



In these strange times, I write to wish you all a Happy Easter! Let the good news be proclaimed that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. We have seen his empty tomb and we believe that Christ has conquered sin and death.

It is obviously disappointing to not be able to gather together at this important time. I continue to be optimistic and see many positive signs of light at the end of the tunnel. Nevertheless, we are not yet able to gather together to celebrate as a parish and a community.

Remember the first time the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection occurred. Very few people were present. Only twelve gathered with Jesus to see the first Mass. (Even then, one of them left early after Communion – Judas!) At the Cross, there were only a handful present: John, Mary, and some of the women who traveled with Jesus. At the tomb, almost no one but Mary Magdalene and a few women accompanied the body of Jesus to its burial. On Easter Day, only Mary Magdalene came out of great love and devotion, and she was rewarded with the privilege of being the first to see Jesus risen. Later that day, it was only Peter and John, and eventually the disciples who would have a glimpse of the risen Christ.

So we stand spiritually with these few people who were privileged to take part personally in the most important celebrations at the heart of our liturgical year. The first crowds to hear the good news gathered on Pentecost, and I look forward to being back to Mass by then!

I will continue to post reflections on our blog and send out messages through My Parish App. I hope each of these messages from St. Thomas will be helpful during these difficult days. You can find this information through the links mentioned below.

Pray for us as we pray for you. Remember that there is no force that can overcome the power of Jesus' resurrection.

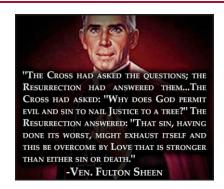
-Msgr. Gray

# **Our Sympathy**

David Joseph Phan

Jane Cunningham

Gordon Jockisch



# Stay in Touch

- 1. Bookmark the parish blog which will feature regular updates (jgray.org/st\_thomas).
- 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).

# **Mass Intentions**

### Monday, April 13, 2020

8:00 a.m. Florence and Jim Ryan/Family

# Tuesday, April 14, 2020

7:00 a.m. Barb Adams/Lawrence Arvil Bass

8:00 a.m. Cecilia LaHood/Family

## Wednesday, April 15, 2020

7:00 a.m. Rosemary Bartley/John and Amy Kelly

8:00 a.m. Richard Penn/Family

#### Thursday, April 16, 2020

7:00 a.m. Cornelia Schneider/Owen and Martha Schaub 8:00 a.m. Charlie Hessling/Rom and Jane Schatsich

#### Friday, April 17, 2020

7:00 a.m. Jeri Callahan/John Callahan 8:00 a.m. Jack McGinn/Betty Arnold

# Saturday, April 18, 2020

8:00 a.m. Jerry Smith/Joe and Marge Noe

5:00 p.m. Lawrence Cooling/Steve and Edie Brereton

## Sunday, April 19, 2020

7:00 a.m. Norm and Gerri Ralph/Kim and Scott Krueger

9:00 a.m. Larry V. Gries/Don and Amy Gries

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

5:00 p.m. For the People

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) School Principal.......Maureen Bentley......(x1210) maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

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Annulment Consultant	John Mackoway	(699-5213)

#### Sacrament of Baptism

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

## 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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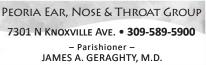
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