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St. Thomas of Villanova

A Catholic Parish Family - Palatine, IL

Parish Information

MASS SCHEDULE
Visit www.stov.org for registration.

RECONCILIATION
By appointment only.

NEW PARISHIONERS: All are welcome! Visit our website www.stov.org to download our registration form or call the Parish Office for more information about our Parish.

BAPTISM: Visit our website www.stov.org to fill out a request form for a baptism or call the Parish Office for more information.

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 of Christian Initiation of 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.

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND: No ministers are allowed to bring communion to the homebound at this time.

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

FUNERALS: Please contact our Parish Office for more information to plan a funeral service.

PARISH OFFICE

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

Parish Office Hours:
CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Rev. Kris Janczak, *Pastor*	*fatherkris@stov.org*
Rev. Marcin Zasada, *Associate Pastor*	*marcin.zasada@yahoo.com*
Deacon John Breit, *Business Manager*	*jbreit@stov.org*
Deacon Tom Dunne, *Minister of Care*	*deacontomdunne@yahoo.com*
Jeff Walczynski, *High School Youth Dir.*	*jeff@stov.org*
Jeanne Slatkay, *Music Director*	*jslatkay@stov.org*
Suzie Walczynski, *Bulletin Editor/Outreach*	*suzie@stov.org*
Sheila O'Shea, *Admin. Assistant*	*soshea@stov.org*
Ann Duffey, *Admin. Assistant*	*aduffey@stov.org*

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*
Alice Scardina, *Admin. Assistant*	*stvoffice@stvschool.org*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Owen Walsh, *Religious Ed Director*	*owalsh@stov.org*
Lisa Lechowicz, *Religious Ed Asst. Director*	*rec@stov.org*

Priests

Rev. Kris Janczak, Pastor
Rev. Marcin Zasada, Assoc. Pastor
Msgr. John Canary, Weekend Assoc.
Rev. Tom Rzepiela, Pastor Emeritus
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

Pam Maloney, *Co-Chairperson*
Barb Howell, *Co-Chairperson*
Deacon John Breit
Lexine Cramm
Ann Johnson
Norbert Krogstad
Steve Lundell
Gay Sladky
Rev. Marcin Zasada

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

WEEKEND MASSES

All who wish to attend Weekend Mass will be required to sign-up.
NO WALK-INS, PLEASE!

Signup to attend weekend Mass will open on Thursday mornings at 9:00am. Look for a Flocknote with the link to signup for Mass or signup on our website: www.stov.org—under the Reopening tab.

- Each individual person wishing to attend Mass must be registered.
- If you (or if you know someone) are not able to register online due to a lack of computer / internet access, please call the parish by 5pm on Friday at 847-358-6999 . Someone will get back to you and help you register, if spots are available.
- Pre-Mass registration is needed for contact tracing if someone gets sick. Attendance records will be destroyed every 14 days.
- Seats will be sanitized before each Mass.
- Masks must be worn and social distancing will be observed at all times in the Church and building.

NOTE: *While we are excited to resume public Mass, the Archdiocesan dispensation for Spiritual Communion remains. There is no Sunday Mass attendance requirement at this time. If you feel sick, State and Archdiocese guidelines ask that you remain at home. If you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, please do not feel an obligation to join us physically in the church. If you are considered part of the 'vulnerable population', we welcome you to join us IF you are comfortable to do so. We desire to be reunited with you, but we understand the seriousness of COVID-19.*

WEEKDAY MASS

Every Tuesday & Thursday - 8:00am

Come celebrate Mass and receive the Eucharist with us! No pre-registration is required for weekday Mass. However, you will need to sign in upon arrival. PLEASE arrive early to allow enough time. Doors will open at 7:40am. The doors will be closed once Mass begins, so please don't be late.

ADORATION

Join us each Wednesday from 6pm - 7pm in church for silent prayer before the Holy Eucharist. Just like daily Mass, no pre-registration will be required. However, you will need to sign-in when you arrive. You are invited to come pray for the entire hour or just a little while - whatever fits your schedule.

OTHER SERVICES

Reconciliation is available by appointment. Leave a voicemail message at the Parish Office - 847-358-6999 and one of the priests will return your call. We continue to celebrate Baptisms, wedding and funeral Masses.

MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to have a Mass celebrated in honor or memory of someone, please either call 847-358-6999 or email STOVReopen@stov.org. Donations can be mailed to our Parish (1201 E. Anderson Dr, Palatine, IL 60074) or dropped in the offertory box, if you attend Mass. If you are requesting a particular date, please contact us at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the intention. Thank you.

We are aware of the concern with the rising cases of COVID-19, especially in the states that are currently on a quarantine list for our area.

STATES NOT ON QUARANTINE
Hawaii
Maine
Vermont

ALL other states are currently on quarantine for our area.

We ask that if you have traveled for more than 24 hours in any quarantined state, please refrain from attending any liturgies at St. Thomas of Villanova for 14 days out of caution and compassion for your fellow parishioners.

We want to reiterate that we continue to do all that we can to follow the guidelines provided by the Archdiocese of Chicago to keep you as healthy as we can when you come to St. Thomas of Villanova to worship. Adhering to these practices has been extremely helpful thus far. We have worked so hard to make our Church a safe place to pray in the midst of this pandemic.

Remember, too, that the Archdiocesan dispensation for Spiritual Communion remains. There is no Sunday Mass attendance requirement at this time.

Together, let us pray for a swift end to the coronavirus pandemic that afflicts our world, that our God and Father will heal the sick, strengthen those who care for them, and help us all to persevere in faith. Amen.

Please visit our website: WWW.STOV.ORG for reopening information and registration for Mass and other services.

Like us on Facebook!
Saint Thomas of Villanova Parish- STOV

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH

live-streaming SUNDAY MASS

Join us virtually each Sunday for Mass.
9:00 am - English
11:00 am - Polish

Look for the live-stream links in your Saturday Flocknote OR visit our live-stream website page at www.stov.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO KEEP OUR CHURCH OPEN

The number of Masses and services we can offer and the number of people allowed in church will be directly tied to how many volunteers will be available to set-up, greet/usher and clean-up before and after each service. Three teams to choose from:

- **Set-up team:** *18 years or older.*
- **Greeting team:** *Must be 18 -65 years old.*
- **Cleaning team:** *18 years or older. High schoolers allowed with permission of parents.*

To volunteer or receive more information about volunteering, email:
stovreopen@stov.org

ADVENT RESOURCES

We light the pink candle this week for Advent and celebrate Gaudete Sunday. It is a time to shift our thoughts from "the Lord is coming" to "the Lord is near." We are more than half way to Christmas. In the midst of penance and prayerful anticipation during Advent, let us reflect on the source of our true **joy**—our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Continue to prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord.

- Visit www.archchicago.org and click on "ADVENT RESOURCES." You will find many resources to help you as we draw near to Christmas.
- The "Little **Blue** Books" with 6-minute daily reflections for Advent and Christmas are available OUTSIDE our church's circular drive under the canopy. Just drive up or walk to pick up a book for your family.

CONFESSIONS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

For those of you who would like to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession privately, please call the Parish Office at 847-358-6999, or send an e-mail to STOVReopen@stov.org asking for a priest to call or email you back to arrange confession. Please don't wait until the last minute. For as you know, the season of Advent and Christmas will be much busier at the Parish and for the priests. They want to be able to accommodate your schedule. Thank you.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

To meet our publisher's deadlines, bulletin submissions are due as follows:

- JAN. 3 Bulletin—Articles due Tuesday, December 15

WINTER 2021
VIRTUAL SCRIPTURE STUDY OFFERINGS

St. Thomas of Villanova is pleased to be able to offer the following Scripture study classes this winter virtually via Zoom meetings. ***Check our website: www.stov.org for easy links to all these classes.***

HEWBREWS: THE NEW & ETERNAL COVENANT
An 8-Week Study

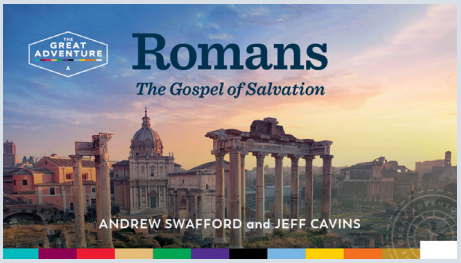
FRIDAY MORNINGS
Beginning January 8, 2021 from 9:30 until 11:30 a.m.
Register for the Friday class and purchase the materials online through Ascension Press, at: https://study.ascensionpress.com/studies/53379/registrations/new

OR
TUESDAY EVENINGS
Beginning January 5, 2021 from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m.
Register for the Tuesday class and purchase the materials online through Ascension Press at: https://study.ascensionpress.com/studies/53380/registrations/new

$26.95/ per person + tax and shipping*

*Participants should purchase one STUDY SET, which includes a workbook, online video access (good for one year), and the online version of the workbook.

ROMANS: THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION
An 8-week study



SATURDAY MORNINGS
Beginning January 9, 2021 from 8:45 until 10:45 a.m.
Register for the Saturday class and purchase the materials online through Ascension Press at: https://study.ascensionpress.com/studies/53381/registrations/new

$26.95/ per person + tax and shipping**

** Participants should purchase one STUDY SET, which includes a workbook, online video access (good for one year), and the online version of the workbook.

TO REGISTER: Since these studies are virtual, ***participants must register and purchase study materials online*** using one of the above links. When purchasing the study materials using the appropriate link above, participants will ***automatically be registered*** for the St. Thomas study. Participants will receive an email invitation to attend their study via Zoom at the end of December.

Are you new to Zoom? No problem, we'll help you get started!
Contact Nancy Hulsebosch at **nhulsebosch@gmail.com** or 847-757-5630

Outreach Update

In the past few weeks, St. Thomas of Villanova Parish has contributed over $30,000.00 in the various giving programs for the holidays. THANK YOU & THANK YOU AGAIN to everyone who donated to each of these programs or through the pink / sharing envelopes.

THANKSGIVING DINNER PROGRAM

On Monday, November 23rd, our church provided grocery gift cards to 48 families in need for Thanksgiving. Families from our parish, food pantry and Misión San Juan Diego received their gift cards through a contactless, drive-thru pickup in time to shop for their families' Thanksgiving dinner favorites. Thank you to all who donated to provide for these families. You gave much more than money. You gave them the dignity to purchase exactly what their family wanted and needed to fill their table for Thanskgiving. What a blessing for them!

CHRISTMAS GIVING PROGRAM

We adjusted our annual Christmas Giving Program (formerly Gift of Love) in efforts to keep everyone involved—sponsors, recipients and volunteers—as safe as possible. We still took on the huge responsibility of helping 55 families in need from our parish, food pantry and Misión San Juan Diego. Sponsors were asked to provide $50 per recipient AND pray for their recipient this Advent and Christmas season. We used Signup Genius to match sponsors with the 272 recipients. Without hesitation, each and every recipient was sponsored! Incredible generosity from YOU!

Recipients preselected their gift cards, and we used Shop With Script to order the gift cards which gives a percent back to the Ministry of Care account. With money from our pink / sharing envelopes, we made a "mini-party in a bag" for the families. It contained hot chocolate packets, cookies, plates, cups and more. So, even though we couldn't provide hospitality in person like usual, recipient families could still enjoy a little party with each other.

Special Christmas cheers to elves Pat and Jack Devron, Donna Koehler and Geri Zimmermann who graciously volunteered their time to help package the gift cards and make reminder calls for this event. Thank you!

Some of the many bags waiting to be picked up by recipients in the outdoor, non-contact drive-thru

HOMELESS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GIFT CARDS

St. Thomas of Villanova again partnered with local churches to buy gift cards for Palatine high school students who are homeless. Our combined churches donated **$23,510** in gift cards this year! WOW! Participating Palatine congregations were: Prince of Peace, Countryside UUC, St. Theresa, St. Paul UCC, Thrive Vineyard, St. Phillips and our church. From your generous pink /sharing envelope donations, our parish donated $1,055.00 in gift cards.

Along with the gift cards, PATH (Palatine Assisting Through Hope) included toiletries, earbuds and encouragement notes created by Thrive and Prince of Peace churches in the 125 gift bags for these students. With such a large donation, PATH was also able to:

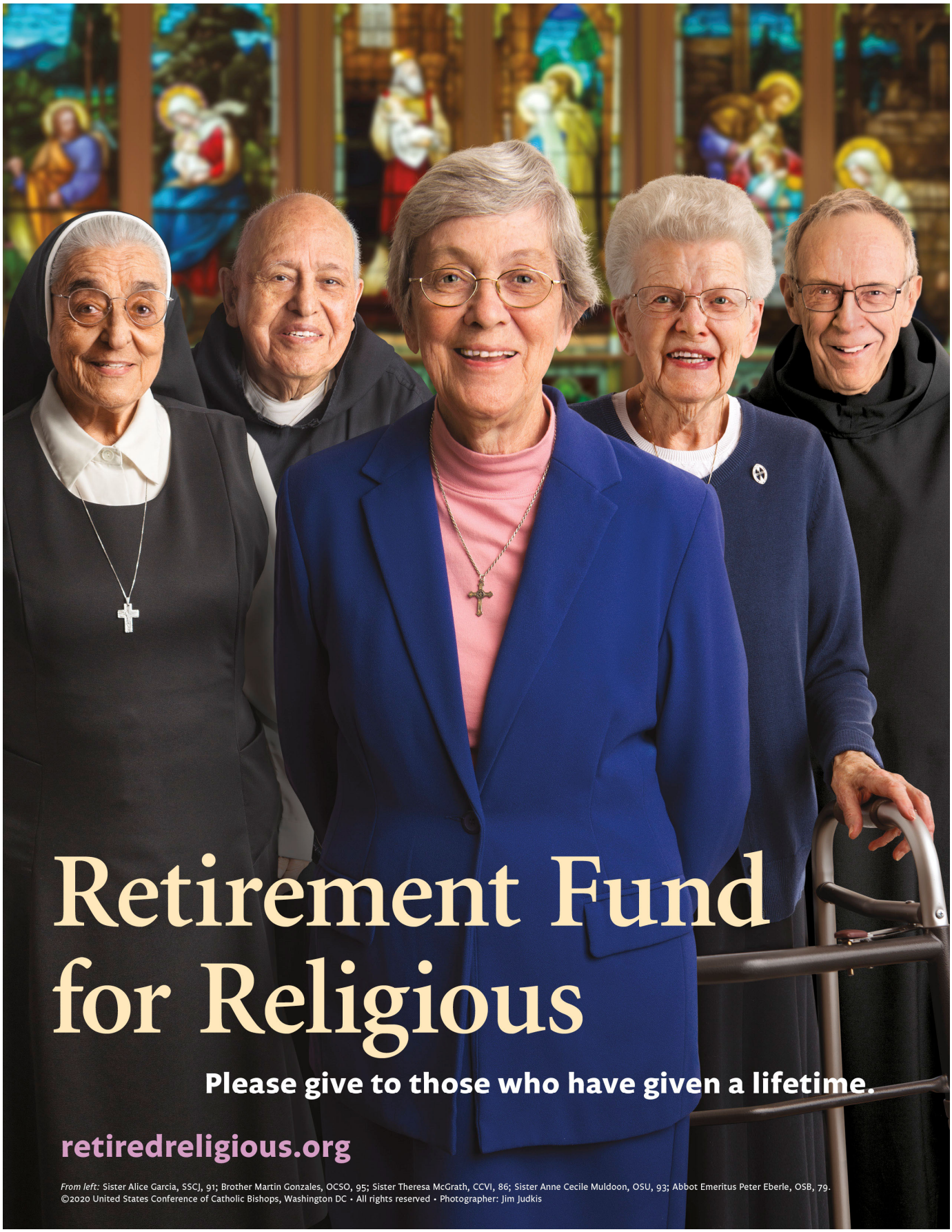
- Create $50 gift card envelopes for social workers to have on hand.
- Utilize these funds to purchase granola bars and hygiene items.
- Reach out to District 15 to help K-8 level students in need.

PATH representatives with PHS's Principal, Tony Medina delivering the gift cards for homeless high schoolers

Stay tuned for an update on Angels for Angela's, too!

THANK YOU again for sharing your treasure with those in need during this special time of the year.

2nd Collection Today



2020 FISCAL YEAR SUNDAY SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Date	Weekend Collection	On-Line Giving	Weekly Total	Over / Under Budget: $19,230.00
Dec 6	$ 18,843.00	$ 7,451.00	$ 26,294.00	$ 7,064.00
Dec 13				
Dec 20				
Dec 27				

YTD Totals	
YTD Budget	$ 442,290.00
YTD Actual	$ 431,709.76
Over / *(Under)*	*($ 10,580.24)*

THANK YOU!

CHRISTMAS GIFT TO OUR PARISH

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 $100,000, 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.

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

SACRIFICIAL GIVING DURING OUR REOPENING

PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR CHURCH!

Our weekend collections are vital to provide the income which pays our Parish Family's operational expenses and the salaries of our STV staff. We definitely need and appreciate your sacrificial offerings. Here are various ways to contribute:

1. If you attend Mass, place your donation in the offertory basket or box located at the church entrance or exit.

2. Sign up online using GiveCentral. **www.givecentral.com.**
   - Click "**FIND YOUR CHARITY**"
   - Type St. Thomas of Villanova in the search box and click on our picture.
   - Choose a fund to donate, entering the frequency, date range and dollar amount, then click "**ADD TO MY GIFT BASKET**."
   - You may click "**CHECKOUT**" at any time, or add more donations.
   - Click "**CONTINUE**," then "**COMPLETE PROFILE**" to register.
   - Complete the registration form, then click "**REGISTER AND CONFIRM GIFT**."
   - *You're registered!* Look for a confirmation email from GiveCentral.

3. Use the Archdiocese of Chicago Universal Offertory Program online. Visit our website: www.stov.org and click on the GIVING PAGE to find this link. If you do choose to donate through this universal program, please be sure to select "St. Thomas of Villanova" to credit your gift.

4. Mail your sacrificial offering envelope directly to our Parish Office:
   St. Thomas of Villanova
   1201 E Anderson Dr
   Palatine, IL 60074

THANK YOU!

PRAY FOR LIFE december 2020

INTERCEDE

PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

Each year during Advent, we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior at Christmas. As we anticipate this joyful celebration, we recall the journey of the Holy Family from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Far from home, poor, and in great need, Mary and Joseph find refuge in a simple stable. But this humble setting among the livestock soon welcomes the heavenly host of angels and the infant Jesus himself.

Today, women in our own communities are pregnant, poor, perhaps without a home, and in great need. They may feel alone, scared, and overwhelmed, not knowing where to turn. In challenging circumstances, expectant mothers need a refuge of their own. Like the Holy Family, they may be reliant on the kindness of others. This year, may the story of the first Christmas inspire us to reach out to mothers in need. May we proactively seek to offer loving support and encouragement as they prepare to welcome their children. By answering this call, may we help mothers experience the joy, hope, and peace brought by the infant Jesus. And may we, too, share in and bear witness to the miracle of new life.

ACT *(choose one)*

- On December 8, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Offer Pope Francis' Prayer for the Immaculate Conception for this month's intention: usccb.org/prayer-for-the-immaculate-conception.
- Contact your local pregnancy resource center or diocesan/parish pregnancy support ministry. Ask about ways you can help, such as volunteering or donating baby items.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month's intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

Learn more about how you can support mothers by following @walkingwithmoms on Instagram!

DID YOU KNOW?

The Immaculate Conception (www.bit.ly/immaculate-conception-2020) celebrates the conception of Mary in the womb of St. Anne without the stain of original sin. This solemnity is sometimes confused with the Annunciation, in which the Church celebrates the conception of Jesus in the womb of the Blessed Mother. While it's important to understand this distinction, both celebrations highlight the beauty and goodness of God's gift of new life.

Image: A mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe decorates a side altar in the Church of Santa Maria della Famiglia at the Vatican. Dec. 15. (CNS photo/Paul Haring.)

Get monthly prayer guides at
usccb.org/prayforlife

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St. Thomas of Villanova

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS
Bring Light to Dark Times

Donate now, reduce your state income tax and invest in our children's future! Take advantage of a limited time 2-for-1 matching gift.

Looking for a way to decrease your Illinois state income tax liability? What if you could decrease what you owe to the state and potentially increase your state tax refund, while also helping fund scholarships for low-income students to attend the Catholic school of their choice?

The Illinois Invest in Kids tax credit scholarship program awarded scholarships to more than 7,000 students in the first three years. This year, as a global pandemic has created so many uncertainties in our society, you can still invest in a brighter future for children from our most vulnerable communities. By contributing through the Illinois Invest in Kids program you can make the lifelong advantage of a Catholic school education possible.

Thanks to the generosity of several donors, between Dec. 1 and Feb. 28, 2021, you can take advantage of a 2-for-1 matching gift program that will triple the impact of your gift! Limitations apply.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

The Garcia family makes $50,000/year and pays $2,475 in Illinois state income taxes.

Family Income $50,000/year	Option A	Option B	Option C
Illinois state taxes at 4.95%	$2,475	$2,475	$2,475
Invest in Kids donation	$500	$1,000	$3,300
Tax refund	$375	$750	$2,475
Total taxes paid to Illinois (after refund)	$2,100	$1,725	$0
Cost of donation to family after refund	$125	$250	$825
2-for-1 matching gift program triples impact and provides three times the scholarships	$1,500	$3,000	$9,900

Each option provides a refund back to the family, however Option C completely eliminates the family's tax burden and provides nearly $10,000 in scholarships for students to attend Catholic schools.

For more information, please contact the TCS hotline at 312.534.2617. Don't forget to designate St. Thomas of Villanova as recipient of your donation.

Our Weekly Prayers

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 14
8:00am For All Who Are Sick

Tuesday, December 15
8:00am ✞ Christopher Kanis
✞ Rosie Casarez
✞ Ben Stepp
✞ Edward Stermer

Wednesday, December 16
8:00am For All Medical Personnel

Thursday, December 17
8:00am ✞ James Garofalo
Intention for Nora Lawson

Friday, December 18
8:00am For All Military Personnel

Saturday, December 19
5:00pm ✞ David Sladky
✞ Joanne Walczynski
✞ Magdaleno del Mar, Jr.
✞ Sylvia del Mar
✞ Eric del Mar
✞ Diane Leo

Sunday, December 20
7:30am Mass—POLISH
9:00am ✞ Frank Korosec
✞ Jim DeBelina
✞ Lynn Vernsten
✞ Anthony Michel
✞ Rosalyn Rubino
✞ Marie Kay
11:00am Mass—POLISH

DAILY READINGS

Mon: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tue: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23; Mt 21:28-32
Wed: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23
Thu: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Fri: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Sat: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Sun: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12-16; Ps 89:2-5, 27,29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

FOR OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED

Aiden Daniel Taylor Pfligler

FOR OUR SICK

MaryAnn Acton
Barbara Amato
Lisa Antonelli
Baby Aubrey
Helene Behrman
Alex Bingham
Catherine Brodnam
Carmen Cline
Jason Dean
Dan DeGroot
Nona Dix
Jeanne Formanski
Forseth Family
Steve Fortunski
Bill Gerl
Phil Gerould
Tommy Glaser
Grace Gorska
Judy Gott
Edward Grygowski
Janet Hedrick
David Hicks
Barbara Kerlin
Mary King
Roswitha Kist
Mary Alice Kobler
Susan Kordell
Frank Koss
James LaCapra
Louis LaCapra
Sue Langowski
Gene Lazich
Mary Margaret Lazich
Robert C. Lee
John Lenz
Harold Lewis
Alan Loden
Ron Magnuson
Alexa Rae Mang
Elayne Maruska
Baby Benjamin Mauro
Brunilda Melendez
Joanne Moser
Paul Moser
Jeff Moskala
Lana Murley
Earl F. Nicholas
Baby David Paprocki
Amie Parisi
Larry Peterson
Emily Piscitelli
Jean Pope
Brad Rohrssen
Dick Samojla
Jane Samojla
Shirley Serena
Virgilio Sotto
Kristina Sromek
Richard Steelman
Joseph Suchowski
JoAnn Swanson
Robert Szott
Sharon Tadsen
Jack Treanor
Alfreda Wasilewska
Luke Wilberding
Susan Wilberding
Deacon Rich Willer
Fr. Ray Yadron
Charmaine Zuchel
Erin Zwadoo

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
- A1C Arick Duffey
- MSGT Dan Fialek
- MSGT Matthew Grelck
- Lt Col Ross A. Mol
- SrA Joshua Olszak
- MAJ Matthew Walz

U.S. Army
- Lt. Col Bernadette O'Shea Bland
- SFC Brian J. Dankowski
- SPC Jack Davis
- SSG Christopher M. Fedrick
- MAJ Jon Meier
- CWO2 Timothy O'Cain
- CPT James Ruetsche, Ranger

U.S. Coast Guard
- CPO Nick Gaines
- LT Kevin O'Brien

U.S. Marine Corps
- LCpl Nicholas G. Dean
- WO2 Thomas Grygowski
- SGT Cameron Miller
- SGT Kyle Rich
- CAPT Jake Schlenbecker

U.S. Navy
- LT Jeremy Adams
- LCDR Kevin Brandwein
- CMDR John-Paul Falardeau
- CAPT Jason Haen
- PO3 Caleb Harrington
- PO2 David Holley
- PO1 Konrad Otachel
- AP James Steininger

And all those serving in the Middle East.

OUR FUTURE PRIESTS

Pray for all Transitional Deacons and Seminarians as they continue their priestly formation, especially: Deacon Andy Matijevic and AJ Sales

FOR OUR DEPARTED, REST IN PEACE

✞ *Susan Mepham*

Mother of John Mepham

III NIEDZIELA ADWENTU – NIEDZIELA RADOŚCI – GAUDETE

Kim jestem, a kim nie?

Niedziela Gaudete – Niedziela Radości. Liturgia zaprasza nas do radości, bo przychodzący Pan jest coraz bliżej. Jan Chrzciciel pokazuje nam, co jest źródłem tej głębokiej radości, której świat dać nie może. To świadomość własnej tożsamości i misji. Jan wie, kim jest w oczach Boga i jaką misją On go obdarzył. Mówiąc o samym sobie do faryzeuszy, najpierw trzykrotnie zapewnia, kim na pewno nie jest. Dopiero potem stwierdza, kim jest. Im bardziej będziemy świadomi, kim jesteśmy, a kim nie, tym więcej radości będzie nam towarzyszyło w codzienności.

Adwent: po co czekać na coś, co już się wydarzyło?

Mówiąc o Adwencie, jak refren powraca zawsze zdanie: 'Adwent to czas oczekiwania...'. Pozorujemy więc oczekiwanie. Pozorujemy? No, tak, bo wiemy, że Jezus już przyszedł. Jaki jest więc sens Adwentu?

Rozpoczął się rok liturgiczny. Znowu nastał Adwent. Zawsze pojawia się zbyt wcześnie. Przypomina, że do drzwi puka już Boże Narodzenie…

Ale po co czekać na coś, co już się wydarzyło? W każdym razie, oczekiwanie na Chrystusa przez cały miesiąc, godzinę tygodniowo, czyli w sumie przez cztery godziny, nie sprawi, że cały grudzień stanie się nagle jedną wielką poczekalnią…

Wyczekiwać narodzin, które już miały miejsce

Jest w tym coś dziwnego. Tak, czekamy na powrót Chrystusa w Jego chwale, w dniu Sądu Ostatecznego, w dniu, gdy nasze ciała razem z Nim zmartwychwstaną. To oczekiwanie jest zrozumiałe, wyraża przyszłość i nadzieję. Dlaczego jednak mamy wyczekiwać narodzin, które już miały miejsce?

Prawdę mówiąc, Adwent nie jest oczekiwaniem. Jak możemy czekać na Tego, który wcielił się na zawsze? On nas uprzedza we wszystkim. Jeśli mówimy o oczekiwaniu, mamy na myśli liturgiczny punkt widzenia – rozpoczyna się nowy rok, który pozwala nam przeżyć wszystko to, co przeżył Jezus, przyjąć łaski, które nam wszystkim zostawił.

Oczekiwanie ma w sobie coś teatralnego, niesie w sobie pewną naukę; jest pamięcią o tajemnicach, celebrowaniem kolejnych etapów historii Zbawienia. To oczekiwanie nie każe na nic czekać. Pozwala nam wejść w obecność Tego, który przychodzi każdego dnia i chce obdarzać nas swoją łaską. To On na nas czeka.

Okazja, by zacząć na nowo

Potrzebujemy pewnego rytmu, potrzebujemy zaczynać na nowo, podobnie jak dzieci, które wraz z początkiem roku szkolnego tak lubią otworzyć nowy zeszyt. Życie modlitewne, wypalone letnimi promieniami słońca, potrzebuje nowego początku, długo odwlekanego w czasie.

Nie chodzi o to, by robić ciągle to samo, ale by się w to zagłębić. A jak możemy coś zgłębić, nie powtarzając się? Wsłuchując się w czasie mszy świętej z większą uwagą we wspaniałe w tym czasie słowa Ewangelii. Należy się także do nich przygotować, powracać do nich i żyć nimi w czasie tygodnia…

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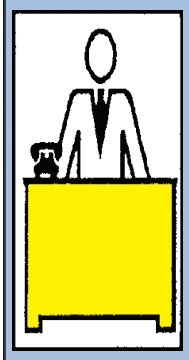

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