

# 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"If you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them." Matthew 13:29



This weekend we will recognize our eighth-grade graduates at the Sunday 11 AM Mass. The eighth-grade students has a virtual graduation, which is not entirely the same. Please join me in congratulating them on finishing junior high school. These students and their families are invited after Mass for a simple reception in the parish hall. We will be observing precautions to limit your physical contact as tables are separate and as refreshments are served from our service window.

Please join us online for the ordination of Bishop-Elect Louis Tylka on Thursday at 2 PM. While it is not possible to invite you to attend in person, the ordination will be live streamed on the Diocesan website: <a href="mailto:cdop.org">cdop.org</a>.

I know many people have different perspectives regarding Corona. I have heard from those who prefer greater precautions, and also from those who want us to return increasingly to our regular normal practice. St. Paul tried to be "all things to all people" (1 Cor 9:22). To this end, we are able to provide greater precautions for those who prefer them and a more relaxed approach for those who are less concerned.

Masks are encouraged when at St. Thomas, but we also follow the guidance of the CDC that does not require them if distancing can be maintained. The pews help us maintain this distance, which is useful. Hand sanitizer is available when you enter the church, and we encourage you to use it. The church is disinfected between individual services for your protection.

The area in the narthex and Chapel are reserved only for those who are wearing masks, and Communion will be brought to you to allow you to minimize all contact with other people. The sound system broadcasts in the narthex, so it is possible to fully participate while keeping extra distance. Since we continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass, those who are most concerned can still watch Mass on our parish YouTube channel and come to receive Communion on Sunday afternoons from 12:00 to 12:30 PM.

I pray that we can continue to accommodate everyone's individual circumstances as we work toward our full return of parish activities.

-Msgr. Gray



#### Readings for the Week of July 19, 2020

Sunday Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19; Romans 8: 26-27; Matthew 13: 24-43

Monday St. Apollinaris

Micah 6 1-4, 6-8; Matthew 12: 38-42

Tuesday St. Lawrence of Brindisi

Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20; Matthew 12: 46-50

Wednesday St. Mary Magdalene

Song of Songs 3: 1-4b; John 20: 1-2, 11-18

Thursday St. Bridget

Jeremiah 2: 1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Matthew 13: 10-17

Friday St. Sharbel Makhlūf

Jeremiah 3: 14-17; Matthew 13: 18-23

Saturday St. James

2 Corinthians 4: 7-15; Matthew 20: 20-28

Sunday Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12; Romans 8: 28-30; Matthew 13: 44-52

#### **Mass Intentions**

Monday, July 20, 2020

7:00 a.m. Dottie Flores/Jim & Pat Hagemann 8:00 a.m. Gordon Jockisch/David & Sharyn Joseph

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

7:00 a.m. David Lynch/Greg & Margo Folley 8:00 a.m. Annie Joseph/George & Carole Couri

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

7:00 a.m. Mary Janke

8:00 a.m. Walter Arnold/Dr. Michael & Bernadette Shekleton

Thursday, July 23, 2020

7:00 a.m. Florence & Jim Ryan/Family

8:00 a.m. Intentions of Mark Karosky/Ed Mallow

Friday, July 24, 2020

7:00 a.m. Joe & Ric Olson/Judy Hendricks 8:00 a.m. Joseph Tesar/Schafer Family

Saturday, July 25, 2020

8:00 a.m. John Schlicksup Jr./Ginny & Family

5:00 p.m. Rita Clark/Family

Sunday, July 26, 2020

7:00 a.m. Hylee Kemp/Ushers

9:00 a.m. School Sisters of Notre Dame/Frances Farraher

11:00 a.m. Jack & Jane Donnelly/Pat Matarelli

5:00 p.m. For the People

### Week of July 19

RECOGNITION OF 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE GRADUATES Sunday, July 19, 11:00 a.m. Mass

8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE RECEPTION Sunday, July 19, 12:00 p.m., Parish Hall

CENTERING PRAYER Monday, July 20, 8:30 a.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, July 21, 10:00 a.m., Church

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Parish and School Picnic
Fish Fry
August 9
August 15
August 20
Septemberfest
September 6
Men's Club Golf Outing
September 25

#### For those not yet ready to come back to Mass

We will continue to have Communion available outside of Mass on Sunday from 12:00 to 12:30 pm. Come into the narthex, or pull up in the crescent drive to receive.

We will continue to record Mass and post the recordings on YouTube. See the parish website **stthomaspeoria.org** for a link to the channel.

We will begin recording the Sunday 7 AM Mass in place of the Saturday 5 PM Mass. As we begin to have music at Saturday evening Mass, we may have copyright issues with videos posted on YouTube. The silent Mass on Sunday morning at 7 AM will be easier to upload.

### Stay in Touch

- 1. **Join Msgr. Gray for Mass**. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org or the Parish App
- 2. **Bookmark the Parish Blog** which will feature regular updates (jgray.org/st\_thomas).
- 3. **Download My Parish App** to receive push notifications (Visit myparishapp.com/download).
- 4. **Receive the Bulletin** and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email parishoffice@stthomas-church.net to sign up).
- 5. **Bookmark the parish webpage** (stthomaspeoria.org).

# Weekly Collection

	July 12, 2020	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$40,000
Sunday Collections	\$14,205	\$30,966
Electronic Collections	\$3,399	\$6,798
Total Collected	\$17,604	\$37,764
Over/(Short)	\$(2,396)	\$(2,236)

Your support of St. Thomas Parish is important to sustain our mission. Please remember to contribute regularly with your envelopes or checks in our regular Sunday collection. Electronic contributions can be made through direct debit, or by using the *Giving* tab on our parish website: stthomaspeoria.org. Thank you for your support.

# **Our Sympathy**

Mary Helen Runkle Joseph Burke, father of Bridget Burke Ed Dotta

Olga Katus, mother of Mary Jo Welch

### **Baptism Congratulations**

Nash Daniel Pennell, Son of James & Sarah Pennell

Charly Loretta Suellentrop

Daughter of Matthew & Molly Suellentrop

# **Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

#### **Parish Office Hours**

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

We will continue to have limited hours in the Parish Office. The office will be open Monday-Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p. m. Staff will also be available by email or voicemail. To leave a message, call 309-688-3446, and at the prompt press:

3 - Msgr. Gray

4 - Fr. Stark

0 - Terri-Administrative Assistant

1340 - Julie-Accounting

1341 - Pat-Tuition

If you have items to deliver for the Parish Office you are welcome to put them under the door of the Office downstairs in the Church, or under the door of the main Sacristy upstairs. The church building is open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day.

Sponsor of the Week



#### **Theological Virtues**

Theological virtues are associated with Christian theology and are the result of God's grace. While the cardinal virtues are considered human virtues, the theological virtues have God as their object. These virtues are infused in us by God alone and help us to be directed to God. We know the theological virtues by Divine revelation, as they have been taught to us by Jesus and in the Sacred Scriptures.

Both the theological and cardinal virtues are traits or qualities that dispose one to live in a morally good manner. We grow in these virtues by practicing them and developing them as a habit.

The theological virtues for the foundation of all Christian moral activity. We are animated by the theological virtues and, by practicing them, are formed to be children of God meriting eternal life.

#### Virtue of Faith



Faith is the virtue that is connected to belief in God. Faith helps us to believe in God and to believe all that he has said and revealed to us. Faith also leads us to believe all that the Church proposes for belief, since the Church is the Body of Christ that continues to teach and live the Gospel of Christ in the world today. Faith

allows us to know the truth, to accept it in our heart, and to live it with courage.

We can grow in Faith by developing this habit, but we can also lose our Faith by engaging in sin. When we do not put Faith into practice, then it is said that Faith apart from works is dead. However, when we practice our Faith, we are formed into disciples who are increasingly ready to take up our crosses and to boldly following after Jesus.

Faith is an infused virtue by which the intellect perceives that which is true, especially that which cannot be proven by human reason alone. The truth is accepted as an act of the will because of the infallible authority of God who reveals it. Yet, Faith is not blind, since we continually strive to know, to understand and to expound these revealed truths using our power of reason. We grow in Faith through the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

The virtue of Faith is depicted by the cross which represents the revelation of Jesus Christ. The cross is a sign of contradiction that is a stumbling block to the Jews and an absurdity to the Gentiles, but for the Christian it is the power and wisdom of God revealed (cf. 1 Cor 1:23-24).

### Virtue of Hope

Hope is the virtue by which we desire the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life, placing our trust in Christ's promise. Hope leads us to trust also in the grace of the Holy Spirit. Hope responds to our desire for happiness which God has placed into our hearts. This Hope inspires us to purify ourselves in order to prepare ourselves



for the Kingdom. Therefore, Hope keeps us from discouragement and frustration, sustains us in times of trial, and keeps us looking forward with confidence to the promise of redemption.

Abraham demonstrated Hope when he was put to the test in the sacrifice of Isaac, since he trusted in God's promise. The Christian demonstrates Hope by observing the beatitudes that raise our minds from the present circumstances to the promises that are to come. Hope comes to our aid during trials, since we are inspired by the merits of Jesus Christ who endured his Passion and who overcame very obstacle in the Resurrection from the dead.

Hope leads to joy, even in the midst of suffering. Hope assists us to persevere faithfully to the end to obtain an eternal reward for the good works accomplished with God's grace. Hope is the opposite of despair.

Hope is depicted by the anchor, since it is the sure and steadfast anchor of the soul. When put to the test, the anchor roots us to our firm foundation which is Jesus Christ.

# Ordination of Bishop-Elect Louis Tylka

Bishop Elect Louis Tylka will be ordained as the Coadjutor Bishop of Peoria on Thursday, July 23, at 2:00 PM in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Peoria.

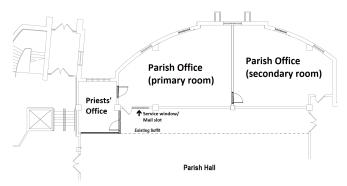
Tickets will be limited because of current restrictions. Everyone is invited to view the ordination as it is streamed online, at the Diocesan website: <a href="mailto:cdop.org">cdop.org</a>.

#### Small Changes in the Parish Office

So we can better serve the Parish

We moved the parish office to the basement of the church a year ago in order to better separate the school and school classrooms from the church and parish offices. This move allowed us to implement greater security measures in the school for the protection of the students. At the time, we had thought to divide up the two large rooms in the parish office into smaller rooms for the individual parish staff members.

Now that we've worked with this space for some time, it does not seem necessary to subdivide the rooms. However, there is still a problem, since the second room is a combination meeting space and pastor's office which does not provide for confidentiality when necessary.



This summer, we will make a few modifications to finish off the parish office by connecting the two main rooms and providing a separate place for the clergy to meet privately with individual persons. In this way, we will have space for privacy, office space for staff, and meeting space necessary for the work of the parish office. We will also insert a service window and mail drop to make it easier for parishioners who need to pick up or leave items with the parish office.

This work will be minimal and should be done over the course of the summer.



# Pray with the Pope July 2020 Our Families

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

# **Food Pantry**

Current needs are: rice, jelly, syrup, and meal helper.

All student positions are filled! Thank you!

#### Take Note

Next weekend (July 25-26) is the last weekend that Deacon Austin Bosse is with us. We look forward to wishing him well as he returns for his final year of seminary before priestly ordination next spring.

The Men's Club Fish Fry has been moved to Saturday evening, August 15. To provide for more distancing, food will be served outside after the Saturday evening Mass. Look for advance ticket sales in the coming weeks!







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# **Parish Registration**

Complete this form and drop it in the collection basket, **or** mail to the Parish Office **or** Register on our website at stthomaspeoria.org. Under About open the New Parishioner Registration, complete and submit the form.

Last Name	
First Name(s)	
Email	
Phone	
Address	
City	
Phone	

Change of address/phone

# **Sanctuary Timeline**

By mid-July, the decoration work will be complete in the sanctuary. This includes the marble flooring, the painting of the walls and ceiling, the placement of the virtues, and the stencil artwork above the altar and on the back wall.

In August, the marble will be brought in for the reredos and the baldacchino. This will provide the space for the four niches on either side of the Tabernacle, and the ornamentation around the Tabernacle itself.

In October, we will see the installation of the mosaics being designed for the individual niches in the sanctuary. Before the mosaics arrive, we will use temporary renderings that are printed and installed to give a sense of the finished project. However, we will look forward to the final installation of the real mosaics which will be the conclusion of this phase of the work.

#### St. Thomas PPSA Soccer

All students, 1-8<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible. Everyone has equal playing time. Cost is \$55 a player, and includes shirt.

Sign-up at: https://payit.nelnet.net/form/s9A6ZSvx

### **AmazonSmile**

To date, **AmazonSmile** has donated \$1,039.98 to help with continued expenses of our school. Please join us, as a parish family, to support our school.

AmazonSmile, a website operated by Amazon, lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to charitable organizations. Please use this link to shop and help St. Thomas!

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Deacon         Dcn. Mark Kelsch         (692-4908)           Dcn. John Nelson         (981-2716)           Dcn. Ed Mallow         (360-7735)
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Annulment ConsultantJohn Mackoway(699-5213)				
		·		

#### Sacrament of Baptism

Parents participate Baptism class before the Baptism of their first child. Contact the parish office to schedule the class

#### Confessions

Saturday 4:00-4:45pm & 6:00-6:30 p.m.

#### How to Submit Bulletin Information

Send information for the bulletin to parishoffice@stthomas-church.net with subject "Bulletin". Submissions are due by Friday noon one full week prior. Send images or logos separately as attachments. Submissions may be edited for





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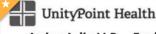
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