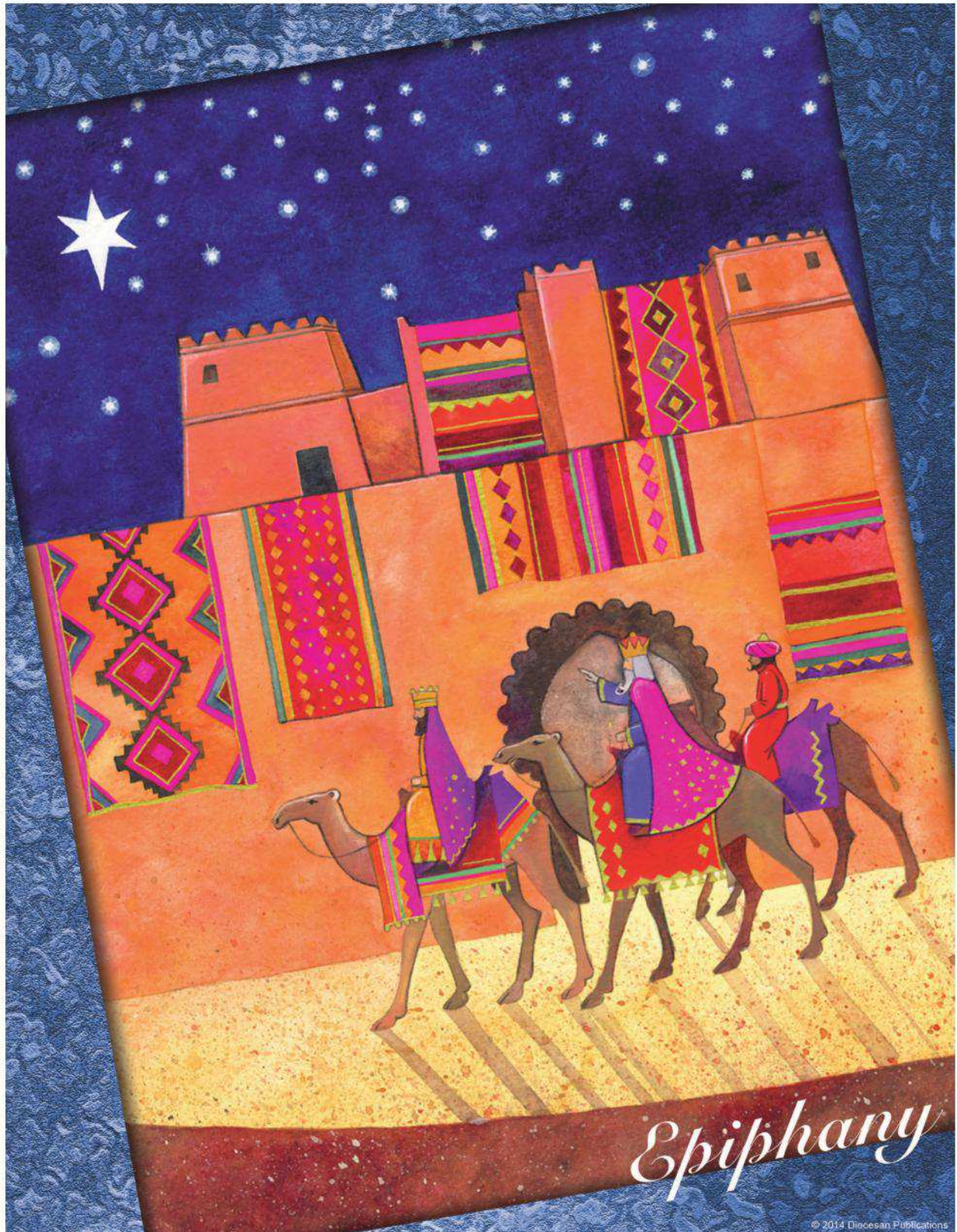


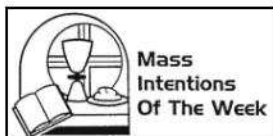
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish
Diocese of Peoria
904 E Lake Ave Peoria Heights
Stthomaspeoria.org



Solemnity of the Epiphany

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6
 Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6
 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Who of us has not had an epiphany? However, it probably did not include wise men coming from another country on camels. The nature of an epiphany is that it is an awakening or a new insight. The three wise men in the Gospel story today have an epiphany. They are looking for the Enlightened One, the One who would make their hearts "throb and overflow." They found it in the person of Jesus, newborn child of Mary. We find the One we seek in so many ways. We seek the Lord in likely and unlikely places. We look for the Holy One in prayer, in each other, in good deeds, but sometimes he arrives in silence, in distressing disguises, in emptiness. But we have set out on our journey. There is not turning back, only going ahead, and, as Isaiah puts it, "Then shall you be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow." May this year be a time of epiphanies and blessings!



Monday, January 6, 2014

7:00am Joe Spears/John & Marge McNally
 8:00am Larry Dunn/Robert & Rhonda Parker

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

7:00am Helen Vonachen/Mary Joe England
 8:00am Merton Hubert 1st Anniv/Family
 9:00am Rob Eckhart/Sharon Weiss

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

7:00am E.A. Presley/Jack & Margaret Weinstein
 8:00am Fran Patton/Betty Arnold

Thursday, January 9, 2014

7:00am Patty Resutko/Rita Deets
 8:00am Norma Mall/Thelma Antonacci
 9:00am Carol Picl 1st Anniv/Coffee Buddies

Friday, January 10, 2014

7:00am Deceased Members Bell & Barkley Families
 8:00am William J Smith/Bill & Joan Krumholz Family

Saturday, January 11, 2014

8:00am T Joseph Varkey/The Joseph Family
 5:00pm Marilou Purman/Steve & Terri Baldi

Sunday, January 12, 2014

6:30am Teresa Caho/Marty & Brian Griffey
 8:00am Bernadine Noel/Dale & Brenda Noel
 9:30am Ted Schumacher/Family
 11:00am Paul & Agnes Grawey/Sally & Larry McConnell
 5:00pm For the People



ST VINCENT DE PAUL, FOOD PANTRY AND CHRIST CHILD COLLECTIONS will be at all Masses this weekend.

ST THOMAS SCHOOL resumes classes on Monday, January 6th.

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP Monday, January 6 at 7:00 pm.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE Monday, January 6 at 7:00 pm in the parish office meeting room.

ROSARY FOR PEACE Tuesday, January 7 at 10:00 am in the chapel.

BIBLE STUDY Tuesday, January 7 at 1:00 pm in the parish office meeting room.

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

CCD Wednesday, January 8 at 6:15 pm in the school.

RCIA Wednesday, January 8 at 7:00 pm in the school library.

KELCH'S STUDY GROUP Thursday, January 9 at 7:00 pm in the lower level of the church.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP Thursday, January 9 at 7:00 pm.

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

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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

CHANGE OF ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____



A big thanks for everyone who so graciously offered your greetings, gifts, and cards during the Christmas season. We always appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity!!

Msgr. Watson

Fr. Taylor

Sister Rachel

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	*William Newport
*Chris Lehman	*Joe Espinosa	*Alexis Moran
*Bridget Kelley	*Jason Stevenor	*Ben McCabe
*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	Jordan Good
*Fred Wilson	*Darren Hodgkins	*Anthony Alessi
*Jason Thyne	*Joshua Logan Stroot	*Jeff Good
*Nathan M. Heiser	*Lt. Col. James Godfrey	



Thank you to those who have responded to our 2014 Annual Giving Program. We very much appreciate your generosity. If you have not had a chance to respond, please consider participating in this year's Annual Giving Program. The year's proceeds will help with the resurfacing of parking lots, updating the electronics and technology in the parish offices and implementing a better lighting system in the church.

You may return your pledge letter to the Parish Office, mail it, or drop it in the collection basket at Mass. If you have any questions, please call Jan Smith at 688-3446.

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a most Happy New Year in 2014!

We Need your HELP!

St. Thomas Food Pantry

Following is the suggested list of food items:

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

We greatly appreciate your generosity.

We especially need

Beef Stew Jelly Tuna Canned Fruit
Instant Potatoes

Weekly Collection

	12/15/13	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$ 25,154	\$ 603,696
Sunday Collections	\$ 20,297	\$ 509,924
Electronic Collections	\$ 3,313	\$ 67,082
Total Collected	\$ 23,610	\$ 577,006
Overage (Shortage)	\$ (1,544)	\$ (26,691)

We appreciate your generosity.

Note

We have begun preparations for a new Parish Directory. Names, addresses and one phone number will be printed. In previous directories we have not printed unlisted phone numbers. We will also respect those who have asked us not to include your phone number in the past.

If your number has not been included in the past and you would like it printed, please email (parishoffice@stthomas-church.net) or call the Parish Office, 688-3446, to let us know. If you no longer use a landline and want a cell number listed as your main contact, please let us know that as well.

Make Real Changes in Your Life

St. Thomas is offering the inspiring series Walking Toward Eternity to help parishioners live their faith more fully. "Daring to Walk the Walk" introduces 7 key virtues and outlines practical steps for living them out in daily life. Participants will meet on Thursdays from 7:00 — 9:00 pm starting January 9 and ending February 27. Gatherings will be in the dining room of the lower level of the church.

For any questions or to register by phone, contact Deacon Mark Kelsch at 692-4908 or 692-5940.



Reflection and Gratitude

“Lord Jesus, you who willed to become poor, give us eyes and a heart directed toward the poor; help us recognize you in them—in their thirst, their hunger, their loneliness, and their misfortune.” These are the words which begin the prayer of the Vincentian family. This prayer, in its entirety, is prayer at all St. Thomas Conference meetings of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Through your prayers, your donations, and your good works toward helping the poor, you live these words. When members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society visit those who call our hotline in need of assistance, we tell those in need that it is solely through the generosity of our parishioners that we are able to help. You are our only funding, and you are the backbone of our ability to help the needy. For that, we are extremely grateful. It was also through your donations and the donations of all the Peoria area conferences that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, collectively, was able to provide Kroger gift cards to many afflicted by the tornados of November 17.

We are also extremely grateful for the continuous donations that you place in the “Feed the Hungry” box in the Gathering Space. All of those donations are distributed through the food pantry. In each Sunday bulletin, there is a list of the most needed items.

Please know that we pray for you, and we wish you and yours a happy, healthy, blessed New Year.

Our Sympathy

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED THIS WEEK: John Durbin; Marilyn Pilat; Connie Gill; Louise Bonikowski

John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship Fund Grants

Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding will be available for the 2014-15 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the diocese of Peoria whose families are members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed. Information about the grants and application materials may be obtained from any Catholic elementary or secondary school in the diocese of Peoria or on the website: www.cdop.org. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for 2014-15 must **reapply**. Deadline date for the completed application has been moved to **March 15, 2014**. Notification of grant awards will be made by mid-April.



St. Thomas School is seeking a licensed sign language interpreter to provide services for some school wide events. If interested, please contact Maureen Bentley, Principal at 309 685-2533 or 4229 N. Monroe St. Peoria Heights, IL. 61616.



Sponsor of the Week

Save the Date

Men's Club Stag

Saturday, January 25

**For more information,
contact Dave Wiles, 264-9252**

Reserve your spot today!

*St. Thomas the Apostle Inaugural Progressive Dinner
Saturday, February 8, 2014*



\$ 20 per person

Reservations due no later than Friday, January 24th

The evening will begin with 5:00 mass. Then, enjoy drinks and appetizers with a small group in one home, dinner with a small group in another, and meet back together with the whole group at St. Thomas for dessert!

Still looking for dinner hosts! You set the menu and we send you between 8-12 guests for dinner. (The exact number of guests is your choice.)

If you are interested in being a host or have any questions, please contact Kim Kellock 630-880-9619 or Carolyn Kinskey 309-966-3252

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number attending: _____ x \$20.00

Amount enclosed: _____

Please make checks out to St. Thomas.
Put this reservation slip and your check in an envelope marked "Progressive Dinner" and drop off at either the parish or school office.

We will be in touch with you regarding your cocktail and dinner placement prior to the event.

Looking forward to a festive evening!

This Year

Mend a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend.

Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust.

Write a love letter. Share some treasure.

Give a soft answer. Encourage youth.

Manifest your loyalty in word and deed.

Keep a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge.

Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you were wrong.

*Try to understand. Flout envy. Examine your demands
on others. Think first of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind.*

Be gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more.

Deserve confidence. Take up arms against malice.

Deery complacency. Express your gratitude. Have faith.

Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child.

Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.

Speak your love. Speak it again.

Speak it still once again.

ST. THOMAS STAFF

Msgr. William A. Watson, Pastor
 Rev. Thomas E. Taylor, Pastoral Vicar
 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
 Charlene Henchan, Parish Bookkeeper
 Jan Smith, Director of Development & Alumni
 Jan Alt, Parish Nurse
 Linda Hernandez, Pastoral Care/Caring Presence Ministry
 Annulment Consultations:
 Colleen Caldwell, 682-4571
 John Mackoway, 699-5213
 Linn Perkins 231-0261

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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: January 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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