



It was a joy for us to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation for our eighth-grade students this week. Congratulations to them at this important moment in their journey of faith.

Confirmation is an important sacrament that the Church wishes all Catholics to receive. The gifts of the Holy Spirit that we receive in this sacrament help us to better fulfill our vocation in life, whether to the priesthood, to religious life, or those lay people called to marriage. If you haven't received this sacrament, please let me know and I will help make arrangements for you.

Many of you have expressed your well wishes to Father Stark because of a back injury. He is following doctors' orders by resting as much as possible and avoiding unnecessary strain. Thank you for your understanding as he recovers.

Finally, our Bishop has continued to order precautionary measures during the extended flu season. We will continue suspending the distribution of the Precious Blood through Easter. Please pray for those who have been affected by the flu or virus. In the meantime, please take common sense precautions. You may avoid shaking hands at the sign of peace and should wash your hands frequently.

-Msgr. Gray



# Pray with the Pope

March 2020 Catholics in China

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

### Readings for the Week of March 15, 2020

Sunday Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17: 3-7; Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8; John 4: 5-42

Monday Third Week of Lent

2 Kings 5: 1-15ab; Luke 4: 24-30

Tuesday St. Patrick

Daniel 3: 25, 34-43; Matthew 18: 21-35

Wednesday St. Cyril

Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9; Matthew 5: 17-19

Thursday St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Samuel 7: 4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4: 13, 16-18, 22;

Matthew 1: 16, 18-21, 24a

Friday Third Week of Lent

Hosea 14: 2-10; Mark 12: 28-34

Saturday Third Week of Lent

Hosea 6: 1-6; Luke 18: 9-14

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5: 8-14; John 9: 1-41

#### **Mass Intentions**

#### Monday, March 16, 2020

7:00 a.m. Irene Clinch/Mary A. Asciutto

8:00 a.m. Jack McGinn and Family/Mary Paul Long

5:30 p.m. Paula Claude/Loretta Faley

#### Tuesday, March 17, 2020

7:00 a.m. Joe Clyde and Joe Broussard/Mike and Mary Lou Bartley

8:00 a.m. Kathleen Duffy/McNally Family 5:30 p.m. Kathleen Duffy/McNally Family

#### Wednesday, March 18, 2020

7:00 a.m. Rosemary Bartley/Steve and Linda Schrader

8:00 a.m. Sandy Rapp/D'Arcy Haeussner 5:30 p.m. Roberta Colgan/Rosemary Szidon

#### Thursday, March 19, 2020

7:00 a.m. Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet/Frances Farraher

8:00 a.m. Adeline Snyder/Alan

9:15 a.m. Bob Pendergrass/Austin and Melissa Griggs

5:30 p.m. Penny Scherer/Lisa Whitten

#### Friday, February 20, 2020

7:00 a.m. Frank Couri

8:00 a.m. Walter Arnold/Dave and Kelly LaHood5:30 p.m. Kathy Downing/Ted and Hanna Skoczynski

#### Saturday, February 21, 2020

8:00 a.m. Jack and Jane Donnelly/T.J. and Lynne Seiler 5:00 p.m. Hugh Bernard Maroney/Theresa Davis

#### Sunday, March 22, 2020

7:00 a.m. Fred Heiden/Family

9:00 a.m. Charlie Hessling/Mark and Marlynn Kelsch 11:00 a.m. Cabirn and Pearl Barkley/Barkley Family

5:00 p.m. For the People

#### Week of March 15

FISH FRY TICKET SALES This weekend after Masses

CENTERING PRAYER Monday, March 16, 8:30 a.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, March 17, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

CCD Wednesday, March 18, 6:00 p.m, School

CCD 3-7 RECONCILIATION Wednesday, March 18, 6:00 p.m., Church

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY** Wednesday, March 18, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

RCIA Wednesday, March 18, 7:00 p.m., School Library

CHOIR PRACTICE Thursday, March 19, 6:30 p.m., Music Room

ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR Thursday, March 19, 6:00 p.m., Church

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, March 19, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP Thursday, March 19, 7:00 p.m., School Conference Room

THAT MAN IS YOU! Friday, March 20, 6:15 a.m., Parish Hall

**CONFESSIONS** Friday, March 20, 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, March 21, 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**, Friday, March 20, 7:00 p.m.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Msgr. Rank Memorial Mass March 25 Men's Club Fish Fry March 27 Pancake Breakfast April 5

# St. Thomas Holy Hour

Thursday, March 19, 6:00 p.m.

# Weekly Collection

	March 8, 2020	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$720,000
Sunday Collections	\$13,237	\$527,433
Electronic Collections	\$3,399	\$121,982
Total Collected	\$16,636	\$649,415
Over/(Short)	\$(3,364)	\$(70,586)

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.

## **Our Sympathy**

Irene Romig Sister of Joe Krakowiecki

# **RCIA Topics**

March 18 Commandments 4,5,7,8 March 25 Commandments 6, 9,10

April 1 Prayers, Review and Precepts of

the Church

April 8 Penance Service, Practice

April 11 Easter Vigil



# **Confirmation Congratulations**

Elly Bare Jonathan Bender Frida Bronfield Katie Bruch Makenzie Buckardt Lily Clark Tayla Eaves Ava Fontana Diego Garcia Thomas Graham Zachary Hallam Sean Hawkins Niamh Hinderliter Elsie Kina Katherine Kube Richard Kube III Samantha Lard Harper Lynch Jazmin Martinez Anna Meister Gabriel Majzak Cristian Castro Munguia Nathan Oliver Liam O'Neill Adam Pham Liam Piper Benjamin Russell Violet Schramm Bryce Seaton Kiera Tockes Jocelyn Van Fleet

**Bruce Stewart** 

# 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.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon, our diocese will take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection. The Catholic Relief Services Collection funds Catholic agencies that work to serve our suffering brothers and sisters around the world. Through humanitarian aid, resettling displaced individuals and families, and providing legal and advocacy services for migrants, the Catholic Relief Services Collection allows us to see every encounter with a person who is suffering as an opportunity to help Jesus in disguise.

It is important to remember our humanitarian obligations as Catholics. Our theme of Jesus in disguise reminds us that Christ is present in those who suffer—and in those who respond compassionately to their needs. **The Catholic Relief Services Collection** supports important Catholic organizations that carry out God's work around the world.

In our Peoria diocese, The Catholic Relief Services Collection is scheduled for the weekend of March 21-22, 2020. This is the perfect opportunity for us to express our compassion and generosity.

Please be generous in the Catholic Relief Services Collection. Your support truly makes a difference.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

#### St. Thomas Lenten Schedule

<u>Lenten Daily Masses</u> 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: 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 practices. Then don't bring any of it back.
- Almsgiving Lent asks us to focus more seriously on almsgiving, charity to others. Donating 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?

# Men's Club ~ Fish Fry

The St. Thomas Men's Club **Annual Fish Fry** Friday, March 27, 2020 4:30–7:30 pm in the School Gym



Adult (13 and up) - Advance \$10; Door \$12 Children (6-12) - Advance \$5; Door \$6

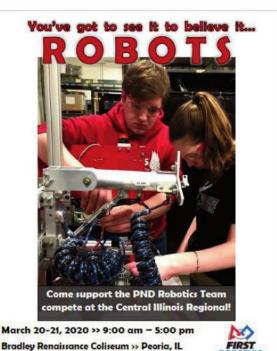
#### Flu Season Precautions

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
- to suspend the distribution of the Precious Blood

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





# Food Pantry Item of the Week

All FIRST events are FREE and open to the public!

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

# How to Combine Tax Planning with Support of Catholic Education

While in the midst of filing our tax returns we would like to encourage you to consider supporting St. Thomas students through the *Invest in Kids Act*. With the recent changes in the tax code many taxpayers no longer qualify to itemize their deductions. For these taxpayers, charitable contributions no longer result in tax savings. It is possible, however, to make a donation to support St. Thomas students while receiving a 75% Illinois state tax credit for your donation. A \$1,000.00 donation to the *Invest in Kids* program through Empower Illinois generates a \$750.00 tax credit on your 2020 Illinois State tax return. The net cost of your \$1,000.00 donation is only \$250.00 once you claim the \$750.00 credit on your state tax return.

Through the generous donations of our parishioners to the *Invest in Kids* program, tuition awards were made to 32 students for the 2018/2019 school year and 22 students for the 2019/2020 school year. Tuition awards are already being made for the 2020/2021 school year. We currently have 55 students on the waiting list as we await additional contributions. We are hoping to receive donations in 2020 to help many of these students. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

The importance of tuition assistance to our families cannot be measured. Often this makes the difference between a student being able to attend St. Thomas or having to stay at a local public school.

If you are interested in supporting our St. Thomas students and in learning more about the Illinois state tax credit available through donations to the *Invest in Kids Act*, please contact Pat or Julie in the parish office.

# Comet Volleyball





Our 7th grade volleyball team ended their season with a hard-fought game against Bartonville Monroe in the Regional Championship ~ congratulations on a fine season!



# Come to: Avanti's Ristorante ALL Peoria Locations

ON: March 18, 2020 10:30 AM-10:00 PM Present this flyer to the cashier upon payment for tracking purposes and 15% of proceeds will go to support:

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On Dine-in or Carry Out orders Tax, gratuity and alcohol sales are not included in donation



Head knowledge is worthless, unless accompanied by submission of the will and right action.

- Fulton J. Sheen, Life of Christ

# 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.

# THE ST. BERNARD MEN'S CLUB

#### Fish Fries

Fridays, March 20<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 10th, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

in the old St. Bernard's school gym, 512 E. Kansas in Peoria.

Cost is \$9.00 for a catfish, shrimp, fried cod, or baked cod dinner, which includes cole slaw, choice of potato and bread. Children's meals of corndogs, fried cod, or shrimp are available for \$5.00, or a light adult meal is also \$5.00. Carry-outs are available.





March Rosary is MONDAY MARCH 16th, 2020

Rosary - 9:00 am with

Fellowship Discussion after the Rosary at

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
PARISH HALL
6001 N University Street
Peoria, Illinois 61614

At this MARCH Rosary we will be praying for our Catholic Women's League deceased members, Mary Irwin - St. Vincent de Paul and Lou Phelan - St. Thomas.

# Sophia's Kitchen needs volunteers



Dishwashing help is needed Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons. Can you give one 4-hour shift per week? For more information, and to fill out a volunteer application, go to www.CatholicPeoria.com.

If you have questions please contact Claire Crone, Program Director at (309) 655-1578

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to Cultimait Dullatin Informati		.,,

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 content and length.





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