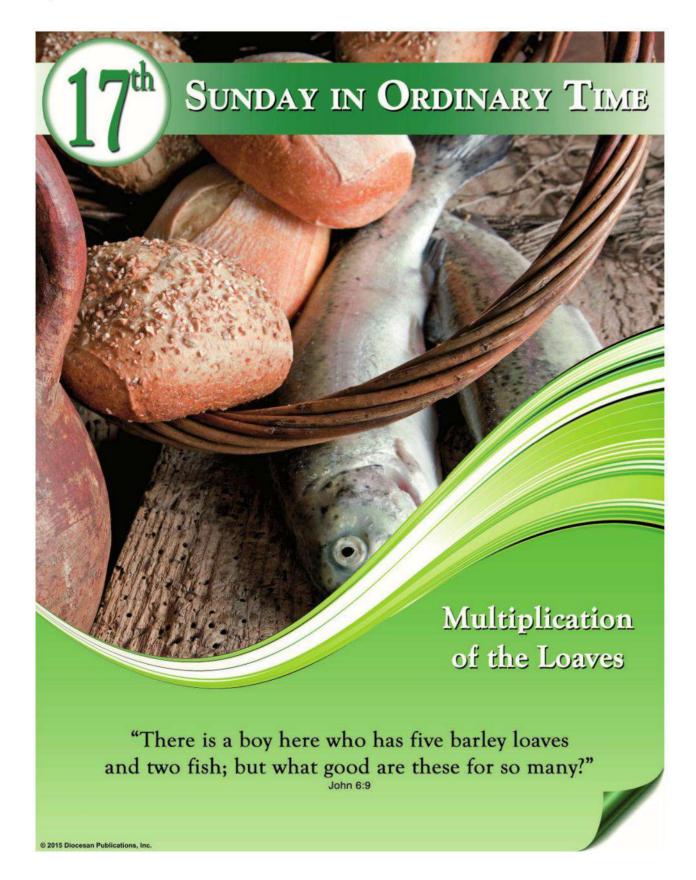


St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Diocese of Peoria 904 E Lake Ave Peoria Heights stthomaspeoria.org



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading I: 2 Kings 4:42-44
Reading II: Ephesians 4: 1-6
Gospel: John 6: 1-15

Were you ever in a situation where there was not enough food to go around? It may have been a family situation, a social function, or a third world country. In the group there were pessimists who complained of the shortage. On the other hand, there may have been optimists present who used their ingenuity to generate alternative ideas. Were there people who tried to hoard? In the Gospel today, Jesus finds himself, the disciples, and a large crowd of people numbering some five thousand, in a situation of shortage. The only food they had among them was five barley loaves and two fish. But Jesus was an optimist. He asked the troubled people to sit down. Then he took the loaves, gave thanks, and had them distributed. He did the same with the fish. The hunger of all was satisfied, and there were twelve baskets of scraps left over. The abundance of bread is a sign of God's abundance and a call to us, as Eucharistic people, to feed the hungry.



Monday, July 27, 2015

7:00am Gloria Zace

8:00am Teresa Hines/Mike & Barb Chance

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

7:00am Tony Gay/Pete & Kathryn Martin 8:00am Marilyn Roedell/John & Sonia Nelson

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

7:00am Dave Ryan/Richard & Mary Colleen Lavin 8:00am Cheryl Bennett/Friends at St Thomas

Thursday, July 30, 2015

7:00am Mary Nelson/Anna Williams 8:00am Norma M Smith/Daughter

Friday, July 31, 2015

7:00am Kathleen McNally/Aunt Kathleen 8:00am Jim McCabe/Rose Sullivan

Saturday, August 1, 2015

8:00am Thresiakutty Varkey/The Joseph Family 5:00pm Cathy Petit/Kevin & Kate Horst Family

Sunday, August 2, 2015

6:30am For the People

8:00am Ken Weeks/Mark & Marlynn Kelsch 9:30am Rosetta Matarelli/The Machetti Family 11:00am John Mathers, Joseph Hafele & Rosalie

Schierer/Vickie Mathers

5:00pm William Jaegle/Daniel & Susan Christian



UNIFORM EXCHANGE Sunday, July 26 after the 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 am Masses in the school cafeteria.

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP Monday, July 27 at 7:00 pm in the original church basement.

ROSARY FOR PEACE Tuesday, July 28 at 10:00 am in the chapel.

BIBLE STUDY Wednesday, July 29 at 8:45 am in the parish office meeting room.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP Thursday, July 30 at 7:00 pm.

BACKPACK GIVEAWAY Saturday, August 1 from 9:00 to 11:00 am in the lower level of the church. Students in grades K-6 are eligible with an adult present.

PARISH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

are

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

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This weekend the local Vicar Forane, Fr. Patrick Henehan, will be present at the 9:30 am Mass to formally install me in the Office of Pastor. The vocal Vicar is the representative of the Bishop who has entrusted me with this responsibility.

During the rite of installation, I must make a Profession of Faith and an Oath of Fidelity, promising to teach the mysteries of the Faith truthfully and completely. This profession is made before the parishioners of the Parish (represented by those present at the 9:30 am Mass), indicating the commitment that I make to the people of St. Thomas.

Thank you for your prayers and support and the warm welcome that I have received from each of you.

—Msgr. Gray

PLEASE NOTE

We will not be mailing second quarter statements. If you need a copy of your second quarter statement of giving to the parish please email us and we will be happy to send it to you.

parishoffice@stthomas-church.net



ST.THOMAS SCHOOL is seeking a full time music/band teacher. Applicants need to hold a state of Illinois teaching license. To apply please send a letter and resume by email to maureenbentley@stthomasschool.net or by mail to 4229 North Monroe Avenue, Peoria Heights, IL. 61616

UNIFORM EXCHANGE: In order to help with your uniform needs, St. Thomas School is having a Uniform Exchange on Sunday, July 26th in the school GYM after the 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 am Masses. Come get a start on school!

Our Sympathy

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED THIS WEEK: Eileen Hubert; John Ryan; Wilma Conwell

Sponsor of the Week

WEEKLY COLLECTION

	7/12/15	F	iscal YTD
Collections needed	\$ 24,000	\$	48,000
Sunday Collections	\$ 17,836	\$	45,848
Electronic Collection	s \$ 3,471	\$	6,942
Total Collected	\$ 21,307	\$	52,790
Over/(Short)	S (2,693)	\$	4,790

We appreciate your generosity.

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to www.boxtops4education.com you will find coupons and more ways to earn Box Tops Please send all that you have collected to the school or parish office.

"I define love thus: The will to extend one's self for the purpose of nurturing one's own or another's spiritual growth."

-Meditations from the Road

ST. THOMAS FOOD PANTRY

Following is the suggested list of food items:

SpaghettiSpaghetti SauceRiceCanned FruitPancake MixSyrupDry BeansCerealTunaSoupCrackersJelly

Beef Stew Canned Vegetables

Peanut Butter Mac & Cheese Instant Potatoes

Our greatest needs are:

Tuna, Spaghetti, Spaghetti Sauce

We appreciate your generosity...

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

Please remember St. Thomas Church in your will.

Calling all Hair Stylists!

Our annual Backpack Distribution is August 1 from 9:00—11:00 am and we're hoping to offer haircuts. Could you spare 2 hours and donate your talents to help young students begin the school year with a great haircut? Call Carol, 672-4217. Thank you!!

Peace Pal Volunteers Needed

Jesus once said, "Let the children come to me." This is what the volunteers in a program called Peace Pals at Trewyn Grade School try to do. Many times, as often as once a week, the volunteer meets with three students from either first, second, third or fourth grade, one at a time, for 20-30 minutes each. The time and book is chosen by the teacher to fit both her and your schedule. If you think you would like to be a Peace Pal and make a difference in a child's life, contact Louise McCann, 243-5722 or email her a gjmccann1@comcast.net.



St. Thomas Parish Soccer

Final Deadline for Soccer Sign Ups—NOW Sign up online now at www.ppsasoccer.org/sign-up-form/

PPSA Notre Dame—Summer Soccer Clinic August 1—Detweiller Park 8:-9:30 am

All Are Welcome

A church with open doors

What do I do to make the Church a community where everyone feels welcomed and understood, everyone feels the mercy and love of God who renews life?

—Pope Francis, General Audience, May 29, 2013

Each of us can make our parish a more welcoming place to newcomers, persons with disabilities, and persons with special needs. Here are a few ideas"

- ⇒ If you see a parent struggling with a child's behavior, offer a friendly smile, a sympathetic nod, or a helping hand.
- ⇒ If you see a person physically struggling to get in, hold open a door, scoot down in the pew, or offer to carry something.
- ⇒ If you see a person exhibiting unusual behavior, understand that it might be a sign of a disability. Embrace the person as a child of God and understand that each of us has different ways of receiving and communicating God's love.
- ⇒ If you see someone who is disheveled or out of sorts, consider that he or she might be in dire straits. Act with compassion.
- ⇒ Some people may struggle to get to or sit through the Mass. Offer a ride, an open door, or simply acceptance and understanding.
- ⇒ A warm smile, a nod, or a small kindness can make all the difference.

—Loyola Press



The St Thomas Social Justice Committee will be hosting a BACKPACK Giveaway for kindergarten through 6th grade at St Thomas



We are asking for donations of NEW backpacks filled with the following supplies:

Pencils Scissors Erasers Markers Pocket Folders Primary notebooks Wide lined primary paper Glue/glue sticks

Colored pencils Pencil pouch Black/blue pens Crayons

Backpacks can be brought to the Church and put in boxes in gathering space If you would rather have us do the shopping, please put your monetary donation in an envelope marked "Backpacks" and put in Sunday collection or bring to the Office.

We hope to offer **free haircuts** at the event! If you are a barber/beautician and Would like to offer your services, please contact one of the people listed below.

We will also need volunteers for this event

Giveaway on Saturday, Aug 1, 2015 9-11am St Thomas lower level

Volunteer Contacts: Mary Cooper-686-8171 Carol Pitcher-453-6736 or Sean Kerwin-smkerwin@gmail.com

Thank you for your support!

In The Area

St. Anthony Church Parish is sponsoring a Cheeseburgers in Bartonville Luau-style celebration on Saturday, August 1 from 3:00 —8:00 pm. Dress in a favorite "Jimmy Buffett" or Hawaiian shirt.

Wake Up the World: In response to Pope Francis' intentions for the Year of Consecrated Life, you are invited to join the religious men and women of the diocese on Friday, September 18-Saturday, September 19 at the Cathedral and Spalding Pastoral Center for a variety of activities and celebration.

WATCH Conference at the Cursillo Renewal Center on August 22/23. Pre-register by August 1. For questions, call Bonnie Stroot 688-8063

Holding Each Other

A woman's happiness was shattered by the loss of her brother, a good man, dearly loved. Torn by anguish, she kept asking God, "Why?" But hearing only silence, she set out in search of an answer. She had not gone far when she came upon an old man sitting on a bench. He was weeping. He said, "I have suffered a great loss. I am a painter, and I have lost my eyesight." He, too, was seeking an answer to the question, "Why?" The woman invited him to join her and, taking him by the arm, they trudged down the road.

Soon they overtook a young man walking aimlessly. He had lost his wife, the source of his joy, to another man. He joined in the search of an answer to the "Why" question. Shortly they came upon a young woman weeping on her front doorstep. She had lost her child. She, too, joined them. Nowhere could they find an answer.

Suddenly they came upon Jesus Christ. Each confronted him with their questions, but Jesus gave no answer. Instead, he began to cry and said, "I am bearing the burden of a woman who has lost her brother, a girl whose baby died, a painter who has lost his eyesight, and a young man who has lost a love in which he delighted." As he spoke, the four moved closed, and they embraced each other. And they grasped Jesus' hands.

Jesus spoke again saying, "My domination is the domination of the heart. I cannot prevent pain. I can only heal it." "How?" asked the woman. "By sharing it," he said. And the he was gone. And the four?

They were left standing, holding each other.

—A World of Stories



Addressing Poverty St. Vincent de Paul Society

From the very beginning of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Paris, France in 1833, the Society's purpose has been to increase the spiritual growth of its members through direct service to the poor. With your generous donations, our parishes' Vincentians provide emergency financial assistance, after a home visit, to those in need in Peoria Heights, in the 61603 zip code area, and to parishioners. Your donations also support the parish Food Pantry. But how can we help the poor in the long run?

Getting Ahead in a Just-Getting-by-World...

For over a year, the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the Peoria diocese and St. Thomas Vincentians have been working to create a program to directly help the poor change their life, especially those in generational poverty. Using the "Bridges Out of Poverty" program from Aha Process Inc., the Society is sponsoring the inaugural "Coming Together to Get Ahead" Workshop for people wanting to develop a personal plan and identify the necessary resources *they* need to move out of poverty. Persons interested in taking this 16 week class, on Mondays, from 11:30 am —3:00 pm, beginning August 24th at the East Side (St. Bernard) Community Center, should call 677-7696 opt3 for more information.

We need **volunteer (teams) to provide lunches for 15 or 30.** Drinks and all tableware will be provided. Please contact Craig Berger at 678-8162.

Our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society is always seeking new members. We meet once a month on the second Tuesday at 7:00 pm in the original church basement. If interested in joining us, call Mike Sims, 696-8237.

SVdP's service to the poor begins with the generous donations from our parishioners. Next weekend, the first weekend of August, ushers will receive your contributions after each Mass. Thank you for your generosity and everything you do for the poor and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

ST. THOMAS STAFF

Msgr. Jason A. Gray, Pastor

Rev. Thomas E. Taylor, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Paul Stark S.J., In Residence

Sr. Rachel Bergschneider, Pastoral Associate

Maureen Bentley, St. Thomas School Principal

Deacon Frank Eaton

Deacon Mark Kelsch

Deacon John Nelson

Terri Moon, Parish Secretary

Valerie Wallenfang, Parish Secretary

Mary Curry, CCD Coordinator

Ann Horst, Liturgical Music Coordinator

Julie Streid, Parish Accountant

Pat Wombacher, Tuition Coordinator

Jan Smith, Director of Development & Alumni

Jan Alt, Parish Nurse

Linda Hernandez, Pastoral Care/Caring Presence Ministry

Annulment Consultations:

Colleen Caldwell, 256-0730 John Mackoway, 699-5213 Linn Perkins 231-0261

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688-3446

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: July 26 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	092-804/
Mary Ward, Trustee	679-0953
Mike Haughney, President	692-6086
Brian Barkley	692-4165
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Jim Corkery	363-6799
Anne Gray	691-1479
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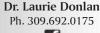
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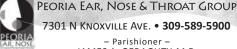
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