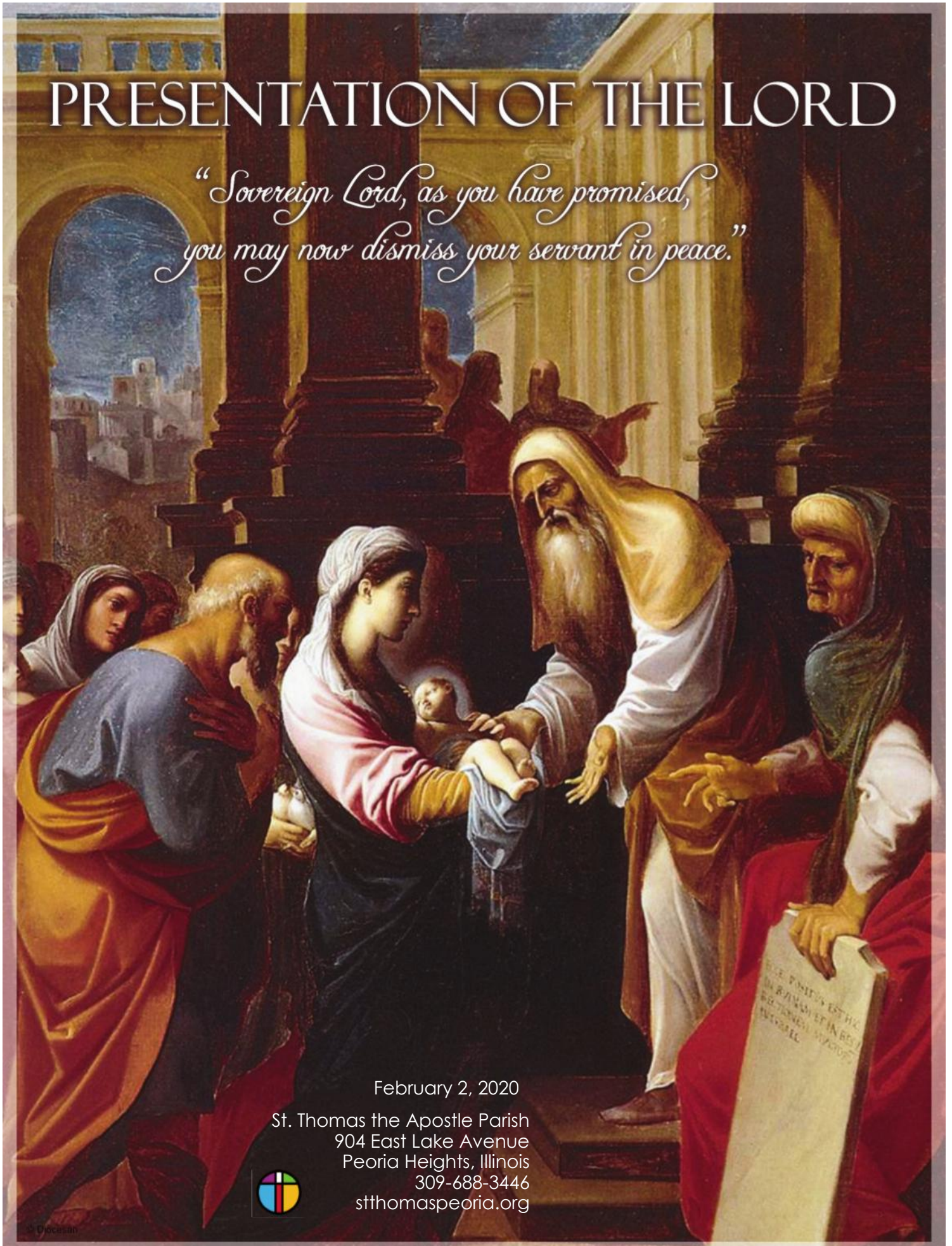


# PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

*"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace."*



February 2, 2020

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish  
904 East Lake Avenue  
Peoria Heights, Illinois  
309-688-3446  
[stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org)







February 2<sup>nd</sup> is a very special day. (You may be thinking about the Super Bowl...) Today is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, commemorating the presentation of Jesus in the Temple by Mary and Joseph.

This feast is the fourth joyful mystery of the Rosary. It takes place 40 days after Christmas and recalls the mystery of Christ's birth as Simeon and Anna meet Jesus in the Temple and prophesy about the Messiah.

This is a traditional day to bless candles. At the 9 AM Mass, we will bless the candles that we use in the church, as well as the candles to be used for the blessing of throats on the feast of St. Blaise. We will also offer a procession with candles at the 9 AM Mass which is also traditional for the day.

The blessing of throats will be offered at daily Masses on February 3.

Looking ahead, our annual Trivia Night will take place on Saturday, February 22, before Ash Wednesday. Please see the notice in the bulletin. We encourage you and your adult family and friends to sign up for this fun night in support of St. Thomas School PTO.

-Msgr. Gray

Sponsor of the Week

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## Readings for the Week of February 2, 2020

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Presentation of the Lord</b> Malachi 3: 1-4; Hebrews 2: 14-18; Luke 2: 22-40
<b>Monday</b>	<b>St. Blaise</b> 2 Samuel 15: 13-14, 30; 16: 5-13; Mark 5: 1-20
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Weekday</b> 2 Samuel 18: 9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Mark 5: 21-43
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>St. Agatha</b> 2 Samuel 24: 2, 9-17; Mark 6: 1-6
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>St. Paul Miki and Companions</b> 1 Kings 2: 1-4, 10-12; Mark 6: 7-13
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Weekday</b> Sirach 47: 2-11; Mark 6: 14-29
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Josephine Bakhita</b> 1 Kings 3: 4-13; Mark 6: 30-34
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Isaiah 58: 7-10; 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5; Matthew 5: 13-16

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, February 3, 2020

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Michael Foley/Matt and Kara Foley  
8:00 a.m. Harry LaHood/Family

### Tuesday, February 4, 2020

7:00 a.m. Edgar and Norma Jean Savori/The Barkley Family  
8:00 a.m. John Willard/Spalding Council KC

### Wednesday, February 5, 2020

7:00 a.m. John Rush/Herb Cohen  
8:00 a.m. Suzie Draher/Mary Jo Palmer

### Thursday, February 6, 2020

7:00 a.m. Thelma Antonocci/Jeanne Alameda  
8:00 a.m. Jack and Jane Donnelly/T. J. and Lynne Seiler  
9:15 a.m. Florence and Jim Ryan/Family

### Friday, February 7, 2020

7:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri FSJB  
8:00 a.m. World Peace and Special Prayer Intention

### Saturday, February 8, 2020

8:00 a.m. Purgatorial Society  
5:00 p.m. Wallenfang and Kerkhoff Families

### Sunday, February 9, 2020

7:00 a.m. Bob Waldschmidt/Brenda Waldschmidt  
9:00 a.m. Intentions of Sandra Tucubal/Ed Mallow  
11:00 a.m. Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of John the Baptist  
5:00 p.m. For the People

## Week of February 2

**FIRST FRIDAY SIGN-UP** in the Narthex

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

**COFFEE AND DONUTS** after morning Masses, served by the Knights of Columbus, assisted by St. Thomas School and CCD 1st grade students

**BLESSING OF THROATS** Monday, February 3, during Masses

**CENTERING PRAYER** Monday, February 3, 8:30 a.m., Church

**ROSARY** Tuesday, February 4, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

**CCD** Wednesday, February 5, 6:00 p.m, School

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY** Wednesday, February 5, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**RCIA** Wednesday, February 5, 7:00 p.m, School Library

**CHOIR PRACTICE** Thursday, February 6, 6:30 p.m., Music Room

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** Thursday, February 6, 7:00 p.m., School Conference Room

**THAT MAN IS YOU!** Friday, February 7, 6:15 a.m., Parish Hall

**ADORATION** after 8:00 Mass until Benediction at 8:00 p.m.

**RAFIFI WA BUKOBA BAKE SALE** February 8-9, after all the Masses

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Trivia Night	February 22
Ash Wednesday	February 26
Pancake Breakfast	April 5

**Mark your calendar for our next Parish Holy Hour**  
**Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. following Mass**

## Weekly Collection

	January 26, 2020	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed .....	\$20,000	\$600,000
Sunday Collections .....	\$9,451	\$441,850
Electronic Collections .....	\$3,399	\$101,588
Total Collected .....	\$12,850	\$543,438
Over/(Short) .....	\$(7,150)	\$(56,563)

**Your support of St. Thomas Parish is important to sustain our mission. Please remember to contribute regularly with your envelopes or checks in our regular Sunday collection. Electronic contributions can be made through direct debit, or by using the Giving tab on our parish website: [stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org).**

**Thank you for your support.**

## Our Sympathy

Sandra Rapp  
William Brewster

## Baptism Congratulations

Timothy William Pearsall  
son of William and Gretchen Pearsall



## RCIA Topics

February 5	Moral Life: Free Will, Desire for Happiness, Passions, Good and Evil Acts
February 12	Virtues, sin and vice, Morality in Society
February 19	Prayer, Universal Call to Holiness, Prepare for Lent
February 26	Ash Wednesday: No Class
March 4	Ten & Great Commandments, Divine & Natural Law; Commandments 1-3
March 11	Commandments 4, 5, 7, 8
March 18	Commandments 6, 9, 10
March 25	Our Father, Hail Mary, other Prayers
April 1	Review, Precepts of the Church
April 8	Penance Service, Practice
April 11	Easter Vigil

## Flu Season Precautions

Because of the health risks this flu season, Bishop Jenky encourages all the faithful

- \* to refrain from shaking hands at the Sign of Peace
- \* to avoid Communion on the tongue and
- \* to suspend the distribution of the Precious Blood

We will observe these precautions at St. Thomas while the flu season continues.



January 24, 2020

To the Clergy, Religious, and Laity of the Diocese of Peoria:

We all have stories to share. Family stories. Work or school stories. Travel stories. In living our Catholic faith, we also share stories about how our lives have been impacted by the greatest story in history—the love of Jesus and His Church.

We are blessed in the Diocese of Peoria to have a newspaper that tells stories exceptionally well. In 2019, **The Catholic Post** was judged as the second best newspaper of its kind in the United States and Canada. Whether shared on newsprint, online, or via social media, the stories generated by **The Catholic Post** offer invaluable support for Catholics living in central Illinois. They tell the living story of our family of faith—from the next pew and across the globe. They inspire, challenge, and unite us. These are truly “Stories Worth Sharing.”

**The Catholic Post** is beginning its 2020 Delivering Unity Campaign. I strongly urge your support and readership. This campaign funds both print and digital outreaches to share **The Catholic Post's** essential information as widely and rapidly as possible. Details about how to subscribe are printed below.

Thank you for choosing to be an informed Catholic. With encouragement to share your own stories of faith, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C.  
BISHOP OF PEORIA

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO AND SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC POST:

The subscription price is \$30, but larger gifts in support of the mission are welcomed. Subscribe online at [thecatholicpost.com](http://thecatholicpost.com); call 1-800-340-5630; or send a check made out to **The Catholic Post** to P.O. Box 1722, Peoria, IL 61656. More information, including an envelope, will appear in the February 2 issue of the newspaper.

## Delivering Unity Campaign

We strongly encourage support and readership of our diocesan newspaper, **The Catholic Post**. We hope all members of our parish will use this valuable resource for Catholic living in our diocese. Follow **The Catholic Post** on Facebook to get breaking news first and to share stories and images of faith with your friends and family.

**STORIES WORTH SHARING**

*The Catholic Post*

2020 Delivering Unity Campaign

[thecatholicpost.com](http://thecatholicpost.com) | f | Newspaper of the Diocese of Peoria

## Sweetie Bake Sale

Rafiki wa Bukoba (Swahili for Friends of Bukoba) will be holding a goodie sale after all the Masses the weekend of February 8 and 9 to raise money to support Holy Cross Parish and grade school, and Sr. Joseph Hospital in Bukoba Diocese in Tanzania.

We'd be very grateful for volunteers making baked goods or helping with the sale.

Please contact Jeanne and Dan Smith, 691-3611, for details or questions.



## Food Pantry Item of the Week

The food pantry is always in need of your generous donation. Of particular need this week: **Jelly**

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## Catholic Diocese of Peoria Youth Rally

March 14, 2020 from 12-7:30 p.m., at Spalding Pastoral Center—Peoria, featuring Matt Faley.

Open to all HS teens/space is limited. Cost: \$30 per person (includes dinner & t-shirt).

**Registration Deadline: March 1, 2020.**

Join us for inspiring talks, Adoration, Mass, confession, games, food and more!

Contact The Office of Evangelization at [evangelization@cdop.org](mailto:evangelization@cdop.org) or (309) 671-1550 for questions and registration.

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## Finding Spirit Again

Unity Point Hospice—Peoria is offering a free educational grief seminar.

**Date:** Thursday, March 12, 2020

**Time:** 5:30—7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Methodist Atrium Conference Room  
900 Main St., Peoria, IL  
Free and open to the public

Anyone experiencing grief due to the loss of a loved one is invited to attend.

Please RSVP by March 10, 2020 at (309) 672-5746 to attend.

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## Trivia Night 2020

**When:** Saturday, February 22 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Where:** STS School Gym

\$30 per person—includes trivia and dinner catered by Dennhardt's Blue Ribbon Catering  
Tables of 8 available

Register by email by Monday, February 17 to: [kellypoepse@stthomas-school.net](mailto:kellypoepse@stthomas-school.net) with your name and names of people at your table. You will receive a confirmation email upon registration.

## A Letter from the St. Vincent de Paul Society

We Vincentians at St. Thomas would like to share a letter we received in September. It is from a young woman we were able to help because of the generosity of YOU the parishioners of our fine parish. I can tell you, receiving a letter like this puts quite a spring in our steps! We visit many in need and we do not always have such a wonderful outcome. The following is her letter:

"Hello I would like to thank the Saint Vincent DePaul society at St. Thomas for helping me achieve my high school diploma. I am a 39yr old single mother of six children and I had to drop out of school at a young age in order to provide for my children. In 2018 I was able with help of your charity enroll in an online high school diploma program to achieve my diploma. The program helped me out a lot because I was able to work and provide for my family and attend class at my kitchen table every Thursday from 6pm to 9pm. I graduated May, 19 2019. Having my diploma has helped me to maintain several things. At the moment I am enrolled in a Pre-Apprenticeship program at Illinois Central College and once this is over on September 30th 2019 I will be starting my general studies for respiratory therapy. Once I receive my associates degree I will take my skills and help many in need. I would like to thank everyone for helping me achieve one of my goals."

Thank you again for your continued generosity. We could not help those less fortunate without you!!! You are in our prayers.

## Peoria Notre Dame High School

### Randy Simmons Tuition Assistance Scholarship

Peoria Notre Dame High School and the Simmons family announce the Randy Simmons Tuition Assistance Scholarship. The first award will be given to one 8th grade student to use each year, freshman-senior, while attending Peoria Notre Dame High School.

For more information, or to download an application, see the Peoria Notre Dame website at:

[PeoriaNotreDame.com/andy-simmons-tuition-assistance-scholarship/](http://PeoriaNotreDame.com/andy-simmons-tuition-assistance-scholarship/)

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## Peoria Irish Youth Baseball & Softball

Are you interested in playing Travel Baseball? Our 10u/11u Travel Baseball team has a few openings. Tournaments will be local. If interested please contact Nick Matranga at [namatranga@gmail.com](mailto:namatranga@gmail.com) or 309-258-0509.

Registration for House League baseball, softball and tee-ball will begin February 1. Watch our website and bulletins for details: [www.ndyouthbaseball.com/](http://www.ndyouthbaseball.com/)

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## Have you borrowed a pyx?

If you have borrowed a pyx from the Parish to take Communion to a shut-in, we ask you to return it to the Sacristy. These are for shared use by our Extraordinary Ministers visiting our shut-ins.

## Marriage Mass & Date Night



— with a violinist, cellist, and vocalist —

The Most Rev. Daniel R. Jenky, CSC cordially invites you to join him at a Mass celebrating the gift of Christian Marriage.

**Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at 4 pm**

Cathedral of St. Mary  
607 NE Madison Ave.  
Peoria, IL 61603

Following Mass there will be a Candlelight Dinner Celebration at 5:30pm with Entertainment provided by Eric Genuis starting at 6:30pm.



**\$80 / couple for dinner and entertainment**  
Space is Limited and on a First Come First Serve Basis



Eric will minister to and inspire all in attendance!



[www.ericgenuis.com](http://www.ericgenuis.com)

Please register on-line at:

[cdop.org/datenight](http://cdop.org/datenight)

or

mail to: CDOP Evangelization  
419 NE Madison, Ave., Peoria, IL 61603

Make checks payable to: Catholic Diocese of Peoria

Please note that attendance for dinner is not necessary to attend the Marriage Mass

**Free Will Donations Appreciated**

## Holy Hour for Vocations

Every Wednesday, Holy Family, 4:00 p.m.

Every First Friday, Holy Family 4:00 p.m.

## Respect Life Activities

**RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT** Have you had an abortion experience that has left you feeling empty and alone?

*Rachel's Vineyard Retreat* is available in our diocese for any man or woman who has struggled with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion. This healing weekend is for singles or married couples, mothers, fathers, grandparents, siblings or anyone suffering the effects of an abortion loss. If you are searching for peace and inner healing from an abortion experience, this retreat is for you.

Register now for the February 7-9, 2020 retreat: call 309-264-1489; email [rvrpeoria@gmail.com](mailto:rvrpeoria@gmail.com).

All communications are strictly confidential.

## Parish Registration

Complete this form and drop it 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**New Parishioner** \_\_\_\_\_ **Change of address/phone** \_\_\_\_\_

## Blood Donors Needed



Donate Blood In Memory of Kelly Needham

**When:** Saturday, February 22, 2020 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Where:** St. Philomena Parish Center,  
1000 W. Albany, Peoria.

Kelly was a Peoria native, parishioner of St. Philomena Church and Peoria Notre Dame graduate. While attending the University of Missouri (Mizzou), he was a regular blood donor. He believed in helping others and donated blood five times during his lifetime. In August 2012, at just 21 years old, Kelly was involved in a tragic car accident that took his life. Please give blood in Kelly's memory to help keep his lifesaving spirit going.

To sign up, go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter the sponsor code STPHILS or contact the parish office at 309-682-8642.



<b>St. Thomas the Apostle Parish • 309-688-3446</b> 904 East Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights, IL 61616 <a href="mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net">parishoffice@stthomas-church.net</a>			<b>Administrative Assistant</b> .....Terri Moon.....(x1300) <a href="mailto:terrimoon@stthomas-church.net">terrimoon@stthomas-church.net</a>		
<b>Pastor</b> ..... Msgr. Jason A. Gray.....(x1400) <a href="mailto:msgrgray@stthomas-church.net">msgrgray@stthomas-church.net</a>			<b>Bulletin Editor</b> .....Peggy Sullivan.....(x1301) <a href="mailto:peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net">peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net</a>		
<b>Parochial Vicar</b> ..... Rev. Paul Stark S.J.....(x1430) <a href="mailto:paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net">paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net</a>			<b>Accountant</b> ..... Julie Streid.....(x1340) <a href="mailto:juliestreid@stthomas-church.net">juliestreid@stthomas-church.net</a>		
<b>Deacon</b> ..... Dcn. Mark Kelsch.....(692-4908) Dcn. John Nelson.....(981-2716) Dcn. Ed Mallow.....(360-7735)			<b>Tuition Coordinator</b> .....Pat Wombacher.....(x1341) <a href="mailto:patwombacher@stthomas-school.net">patwombacher@stthomas-school.net</a>		
<b>School Principal</b> ..... Maureen Bentley.....(x1210)			<b>CCD Coordinator</b> .....Angie Robenstein.....(x1200) <a href="mailto:angierobenstein@stthomas-school.net">angierobenstein@stthomas-school.net</a>		
<b>Sacrament of Baptism</b> Parents participate Baptism class before the Baptism of their first child. Contact the parish office to schedule the class.			<b>Music Coordinator</b> ..... Ann Horst.....(682-5507)		
<b>Confessions</b> Saturday 4:00-4:45pm & 6:00-6:30 p.m.			<b>Choir Director</b> ..... Erin Craig <a href="mailto:erincraig@stthomas-school.net">erincraig@stthomas-school.net</a>		
<b>How to Submit Bulletin Information</b> Send information for the bulletin to <a href="mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net">parishoffice@stthomas-church.net</a> with subject "Bulletin". Submissions are due by Friday noon one full week prior. Send images or logos separately as attachments. Submissions may be edited for content and length.			<b>Annulment Consultant</b> .....John Mackoway.....(699-5213)		


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