

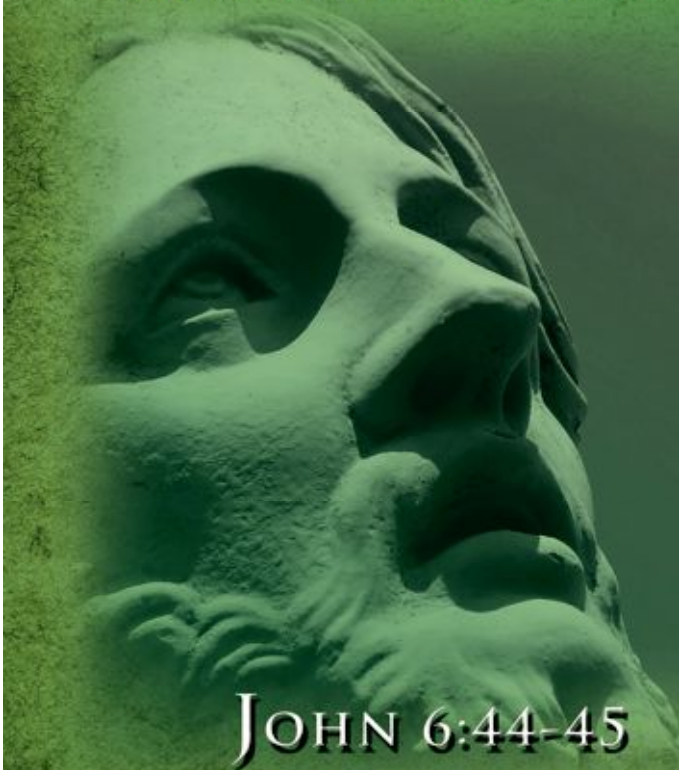


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Diocese of Peoria  
904 E Lake Ave  
Peoria Heights  
309-688-3446  
[www.stthomaspeoria.org](http://www.stthomaspeoria.org)

# Nineteenth Sunday

NO ONE CAN COME TO ME UNLESS  
THE FATHER WHO SENT ME DRAW HIM,  
AND I WILL RAISE HIM ON THE LAST DAY.

IT IS WRITTEN IN THE PROPHETS:  
"THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT BY GOD."  
EVERYONE WHO LISTENS TO MY FATHER  
AND LEARNS FROM HIM COMES TO ME.



JOHN 6:44-45

*in Ordinary Time*

### Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I: 1 Kings 19: 4-8  
Reading II: Ephesians 4:30:-5:2  
Gospel: John 6: 41-51

Often at a science fair, there is a section on optical illusions. We are entertained by seeing one thing, but the reality is something else. For example, straight lines appear curved. Often we judge others from mere externals. Internally, people are often not what they appear to be externally. We must remain open to new evidence. In the Gospel today, some Jews are in a state of illusion. They judge Jesus from mere externals. Jesus says, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." But they say, "You are a mere man, the son of Joseph. We know your family and where you grew up." They see only the externals. Because of their negative feelings toward Jesus, they have closed minds. They have already decided who Jesus is, a mere man. They will not accept Jesus' true identity. Jesus says, "I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world" To accept Jesus beyond externals requires faith. Faith sees beyond externals. We, as Catholic Christians, see beyond the physical bread and wine, and, in faith, believe that Jesus is present in the Eucharist.



#### Monday, August 13, 2012

7:00am Robert Couri/David & Kelly LaHood  
8:00am David Mitchel/Family

#### Tuesday, August 14, 2012

7:00am Intentions of the Franciscan Sisters of St John the Baptist  
8:00am Edna Lulay/Kathy Miller  
5:00pm Bob & Alice Cox/Pete & Kathryn Martin

#### Wednesday, August 15, 2012 Feast of the Assumption

6:30am Regina Stewart/Mary Stewart  
8:00am Anthony Gray/The Nelson Family  
9:30am Art Frangenberg/Steve & Bonnie Christe  
12:15pm Homer Jacquin/Family  
5:00pm For the People

#### Thursday, August 16, 2012

7:00am Tom Jacquin/Family  
8:00am Cecilia LaHood/Family

#### Friday, August 17, 2012

7:00am John Collins/Mary Ward  
8:00am Velma Parker/Pat Maggi

#### Saturday August 18, 2012

8:00am William A Stewart/Mary Stewart  
5:00pm Adam Lagocki/Jeanne Whalen

#### Sunday, August 19, 2012

6:30am For the People  
8:00am Richard Vande Bossche/Dennis & Pam Goett  
9:30am John Ruskusky/Family  
11:00am Paul & Agnes Grawey/Eileen Heinz  
5:00 pm Mike & Margaret Dentino/Ethel Mary Coletta



**CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER** Monday, August 13 at 7:00 pm.

**ROSARY FOR PEACE** Tuesday, August 14 at 10:00 am in the chapel.

**VIGIL MASS** for Feast of the Assumption, Tuesday, August 14 at 5:00 pm.

**FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION MASSES** will be Tuesday, August 14 at 5:00 pm and Wednesday, August 15 at 6:30, 8:00, and 9:30 am and, 12:15 and 5:00 pm.

**BIBLE STUDY** Wednesday, August 15 at 8:45 am in the parish office meeting room.

**HEALTH & WELLNESS** Wednesday, August 15 at 7:00 pm in the parish office meeting room.

**CHARISMATIC MASS** Thursday, August 16 at 7:00 pm.

**ST THOMAS SCHOOL MEET & GREET DAY** Students and parents may come and meet their teachers for the coming school year on Sunday, August 19 after the 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 am Masses in the school gym and cafeteria.

St. Thomas Website: [stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org)

St. Thomas Email: [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net)

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GO TO: ABOUT > PARISH REGISTRATION**



### Wedding Congratulations

Jody Lintz ~ Danny Slevin

### Men's Bible Study

Please join us to read and study the Word of God.  
Tuesdays: 6:30-7:30 am  
Lower level of church  
Leader: George Crawford

Together, with God's help, we can begin to understand...

### PEACE PAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The kids at Trewyn Grade School need your help to become better readers. Please join us in a rewarding volunteer experience where kids in the first, second, third or fourth grade will read to you with you as a mentor to help them improve.

The commitment is to spend one hour with three students individually at least twice a month. The program starts in October and runs until May.

You can make a difference in a child's life. For more information please call Louise McCann at 243-5722 or email [gjmccann1@comcast.net](mailto:gjmccann1@comcast.net).



It is time to begin thinking about the R.C.I.A.—those who are interested in joining the Catholic Church. We will begin our sessions on Wednesday, October 3, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the school library. There are sessions are for adults as well as children beginning with grades one. If you or someone you know might be considering this, please call Sr. Rachel at 688-3446.

## Our Sympathy

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED THIS WEEK:** Charlotte McConnell, mother of Dr. Dan McConnell; Inez Stocker; Dr John "Chuck" Heer;

### Monthly Sunday Collection And Tuition Report May, 2012

Month	Received	Budget	(Short)/Over
May, 2012	\$ 163,382	\$ 183,000	(\$19,618)
July 1, 2011 to date	\$ 2,005,981	\$ 2,132,000	(\$126,019)

Thank you for your continued support. Our twelve month fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

Amounts do not include school fees, memorials, bequests, special collections, etc.

We report the Sunday Collection and Tuition in the bulletin Monthly and will have the same report two Sundays a month.

### Sponsor of the Week



We are still looking for someone(s) to coordinate the Nursery for the 9:30 am Masses during the year beginning in September. If you have an interest in helping, please call the Parish Offices.

## 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	*Jeff Good
*Jordan Good		

## 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.

## CCD NEWS

**Registration for CCD classes for the 2012-2013 School Year** will be held for grades 1-8 on Sunday, August 26 in the lower level of the church following the 8:00, 9:30, 11:am & 5:00 pm Masses. CCD will begin classes on Wednesday, September 5 at 6:15 pm. Please meet in the lower level of the church to pick up text books, meet your child's teacher, and have a brief meeting. Mass will follow in the church. For questions, please contact Mary Curry—CCD co-ordinator—at 229-4745. Thank you.



Peoria area Cursillo is sponsoring a Day of Renewal on Saturday, August 18 at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 419 N.E. Madison Ave. The cost is \$12.00 per person and includes a continental breakfast and catered lunch. The day begins with Mass at 8:30 am and will end by 3:00 pm. Anyone who has made a Cursillo in the past is eligible to attend. Donna Jenkins is the Leader and her theme is "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus." For reservations, call Jackie Skender at the Peoria Cursillo Center office, 676-5587.



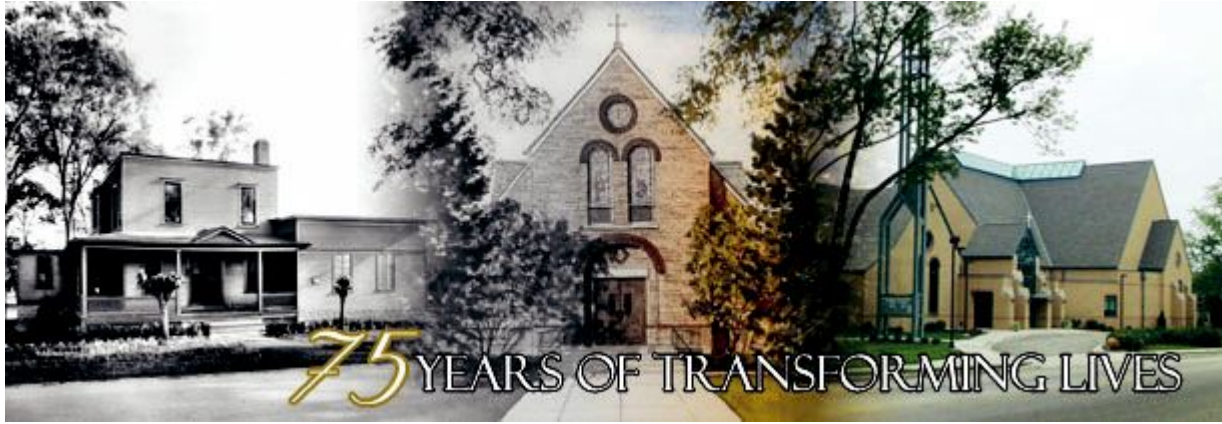
Liturgy of the Word for Children will begin in September. Children grades 1-5 are included in the sessions. If you are interested in being a teacher for the children during the 9:30 am Mass, please contact Sr. Rachel at 688-3446. Commitment would be about once a month.



## Come join the Peoria Notre Dame Boy's Golf Team Fundraiser

Sunday, August 26 at Kouri's Pub on Sterling Ave.  
3:00 — 7:00 pm

Silent Auction featuring many golf items  
\$10 donation includes hamburger, fries, and soft drink, plus entry into drawing for door prizes.  
Call Gina Wetzel for tickets, 693-8506.



## Save the Date!

- **Sept. 8th & 9th** – Enjoy the history of St. Thomas Church through pictures and video in the lower level of the church after all the weekend Masses.
- **October 13th – 17th** All are welcome to participate in a Parish Retreat
- **November** – Our liturgical celebrations will be presented by various groups within our parish during the weekend Masses over the course of the month.
- **December 1st** – Winter Whimsy Biennial Auction

### The St. Thomas Social Justice Committee will be hosting **BACKPACK** Giveaways for kindergarten through 6th grade .

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

Pencils _____	Pocket Folders _____	Primary Notebooks _____	Kleenex _____
Scissors _____	Eraser _____	Markers _____	Colored Pencils _____
Primary Paper _____	Pencil Pouch _____	Ruler _____	Index Cards _____
Glue _____	Black/Blue pens _____	Crayons _____	Assignment Notebook _____

**BACKPACKS** can be brought to church and put in the large boxes in the gathering space. If you would rather have us do the shopping, please put your monetary donation in an envelope marked “Backpack” and put it in the Sunday offering or bring it to the Parish Office.

**Backpack event for needy children was so successful at St. Thomas on July 28 that we ran out of backpacks, so we are again asking for your help. We appreciate your generosity. Thank you!!!**

**Saturday, August 18**  
**Project Upgrade/Salvation Army**  
**11:00 am — 4:00 pm**

Questions call Mary Cooper-686-8171

MARGARET SILF



# An Imperfect Pilgrim

On July 31 we celebrate the feast day of a distinguished saint, Ignatius Loyola. What, we might ask, distinguishes him? Well, he might forgive us for recalling that he is probably the only canonized saint who has a police record—for anti-social behavior in his youth. And he might not (with the hindsight of half a millennium in heaven) object if we remember that he underwent cosmetic surgery—twice—to get an injured leg back into shape in order to show off to best effect his fashionable clothes and attract the highest ladies in the land. In fact he would probably want to remind us that his youth was so misspent as to require a full three days of confession to even begin to address its ramifications.

Another distinguishing feature would be his famous limp—the legacy of his knee injury, inflicted by a cannon ball while he was stubbornly defending the indefensible fortress of Pamplona against an overwhelming French attack. In fact, if he had not had his limp, we would have had to invent it, so powerfully does it speak of imperfection—his own and ours and the world's.

But the truly distinguishing feature of Ignatius Loyola is not the extent of his imperfection, but the fact that such imperfection could, and did, become the channel of an amazingly powerful flow of divine love and transformation. In this man we see writ large what can happen when divine grace and human imperfection meet.

When God goes on a recruitment drive, it seems, God is not looking for

those who can do the job, whatever the job might be, but for those who know they cannot. The competent achievers will likely proceed under their own steam, just as the stubborn defender of Pamplona fiercely stood his ground, utterly confident that he could single-handedly overcome the French army. Those who know that they cannot, by their own strength, conquer life's challenges will necessarily fall back on God's power, not their own, as Ignatius would learn through painful experience.

Grace is a mysterious thing. It seeps through the cracks in our defenses and can all too easily be blocked by our imagined self-sufficiency.

Ignatius, intuiting this truth, moved on from the trauma of defeat at Pamplona and the agony of a long convalescence in the castle of Loyola to the heights of Montserrat, where he dramatically lay down his defenses at the altar of the Black Madonna in the Benedictine Abbey there. He still had everything to learn about "how the Creator deals with the creature," but already his heart was telling him that his own defenses would not cut the mustard and were a hindrance to his onward journey in God's service. So sword and dagger were left behind, and the rich man's clothes, once so prized, were exchanged for the garb of a beggar.

To be present to this scene in imagination, as we are invited to do when we pray, is to ask ourselves some searching questions. What defenses could I not live without? What accessories define who I think I am, or who

I want others to think I am? What might a 21st-century Black Madonna find on her altar? Credit cards perhaps and smartphones and all manner of status symbols?

Very painfully, Ignatius was learning that access to the pearl of great price involves a great deal of unravelling of the layers and layers of lesser things that we wrap around ourselves to keep out the chilling awareness of

our own fragility. But there was more to come.

After leaving Montserrat, determined to be a pilgrim for God and heading for Jerusalem, Ignatius passed through the little town of Manresa. And there God had other plans for him. The few days of his intended stay stretched into 11

months, during which time our pilgrim would lurch between the heights of spiritual consolation and the darkest abyss of despair as he learned to recognize those subtle movements in his heart that marked the action of the Spirit of God and the contrary actions of darker motivations. The fruits of his struggles would form the basis of his life-changing, world-changing Spiritual Exercises.

In Ignatius we recognize how the erratic, limping progress of a very imperfect pilgrim led him to surrender his self-reliance, fall back on God and allow the Spirit free, transforming passage through his life, acknowledging his faith in the simple affirmation: "Give me only your love and your grace; that is enough for me." And that's a good reason to celebrate.

Grace  
seeps  
through  
the cracks  
in our  
defenses.

MARGARET SILF, who lives in Scotland, is the author of *Companions of Christ*, *The Gift of Prayer*, *Compass Points* and, most recently, *Just Call Me Lopez*.

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 Deacon Mark Kelsch  
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 Mrs. Ann Horst, Liturgical Music Coordinator  
 Mrs. Charlene Henehan, Bookkeeper  
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**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: August 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

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