St. Thomas the Apostle Parish
Diocese of Peoria
904 E Lake Ave
Peoria Heights
309-688-3446
www.stthomaspeoria.org

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Noah Abdnour
Allison Brewer
Mary Kate Cain
Melanie Campbell
Timothy Canty
Jack Conley
Stephanie Domnick
Julia Douglas
Nathan Ghighi
Maryjeanne Gilbert
Robert Grahek
Victoria Gruszka
Liam Hadley
Savannah Harris
Alexa Hodgkins
Jennifer Houser
Isaiah Jacques
Samuel Jockisch
Jake Kellock
Trey Knighton
Noah Lees
Josephine Leuallen
Laura Mayernich
Bryan McLaughlin
Luke Morrical
Ethan Nave
Thomas Nuese
Mary Margaret Ortman
John Palmer
Alyson Payne
Samantha Powers
Joshua Robenstein
Max Rutschke
Serena Schaefer
Kylie Schindler
Allen Sorce
Joseph Sposato
J. P. Stedwill
Grant Streid
Makayla Suelter
Riley Sutherland
Edward Tangel
Dani Temple
Taylor Tomlianovich
Monesa Vu
Abbigail Ward
Brogan West
Sydney Zarvell
Taylor Zarvell

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I:	Isaiah	43:18-19,21-22,24b-25
Reading II:	2 Corinthians	1:18-22
Gospel:	Mark	2: 1-12

This week's readings focus on repentance, forgiveness, healing and conversion. When we turn our hearts and lives to Jesus, we can leave the past behind us. It is the Lord who "wipes out" our offenses, who, because of God's love and forgiveness, remembers our sins no more. We are healed of our sinfulness when we choose to be faithful to the Lord. The Gospel episode uses a physical healing to point to the power of interior spiritual healing—"Your sins are forgiven," The question of one of the scribes may be somewhat like our hesitancy. We ask, "Am I really forgiven?" Perhaps we do not forgive ourselves. Perhaps we doubt our own goodness and our ability, with the help of God and the support of others, to become more faithful to the Lord. God has promised mercy.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, February 20, 2012
7:00am William, Jennie, Carl & Tony Kemner/Jim & Bernadine Allen
8:00am Eunice Bingham/Val Grieves

Tuesday, February 21, 2012
7:00am Betty Ginoli/The Catholic Women's League
8:00am Marilee Pfeiffer/Jan Sorrentino
9:00am Bob Christian/The Carver Family

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 Ash Wednesday
7:00am Hans & Sophie Scholl/Jack-Margaret Weinstein
8:00am Jerry McDonough/Jim & Sandy Carver
9:00am Dr Ameel Rashid/Maurice & Norma Joseph
12:15pm Dan Van Buskirk/Mary Ellen Van Buskirk
5:00pm Della Watson/Karen Helton
7:00pm John J Palkovic/Mark & Jane Golowski

Thursday, February 23, 2012
7:00am Robert Couri/Jolene & Tim Doyle
8:00am Michael A Haughney, Sr 10th Anniv/Mike & Theresa Haughney
9:00am Colleen Pearl/The Cain Family
5:30pm Lorene Liner/Kathie Bartolo

Friday, February 24, 2012
7:00am Harriett Mallow/Lucille Joseph
8:00am Lucille Joseph/Jamil & Sandra Alwan
5:30pm Herman Antonacci 17th Anniv/Family

Saturday February 25, 2012
8:00am G.M.Bernard/Jack & Margaret Weinstein
5:00pm Jessica Williamson/Kenneth & Sue Mettlach

Sunday, February 26, 2012
6:30am For the People
8:00am Nancy Moredock/Angela & Glenn Roberson
9:30am Eileen Downing Family/Eileen Downing & Mike Fortune
11:00am Bill McCulla 8th Anniv/Family
5:00 pm Dr Mark Crawford/The Geraghty Family

Dates To Remember

CONFIRMATION Sunday, February 19 at 2:30 pm.

ST THOMAS SCHOOL & PARISH OFFICES will be closed on Monday, February 20th.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP Monday, February 20 at 7:00 pm.

ROSARY FOR PEACE Tuesday, February 21 at 10:00 am in the chapel.

BIBLE STUDY Tuesday, February 21 at 1:00 pm.

PARISH COUNCIL Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 pm in the parish office meeting room.

PTO Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 pm in the school library.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES will be at 7:00, 8:00 and 9:00 am and 12:15, 5:00 and 7:00 pm.

BIBLE STUDY on Wednesday, February 22 at 8:45 am.

CCD Wednesday, February 22 at 6:15 pm in the school.

RCIA Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 pm in the school library.

EUCHARIST PARENT MEETING Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 and 8:00 pm in the school library.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 pm.

SIMPLE MEAL Friday, February 24 at 6:00 pm in the lower level of the church. Details on page 6.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Friday, February 24 at 7:00 pm.

QUILTING GROUP Saturday, February 25 at 1:00 pm in the old gym basement.

SCOUT SPAGHETT DINNER Sunday, February 26 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

PARISH REGISTRATION

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ZIP_____

PHONE(H)_____(W)_____

CHANGE OF ADDRESS_____NEW ADDRESS_____

EMAIL _____

St. Thomas Boy Scout Troop 28

Pasta Dinner and Bake Sale

featuring Mostaccioli, Bread, & Salad from Avanti's Ristorante

5 pm Mass, then dinner... Feed your body and your soul!

Sunday, February 26
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Tickets:	Advance *	At the Door
Adults	$7	$8
Children (3-10)	$4	$5
Ages 2 & under	FREE	FREE

CARRY-OUT AVAILABLE !!

Advance Tickets can be purchased:
- after weekend Masses (Church Lower Level)
- from a Scout
- by contacting Stephanie Bender (369-0939)

Can't join us for dinner? Stop by the Bake Sale & pick up dessert!

Our Sympathy

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED THIS WEEK: Theodore Stone, father of Tim Stone and grandfather of Thomas and Tyler Stone; Pauline Thomas, sister-in-law of Mary Lou Spitzer.

Sponsor of the Week
Vonachen Services, Inc.

PEORIA NOTRE DAME

29th Annual Dinner & Auction
An Irish Field of Dreams

Saturday, March 24, 2012
Embassy Suites

There are a limited number of raffle tickets available NOW at most parishes. Purchase a raffle ticket for $100 entering you into the grand prize drawing of $10.000. Please contact Sharon Abraham at 691-9531 with questions.

St. Thomas Website: stthomaspeoria.org
St. Thomas Email: parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

"Touching Hearts" Prayer Pager Ministry

The Prayer Pager Ministry offers a tangible way for those in need of our prayers to know we remember and pray for them. Please pray for the requests listed below and then dial each phone number corresponding with each request. ***After the tone, press 111# and hang up****. Each time a call is completed, the pager will vibrate, telling the person holding the pager that someone has prayed for them. Each vibration will offer support, encouragement and hope. Please make this a daily part of your prayer life.*
Pagers are distributed from the Parish Offices. If you want one, please contact the Office, 688-3446.
Please pray for

Pat Peters
dial 1-312-760-1578, after the tone, 111#
Rosemary Sweeney
dial 1-312-760-1590, after the tone, 111#
Steve & Connie Gill
dial 1-312-760-0274, after the tone, 111#
Katherine Mathews
dial 1-312-760-0202, after the tone, 111#

These are local calls. You will not be charged for long distance.

Please remember St. Thomas Church in your will..

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Please keep the men and women in the military in your prayers:

James Blanchard	*Ricardo DeLaCruz	*David Hodges
*Dan McDonough	*Dan Svymbersky	*Scott C. Powers
*Glen Louthan	*Jeff R. Dudley	*Brian M Godsill
*Chris Lehman	*Joe Espinosa	*Alexis Moran
*Bridget Kelley	*Jason Kedzior	*Jason Stevenor
*Travis Williams	*Michael McKee	*Brian Behm
*Alex Fritz	* Joe Kuchan	*Christopher Miller
*Jason Kidd	Tom Stimeling	*F. Michael Schachtrup
*Roseanne Milroy	*Curtis Bohlman	*Maegan Brown
*Victoria Coers	*Ryan Schatsiek	*Jim Comfort
*Scot Wettach	*Joe Moran	*Jason Blankenship
*Jacob Moody	*JoanneMcGregor	*Farrah Bramble
*Liam O'Neill	*William Kelley, III	*Mackinzie Wilts
*Erich Snyder	*Michael O'Brien	*Lt. Blake Baldi
*Drake Comfort	*NaToane Russell	*Craig Bohlman
*Mark Fagenkrantz	*Casey Redington	*SPC Nicole Meixner
*Fred Wilson	*Darren Hodgkins	*Anthony Alessi
*Jason Thyne	*Joshua Logan Stroot	

St. Thomas Food Pantry

Following is the suggested list of food items:

Spaghetti	Spaghetti Sauce	Rice
Canned Fruit	Pancake Mix	Jelly
Dry Beans	Pork & Beans	Cereal
Soup	Crackers	Syrup
Beef Stew	Canned Vegetables	Noodles
Peanut Butter	Mac & Cheese	Tuna
Paper Towels	Toilet Paper	Toothpaste
Instant Potatoes		

Thank you for your contributions to the Food Pantry.
We greatly appreciate your generosity.

Attention Incoming Kindergarten Parents

St. Thomas School is now accepting applications for Kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year. Incoming students must be 5 years of age by September 1, 2012.Our Kindergarten Meeting will be Monday, February 27 at 6:30 pm. This meeting is for all parents who have already applied and any parents interested in finding out more information about out Kindergarten program. The kindergarten rooms will be open for students and parents to meet the kindergarten teachers. Then at 7:00 pm parents will meet in the library for an informational meeting. Students will remain in the classrooms for the activities. If you would like to apply, please visit our website at school: stthomaspeoria.org and click on Apply Now!

Attention Incoming Pre3 and Preschool Parents

St. Thomas Pre3 and Preschool Open House will be Monday, February 27 at 6:00 pm. All parents and students who have applied or are planning to apply for the next school year may attend. Incoming students must be 3 years of age by September, 2012 for Preschool. This is a great opportunity to visit the classroom with your child and meet the teachers. If you would like to apply, please visit our website at schoolstthomaspeoria.org and click on Apply Now!

Monkey Joes Night Thursday, February 23rd from 4:00—7:00 pm. A percentage of the entrance fee will go to St. Thomas.

PRINICPAL & TEACHER APPLICATIONS

The Catholic Diocese of Peoria is seeking applicants for anticipated principal and anticipated teacher openings for the 2012-2013 school year in its 37 elementary, 5 secondary schools and two pre-K-12 academies, all located in Central Illinois. Application materials for principal and teacher positions outlining qualifications and procedures are available at www.cdop.org (highlight *Education;* highlight *Office of Catholic Schools,* click on drop-down list and highlight *Diocesan School Openings/Employment Application Procedures*) or by calling the Office of Catholic Schools 671-1550.

St. Thomas website: www.stthomaspeoria.org

St. Thomas email: parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

Please Note

CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS

parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

WATCH Weekend

It seems we just celebrated Christmas, with the Christmas star calling the Magi to travel from the east to praise the arrival of the Infant Jesus. Lent is now upon us, and we are called to continue our personal journey home to the waiting arms of Jesus. St. Thomas Parish offers a meaningful aid to help make your Lenten journey one that will be unforgettable in 2012 through your participation in a We Are the Church (WATCH) weekend. Your journey begins March 9-11 with your request to reserve your seat on this WATCH renewal weekend. In John 1:39, Jesus calls and invites us to “Come and see.”

Information and registration pamphlets are located in the Gathering Space of the church. If you have any additional questions, please contact Lay Spiritual Director, Bonnie Stroot, 686-4071.

Second Catholic Trivia Night

You’ll have loads of fun along with a light test of your Catholic skills. Team with family, friends or parish. Prizes and “braggin rights.”

Thursday, February 23 6:30 pm
Brasky’s Restaurant

Reservations: 240-8422

Getting Ready for Lent

If anyone has an interest in being a part of a small group discussion, either at St. Thomas or in a home, once a week during the season of Lent, please contact Sr. Rachel.

LENT is the season of renewal and new life. The Church, in the weeks in preparation for the Easter celebration, gives us the model to follow in the RCIA. Those preparing to join the Catholic Church will spend these six weeks in prayerful discernment, listening to the Lord's call to conversion. We join with them in our own listening through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, all the time surrendering ourselves to a deeper relationship with God.

LENTEN MASS SCHEDULE

7:00; 8:00 am & 5:30 pm
Monday through Friday

9:00 am
Tuesdays & Thursdays on school days

5:00 pm—Saturday
6:30; 8:00; 9:30; 11:00 am & 5:00 pm—Sundays

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Parish Penance Service

Wednesday, April 4
7:00 pm

Weekly

Saturdays
4:00-4:45 pm; 7:00-8:00 pm

Online Lenten reflections: **www.sacredspace.com**
—a great prayer tool for Lent

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

Morning Prayer —after 8:00 am Mass
Monday through Saturday

Evening Prayer — 5:00 pm
Monday through Friday

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we enter into this Lenten season, the Church once again invites us to use this opportunity to share more fully in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. It is essential that we cultivate a deeper sense of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to better offer our lives to Our Lord.

As we make our way through these forty days of Lent, the Most Holy Triduum and to that glorious day of the Lord's Resurrection, I pray that all of us will be ever more attentive to our spiritual devotions and especially to the Word of God. May the guidance of the Holy Spirit assist us in our Lenten journey.

REGULATIONS FOR LENT & HOLY WEEK

1. Lent is the principal season of penance in the Christian year. All are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial, attentiveness to prayer, and especially to works of charity and mercy.

2. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012 and all the Fridays of Lent.

3. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012 and Good Friday, April 6, 2012.

4. On these two days of fast and abstinence, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Fasting between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

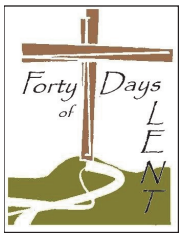
5. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is a serious matter.

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky C.S.C.
Bishop of Peoria

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays during Lent — 7:00 pm

Good Friday — 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm



Theme of the Lenten Season

The season of Lent is a six week journey that allows us the opportunity to renew our spiritual life, and, in particular, the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection FOR US. The **CRUCIFIX** is the central symbol of our faith. We bring it into focus during this time as we reflect on the crosses we carry and the joy we hope for in the new life they eventually bring. Let us be together during this sacred time and let go of some distractions that we can truly give ourselves to the Lord.

Simple Soup Supper

Every Friday during Lent, beginning this Friday, March 11, the Haiti Mission connection is sponsoring a Simple Soup Meal. It will take place after the 5:30 pm Mass in the lower level of the church. Donations are taken for the Haiti Outreach. If you are willing to bring a soup on a Friday, please contact Sean Kerwin at 217-622-4504.

Reading Materials for Lent

+**The Little Black Book** published by the diocese of Saginaw, Michigan.

+**Pilgrims of the Heart** Lenten Prayer with Sr. Joyce Rupp, OSM.

+**Waiting in the Silent Darkness** by Thomas Merton.

+**A Silent Place** Praying through Lent with Henri Nouwen.

Lenten Series

Adult Education/Formation

This year several small groups within the parish have been or are forming to gather people in homes to reflect and discuss a particular topic of choice by the group. We have opportunities for anyone interested in partici pating in this avenue of Lenten reflection. You can form a group and receive the needed materials from Sr. Rachel or you can re quest to be in a group. Call Sr. Rachel at 688-3446.

ANOTHER OPTION

Our Lenten faith formation this year will include Tuesday evening gatherings for interested people to view and discuss the series .

CATHOLICISM by Fr. Barron.

We will use the section on Matthew 25.

The meeting dates are:

Tuesday, March 6
Tuesday, March 13
Tuesday, March 20
Tuesday, March 27

Time: 7:00 pm
Lower level of church

ST. THOMAS STAFF

Msgr. William A. Watson, Pastor
Rev. Thomas E. Taylor, Pastoral Vicar
Sr. Rachel Bergschneider, Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Maureen Bentley, St. Thomas School Principal
Deacon Frank Eaton
Terri Moon, Parish Secretary
Mrs. Valerie Wallenfang, Parish Secretary
Mrs. Terri Schlicksup, CCD Coordinator
Mrs. Ann Horst, Liturgical Music Coordinator
Mrs. Charlene Henehan, Bookkeeper
Mrs. Jan Smith, Director of Development & Alumni
Mrs. Jan Alt, Parish Nurse
Mrs. Linda Hernandez, Pastoral Care/Caring Presence Ministry
Annulment Consultations:
Colleen McCulla Caldwell, 682-4571
John Mackoway, 699-5213

ST. THOMAS PARISH/RECTORY
904 EAST LAKE AVENUE **688-3446**
PEORIA HEIGHTS, IL. 61616

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism class is held for all parents before the baptism of their child. Please contact Sr. Rachel to schedule the class.
Next Baptisms: April 8 at 11:00 am Mass.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 4:00-4:45 pm & 7:00-8:00 pm
or by appointment with a priest
Confessions are held in the confessionals in the daily Mass Chapel

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joe Connolly, Trustee	692-8647
Mary Ward, Trustee	691-7453
Beth Salmon, President	243-2257
Cyndie Mueller, Secretary	243-5631
Pat Donnelly	693-7315
Mike Haughney	692-6086
Kim Kellock	713-2200
Len Kuchan	691-7131
Karen Metzinger	243-9009
Tom Perkins	693-1402
Matt Vonachen	243-7641