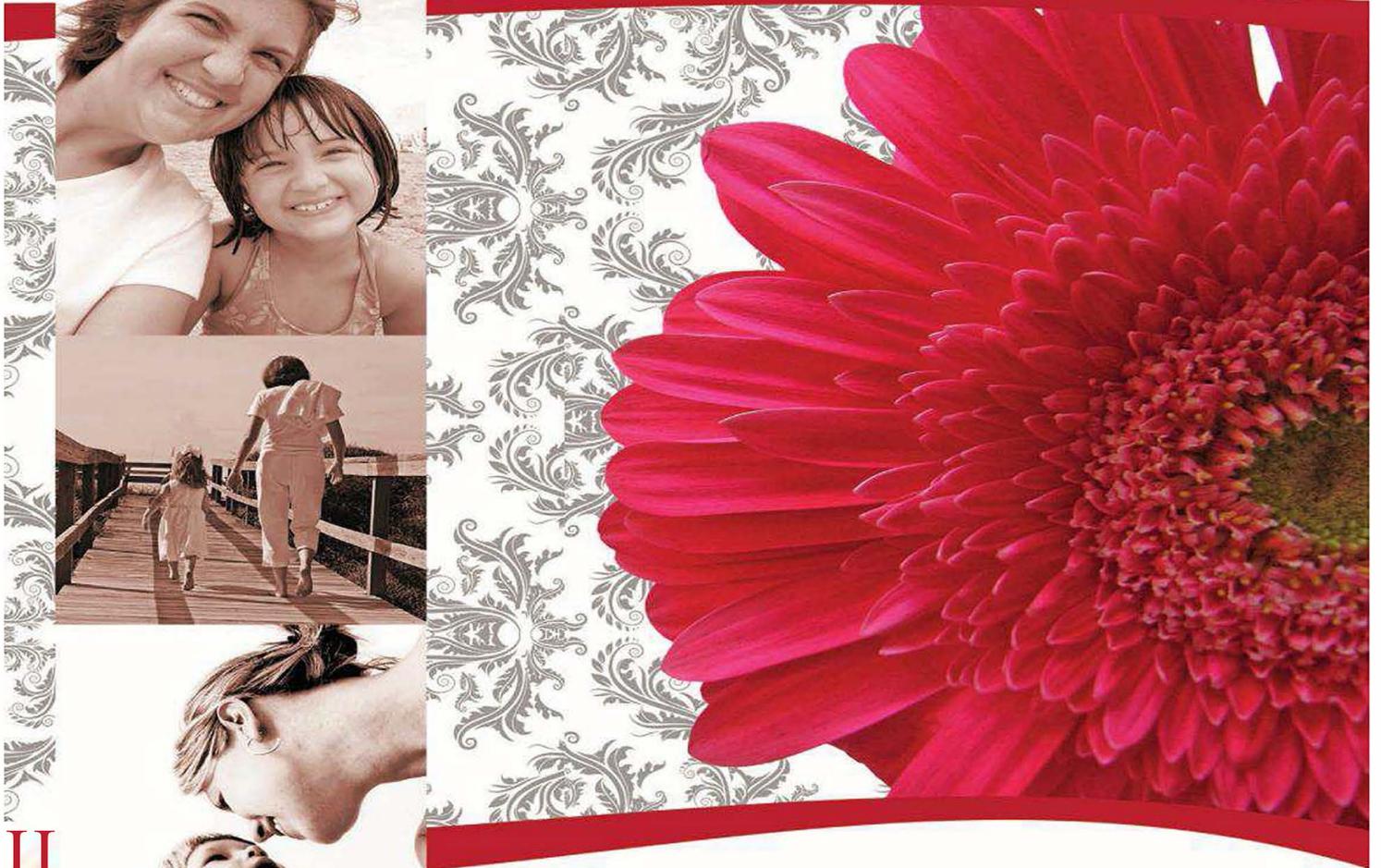




St. Thomas the Apostle Parish  
Diocese of Peoria  
904 E Lake Ave Peoria Heights  
stthomaspeoria.org

# MOTHER'S DAY



II

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Reading I: Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26,34-35,44-48  
Reading II: 1 John 4: 7-10  
Gospel: John 15: 9-17

God is love. So essential is this love that those who love become children of God and those who do not love know nothing of God. Love becomes the measure. God's love is gracious and open to all. It is hard for us to understand the love of God. As humans, we love some people and do not love others. It is hard to believe that God offers love to all. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us that God loves us first. When we get in touch with this great love in our lives, we respond in love. All Jesus asks of us is this, "Love one another as I have loved you." How is God calling you to love? Whom is God calling you to love?



**Monday, May 11, 2015**

7:00am Rommel Bautista/Greg & Mailene Bennett  
8:00am Suzanne Lynch/Gregory Folley

**Tuesday, May 12, 2015**

7:00am T Joseph Varkey/The Joseph Family  
8:00am Marilyn Roedell/Larry & Cherie Pillman  
9:00am Betty Fogerty/Family

**Wednesday, May 13, 2015**

7:00am Anne Holland Morrissey & Kevin Morrissey  
8:00am Alice Eaton/Bob & Deb Wenzel

**Thursday, May 14, 2015**

7:00am Bonnie Madigan/Family  
8:00am Rosetta Matarelli/Thelma Antonacci  
9:00am Dianne Wilken/The Sposato Family

**Friday, May 15, 2015**

7:00am Mary Nelson/Thomas & Irene Rapach  
8:00am Francisco Salamat/Rey & Marietta Cristobal

**Saturday, May 16, 2015**

8:00am Msgr Edward Higgins/Family  
5:00pm Wilma Adams/Family

**Sunday, May 17, 2015**

6:30am For the People  
8:00am Rosalie Schierer/Michael & Joan Meehan  
9:30am Bonnie Streid/Willmeta Mclaughlin  
11:00am Nick Hardgrove/St Vincent de Paul Society  
5:00pm Mary Wolgemuth/Sal & Mary Gazioglu



**FINE ARTS OPEN HOUSE** Fine Arts Day at St Thomas School was Friday, May 8. On Sunday, May 10th our students wonderful creations will be on display after the 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 am Masses. All are invited.

**SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH** Monday, May 11 at noon at the 50's Diner at Metro Center. All seniors are welcome.

**ST THOMAS SCHOOL BAND CONCERT** Monday, May 11 at 6:30 pm in the school gym.

**CENTERING PRAYER GROUP** Monday, May 11 at 7:00 pm.

**ROSARY FOR PEACE** Tuesday, May 12 at 10:00 am in the chapel.

**BIBLE STUDY** Tuesday, May 12 at 12:30 pm in the parish office meeting room.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 pm in the original church basement.

**PTO** Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 pm in the school library.

**BIBLE STUDY** Wednesday, May 13 at 8:45 am in the parish office meeting room.

**CCD** Wednesday, May 13 at 6:15 pm in the school. Families are asked to join the students in the church at 6:30 for Mass.

**ALL SCHOOL MASS** Thursday, May 14 at 10:00 am.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 pm.

**CONFIRMATION MEETING** Thursday May 14 at 7:00 pm in the lower level of the church for 7th grade parents and students in preparation for next year's Confirmation.

## 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

**Our greatest needs are:**

**Jelly, Peanut Butter, Canned fruit, Pancake Mix & Syrup**

We appreciate your generosity..

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

	4/26/15	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$ 24,000	\$ 1,032,000
Sunday Collections	\$ 16,015	\$ 836,782
Electronic Collections	\$ 3,632	\$ 155,854
Total Collected	\$ 19,486	\$ 992,636
Over/(Short)	\$ (4,514)	\$ (39,364)

**We appreciate your generosity.**

## 25th and 50th Wedding Anniversaries

If you are celebrating your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary this year, please notify the parish office by June 1st to receive a personal invitation from the Bishop to attend a Mass in September in your honor.

## PARISH REGISTRATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CHANGE OF ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

## *Our Sympathy*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED THIS WEEK:** Katherine Moon, mother of Kathleen Watts and grandmother of Sydney and Julia Watts

Sponsor of the Week

## Steven T. Baldi, D.D.S.

GENERAL DENTISTRY & INVISALIGN ORTHODONTICS

Evening Hours Available • Office Hours by Appointment

212 North Davenport • Metamora 309-367-2378



Peoria Notre Dame is hosting its summer volleyball camp June 15-18, 2015. The camp costs \$50 and is open to any player in the 3rd through 9th grades.

8:30-10:30 am — incoming 8th and 9th grades  
10:45 am-12:45 pm — incoming 6th and 7th grades  
1:00-3:00 pm — incoming 3rd through 5th grades

Download a registration form at  
[pndvolleyball.weebly.com](http://pndvolleyball.weebly.com)



## Spring cleaning...another opportunity

The St. Vincent de Paul conferences of Peoria have access to the St. Joseph Furniture Bank which is run by Catholic Charities. The Furniture Bank is always open to donated items. If you wish to donate at any time throughout the year, please call 636-8012 to make arrangements. If you reach the answering machine, the call will be returned to you in a timely manner.

## Prayer Chain

St. Thomas Elizabeth Ministry Prayer Chain would like to invite you to become a part of our prayer ministry. This prayer chain began 17 years ago and many changes have occurred in the communication of needs during that time. We now email prayer requests to our group members to ask for support through prayer and friendship. We hope you will consider being a part of our prayer group and offer support to our St. Thomas community through your gift of prayer. If you would like to join, please email Diane Carroll at dicarroll8@comcast.net. Prayer requests can also be received by sending your request to this email address or leaving a message by calling 692-9509. Thank you!

## Charismatic Renewal Pentecost Mass

May 24, 2:00 pm

Fr. Taylor will celebrate the Mass.

Light refreshments will be served in the lower level of the church.



## St. Thomas Golf Outing/Dinner

June 26, 2015

**All men and women are invited!!**



Please remember St. Thomas Church in your will.

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

## Ladies Auxiliary Knights of Columbus

The Ladies Auxiliary is hosting a Mother/Daughter Pot Luck dinner Thursday, May 14 at 7403 Radnor Rd. Dinner served at 6:30 pm, followed by fun. Questions: call Gloria Christian, 691-6341 or Barb Gusman, 231-3549.

## "To Our Lady"

*Lovely Lady dressed in blue-  
Teach me how to pray!  
Cod was just your little Boy,  
Tell me what to say!*

*Did you lift Him up. sometimes,  
Gently, on your knee?  
Did you sing to Him, the way  
Mother does to me?*

*Do you really think He cares  
If I tell Him things-  
Little things that happen? And  
Do the Angels' wings*

*Make a noise? And can He hear  
Me if I speak low?  
Does He understand me now?  
Tell me-for you know.*

*Lo,vely Lady dressed in blue,  
Teach me how to pray!  
God was just your little Boy,  
And you know the way.*

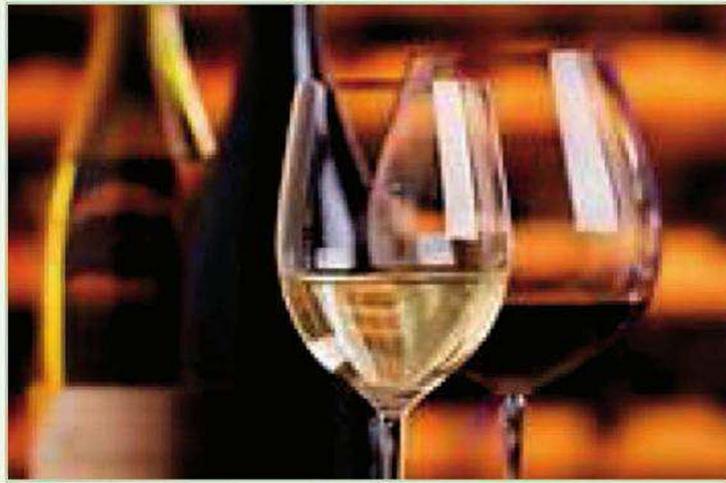
Sponsored by Haiti Mission Connection, Inc.\*

# WINE TASTING

TO BENEFIT THE PEOPLE OF BODARIE, HAITI

## TURN WINE INTO WATER

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2015, 5:30-7:30 P.M.



Rhythm Kitchen, 305 SW Water St., Peoria, IL 61602  
\$50/per person, includes tasting, hors d'oeuvres and donation

\* a 501(c) (3) organization

SUPPORTING A CLEAN DRINKING WATER  
PROJECT, COMMUNITY CISTERNS, SCHOOL &  
MEDICAL OUTREACH IN / AROUND BODARIE,  
HAITI

Contact Sheldon Schafer for reservation: 509.682.1876 or  
[cofree@haitimissionconnection.Org](mailto:cofree@haitimissionconnection.Org). Mail check to Haiti Mission  
Connection, PO Box 1S93, Peoria, IL. 61654, with the following:  
Name, Number attending x \$50 Email, Address, City, State, Zip.  
**Payment may be made that evening**

# An Irish American Dream

By Hanna May

*America Magazine, May 11, 2015*

I tend to blame some of my less desirable attributes—my too-big feet, my sad excuse for an immune system—on genetics, that unique combination of traits I received from my parents. While in some regards it seems to me I wet my toes in the shallow end of the gene pool, I did make off with some of their more positive qualities (my mom's thick head of hair; my father's sense of humor). And getting to know my parents as a young adult has only made me more aware of some of the outstanding qualities I would be lucky to grow into. Above all, I hope one day to live up to their work ethic.

My parents were born in the 1960s in Belfast, Northern Ireland, at the height of "The Troubles," a period of political and ethno-nationalist conflict that spanned decades.

Belfast was divided between Catholic nationalists, who wanted Northern Ireland to be independent from British rule and under the government of the Republic of Ireland to the south, and Protestant unionists, who wanted Northern Ireland to remain under the control of the United Kingdom. My parents lived in a small Catholic neighborhood surrounded by Protestant unionists and faced persecution daily. Both they and their families were fired from jobs, trapped in poor-quality schools and made to live in unsafe and unclean state-controlled housing. Car bombings and sniper shootings were a part of their everyday life.

My parents witnessed several atrocities, lost family members and best friends to the extreme sectarian violence and had little choice but to become involved in Catholic nationalist counter-vigilante groups. When my father's life was threatened during his night shift at the local grocery store, it was the last straw. Once they turned 18 years old, my mother and he left Belfast for the United States. When they came to New York they had nothing. They slept on couches and took menial jobs. My father washed dishes and bused tables, and my mother cleaned apartments. There were years of grueling work and long hours away from home.

My parents believed, however, that education was "the great equalizer," so my father enrolled in college and every penny he and my mother earned was directed toward his tuition. Eventually he earned his bachelor's degree from Fordham University. My parents lived the American Dream. They never had the opportunities that I have had, and yet they were still able to succeed. This is why I feel it is my responsibility to take full advantage of the gifts they have given me.

## 'Just a Student'

My parents were adamant about my attending a Jesuit high school. They knew that this would not only provide me with the gift of unbounded knowledge but would form me into a well-rounded woman for others.

As I prepare to start college in September, I find myself looking back with overwhelming gratitude on my Jesuit experience at Loyola School in New York. Because of my parents' hard work, these past four years I was allowed to be a student, and just a student—a luxury my parents were never afforded. The academics have been rigorous; my classmates have become lifelong friends; and I have had opportunities my parents could not have dreamed of at my age. I have traveled to Eastern Europe and participated in service trips to West Virginia and Camden, N.J. And my experiences in and out of the classroom have exposed me to issues of social justice that have influenced both my educational and career decisions.

My parents went to school to get a job, to get ahead and to make a better life for their family. I am fortunate enough to get to go school to find out what I love to do and explore ways I can serve others by doing it. But like my parents, I believe that education can still be a great equalizer. In the African country of Chad, for example, girls are more likely to die of childbirth than they are to graduate from high school; I want to use my education to change that.

Last summer I participated in an internship program run by the chief of neurosurgery at New York's renowned Mount Sinai Hospital. I spent the entire month of July working 10-hour days, five days a week, observing surgeries ranging from brain tumor removal to complete resectioning of parts of the brain. This remarkable opportunity in the medical field fueled my desire to work in obstetrics and gynecology for Doctors Without Borders. I want to provide women in poorer parts of the world with proper health services. As much as I want to do this to satisfy my own dreams and help others, I want to succeed that much more to make my parents proud.

My parents have given me much more than a mixed bag of genes. They have inspired me with stories from Northern Ireland and their immigrant experience about overcoming hard times with even harder work. They have provided me with a one-of-a-kind education that has opened countless doors. And most important, they have given me a strong foundation in faith. It is with the deep Catholic faith that is intrinsic to my family life that I will begin my college journey this fall, honored and inspired to do all things for the greater glory of God.

**ST. THOMAS STAFF**

Msgr. William A. Watson, Pastor  
 Rev. Thomas E. Taylor, Parochial 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  
 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

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH**  
**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: May 31 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 COUNCL MEIVLBERS**

Joe Conlolly, Trustee	692-8647
Mary Ward, Trustee	679-0953
Mike Haughney, President	692-6086
Brian Barkley	692-4165
George Burek	446-3623
Jim Corkery	363-6799
Anne Gray	691-1479
Kim Kellock	713-2200
Carolyn Kinskey	966-3252
Mary Jo Pinto	692-6107
Matt Vonachen	243-7641
Dr Ted Wolgamot	691-0618