

Lent is a blessed season of spiritual renewal. Even though we talk about sacrifice and self-denial during Lent, I think we should think of Lent as a great opportunity to recommit ourselves to the Lord. With this positive perspective, let us enter wholeheartedly into this penitential season.

We are encouraged to make time for the three traditional practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Making time for prayer can be done by saying the Rosary, reading Scripture, or making an extra visit to church for quiet prayer. We have added evening weekday Masses at 5:30 pm. Please note the schedule, since there are a few evenings when we are not able to have the 5:30 pm Mass (e.g. because of Confirmation or Chrism Mass). Friday evenings include extra time for confessions and prayer at 6 pm and Stations at 7 pm.

Making time for fasting is done through required days of fast and abstinence from meat. Beyond these very minimal sacrifices, many people add their own voluntary penances, which is an excellent practice. Remember that the areas that may be the most challenging may also be the areas of greatest growth. Beyond giving up a specific food, consider giving up specific beverages or alcohol. Consider fasting from dependence on technology, especially for young people. Consider fasting from sleep by getting up early and making time for prayer. Examine your life and ask yourself what change you could make that would make a significant long-term improvement for you? Let that be part of your Lenten practice.

Making time for almsgiving is done through generosity, giving of your resources, your time, your energy, or your talents. Prayer and fasting can be personal or private commitments we make to God and ourselves. Almsgiving is important because it directs us outside ourselves to others. Lent is not just about what you give up, but also what you give to others.

-Msgr. Gray

Our Sympathy

Lana Sodowski

Readings for the Week of March 1, 2020

Sunday First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7; Romans 5: 12-19; Matthew 4: 1-11

Monday First Week of Lent

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 11-18: Matthew 25: 31-46

Tuesday St. Katherine Drexel

Isaiah 55: 10-11; Matthew 6: 7-15

Wednesday St. Casimir

Jonah 3: 1-10; Luke 11: 29-32

Thursday First Week of Lent

Esther C: 12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7: 7-12

Friday First Week of Lent

Ezekiel: 18: 21-28; Matthew 5: 20-26

Saturday St. Perpetua and Felicity

Deuteronomy 26: 16-19; Matthew 5: 43-48

Sunday Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12: 1-4a; 2 Timothy 1: 8b-10; Matthew 17: 1-9

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 2, 2020

7:00 a.m. All Souls in Purgatory

8:00 a.m. Mary Dunne/Nancy Bosecker 5:30 p.m. Alan Campbell/Esther Webber

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

7:00 a.m. Bishop Daniel R. Jenky/FSJB

8:00 a.m. Jack McGinn/Mary and Aral Eaton

5:30 p.m. NO MASS

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

7:00 a.m. Mike Gray/Jim Sticklemaier

8:00 a.m. Galeen Driscoll/Dale and Brenda Noel
5:30 p.m. Thelma Antonacci/Jean and Bob Thompson

Thursday, March 5, 2020

7:00 a.m. Sonia Gray/Mike and Bernie Shekleton

8:00 a.m. Suzie Draher/Judy Doerr

9:15 a.m. Iluminata Nacional/Theresa Toledo 5:30 p.m. Intentions of Alex Bell/Judy Bell

Friday, March 6, 2020

7:00 a.m. Joe and Ric Olson/Jackie Toschak

8:00 a.m. World Peace and Special Prayer Intentions 5:30 p.m. Nancy Fifield/Del and Dorothy Bertschy

Saturday, March 7, 2020

8:00 a.m. Puraatorial Society

5:00 p.m. Intentions of James Williams/Judy Bell

Sunday, March 8, 2020

7:00 a.m. Fred Heiden/Family

9:00 a.m. Deceased members of the McCauley and Schumacher

Families/David McCauley

11:00 a.m. Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of John the Baptist

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of March 1

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION sign-up in the Narthex; Adoration Friday, March 6 after 8:00 Mass until Benediction at 8:00 p.m.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND FOOD PANTRY Collections this weekend

CENTERING PRAYER Monday, March 2, 8:30 a.m., Church

WOMEN'S GUILD Monday, March 2, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

ROSARY Tuesday, March 3, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

NO 5:30 pm MASS Tuesday, March 3

CCD Wednesday, March 4, 6:00 p.m, School

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY Wednesday, March 4, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

RCIA Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 p.m., School Library

CHOIR PRACTICE Thursday, March 5, 6:30 p.m., Music Room

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP Thursday, March 5, 7:00 p.m., School Conference Room

THAT MAN IS YOU! Friday, March 6, 6:15 a.m., Parish Hall

STATIONS OF THE CROSS, Friday, March 6, 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Club Fish Fry Pancake Breakfast March 27 April 5

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.

Weekly Collection

	February 23, 2020	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$680,000
Sunday Collections	\$9,203	\$494,748
Electronic Collections	\$3,399	\$115,184
Total Collected	\$12,602	\$609,932
Over/(Short)	\$(7,398)	\$(70,069)

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.

Thank you for your support.

RCIA Topics

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 8 Penance Service, Practice

Review, Precepts of the Church

April 11 Easter Viail

April 1

During Lent

Beginning, Thursday, February 27 we will have an **additional daily Mass** Monday through Friday at 5:30 p.m.

During Lent we will have **Confessions** on Saturdays from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Also during Lent **Stations of the Cross** will be celebrated on <u>Fridays at 7:00 p.m.</u> followed by **Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.** at 8:00 p.m.

Regulations for Lent and the Easter Triduum

Lent is the principal season of penance in the Christian year. Priests, religious and laity are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial, attentiveness to prayer, and especially to works of charity and mercy.

Everyone of 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on all the Fridays of Lent.

Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast on Good Friday, April 10, 2020.

On these two days of fast and abstinence, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is a serious matter.

St. Thomas Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday Mass 7 am, 8 am, 9:15 am 12:15 pm, 7 pm

Lenten Daily Masses 7 am, 8 am, 5:30 pm

<u>Lenten Confessions</u> Fridays, 6 – 7 pm Saturdays, 4 – 4:45 pm, 6 – 6:30 pm

Friday Lenten Devotions
Eucharistic Adoration, 6 – 7 pm
Stations of the Cross and Benediction,
7 – 7:30 pm

No 5:30 pm Mass: March 3, March 11, April 7

What Do I Do During Lent?

HOW ABOUT: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving?

- Spend less time on phones, TV, computer and other technology and spend more time with family;
- Pray the Angelus once a day or three times a day;
- Pray the Prayer to St. Michael, for protection against the devil, the forces of evil
- ₱ Fast Go through the closets in your house and in your mind and get rid of 40 things in 40 days—stuff, bad attitudes, harmful habits. Then don't bring any of it back.
- Almsgiving Lent asks us to focus more seriously on almsgiving, charity to others, giving money or goods, & performing other acts of charity. Almsgiving is a witness to fraternal charity & a work of justice, pleasing to God. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2462). We see several special collections throughout Lent, serving local appeals in our parish, the Diocese, and the Universal Church.
- How can you offer your time, talent and treasure, in your prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to people and organizations in need during Lent & throughout the year?

Sponsor of the Week





February 12, 2020

Dear Friends,

It has recently come to my attention that the Fraternite Notre Dame located at St. Francis and St. Claire Monastery, on 3737 N. Marybelle Ave. in Peoria, is publicly advertising Eucharistic Adoration. This group is not in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, and I do not recommend that you worship there. Eucharistic Adoration is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at St. Philomena Parish in their Adoration Chapel. Eucharistic Adoration is also scheduled on a regular basis at many of our local parishes.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C. Bishop of Peoria

Lenten Day of Recollection: "Encountering the Heart of Mercy"



Saturday, March 28, 2020, 9:30 a.m. Spaulding Pastoral Center, 419 N.E. Madison Ave., Peoria

Speakers Fr. Tom Otto, Fr. David Whiteside and Sr. Catherine Thomas, OP, address: surrendering trustfully to God, encountering the person of Jesus in Adoration, and Mary the Mother of Mercy.

The day includes continental breakfast, lunch, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and concludes with Mass at 4:00 p.m.

Deadline for registration is March 21: \$25 per person. College students \$15. Priests and religious are free but, must register.

Make checks payable to "Divine Mercy Centacle." Include: Name(s) of all attendees, address, contact phone number and email. Registration confirmation will be via email.

Mail registration to: Paula Gottemoller, 13027 W. Parks School Rd., Princeville, IL 61559

For any questions please call Arlene Heinz 309-868-9061 OR Janice Lukich 309-231-1814

Mark Your Calendar

The St. Thomas Men's Club will host their annual **Fish Fry**Friday, March 27, 2020, 5:00—8:00 pm
in the School Gym

Please Note time correction



LENTEN FISH FRY AND BAKE SALE

Fish Fry on March 20 at The Spalding Council Knights of Columbus Central Illinois Right to Life will also sell baked goods. Come and have a tasty fish dinner. Then, stick around for yummy desserts!

HOURS: 5:00-7:00 PM.

LOCATION: 7403 N Radnor Rd in Peoria.

PRICE: \$12 per person (\$5 child for 1-piece filet).

Food Pantry Item of the Week

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



St. Thomas Vincentians made more than 240 home visits in 2019 to clients in need. Many of our clients barely get by each week, one incident away from needing help, with no family assistance

available. We give our clients Social Services information, addresses and phone numbers. To those who need a job we give an updated list of job opportunities and workshops provided by Goodwill.

Examples of how our St. Vincent de Paul Society helped clients recently.

- Medicaid help to assist a 44 yr. old legally blind gentleman to get a personal home aide.
- Rent assistance to a 25 yr. old single mom hospitalized with injuries from a car accident.
- Ameren assistance to a 72 yr. old woman in the hospital, late with her payments.
- Linens, sheets, comforters to a 36 yr old mother of young children for her new unfurnished apartment. Her last apartment burned down in a fire. She was working extra hours to replace everything they had. SVdP members also delivered a donated stove and electric dryer.

How you can help our SVdP clients

- Continue to donate to the SVdP collections after Masses on the first weekend of the month.
- Donate items to the Food Pantry; leave requested items in the wooden box in the back of Church.
- ♦ Volunteer as a Food Pantry worker.
- Join the SvdP Society: contact a member or attend a meeting on the second Tuesday of the month. We welcome new members!

We thank you for your continued support for those in need.



Next Sunday ~ March 8 at 2:00 a.m.

St. Thomas Women's Guild

Monday, March 2, 6:30 p.m. Dinner Parish Hall



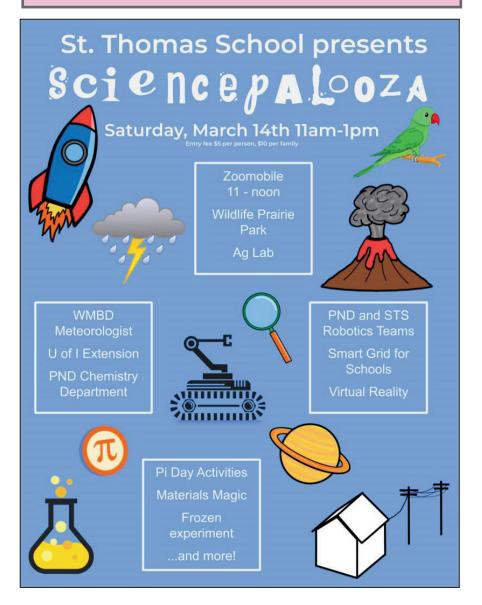
Speaker: Cecilia Sone, APRN

Director: Office of Respect Life

Catholic Diocese of Peoria

Her specialty is Obstetrics & Gynecology and she is a NaProTechnology Medical Consultant

All Ladies of the Parish are welcome...remember to bring a friend!



FATIMA – LOURDES TRIP

During these wintery days of February and March, *think* Lourdes! You are invited to join Msgr. Paul Showalter, Vicar General Emeritus, on an 11-day pilgrimage to Spain, featuring Fatima, Lourdes and Barcelona, October 13-23, 2020.



October is the month of Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary, and we will visit some of the most sacred shrines and places of prayer and devotion in Europe. There is a wealth of history to be seen and felt in the places on our tour. There will be daily Mass as well as time to relax and enjoy the true experience of Portugal, France and Spain.

For a brochure, or more information, contact Karen Small **(309) 677-7001**, or email at **ksmall@cdop.org**.

St. Sharbel Church ~ WATCH Retreat

Annual WATCH Retreat March 7 & 8.

Retreat begins with 7:30 am Mass, Sat., Mar. 7, ends Sun., Mar. 8 at about 4:00 pm.

Free, but donations accepted

Meals will be served both days. Everyone will go home at night.

We invite you to join us for a spiritually inspiring, stress-free & fun-filled weekend.

For more information, please call the St. Sharbel at 688-5555. **Deadline** for making reservations to is **Friday**, **March 6**.

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. Under About open the New Parishioner Registration, complete and submit the form. Last Name ______ First Name(s) ______ Email ______ Phone ______ City _____ ZIP _____ Phone ______ New Parishioner _____ Change of address/phone ______

Holy Hour for Vocations

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

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

Peoria Cursillo ~ March Ultreya

The next *Ultreya* will be Saturday, March 7 at St. Philomena Catholic Church in Peoria.

The evening will begin with the parish Mass at 4:30 p.m. Our guest speaker, Jenny Witt, Director of Evangelization at St. Phil's, speaks about her involvement with the miracle attributed to Archbishop Fulton Sheen. She will also discuss our theme, Seeing Jesus with 2020 Vision.

The social will take place in the Parish Hall after the talk.

Families and guests are Welcome!

Peoria Catholic Medical Association Meeting

The St. Gianna Molla Catholic Medical Association is a diverse group of Catholic medical professionals striving to foster a vibrant Catholic community in the Peoria area. Our members include individuals in a wide range of occupations, from physicians, medical students, and nurses, to occupational therapists and ethicists. We aim to help one another grow in faith and thrive in our respective professions.

Next event:

Saturday, March 14th 5:30pm St. Philomena Parish Center Dinner and Speaker- Patient Perspective and Trauma

For dinner please RSVP by March 11th **peoriacathmed@gmail.com**

http://peoriacathmed.wixsite.com/peoriacma

Veteran Assistance

The Illinois Valley Fuller Center for Housing offes FREE spring yard cleanups for Veterans and widows of Veterans. Volunteers will provide a maximum of 2 hours of service March 28 and April 25, weather permitting.

To sign up for this service, call **309-363-3737**. Volunteers can also sign up to help with the yards by calling **309-363-3737**.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish • 309-688-3446 904 East Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights, IL 61616 parishoffice@stthomas-church.net msgrgray@stthomas-church.net Parochial Vicar Rev. Paul Stark S.J. (x1430) paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net Dcn. John Nelson (981-2716) Dcn. Ed Mallow...... (360-7735) maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

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Sacrament of Baptism

Parents participate Baptism class before the Baptism of their first child. Contact the parish office to schedule

Confessions Saturday 4:00-4:45pm & 6:00-6:30 p.m.

How to Submit Bulletin Information

Send information for the bulletin to parishoffice@stthomas-church.net 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





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