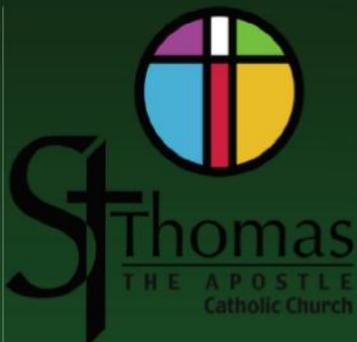




**“From within people,  
from their hearts,  
come evil thoughts,  
unchastity, theft,  
murder, adultery,  
greed, malice, deceit,  
licentiousness,  
envy, blasphemy,  
arrogance, folly.  
All these evils come  
from within and  
they defile.”  
Mark 7:21-23**



904 E Lake Ave  
Peoria Heights 61616  
(309) 688-3446  
stthomaspeoria.org

**22**  
**ORDINARY**  
**TIME**



## From the Pastor

This week we celebrate Labor Day. Be aware that the office will be closed and there will be one Mass at 9:00 AM.

Next weekend we will begin again the Donut Sundays after the Sunday morning Masses. We will have one difference this year. For each Donut Sunday, we will invite the students from a particular grade to be present for the 9 AM Mass. Some students will help with some parts of the Mass, and even with the serving of the refreshments afterwards. Students from our grade school and CCD program are welcome. I encourage our families to attend, as it also gives our parents an opportunity to socialize together. For the parish, it is good for our parishioners to see the connection with the activities in our school building.

Next week, we begin with the students in 8th Grade. Other grades will follow in the upcoming months.

I have asked our website to provide a link to the articles I wrote about the Bread of Life discourse. Over the course of five weeks, we considered some important aspects of our faith in the Eucharist. I hope that they are a useful resource for reflection.

After talking with various parishioners, I have also included in this bulletin more extensive thoughts about the Church and how we deal with questions of scandal and abuse. I offer my observations which I hope are useful.

-Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of September 2, 2018

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8; James 1:17-18,21b-22,27; Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23
<b>Monday</b>	<b>St. Gregory the Great</b> 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Luke 4:16-30
<b>Tuesday</b>	1 Corinthians 2:10b-16; Luke 4:31-37
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>St Teresa of Calcutta</b> 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Luke 4:38-44
<b>Thursday</b>	1 Corinthians 3:18-23; Luke 5:1-11
<b>Friday</b>	<b>First Friday</b> 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Luke 5:33-39
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> Micah 5:1-4a; Matthew 1:1-16,18-23
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Isaiah 35:4-7a; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37

## Mass Schedule

### Monday, September 3, 2018

9:00 a.m. Melvin Noe/Tom & Bonnie Stroot

### Tuesday, September 4, 2018

7:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB

8:00 a.m. The McCabe Family

### Wednesday, September 5, 2018

7:00 a.m. Karen Helton 1st Anniv/Michele & Sarah Konecki

8:00 a.m. Tony Bushell/Charles & Beverly Tanner

6:00 p.m. James Simmons/CCD Staff and Students

### Thursday, September 6, 2018

7:00 a.m. Winnifred A Farraher/Frances Farraher

8:00 a.m. Eunice Bingham/Herb Bingham

9:15a.m. Victoria Tumaming/Tan Family

### Friday, September 7, 2018

7:00 a.m. Jing Bautista/Bennett Family

8:00 a.m. World Peace & Special Prayer Intentions

### Saturday, September 8, 2018

8:00 a.m. Purgatorial Society

5:00 p.m. Anthony Arnold/The Jackson Family

### Sunday, September 9, 2018

7:00 a.m. For the People

9:00 a.m. Keye & Brand Families

11:00 a.m. Louie Ulrich 11th Anniv/Billy & Diane Dixon

5:00 p.m. Benefactors of the Franciscan Sisters of St John the Baptist

## Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week

### Sponsor of the Week

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## Server Schedule

Please check in the sacristy when you arrive to see if servers are needed.

### Saturday, September 1

5:00 p.m. Paul Gordon, Will Lynch, Julia Watts

### Sunday, September 2

7:00 a.m. Blake Buckardt, Makenzie Buckardt  
 9:00 a.m. Quinn Doubleday, Ellie King, Alison Wong  
 11:00 a.m. Ryan Bender, Nadia LaFond, Anna Meister  
 5:00 p.m. Luke Bender, Connor Messmer, Christian Pag-Ong, Gus Temple

### Weekdays, September 3-8

8:00 a.m. Julian Sturm

### Saturday, September 8

5:00 p.m. Kevin Bell, Elizabeth Sherman, Zach Sherman

### Sunday, September 9

7:00 a.m. Rachel Horst  
 9:00 a.m. John Frederickson, Andy Plaskon, Mic Plaskon, Sam Wyman  
 11:00 a.m. Paul Gordon, Liam Piper, Danny Ward  
 5:00 p.m. Jackson Campbell, Isabelle Girard, Christian Pag-Ong, Chloe Wombacher

### Weekdays, September 10-15

8:00 a.m. Kevin Bell, Jacob Robenstein

## This Week in our Parish

**SIGN-UP FOR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION** will be in the gathering space

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL, FOOD PANTRY AND CHRIST CHILD COLLECTIONS** will be this weekend

**LABOR DAY MASS** Monday, September 3 at 9:00 a.m. This is the only Mass that day

**ROSARY** Tuesday, September 4 at 10:00 am in the chapel

**CCD** begins, Wednesday, September 5

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** Thursday, September 6 at 7:00 pm in the old church basement

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION** Friday, September 7 in the chapel beginning after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and closing with Benediction at 8:00 p.m.

**SeptemberFest** Saturday, September 8 at 6:00 pm in the back lot

## Weekly Collection

	August 26, 2018	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed .....	\$20,500	\$184,500
Sunday Collections .....	\$8,115	\$105,446
Electronic Collections .....	\$13,017	\$42,153
Total Collected .....	\$21,132	\$147,599
Over/(Short) .....	\$632	\$(36,901)

Thank you for your generosity

## SeptemberFest

Sat, Sept 8, 6-11 pm

Come hear **Mindy Watkins and our talented St. Thomas students** followed by **J.C. and The Redemption** (an 11-piece band with killer horn section) on the St. Thomas blacktop. Pulled pork, craft/domestic beers, wine, soda and water. No cover charge. Children welcome. In the event of rain, the Fest will be moved to the school gym.

Pre-sale tickets will be available after Masses this weekend.

Contact Dave Wiles at 264-9252 for more information or to volunteer.

## All Parishioners are Invited



The famous 1926 Tin Lizzie will be on display at the next **St. Thomas Women's Guild Meeting**.

John Butte will present the tales of the *Gypsy Coeds* and their adventures in the 'Silver Streak' 1926 Model T Ford from Bradford, Illinois.

Join us in the lower level of the church on Monday, September 10 at 6:30 pm.

## RCIA/RCIC

Are you thinking about becoming Catholic? Do you know someone who should think about becoming Catholic? Do you want to learn more about the Catholic Faith? Classes for RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) will begin on September 19th at 7 PM in the school library. All are welcome. If you would like to sign up in advance, please contact the parish office or just come to the first class on September 19th.

This year, the schedule and topics for RCIA will be announced in the bulletin. Classes will be open to all parish members. As we work our way through the catechism, all are welcome to attend, especially if a topic is of interest, or if you would like to know more about our Catholic faith. More information will be available in September.

## Music Opportunities

Music Ministry provides beauty, joy, comfort, inspiration, and musical prayer for our liturgies and parish celebrations. This is possible due to the generous sharing of time and talent of committed members. If you like music, come join the choir and sing or play an instrument with us.

Our **Traditional Choir** sings at the 9:00 am Mass on Sundays and at other special celebrations. Choir practices will begin on Thursday, September 6 at 6:30 in the music room in the lower level of the church. All are welcome. If you have any questions contact Ann Horst (682-5507).

Our **Contemporary Choir** sings at the 5:00 pm Mass on Sundays. The band is looking for musicians and female singers. If you are interested in joining please contact David Longanbach (369-6460) or Tim Messmer (251-7205).

---

We have an opportunity of a lifetime for the youth of our parish. The Little Cherubs and Pueri Cantores, Diocesan children's choirs, would like to add more voices. Anyone has the ability to sing, they just need someone to unlock their hidden potential; and that someone is me, Jacob Cox. Any youth in grades K-12 interested in music and finding their singing voice should join me following the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses on Sunday, September 9, 2018 for more information.

If you have questions feel free to call me at 309-635-0274. I look forward to seeing you following either Mass!

Jacob Cox  
Director of The Little Cherubs and Pueri Cantores



Imagine if you were living from one paycheck to the next and for some reason missed a paycheck; consequently you could be asking our St. Vincent de Paul Society for financial assistance. That's what we do. We act on the information we receive first hand from a visit with you to understand your situation – your story – and you become our confidential client.

But we do much more. We're also armed with a lot of useful information. We've moved beyond simply providing financial assistance over the past eight years. Here are some subjects that you might want to know more about: dental and health clinics, job fairs, township rental assistance, Ameren pay agreement set-ups, food pantries, sources for financial counsel, legal services, family and parent counseling, temporary housing, low-priced sources for furniture and appliances, and United Way referral services. There are more.

We need and appreciate your continued generous financial support. Specific financial issues are the reason that clients call us. But you see we bring a lot more to our visit (along with shared prayer) than just immediate financial assistance.

Please keep the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Thomas in your prayers... and please inquire at the office if you are interested in this ministry and we'll contact you. Thank you again.

## Pray with the Pope

September 2018 - Young People in Africa  
That young people in Africa may have access  
to education and work in their own countries  
-Pope Francis

Annually Pope Francis draws special attention to the newly established "**World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**" that the Church celebrates each year on **September 1**. He said in 2016, "we will celebrate the Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, together with our Orthodox brothers and other churches. It will be an occasion to reinforce our common efforts to protect life, respecting the environment and nature."

Pope Francis established this day in the Roman Catholic Church to coincide with the efforts of other churches, especially the Orthodox. When he established the annual celebration the Holy Father said, "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience." To further emphasize the point, Pope Francis often focuses on the care of creation through his monthly prayer intentions, acknowledging the role humans have in protecting it for the greater good of humanity.

## Coffee and Donut Sundays

Our monthly Coffee and Donut Sundays hosted by the Spalding Council Knights of Columbus will begin Sunday, September 9th at the morning Masses. Please join us downstairs after Mass.

## Fall Garage Sale

The Fall Garage Sale will be October 4-6, 2018. Volunteers and merchandise will be needed. Contact Carey or Ed at 693-0019 for questions or information on the Sale.

## Piano Available

Would you or someone you know like to have a piano? We have one available at no cost. It can be yours. We are not able to move it for you but will work with you to arrange a convenient time to pick it up. If interested contact Msgr. Gray or the parish office.

## PND Shamrock Raffle

Thank you to everyone who joined us for 2018 Shamrock on August 17. Raffle tickets will continue to be sold with the winning tickets drawn at the Homecoming Fame on Friday, September 28th. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25 with cash prizes of \$3,000, \$1,500 and \$500.

## Dealing with crises in the Church

In 2001, the Catholic Church in the United States confronted the issue of sexual abuse of minors. This led to the adoption of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002. In the years that followed, the issue of abuse was also confronted in other countries, including Ireland, Australia, Chile, and other countries. However, this issue seemed to have died down in the United States, largely based on the reforms introduced in this country.

Last week, I highlighted many of the protections for young people that we have present in the Church in this country. It is important for us to know that the Church has seriously confronted this issue. It is also good for us to be able to defend the Church. We cannot guarantee that no act of gravely sinful behavior will ever happen again. But, we should be able to know that no such behavior will ever be tolerated or excused.

Recently, reports have called into doubt the way in which accusations have been handled by leaders in the Church. As I mentioned last week, most of these cases are not new, and relate to past events regarding priests who are now deceased or who have long ago been dismissed from the clerical state. Unfortunately, there have also been questions raised about recent decisions by some leaders in the Church.

I struggle with the best way to confront this situation. I know from speaking with some of you that this scandal is the cause of some serious anxiety. I know that others of you would like to emphasize that the vast majority of Church officials (both priests and bishops) are sincere and dedicated to the Gospel. I also know that some of you are suspicious of those who would attack the Church by using our legal system and the media to inflict harm. I am sympathetic to each of these perspectives which each have some validity.

If you are put to the test and asked to defend the Church, I offer these observations. We should never lightly excuse gravely immoral behavior. Those who would harm a child should be rightly punished. Jesus also warned about those who cause scandal, that it would be better to be drowned in the sea with a millstone (Matthew 18:6). It is a great evil to give scandal in the Church, especially for a person in a position of leadership. At the same time, in my experience and I hope also yours, there are many, many good examples of pastoral care for the flock. Be encouraged that most of our leaders are deeply committed and devoted to doing what is right and just.

The Second Vatican Council gives us a helpful perspective on the Church by reminding us that the Church is both a divine and a human institution (Lumen Gentium, 8). Our faith teaches us that Jesus is truly God and truly man, since he took on our human nature in the incarnation. Jesus is like us in all things except sin. Our faith also teaches us that the Bible is human and divine, since it was written by individual human authors under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We profess each Sunday that the Holy Spirit has spoken through the prophets. Likewise, our faith teaches us that the Church is a human and divine institution, since it is the Body of Christ and we are all members. We, though sinners, are united to Christ as our sinless head (1 Corinthians 12:12, 27).

Because the Church has a human dimension, history gives us many examples of mistakes and bad decisions made by individual leaders in the Church. For generations past, we can point to heroes of great holiness and sanctity, but also villains preoccupied by more worldly matters. In fact, history can show us times when the Church was in much worse shape than the Church today.

But, here is one of the great signs of the divine nature of the Church: that the Church has survived and flourished in spite of the sinfulness of her members. Any other activity that is merely human in origin will fail. (See Acts 5:38.) Yet, the Church has endured on the rock of St. Peter's profession of faith. Take heart from the fact that the Church belongs to God, and not to any one person, even a bishop or a pope.

We have another important source of encouragement for our faith. We know that no human being is without sin. Yet we cling to the Church, the Body of Christ, because we know that Jesus is perfect. There is no sin, no matter how great, that can diminish for an instant the salvation that we know in Jesus Christ. (See Romans 8:38-39.) We have the sacrament of Penance because we know that we each need, from time to time, to seek God's forgiveness. We believe because we know that the mercy and the love of God is sure.

I ask you to pray for the Church. Pray also for healing for those who have been harmed. And pray too for wisdom and holiness for our bishops and priests.

ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT'S  
**TRUE DEVOTION TO MARY**

**“God’s desire for the Blessed Virgin Mary in one’s life”**

September 8th from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
at the Spalding Pastoral Center 419 N. E. Madison Ave. Peoria IL

Guest speaker Deacon Cody Miller will speak on the spiritual riches of St. Louis De Montfort’s teachings on the Blessed Virgin Mary and the impact devotion to her can have on the faithful disciple of the Lord. The day includes 3 presentations, Holy Mass, Eucharistic Holy Hour, refreshments and lunch. Cost: \$15.00.  
Early registration is encouraged at [legionofmary.event@gmail.com](mailto:legionofmary.event@gmail.com) or call 815-844-6034.  
*Sponsored by the Legion of Mary of the Peoria Diocese*

## Ten on the Wall Fundraiser

More than 300 Spalding/AOL/Bergan alumni served during the Vietnam War Era—ten of those graduates made the ultimate sacrifice and their names are forever etched on the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Out of respect for our fallen classmates, the “Ten on the Wall” group was formed nearly four years ago with the intent of organizing and Honor Flight consisting of Peoria Catholic High School Vietnam Era Veterans. On October 16 of this year, 40 alumni veterans are scheduled to travel out of the General Wayne A Downing (Spalding Class of '58) Airport, as a group, to Washington D.C. on an Honor Flight.

A fund raiser, sponsored by Ten on the Wall, has been scheduled for Sunday, September 16 at the Hickory Grove Park in Dunlap. All proceeds will go to support the Greater Peoria Honor Flight. Contact Bob LaHood at 309264-9387 or email [tenonthewalltour@gmail.com](mailto:tenonthewalltour@gmail.com). More information can also be found on the Ten on the Wall Facebook page. Please support our Vietnam Veterans!

## Parish Registration

Complete the form below and drop in the collection basket or mail to the parish office

OR

Register on our website at [stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Under “About” open the “New Parishioner Registration,” complete and submit the form.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New Parishioner \_\_\_\_\_ Change of Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Catholic Women’s League

**Fall Fundraiser** will be Tuesday, September 11th at 11:00 a.m. at the Life Together Center, 3625 N. Sheridan Road. Besides lunch, there will be entertainment and raffles. For reservations send \$25 to Angie Metz, 1316 W Circle Road, Peoria 61604. Last year the League gave \$17,000 to support various Peoria organizations.

## Abide in Me Youth Retreat

High School Retreat  
November 2-4

*Abide in Me* is a conference style retreat that draws young people into a deep and lasting union with Jesus Christ, especially through sacramental encounter.

We invite the high school youth, grades 9-12, to participate in this retreat weekend. *Abide in Me* is a diocese-wide event being held at Corpus Christi Catholic School in Bloomington beginning at 5:00 pm on Friday, November 2nd and concluding at 12:30 pm on Sunday, November 4th. All retreat events will take place at Corpus Christi. Female participants will stay at Corpus Christi while Male participants will house at Central Catholic High School. Adult chaperones are also needed.

If you are interested in participating or chaperoning please contact the parish office for more information.

## Volunteer Opportunities

**PEACE PALS** Maybe you are looking for a new volunteer opportunity because your kids are going back to school!!! Come and join the Peace Pals. You get to help three students at Trewyn Grade School improve their reading skills by spending precious one on one time with them. The program asks that you go to Trewyn at least twice a month any day of the week that is convenient for you and the teacher. Activities are provided for you to use if you like. Its fun and rewarding. If you are interested, call Louise Mcann at 243-5722 or e-mail her at [gjmccann2@gmail.com](mailto:gjmccann2@gmail.com)

**PAVE** Pursuing Academic & Virtue Excellence is a one-on-one tutoring program for 4-5th grade girls from low income families beginning on September 17th. PAVE needs enthusiastic young women to tutor and mentor the girls. This program has 100% high school graduation and college entrance. Please see [PavePeoria.Com](http://PavePeoria.Com) or call Kate Smart 309-696-2677 for more details.

**St. Thomas the Apostle Parish**

904 East Lake Ave. Peoria Heights, IL. 61616 309-688-3446 parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

**Pastor**.....Msgr. Jason A. Gray  
 ext 3.....msgrgray@stthomas-church.net  
**Parochial Vicar**.....Rev. Paul Stark S.J.  
 ext 4.....paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net  
**St. Thomas School Principal**.....Maureen Bentley  
**Deacon**.....Deacon Frank Eaton-Senior Status  
**Deacon**.....Deacon Mark Kelsch  
**Deacon**.....Deacon John Nelson  
**Deacon**.....Deacon Ed Mallow  
**Administrative Assistant**.....Terri Moon  
 ext 0  
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**CCD Coordinator**.....Angie Robenstein  
**Liturgical Music Coordinator**.....Ann Horst  
**Parish Accountant**.....Julie Streid  
**Tuition Coordinator**.....Pat Wombacher  
**Parish Nurse**.....Jan Alt  
**Pastoral Care/Caring Presence Ministry**.....Linda Hernandez  
**Annulment Consultations**.....Colleen McCulla (256-0730)  
 John Mackoway (699-5213)

**Sacrament of Baptism**  
 Baptism class is held for all parents before the baptism of their child. Please contact the parish office to schedule the class.

**Sacrament of Confession**  
 Saturday 4:00-4:45pm and 6:00-6:30 p.m.

**How to Submit Bulletin Information**  
 To submit information for the bulletin, please email to parishoffice@stthomas-church.net with subject "Bulletin". Submissions are due by Friday noon one full week prior. Send images or logos as attachments. Submissions may be edited for content and length.

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