious on the memo line. Thank you!



## 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

#9999900007408



*From the Principal's Desk*

**The Door Decorating Contest has begun!** Please go to the STV Facebook page to enjoy all the Christmas Door decorations. Teachers and students went all out to convey their Christmas spirit. Vote for your favorites by pressing "Like." Have fun!

**Check out our amazing teaching staff. The following is a brief insight into what some of our school children are experiencing in their classrooms:**

**Preschool 3 year old with Mrs. Fisher:** The Preschoolers have been very busy with the holidays. We enjoyed singing our Thanksgiving songs and eating our yummy Feast! Now we are preparing for Baby Jesus to come. We continue to do our schoolwork - we are learning our letters, letter sounds, and how to write the letters.

**Kindergarten with Mrs. Pratt:** The Christmas season is upon us! Students are learning about Advent and preparing for Jesus. Our goal in literacy right now is learning how to decode words, read and write sentences. Addition has been our main focus in math, along with learning different strategies and ways to add. The highlight of these last two weeks has been traveling to different countries in South America! It is such an interesting continent!

**Second Grade with Mrs. Kerr:** STV Second Graders are hard at work building upon their reading and writing skills on a daily basis. Our current science unit involves hands on testing and experimentation to learn about the properties of matter. In math we have been learning a variety of strategies for solving 2 - and 3-digit subtraction. Lastly, and most importantly, we continue to deepen our faith through prayer, God's word and self-reflection during Advent.

**Fourth Grade with Mrs. Shepke:** We have been busy researching information on a state that the students chose. They are creating Power Points and floats and will present both in front of their classmates. The culminating activity is a 50 state luncheon where the kids get to try authentic foods from the states that were chosen.

**Science with Mrs. McGarvey:** The six and seventh grade science students are preparing for their Science Fair in January by submitting their final copy of their research paper called a Review of Literature. This research paper enables them to form their hypothesis before they begin their experimentation.

**Social Studies with Mr. Olson:** Sixth graders are doing a little "time traveling" back to the time of the Aztecs. Eighth graders are preparing for their History Fair by researching and analyzing data being collected. This is the first year of participating in the state History Fair.

**Spanish with Ms. Brady:** Each grade has their own unique experience learning Spanish. For example the preschoolers and 1st graders are learning some Spanish songs to help them practice how to say various parts of the body in Spanish. While the eighth graders just finished learning vocabulary to describe individuals and identify items at a restaurant.

Advent blessings,  
Mary Brinkman

## On Recognizing Jesus, and Advent

In last Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist sounds pretty sure of himself in announcing Jesus to the world. Per Matthew's telling, "John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!' It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: a voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" Nor does the Baptist have any doubt of who Jesus is as depicted in John's Gospel "The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world...'"

This isn't surprising, especially when we read in Luke's Gospel of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth. Per the Evangelist, "During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth...and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, 'Most blessed are you among women,

and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leapt for joy..." Thus, *from the womb*, John recognizes Jesus *in the womb*.

And yet, in today's passage from the Gospel of Matthew, John the Baptist--now in prison--is unsure of himself. Or perhaps more specifically, he is unsure of *Jesus* himself. Yeah. He goes from leaping in Elizabeth's womb at the sound of Mary's voice to crying out in the desert all the way to beholding the Lamb of God and giving witness to everyone on the banks of the Jordan that Jesus is the Son of God. But today? Today John is behind bars and all he can do is send his disciples out in the world to find Jesus, directing them then to ask the man a simple question: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Without exactly answering, Jesus points to his own works in response, telling John's disciples, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them..." Notice that these are pretty much the same works that Isaiah prophesized about centuries earlier ("Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing..."). Certainly John knows of Isaiah and his prophecies. So if these are the signs and wonders of Christ's coming, and if Jesus is playing out such signs and wonders in real time, then the Baptist can come to only one conclusion (as can the rest of us): Jesus is the Christ. Today, even as we wait for him during this holy time, we are called always to look for him, to know him, and to recognize him as the one who is to come, come.

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### LITURGY SCHEDULE for DECEMBER 17 / 18

	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. Martin Luboyera	Fr. Tom Rzepiela	Fr. Marcin Zasada	Fr. Mirek Kulesa
<b>DEACON</b>	Deacon John Breit		Deacon Rich Willer	Deacon Bill Karstenson	
<b>HOMILY</b>	Deacon John Breit	Fr. Martin Luboyera	Deacon Rich Willer	Deacon Bill Karstenson	Fr. Mirek Kulesa
<b>LECTORS</b>	Mark R. Long Mary Bragiel	Tom Greener Jill Cervenka	David Asta Chris Fisher	Norma Holmes John Holmes	
<b>MINISTERS OF COMMUNION</b>	Donna Breit Marian DeGroot Dan Dunne Jim Dunne Carol Gabiner Layne Gabiner Corinne Greico Helen Janicki Peggy King Andy Matijevic	Bonnie Fennig Karen Flasch Jim Hajost Bob Hicks Mary Anne Horan Margo Stanek Marilynn Stone Don Ullmer Diane Zielinski	Mary Willer Sue Allen Kate O'Connell Kathy Schappert Randy Schappert Beth Stowick Susan Weres Alice Witt Debbie Yurcheshen Marty Yurcheshen	Sueann Karstenson Karen Barrett Mary Carlson Donna Casey Tom Cavenagh Bob Haas Lynn Haas Earl Schaffnit Ted Tomusiak Maureen Treanor	
<b>SERVERS</b>	McKenzie Maude Emmett Maude Kieran Maude Ryan Maude <i>Joshua Reiswig</i>	Billy Shoults Gabe Pribilski Ben Pribilski <i>Jason Mayschak</i> <i>Kiera Treganza</i>	Truman Sanchez Connor Loftus Joey Steffens <i>Johnny Pelletiere</i> <i>Grace Hedgepeth</i>	Billy Sloan Timmy Sloan Matthew Sloan <i>Doug Hall</i> <i>Justin Oliver</i>	
<b>* In Training</b>					
<b>GREETERS</b>	M G N Maureen Penkava Sylvia Schaffer J & R Redmond	Dona Andersen Boni & Mila Quiaoit Bob & Margo Stanek	M Schaefer & Brendan R & K Schappert George & Carol Sokulski	Laura Klotz J & J Landeweer Brian & Sheila O'Shea	

# Our Weekly Prayers

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, December 12

- 6:30am Communion Service  
 8:00am † Carlos Murguia  
 7:00pm Retreat—POLISH

### Tuesday, December 13

- 6:30am Communion Service  
 8:00am † Kathleen Scollard;  
 † Caroline Attanaseo  
 7:00pm Retreat—POLISH

### Wednesday, December 14

- 6:30am Communion Service  
 8:00am † Rosie Casarez

### Thursday, December 15

- 6:30am Communion Service  
 8:00am † Christopher Kanis;  
 † Teodozja Orlowski

### Friday, December 16

- 6:30am Communion Service  
 8:00am † Frank Bennett;  
 † Carole L. Reibel;  
 † Wanda Gajda;  
 † Edward Stermer

### Saturday, December 17

- 8:00am † Wellington Family Members  
 5:00pm All Living & Deceased Parishioners

### Sunday, December 18

- 7:30am † Janice Ward;  
 † Rosemary Vlk;  
 † William Mitchell;  
 † Anthony Sam Talerico;  
 † Frank S. Plank  
 9:30am † Irene Newton;  
 † Jerry & Vera Forbes;  
 † Edward Murphy;  
 † Randy Pettry  
 11:15am † Richard Mierzwinski;  
 † Donald O. Reed Sr.;  
 † Marie Kay;  
 † Carmela Krogstad;  
 † George Cooper  
 1:30pm Mass—POLISH  
 2:30pm Confession—POLISH

## OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED

*James Phillip Houlihan*

*Oliwia Zurawski*

## FOR OUR SICK

- |                     |                   |                  |                    |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Lou Anderson        | Beth Dix          | Susan Kordell    | Patty Reynolds     |
| Kathy Bell          | William Dvorak    | Lauren Lambert   | Jack Riedy         |
| Cherie Bott         | Jeanne Formanski  | Sharon Laziewicz | Elaine Romanchek   |
| Andy Bouchonville   | Kirk Forseth      | Gene Lazich      | Ken Romanchek      |
| Baby Billy Callahan | Faith Forseth     | Harold Lewis     | Shawn Smith        |
| Baby Ray Callahan   | Parker Forseth    | Bob Maruska      | John Socha         |
| Anna Marie Candorla | Mel Gass          | Elayne Maruska   | Anne Swaw          |
| Tom Cook            | Lena Grieco       | Joan Mayer       | Robert Szott       |
| John Cooney         | Ronald Grieco     | Candida Morales  | Kathy Tomusiak     |
| Abbey Corbett       | RJ Hubka          | Carolyn J. Moran | Marcy Weckler Barr |
| Baby Seamus Cullen  | Adeline Kaczmarek | Paul Moser       | Jeri Sue Welty     |
| Brenda Darling      | Mary Anne Kiesel  | Mary Obey        | Connie Wilberding  |
| Jason Dean          | Wesley Knutson    | Ken Oeschger     | William Yadron     |
| Emily Dempsey       | Mary Alice Kobler | Boni Quiaoit     | 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
- LCPL James N. Wyant

### 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 Wife  
 ROSE CASAREZ

## FOR OUR DEPARTED, REST IN PEACE

† Maureen Ann Griffin  
 † Linda Kelley

† James William Ward  
 ~ Brother of Jody Musielak

## DAILY READINGS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mon: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38</li> <li>• Tue: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32</li> <li>• Wed: Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thu: Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30</li> <li>• Fri: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Jn 5:33-36</li> <li>• Sat: Gn 49:2,8-10; Ps 72:1-4,7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17</li> <li>• Sun: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24</li> </ul> |
|--|---|



**III Niedziela Adwentu – Niedziela Radości - Gaudete, Szczęśliwy, kto nie zwątpi w Chrystusa**  
Słowa Jezusa, będące odpowiedzią daną Janowi, są ważne i wciąż aktualne dla nas. Są to bowiem słowa dla nas i o nas. Dla nas, bo umacniają nas w cierpliwości, która jest zbawienna. W sytuacjach, kiedy wydaje się nam, że jesteśmy sami, jak Jan Chrzciciel w więzieniu, i zbyt słabi,

by podjąć trud nawrócenia, musimy pamiętać, że błogosławiony jest ten, kto nie zwątpi w Chrystusa. Są to słowa także o nas, ponieważ i nam jest głoszona Dobra Nowina, a dzięki uzdrawiającej mocy sakramentów nasze 'zwiędłe' z powodu grzechów życie nabiera świeżości i w pełni rozkwita. Dokona się to, gdy pokornie i cierpliwie staniemy w szeregu ubogich, niewidomych i głuchych, by jako najmniejsi tu, na ziemi, otrzymać wieczną chwałę w rzeczywistości nieba.



### 'Stan Wojenny – gorzej niż zbrodnia – 13. grudnia 1981'

Stan wojenny był operacją starannie zaplanowaną w Sztabie Generalnym Wojska Polskiego – wojska, nazywanego przez komunistyczną propagandę 'ludowym'. Jednostki tego wojska zgodnie z nakazem: 'bronić socjalizmu jak niepodległości' wyszły na ulice polskich miast, otoczyły 'gniazda antysocjalistycznej zarazy', zakłady pracy i uczelnie. Pod osłoną wojska

funkcjonariusze MO i SB wtrącili tysiące ludzi do więzień i obozów. Celem było ratowanie przed upadkiem rządów sowieckich sługusów z PZPR.

Propaganda PRL twierdziła, że stan wojenny był niby koniecznością bowiem 'Solidarność' chciała doprowadzić do wymordowania komunistów. W kilka lat później reżim PRL musiał skapitulować. Rozsypywał się Związek Sowiecki i walił się komunizm. Ludzie, którzy zorganizowali i przeprowadzili stan wojenny ponownie zaczęli tłumaczyć, że stan wojenny to był koniecznością, 'mniejszym złem' bo groziła nam napaść sowiecka. Dowiedzieliśmy się, że gdyby towarzysze z PZPR nie wprowadzili stanu wojennego, to na Polskę napadliby 'przyjaciele' z Rosji, Czech i NRD i Polska spłynęłaby krwią. Dzięki stanowi wojennemu Polska uniknęła katastrofy.

Dzisiaj mamy dość informacji, że w grudniu 1981 r. Sowieci nie byli skłonni do interwencji w Polsce. Jak powiedział marszałek Kulikow: 'Polacy to nie Czesi, interwencja wojskowa nie wchodzi w rachubę. Polska z armią liczącą 400 tys. żołnierzy, prawie 200 tys. w siłach podporządkowanych MSW no i z 10 mln. w 'Solidarności' to była potęga 'nie do ugryzienia'. Gdyby więc w grudniu 1981 roku władze PRL porozumiały się z 'Solidarnością' i Polska pozbyła się zależności od ZSRR, to już wówczas byłaby krajem wolnym. Entuzjazm wolnych Polaków i wsparcie krajów zachodnich – byłibyśmy wówczas jedynym krajem Europy Środkowej, który wyzwolił się z komunizmu – dałby Polsce silny bodziec rozwojowy. Tę wielką historyczną szansę w rezultacie stanu wojennego straciliśmy.

Stan wojenny – próba ratowania komunistycznych rządów – spowodował wiele negatywnych skutków. Śmierć górników KWK 'Wujek', tysiące aresztowanych, pobitych i prześladowanych, setki tysięcy emigrantów, zgaszenie nadziei na lepszą przyszłość w milionach Polaków... Splamiony został mundur polskiego żołnierza haniebną akcją represyjną przeprowadzoną w interesie rządzącej kliki. Ale największą stratą było zmarnowanie potencjału narodu gwarantowanego przez ruch 'Solidarność'. To było gorsze od zbrodni, która stan wojenny był...

### 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	\$
18	grudnia	
25	grudnia	

**W sumie: \$ 1,651.00**  
**Dziękujemy!**