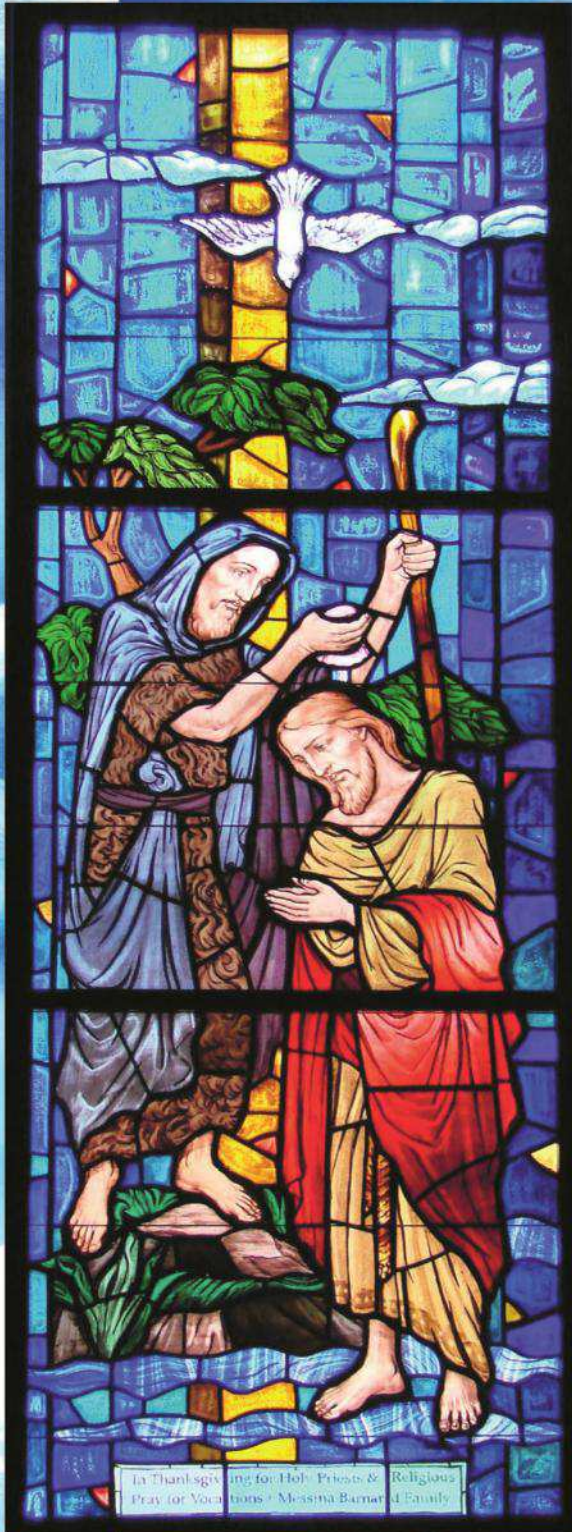


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Diocese of Peoria  
904 E Lake Ave Peoria Heights  
Stthomaspeoria.org



In Thanksgiving for Holy Priests & Religious  
Pray for Vocations - Messina Bernard & Family

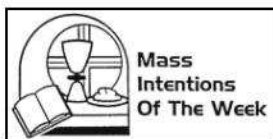
# BAPTISM OF THE LORD



## Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Reading I: Isaiah 42: 1-4,6-7  
Reading II: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38  
Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

To make a discovery about someone we know or to gain a fresh insight into ourselves is a threshold, a turning point. The deeper our new knowledge, the more we are changed. Once we have passed that threshold, we are never quite the same again. What is happening in the readings of the recent Sundays and feasts is a progression in the story of the manifestation of Jesus as the Chosen One of God. John the Baptist is the one who has gone before, preparing the way, the hearts of people. John proclaims conversion. Jesus' decision to be baptized indicates his choice—he has passed a threshold, come upon a turning point in his life, as he responds to an inner call. He is making a public statement about his life and his beliefs. In our community, our individual response to the call to holiness is affirmed and celebrated in many different ways. What is key for us is to listen to that voice of God, the inner call that directs our steps in the journey of life.



### Monday, January 13, 2014

7:00am Barbara Mae McGehee/Jame Willfinger  
8:00am James Kuchan/Keith & Norma Johnson

### Tuesday, January 14, 2014

7:00am Bill Nelson/Anita Nelson  
8:00am Dr Paul Norris/Terry McGrath  
9:00am Bishop Edward O'Rourke/Jeanne Whalen

### Wednesday, January 15, 2014

7:00am Martha Jane Smith/Mary Stewart  
8:00am Fran Hafner/St Thomas Women's Guild

### Thursday, January 16, 2014

7:00am Marion Heinz/Jim & Lois Wolz  
8:00am Mary Lou Spitzer/Gloria Christian  
9:00am Stan Byerly & Martha Henning

### Friday, January 17, 2014

7:00am Larry LeTourneau/Margaret Dalton  
8:00am Living & Deceased members of Ardis and Bulger Families/Family

### Saturday, January 18, 2014

8:00am Bonnie Madigan/Family  
5:00pm Fran Patton/Suzie Draher

### Sunday, January 19, 2014

6:30am Howard Pigg/Mary Ann Meyer  
8:00am For the People  
9:30am The Jeff Campbell Family/The Ardis Family  
11:00am Gino and Virginia Baldi/Steve & Terri Baldi  
5:00pm Rosemary Crowley Manning/The Gullifor Family



**CONFIRMATION MEETING** for parents and confirmands in groups 1,2,3,4 Sunday, January 12 at 6:30 pm in the lower level of the church

**SENIOR CITIZENS** Monday, January 13 at noon at the 50's Diner in Metro Centre. All seniors are welcome for good food and good fun.

**CENTERING PRAYER GROUP** Monday, January 13 at 7:00 pm.

**CONFIRMATION MEETING** for parents and confirmands in groups 5,6,7,8 Monday, January 13 at 7:00 pm in the lower level of the church.

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

**BIBLE STUDY** Tuesday, January 14 at 1:00 pm in the parish office meeting room.

**ST VINCENT DePAUL SOCIETY** Tuesday, January 14 at 7:00 pm in the parish office meeting room.

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

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

**RCIA** Wednesday, January 15 at 7:00 pm in the school library.

**KELCH'S STUDY GROUP** Thursday, January 16 at 7:00 pm in the lower level of the church.

**CHARISMATIC MASS** Thursday, January 16 at 7:00pm

**MEN'S CLUB STAG TICKETS** will be sold for \$10 at coffee and donuts on January 19th. Tickets will be \$15 at the event on January 25th.

St. Thomas Website: [stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org)  
St. Thomas e-mail: [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net)

*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	*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!

## PARISH REGISTRATION

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

## 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

	12/29/13	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$ 25,154	\$ 654,004
Sunday Collections	\$ 21,228	\$ 551,094
Electronic Collections	\$ 3,313	\$ 73,708
Total Collected	\$ 24,541	\$ 624,802
Overage ( <b>Shortage</b> )	\$ (613)	\$ (29,202)

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.



### Members of St Thomas Parish


Thank you for your generosity. The gifts we received for our clients from St. Thomas were wonderful. We can not express to you what a difference your kindness makes in the life of a lonely child who thinks they are forgotten, or a family that is able to pay for only the bare necessities, or the senior who feels so alone. Thank you for helping us spread some Christmas joy.

The staff of the Center for Youth and Family Solutions.



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



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## *Our Sympathy*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED THIS WEEK:** Charles Schaeffer; Norman Dean

### Save the Date

## Men's Club Stag

**Saturday, January 25  
after 5:00 Mass**

**\$15 Ticket covers your  
food and beverages for the night.**

**Presale Tickets will be available for \$10 at  
coffee and donuts January 19th.**

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



Thanks to the very generous people who so beautifully created a Christmas environment in the Church for all of us to enjoy. Special thanks to Mary Lou Bartley and Kathy McGee who coordinate the project.

**Thank You!**

## 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](http://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.



*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!*

## ***The Art of Prayer*** ***By Timothy W. O'Brien***

Some people, many of them Catholic, go to great lengths to learn about meditative and contemplative practices. For most of my life, I was not one of them. Rather, I came upon contemplation accidentally, almost despite myself.

As a first-year student at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., I registered for "Introduction to the History of Art," a course taught by Professor Joanna E. Ziegler. No great aesthete, I selected the class to fulfill the arts requirement for graduation. And as a novice in art history, my expectations were colored by hand-me-down wisdom from my contemporaries. I anticipated a steady diet of names and dates, with which one might catalogue everything from cave paintings to cathedrals. I remember uttering that dismissive (if common) question heard about the liberal arts: "When will I ever use *that*?"

My expectations were soon shattered. Certain things I remember vividly: Professor Ziegler's sly smile upon first entering the classroom; her hair, shocking in length and curl and whiteness; her gingerly held cup of tea, steam billowing over its top. Most of all, I remember my elation upon first looking at the "evaluation" section of the syllabus and finding none of the anticipated tests and quizzes. (Things were looking up for art history!)

Instead, we were given the names of three paintings and sent to the Worcester Art Museum. We were to look at each, identify which one most seized our attention and report back. Almost a decade later, I still remember my first viewing of Pieter Jansz Saenredam's "[Interior of the Choir of St. Bavo's Church](#)." There is no other way to put it: I was intrigued. The soaring, Spartan interior of the church had a subdued silence about it. And the painting fostered the same in me.

The purpose of this first museum trip was revealed at our next class. We would visit the museum for one hour each week, preferably at the same time of day, to look solely at our selected painting. Notebook in tow, we were to write down what we saw, beginning from scratch each week if necessary. No additional research about the painting or artist was permitted, not even dates. We were even discouraged from reading the work's identification placard.

For 13 weeks, I gazed at the austere choir of Saenredam's church. Though I later learned that this was one of his favorite subjects, I knew nothing about it at the time. Sitting before the painting early in the semester, I looked at my watch after what felt like an hour, ready to depart. Fifteen minutes had passed. Mumbling something uncharitable about art historians—or one particular art historian, at least—I stayed put.

To make time go faster, I wrote down everything I saw, noting colors and brush strokes. Was it painted on wood, not canvas? Several weeks later, I saw people in the painting that I had overlooked before. What were they doing? I noted features of the church different from any worship space I had ever visited. What kind of church was this? How did Saenredam convey the vastness of space and the intricate vaulted ceiling with mere paint? Gradually, I became more adept at "seeing" the work, letting it reveal itself over time. I grew quieter, writing less. And what I initially called "the painting" I now thought of, with all respect to the artist, as "my painting."

Back at Holy Cross, in class and conversation, I learned that this was precisely the point. Professor Ziegler was taken up not so much with names and dates as with how art intersected with contemplation, revelation and mystery. For her, introducing a class to art history involved our learning how to see, understood as both a spiritual and physical activity. We learned, or tried at least, to be attentive and heedful, to wonder at something beautiful.

Our teacher had asked us to become contemplatives.

In the Gospel of Luke, the disciples entreat Jesus, "Master, teach us to pray." He responds with the words of the Our Father. Many of us learned to pray with these or similar words, schooled by our parents and preachers before even thinking to ask for instruction. With time, these rote formulae can open the way to larger expanses of prayer, to meditation and contemplation, which are considerably harder to teach.

Professor Ziegler's class and Saenredam's church were essential for my schooling in prayer. I do not claim to have had some mystical experience in the Worcester Art Museum. Quite the opposite. My recorded concerns were distressingly terrestrial: uncomfortable seating and the stale air proper to art museums.

But like all good introductions, her course laid the groundwork for later growth. This project pointed to the virtues of routine and ritual. Repetition helped minimize the extent to which my own "baggage" in a given week colored how and what I saw. Most important, it underscored that contemplative practice hinges on one's disposition; that mystery—whether a painting's or God's—will be as apparent to us as our attentiveness allows.

Life after college took me into government service and then into the Society of Jesus. St. Ignatius wanted his followers to be "contemplatives in action," to see this world with different eyes. Most of the lessons I have learned as a pray-er cycle back in some way to Saenredam's work and my semester seated before it. After all, what is contemplation if not looking and seeing with care, awe and even love? As a Jesuit, I was heartened to encounter a definition of prayer by Walter Burghardt, S.J., as "a long, loving look at the real."

Professor Ziegler died last November, far too soon. My appreciation for what she was about continues to deepen, however. Since the cornerstone of her course was that our judgments develop with time, maturing as things are revealed to us, this seems entirely appropriate.

"Master, teach us to pray," the disciples asked. How fitting that some teachers and artists are called "masters." Both share Jesus' concern for people who have "eyes but do not see." And like him, they too can teach us to pray.

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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  
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