



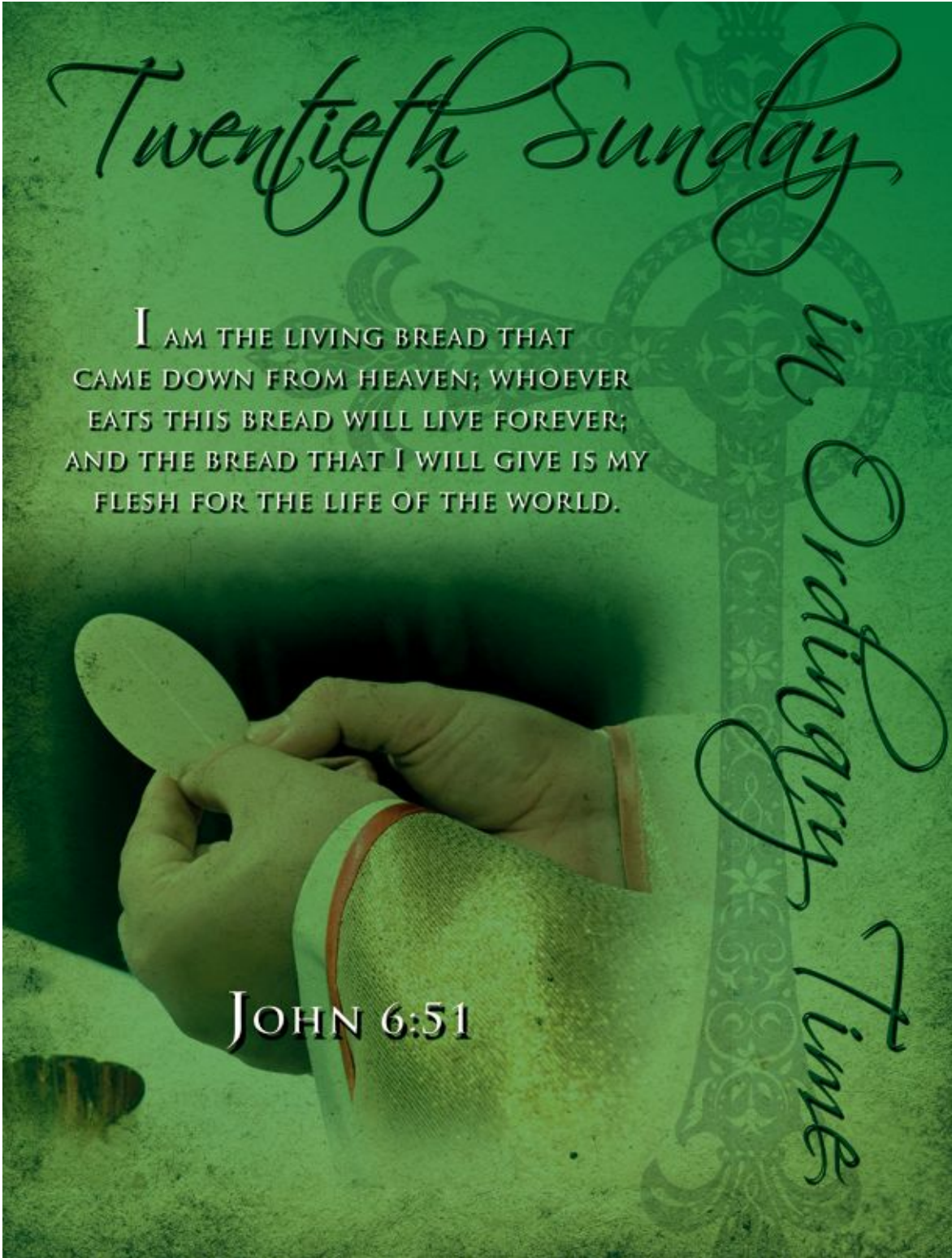
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish
Diocese of Peoria
904 E Lake Ave
Peoria Heights
309-688-3446
www.stthomaspeoria.org

Twentieth Sunday

I AM THE LIVING BREAD THAT
CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN; WHOEVER
EATS THIS BREAD WILL LIVE FOREVER;
AND THE BREAD THAT I WILL GIVE IS MY
FLESH FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD.

in Ordinary Time

JOHN 6:51



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I: Proverbs 9: 1-6
Reading II: Ephesians 5:15-20
Gospel: John 6: 51-58

No one is an island. It is part of our nature to be in union, in communion with another. Originally, we were part of our parents. As we became individuated, we felt alone, unbounded. There is a desire in each one of us to be one with another. This hunger can only partially be filled by human intimacy. Ultimately, rest and peace come only when we enjoy union, communion, with God. When we enjoy this communion, we experience ourselves as really real, fully alive. Jesus is our most profound link with God. When we are in communion with Jesus, we are in union with God. Jesus replies to the unbelievers, "If you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life." Jesus add, "As I who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me" Through baptism, we become members of the Church, the body of Christ. Through the Eucharist, we are nourished and kept alive in faith. Every time we partake of the Eucharist we are reminded whose body we are.



Monday, August 20, 2012

7:00am Thomas J Farragher/Frances Farragher
8:00am Phillip Ferris/Tony & Naya Ferris

Tuesday, August 21, 2012

7:00am Harold Naumann/James Highfill & Juanita Allender
8:00am In celebration of the Ordination of Deacon John Nelson

Wednesday, August 22, 2012

7:00am Dan Van Buskirk/Mary Ellen Van Buskirk
8:00am Robert Naab/Curtis & Jacqueline White
10:00am For the teachers & administrators of St. Thomas School/The Conley Children

Thursday, August 23, 2012

7:00am Kathy Armato/Terrance & Patricia Hilbs
8:00am Special Intentions/Dorothy Paesani

Friday, August 24, 2012

7:00am Leo Christian/Mike & Helen Barr
8:00am Dave Schuler/Chuck & Virginia Grawey

Saturday August 25, 2012

8:00am Kevin Eaton/Frank Eaton
5:00pm Honor Jacquin/Family

Sunday, August 26, 2012

6:30am For the People
8:00am Anita Kelly/Steve & Terri Baldi
9:30am Mary Connell/Jane Connell
11:00am Harold Naumann/Brian & Gina McKenna
5:00 pm Bob Nelson/Family



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.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER Monday, August 20 at 7:00 pm.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL Tuesday, August 21 from 8:15 to 12:15. First full day will be Wednesday, August 22 and we will be on heat schedule (8:15 – 1:45) through Labor Day.

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

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

BIBLE STUDY Wednesday, August 22 at 8:45 am in the parish office meeting room.

PRE-SCHOOL BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT Thursday, August 23 at 7:00 pm in the lower level of the church.

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

ALL SCHOOL MASS Friday, August 24 at 10:00 am.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT Friday, August 24 in the new gym. Doors open at 6:00pm. Movie, "Dolphin Tale" begins at 6:30 pm. Popcorn, candy and drinks will be available for purchase.

CCD REGISTRATION will be after Masses — 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am & 5:00 pm next Sunday, August 26.

EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATES Next weekend after all the Masses we will have a group working on getting your email addresses in our system.

PARISH REGISTRATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE(H) _____ (W) _____

CHANGE OF ADDRESS _____ NEW ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.STTHOMASPEORIA.ORG
GO TO: ABOUT > PARISH REGISTRATION

A Little History TRIVIA...

What is the building on the left at the top of page 4?

Great Adventure Bible Timeline *The Story of Salvation*

24 week series
Begins September 26
Lower level of church

Cost: \$40
Call John Kelly to register
693-3202.

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

Sponsor of the Week



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 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.

St. Thomas School News

Snowflake-Teen Leaders Needed St. Thomas School/CCD graduates: plans are underway for Snowflake 2012 to be held Saturday, October 20. Training sessions for leaders will begin on Sunday, September 9 from 3:00-5:00 pm. Call Erin Olsen at 682-4729 or email olsentorry@comcast.net.

Movie Night

August 24



St. Thomas new gym
Doors open at 6:00 pm; movie at 6:30 pm
Movie: **Dolphin Tale**

Candy, Popcorn and drinks will be available for purchase.

Volunteer Opportunities

St. Thomas Parish, through the Social Justice Committee, has a partnership with Upgrade Companies. Upgrade is a non-profit housing corporation that owns and manages Pierson Hills and Lincoln Terrace.

For several years, the Salvation Army has run an after-school program for grade school age kids who live in nearby Pierson Hills. St. Thomas parishioners have been helping out the last 2 years. Again this year, we are asking for volunteers to help kids with homework.

Time slots: grades 5-8: Mon—Thurs, 2:45-4:00 pm
Grades 1-4: Mon-Thurs: 3:45-5:00 pm

Your commitment can be 1-10 hours per week. Volunteers must also attend a 2-hour orientation that includes Safe From Harm Training. Call Jane Genzel, 645-5303.

Our Sympathy

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED THIS WEEK: Annie Merkel, mother of Theresa Haughney and grandmother of Michael and Dan Haughney; Jo Ann Gross



Nursery

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, 11:00am & 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.



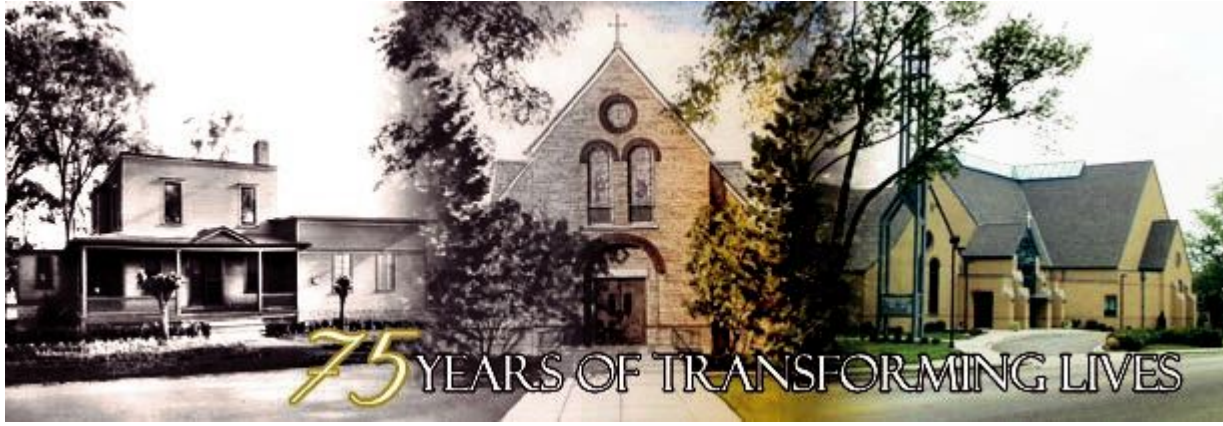
Liturgy of the Word for Children will begin in September. Children grades 1-5 are included in the sessions. If you are interested in being a teacher for the children during the 9:30 am Mass, please contact Sr. Rachel at 688-3446. Commitment would be about once a month.



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.



St. Thomas the Apostle Church is celebrating our 75 years as a parish. We are beginning our celebration in September with a presentation of several aspects of our history as a parish. Go to the website this week and see if you can identify pictures/events of moments in our parish history. We will try to keep you guessing in the next several weeks.

Save the Dates!

- **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. Be sure to join us after the Mass you celebrate in the lower level of the church for pictures/videos/stories of the parish history. Food will be provided.
- **October 13th – 17th** All are welcome to participate in a Parish Retreat. Brother Michael, a Passionist brother from New Jersey, will lead us in our retreat. He is from the same religious community as the priests who have been with us for our former retreats.
- **November** – Our liturgical celebrations will be presented by various groups within our parish during the week end Masses over the course of the month.
- **December 1st** – Winter Whimsy Biennial Auction. This Auction is themed “Winter Whimsy 75th Celebration”.

With God on the Docks Margaret Silf, America Magazine, June 2011

As soon as the chaplain hands me a hard hat and a high visibility jacket I realize that this is not going to be a walk in the park. We drive around the wharves and loading piers of the docks, and I know that what he has told me is true: We have entered an invisible world. The chaplain, representing the Roman Catholic charity Apostleship of the Sea, has made his home here in this continually shifting and apparently godforsaken world that extends for many miles along the northeast English coastline, and his profound love for the place shines out of his eyes. The remaining millions of us switch on our lights without a thought for the men who have been at sea for the last nine months, carrying coal across the ocean to make this possible. But the chaplain sees the invisible. He knows that God is here.

His very modest room overlooks the quayside, and no ship enters or leaves the port without passing beneath his loving scrutiny. The walls reveal jagged cracks from the juddering of huge cargo ships through the narrow lock just below his window. His constantly changing companions in this inhospitable wilderness are the thousands of foreign seafarers—Filipino, Chinese, Ukrainian, Iranian, Indian and so many more—who pass through these docks, literally like ships in the night. They would be anonymous if he did not shake their hands, ask their names and make them welcome. They would be stranded for as long as their ship is moored if he did not ferry them back and forth to the chaplaincy center. They might well be unpaid and undefended if he did not make it his business to watch out for exploitative practices and alert the law enforcement authorities.

We make our way through showers of coal dust and iron ore and towering stacks of containers, carefully observant of the movements of huge overhead cranes, and board a newly arrived vessel. The chaplain points out the discs attached to the top of the ropes to prevent the wharf rats clambering on board. He remarks that the tide is low and the climb up the gangplank will be easy this morning. High tide would mean a much steeper gradient to scale.

A Filipino seafarer asks him for help wiring money home to his family. No problem. We take him to a place where he can do this as cheaply as possible. On the way back he tells us it is school enrollment week in Manila. His regular pay has not been sent to his home account for three months. The school will not wait. He needs to send the pocket money he has saved. When the transaction is complete, his relief is palpable. The simple offer of a ride to the money exchange office means that three Filipino children will now be able to go to school for another year. Mighty trees can grow from tiny seeds of kindness.

Another seafarer has never seen his little son, born several months ago. In the chaplaincy he can talk by Skype with his wife back home. The tears flow as he proudly shows his little one on the screen. Here the Gospel is a phonocard or a webcam bringing sight to the blind, reconnecting the disconnected, mediating God's love to these lonely, far-from-home fathers.

Not infrequently the crews of ships sailing under flags of convenience, for which no nation considers itself responsible, speak with the chaplain about withheld pay, insufficient food, physical abuse or even the manifest unseaworthiness of their vessel. He has been around these docks for decades now, and he knows how to evaluate such complaints. The Coast Guard trusts his judgment. A call to the maritime police can cause the vessel to be detained and investigated. The Gospel here is a watchful eye from someone who cares enough to take those first steps to set captives free and bring support to the oppressed and the afflicted.

The chaplain has asked one newly arrived crew whether there is anywhere they would like him to take them while they are moored. They come back with their astonishingly modest request: "Father, would you take us to somewhere where we can walk on grass?" they ask. He takes them to a nearby park, where they take off their shoes and socks. Weary, calloused feet that have trodden only heaving steel for the past many months rejoice to feel the cool firmness of the fresh and living grass.

"Anyone would think I had given them the earth," the chaplain comments with a quiet smile. And, of course, he has. Along with a glimpse of heaven.

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
 Deacon Mark Kelsch
 Deacon John Nelson
 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
 Linn Perkins 231-0261

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 904 EAST LAKE AVENUE
 PEORIA HEIGHTS, IL. 61616

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: 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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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
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