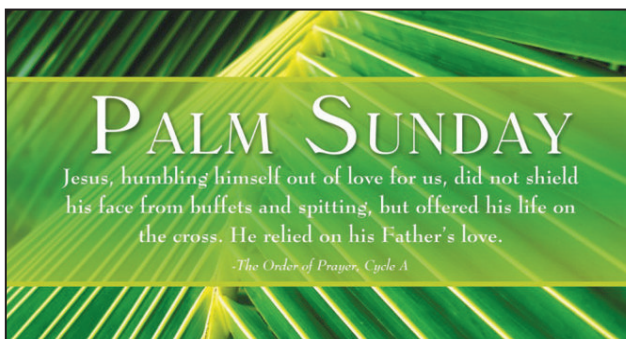




April 5, 2020



St. Thomas the Apostle
904 East Lake Avenue
Peoria Heights, Illinois
309-688-3446
stthomaspeoria.org

MOST REV. DANIEL R. JENKY, C.S.C
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF PEORIA



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
419 N.E. MADISON AVENUE
PEORIA, ILLINOIS 61603
PHONE: 309-671-1550
FAX: 309-671-1576

March 23, 2020

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Holy Week and Easter rank as the most important moments we celebrate as believers of Jesus Christ. As important as these great celebrations are for the proclaiming and strengthening of our faith, it is with great sadness that I must announce that the suspension of public worship will continue through Easter Sunday.

The first words of the Risen Christ to his disciples were, "Peace be with you!" During this difficult and painful moment, we pray for the peace that only God can give. It is the peace that comes from having our sins forgiven and being united with God.

Beginning with Palm Sunday and continuing through Easter Sunday, these events will be streamed live through the diocesan website: www.cdop.org. A specific schedule will be announced in the days ahead. If your own parish will not be broadcasting these Masses, I invite you to join in the ones we will be making available through the Internet. It won't be the same as being together, in person; but enables us to be united in ways that the current times make possible.

In these difficult times when we each have to carry our own personal crosses, we do so in the hope of Easter glory. I ask your prayers for me and for your priests. Please know that I am holding you close to my heart and I am praying for you daily.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Daniel R. Jenky

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



Today is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. This is the day when we celebrate the triumphant entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem. The crowds of Jerusalem were filled with such excitement that they greeted Jesus with joy, cutting down palm branches and spreading them along the road. This is also the day when we recall the crowds turning on Jesus and calling for his crucifixion as we proclaim the Lord's Passion.

While it is not possible to hold Mass publicly, please know that we are united with you as we pray together on this day. Your prayers at home are joined with our prayers as we offer Mass for you privately.

We will bless palms on Palm Sunday, and we will make palms available for you and your families. You will be able to pick them up from the church when it is safe to do so. Many people cherish the spiritual practice of placing the palm in your home as an expression of faith. We want to continue to provide for this.

I will post a reflection for Palm Sunday on our parish blog. You are welcome to listen to this reflection and the other messages that are also posted on our blog. Reflections will also be posted for the days of the Triduum, from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday.

Remember these four ways of staying in contact with St. Thomas:

1. Bookmark the parish blog which will feature regular updates (jgray.org/st_thomas).
2. Download My Parish App to receive push notifications (Visit myparishapp.com/download).
3. Receive the bulletin and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email parishoffice@stthomas-church.net to sign up).
4. Bookmark the parish webpage (stthomaspeoria.org).

We have received information from the Diocese of Peoria about hearing confessions. As we make arrangements to hear confessions in a manner that is safe, more information will be posted on the parish blog and pushed out through My Parish App.

Readings for Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Matthew 21:1-11. Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27

MONDAY Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11

TUESDAY Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33,36-38

WEDNESDAY Isaiah 50:409a; Matthew 26:14-25

HOLY THURSDAY MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Exodus 12:1-8,11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

GOOD FRIDAY PASSION OF THE LORD

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16;5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

EASTER VIGIL Genesis 1:1-2:2; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11; Baruch 3:9-15,32-4:4; Ezekiel 36:16-17a,18-28; Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 28:1-10

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 6, 2020

7:00 a.m. Marvin J Henshaw/Jack and Margaret Weinstein
8:00 a.m. Richard Heller/The Barkley Family
5:30 p.m. Thelma Antonacci/Marge Ruskusky

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

7:00 a.m. Janet Kimberlin/Vickie and Bill Gaynor
8:00 a.m. Phyllis Walth/Pat McCauley

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

7:00 a.m. Frances Patrick/Steve and Maggie Jackson
8:00 a.m. Jack and Jane Donnelly/Michael Faley
5:30 p.m. Lynn Hathaway/Tom and Bonnie Stroot

Thursday, April 9, 2020

7:30 p.m. Frank Eaton/Friends

Friday, April 10, 2020

3:00 p.m. Passion of the Lord

Saturday, April 11, 2020

8:15 p.m. Norm and Gerri Ralph/Kim and Scott Krueger

Sunday, April 12, 2020

7:00 a.m. Joe and Ric Olson/Jackie Toschak
9:00 a.m. For the People
11:00 a.m. Roberta Colgan 1st Anniv/John and Mary Ann Mannock
5:00 p.m. NO MASS

Thank you especially to those who have continued to send in contributions electronically or through the mail.

In the meantime, I encourage everyone to remain safe, to stay at home, to practice good handwashing, and to abide by the directions we receive from the Diocese and our local officials. Stay healthy. In addition to following protocols for cleaning the school building, we have also been carefully sterilizing and sanitizing the church and parish office as well. We look forward to welcoming you back to St. Thomas when the time is right.

-Msgr. Gray

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish • 309-688-3446 904 East Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights, IL 61616 parishoffice@stthomas-church.net			Administrative Assistant.....Terri Moon.....(x1300) terrimoon@stthomas-church.net		
Pastor Msgr. Jason A. Gray.....(x1400) msggray@stthomas-church.net			Bulletin Editor..... Peggy Sullivan.....(x1301) peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net		
Parochial Vicar..... Rev. Paul Stark S.J.(x1430) paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net			Accountant Julie Streid(x1340) juliestreid@stthomas-church.net		
Deacon..... Dcn. Mark Kelsch(692-4908) Dcn. John Nelson(981-2716) Dcn. Ed Mallow(360-7735)			Tuition Coordinator..... Pat Wombacher.....(x1341) patwombacher@stthomas-school.net		
School Principal..... Maureen Bentley.....(x1210)			CCD Coordinator..... Angie Robenstein.....(x1200) angierobenstein@stthomas-school.net		
Sacrament of Baptism Parents participate Baptism class before the Baptism of their first child. Contact the parish office to schedule the class.			Music Coordinator..... Ann Horst(682-5507)		
Confessions Saturday 4:00-4:45pm & 6:00-6:30 p.m.			Choir Director..... Erin Craig erincraig@stthomas-school.net		
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.			Annulment Consultant..... John Mackoway(699-5213)		


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