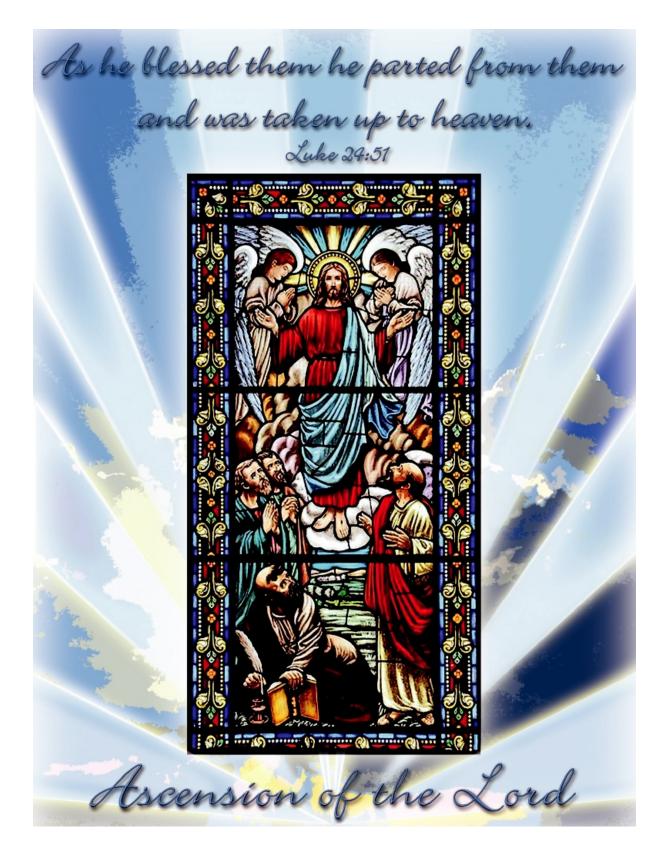


St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Diocese of Peoria 904 E Lake Ave Peoria Heights stthomaspeoria.org



Ascension of the Lord

Reading I Acts of the Apostles 1: 1-11
Reading II Ephesians 1: 17-23
Gospel Luke 24: 46-53

Not simply recalling an historical event, the feast of the Ascension celebrates what we are and will be as the Church. As St. Leo preached on this occasion centuries ago, what was previously visible in the Redeemer is now present in the rites. No longer limited by space or time, Christ has gone away only to be available through the Spirit in the sacraments. And because he lives among us, St. Leo says, "Where the Head has gone, the Body hopes to follow." From now on, Christ will be discovered in the Church. That the ascension of Christ is a promise of what lies ahead for believers is reflected in the prayers of today's liturgy. "May we follow him into the new creation, for his ascension is our glory and our hope."



Monday, May 13, 2013

7:00am Michael Honan II/Stephen Cullinan and Patty

Brignadello

8:00am John Ruskusky/Jim & Colleen Matarelli

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

7:00am Michael Smith/Family

8:00am Bernice Chance/Patricia Thompson 9:00am Tom Whitten/Lisa and Children

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

7:00am Josephine Murrin/Mary Jo Nelson

8:00am Francisco Salamat/Rey & Marietta Cristobal

Thursday, May 16, 2013

7:00am Dan Connolly/Joe & Cari Connolly

8:00am Living & Deceased of the Hafner & Babrowski

Families

10:00am Pat Peters/Beth Washburn

Friday, May 17, 2013

7:00am Gertrude Naumann/Joe & Judy Naumann

8:00am Harry LaHood/Family

Saturday May 18, 2013

8:00am Kathy Armato/Bill & Deb Spears

5:00pm Dennis McLaughlin/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley

Sunday, May 19, 2013

6:30am For the People

8:00am Peter & Leana Ulrich/Don & Amy Gries

9:30am Veronica Nader/Lois Lipka 11:00am Lew Odum /Marcia Ritschel

5:00pm Robert Eckhart/Jean Schaumburg



ST THOMAS SCHOOL FINE ARTS OPEN HOUSE will be next Sunday after 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 Masses.

SENIOR CITIZENS Monday, May 13 at noon at the 50's Diner at Metro Center. All seniors are welcome.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP Monday, May 13 at 7:00 pm in the school chapel.

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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm in the parish office meeting room.

PTO Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm in the school library.

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

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

CONFIRMATION MEETING for all 7th graders—St. Thomas School and CCD and their parents—Wednesday, May 15 at 7:30 pm in the lower level of the church.

ALL SCHOOL MASS Thursday, May 16 at 10:00 am.

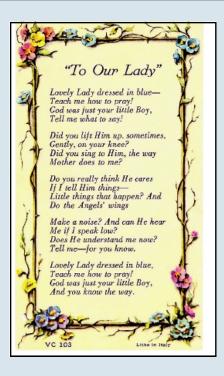
CHARISMATIC MASS Thursday, May 16 at 7:00 pm.

DEACONATE ORDINATION OF KYLE LUCAS Sunday, May 19 at Holy Trinity Church in Bloomington at 11:30 am.

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



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED THIS WEEK Karen Mitchell, sister of Greg Skibinski



PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Please keep the men and women in the military in your prayers:

James Blanchard *Dan McDonough *Glen Louthan *Chris Lehman *Bridget Kelley *Travis Williams *Alex Fritz *Jason Kidd *Roseanne Milroy *Victoria Coers *Scot Wettach *Jacob Moody *Liam O'Neill *Erich Snyder *Drake Comfort *Mark Fagenkrantz

*Fred Wilson

*Jason Thyne

*Ricardo DeLaCruz *Dan Svymbersky *Jeff R. Dudley *Joe Espinosa

*Jason Stevenor *Michael McKee * Joe Kuchan *Tom Stimeling

*Curtis Bohlman *Ryan Schatsiek *Joe Moran

*JoanneMcGregor *William Kelley, III *Michael O'Brien *NaToane Russell

*Casey Redington *Darren Hodgkins

*Joshua Logan Stroot *Jeff Good *Nathan M. Heiser *Ben McCabe *Lt. Col. James Godfrey

Scott C. Powers *Brian M Godsill *Alexis Moran

*David Hodges

*Brian Behm *Christopher Miller *F Michael Schachtrup

*Maegan Brown *Jim Comfort *Jason Blankenship

*Farrah Bramble *Mackinzie Wilts

*Lt. Blake Baldi *Craig Bohlman Jordan Good

*Anthony Alessi

*William Newport

Weekly Collection

	4/28/13	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$ 23,077	\$ 1,015,388
Sunday Collections Electronic Collections	\$ 18,673 \$ 1,727	\$ 1,025,071 \$ 72,991
Total Collected	\$ 20,400	\$ 1,098,062
Overage (Shortage)	\$ (2677)	\$ 82,674

We appreciate your generosity.

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

Crackers Soup

Beef Stew Canned Vegetables Mac & Cheese Peanut Butter

Instant Potatoes

Thank you for your contributions to the Food Pantry. We greatly appreciate your generosity.

At this time we are very short on:

Jelly Tuna **Pancake Mix** Syrup Rice 4 pack Saltine Crackers Canned Fruit 4 pack Toilet Paper

The Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to help distribute food on Monday and Thursdays—9:00 am — 11:00 am. The commitment is not weekly. If you have an interest in helping, please call the Parish Office, 688-3446.

Spring Garage Sale a Great Success

The Spring Garage Sale emphasized how much good the sale does for the community and how people depend on it. A number of customers commented on the importance of the sale for them personally. A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who made this possible—working at the sale, donating merchandise, cooking and baking, and a hundred other jobs. Financially the sale was a success. The final total is \$13,050.00. The bake sale and concessions contributed more than \$850 of the total. As you go through the summer and find things you no longer need, remember St. Thomas and donate them for the Fall Sale in October. We give tax receipts.

Please remember St. Thomas Church in your will..

The Landscape Ministry is looking for volunteers to help with the care of the grounds on the St. Thomas campus. If you have a green thumb and would want to give a little time, please call the Parish Office, 688-3446.

Support and Resources for Families, Caregivers, & those struggling with Alzheimer's & Dementia

To be held in the lower level of the church on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 10 am. Next meeting will be May 15th

> Please bring "Your Person". for social and recreational time as well!

Call 369-2339 for more information, or just drop in.

Help Your Child Get Better Math & Reading Scores!

Featured in the Catholic Post, the most recognized Summer Math & Reading Program in the area! St. Vincent School will offer a Summer Math Program for second graders through incoming freshmen and a Summer Reading Program for first graders through incoming freshmen. An **Enriched Math Program** will also be offered to challenge students. These programs have improved math and reading scores. Contact Mrs. Engelbrecht, named Teacher of Excellence in Math, at 691-5012 for dates and times.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Haiti Mission Connection Fundraiser
Wine Tasting Event

Friday, May 31 5:30 pm For information, contact Sheldon Shafer at 682-1876.

Marian Shrines

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October 7-19, 2013

\$3,595 per person, double occupancy

For more information, call Alexander Travel, 693-2511.

Sponsor of the Week

You are invited to celebrate with

KYLE LUCAS

as he becomes a deacon.

May 19, 2013 11:30 am

Holy Trinity Church Bloomington

Pray for Kyle as he continues his journey to the priesthood.



SAVE THE DATE!

St. Thomas Golf Outing

Friday, June 21 at Metamora Fields

Women and men are invited to golf. Call Tim Ward for information, 303-5773.

DIVORCE GROUP

A group is forming for anyone interested in working through the difficulty of divorce—wherever you are in the process. If you would like more information, please call the Parish Office at 688-3446.

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PHONE(H)	(W)	
CHANGE OF ADDRESS	NEW ADDRESS	
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Child of God

A foster parent finds grace in letting go

Donna M. Maccaroni

The anticipation was stifling. For days we knew that our little one would be leaving us forever, on her way to a place where she would be a part of a family forever. We readied ourselves as best we could. We threw her a going-away party, though at only 9 months she knew nothing of the life-changing event that lay ahead of her. The party, we knew, was merely an attempt to ease the pain of letting her go out into an unfamiliar world without the safety of the arms she had known since foster placement in our home at the age of one week.

From her perspective, the drive to her new mother could as well have been a trip to the grocery store. But this day would end very differently from any other day in her short life. And though I knew the day would come and that it was the best thing for her, my inability to make her understand was one of the most difficult circumstances I have ever had to confront. Giving her away caused me anguish not only because we would miss her, but because I felt I was blindsiding her, setting her up only to knock her little legs from under her. I feared that in her eyes, I was abandoning her. After leaving my first foster baby to her new mother, my body underwent an intensity of emotions unlike anything that I had experienced in my life.

For nine months, I had worked to help this child learn how to bond with her "forever" mother. From the beginning of our relationship, I knew that she would leave. However, as was necessary over those months, she became a part of me and I a part of her. When I left her in the care of her new mother, my heart felt it was betraying this part of "us." For days after, I cried tears of grief unlike any I have shed in years; yet, simultaneously, I experienced an overwhelming joy for her as she embarked on her wonderful new adventure.

Some people ask why I became a foster parent if it causes so much pain. Why would anyone invite this type of anguish into his or her life? And why will I do it again? But I see these emotions—pain, suffering, wondrous joy—as evidence that God has called me as a Catholic, a Christian and, most of all, as a mother. When I was given the gift of motherhood, I received with it the grace necessary to understand that being a mother requires me not only to teach and serve, but also to let go and suffer loss. Why then, should I confine these graces to raising my five birth children? I am called to serve all of God's children. I am called to be also a mother to the motherless.

Many people wanted to know how I could give her away. The answer for me is simple. She was never mine to begin with—not because she was a foster child but because she, like each of my own children, is God's child. She belongs ultimately to God.

This is not to say that foster care is required of every Christian parent. This is to say that if you are a Christian, God is calling you. Your call and mine will be different, but one way or another, we are all called to serve. And when we answer God's call—and by doing so enter into the very heart of Christ—we are filled with the grace necessary to rely on our faith to carry us through, not away from, life's challenges. But if we remain idle, fearful of the emotional pain attached to entering the emotional struggles of the world, we will not fulfill God's call, and we will undoubtedly feel an emptiness that is insatiable by any other means.

At times, we measure gratification with perceived success. Did we succeed? How much did my family influence the life of this beautiful little girl? We may never know. But we do know that for the first nine months of her life, she was the baby of our household and a member of our parish community. She was our universe. She was an answer to a prayer for fulfillment. This child filled an empty spot that God had created just for her.

Donna M. Maccaroni, a special education teacher and the mother of five children, lives in Lawrenceville, N.J., with her husband. She welcomes foster children through the Children's Home Society of New Jersey.



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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: May 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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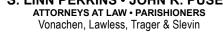
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