

# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY

*in Ordinary Time*



July 26, 2020

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



Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away.

Matthew 13:47-48



We bid farewell to Deacon Austin Bosse this weekend. His assignment has been short because of the circumstances related to our shutdown this summer. However, we wish him well for his last year of seminary and pray for him as he approaches priesthood ordination in a year.

In addition to praying for Deacon Austin and all of our seminarians, we also pray for our newly-ordained Coadjutor Bishop Louis Tylka. Over the next several months, Bishop Tylka will travel to different parts of the Diocese and visit many parishes in this Diocese. We look forward to opportunities to meet him and get to know him better.

Little by little, we continue to work toward getting back to normal practice at St. Thomas. We are taking extra precautions to prepare for a new school year, but plan to reopen for a full school day, five days a week, in the fall.

Next Sunday, we will also reintroduce our Donut Sunday. You are invited to come downstairs after Sunday morning Masses for refreshments. The tables have been spread out and separated, and food and refreshments will be served to you, rather than allowing you to help yourselves. Please stay safe and wash your hands. I believe this will be a very positive step toward resuming our regular routines.

In the meantime, please observe appropriate precautions. We continue to offer Communion outside of Mass on Sundays at noon, as long as the dispensation from Sunday Mass continues.

-Msgr. Gray



## Pray with the Pope

July 2020  
Our Families

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.



## Readings for the Week of July 26, 2020

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12; Romans 8: 28-30; Matthew 13: 44-52
<b>Monday</b>	Jeremiah 13: 1-11; Matthew 13: 31-35
<b>Tuesday</b>	Jeremiah 14: 17-22; Matthew 13: 36-43
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>St. Martha</b> Jeremiah 15: 10, 16-21; John 11: 19-27
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>St. Peter Chrysologus</b> Jeremiah 18: 1-6; Matthew 13: 47-53
<b>Friday</b>	<b>St. Ignatius of Loyola</b> Jeremiah 26: 1-9; Matthew 13: 54-58
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Alphonsus Liguori</b> Jeremiah 26: 11-16, 24; Matthew 14: 1-12
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Isaiah 55: 1-3; Romans 8: 35, 37-39; Matthew 14: 13-21

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, July 27, 2020

7:00 a.m.	Willi Flynn/Bob & Kathy Maushard
8:00 a.m.	Mary Helen Runkle

### Tuesday, July 28, 2020

7:00 a.m.	Sonia Gray/Jim & Liz Heatwole
8:00 a.m.	Marianne Dempsey/Eileen McDonough

### Wednesday, July 29, 2020

7:00 a.m.	Edith Matarelli/Michael & Mary Matarelli
8:00 a.m.	Elda Graves/Terry Liable

### Thursday, July 30, 2020

7:00 a.m.	Intentions of Msgr. Gray
8:00 a.m.	J. Gordon Hannagan/Jeanne Whalen

### Friday, July 31, 2020

7:00 a.m.	Lynn Goble/Family
8:00 a.m.	Intentions of Fr. Stark

### Saturday, August 1, 2020

8:00 a.m.	Lucille Phelan/The O'Connells
5:00 p.m.	Tom Frank/Ann & Paul Horst

### Sunday, August 2, 2020

7:00 a.m.	For the People
9:00 a.m.	Paul Doran/William & Pat Wombacher
11:00 a.m.	Mary Rose Kelly/Family
5:00 p.m.	Judy Cassulo/Dave & Sue Pleasant

## Week of July 26

**CENTERING PRAYER** Monday, July 27, 8:30 a.m., Church

**ROSARY** Tuesday, July 28, 10:00 a.m., Church

Donut Sunday

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish and School Picnic	August 9
Fish Fry	August 15
Msg. Rank Mass	August 20
Septemberfest	September 6
Men's Club Golf Outing	September 25

### Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle,

Thank you for welcoming me into your community and into your homes for the last five and half weeks. Time has flown by, but it has been a pleasure to share life with all of you. I leave with many joyous memories of the very warm reception so many of you have extended to me. I do not know where God will send me after, God-willing, my ordination to the priesthood, but I count my time in your parish as a true blessing. Please keep me and Dcn. Nic Wilson in your prayers as we return to seminary to finish our final year of formation before our ordination to the priesthood in May of 2021 at the Cathedral of St. Mary's in Peoria. You will all be in my prayers. Any correspondence or expressions of support can be sent to the addresses below. May God Bless you and keep you all in His love.

Deacon Austin L. Bosse

Mount St. Mary's Seminary  
Dcn. Austin Bosse  
16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd.  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Dcn. Austin Bosse  
1303 Lincolnshire Dr.  
Champaign, IL 61821

## Weekly Collection

July 19, 2020

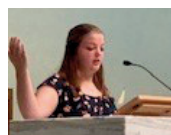
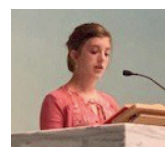
Fiscal YTD

Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$60,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$7,991.....	\$38,957
Electronic Collections .....	\$3,399.....	\$10,197
Total Collected.....	\$11,390.....	\$49,154
Over/(Short) .....	\$(8,610).....	\$(10,846)

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

Please pray for those who have died this week



**Congratulations !**  
to our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Graduates!

We wish you all the  
best in your coming  
high school years!

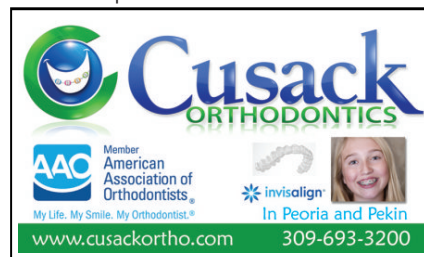
## Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## Food Pantry

Current needs are: rice, jelly, syrup, and meal helper.

Sponsor of the Week





## Virtue of Charity



Charity is the last of the three Theological virtues after Faith and Hope. These virtues are associated with Christian theology and are the result of God's grace. While the cardinal virtues are considered human virtues, the theological virtues have God as their object. These virtues are infused in us by God alone and help us to be directed to God. St. Paul describes the enduring value of Faith, Hope, and Charity, indicating that Charity is the greatest of the Theological Virtues (1 Cor 13:13).

Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. Charity fulfills the two great Commandments given to us by Jesus, to love God with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves (Mt 22:36-40). Jesus shows us the depth of His Charity when He showed his love for us, faithful to the end, even to His death on the Cross (cf. Jn 13:1). The Charity shown by Jesus becomes a model for us to imitate when He instructed the disciples: *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love, and This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you* (Jn 15:9, 12).

Charity is shown more perfectly when one loves an enemy, like the Father, who sends His grace on the bad and the good (Mt 5:44-45), or like Jesus who willingly forgave His persecutors (Lk 23:34).

St. Paul gives an eloquent explanation of the central necessity of Charity in the life of the Church (1 Cor 13). Without Charity, prophecies and heroic sacrifices amount to nothing. St. Therese of Lisieux teaches that Charity lives in the heart of the Church and inspires all her members. Charity inspires the apostles to preach the Gospel and martyrs to shed their blood.

Charity animates the practice of all the other virtues, and binds them together in perfection (Col 3:14). Charity purifies our motivations so the virtuous deeds we perform are done selflessly.

God is the source of Charity, since *it is not so much that we have loved God, but that God has loved us and sent his Son for the expiation of our sins* (1 Jn 4:10). The practice of Charity fills us with the freedom of the children of God, no longer standing before God as slaves, or in servile fear. The strength to love others comes from the knowledge that God has loved us first. Charity leads us to turn away from sin, not so much because we fear punishment, as much as we fear to displease God, who is all Good and deserving of all our love.

The virtue of Charity is depicted by the heart on fire, and is closely associated with the Sacred Heart of Jesus (depicted with a crown of thorns) or the Immaculate Heart of Mary (depicted with roses and the sword of sorrow). The heart of the Christian should be formed after the Heart of Christ. *Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto thine.*

## Virtue of Martyrdom



Martyrdom is not precisely a virtue as much as it is an embodiment of the Virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. The martyr gives supreme witness to the truth of the faith, by bearing witness even to death to Christ, Who died and rose from the dead.

The Martyr demonstrates the Virtue of Faith by preferring death before denying their belief in Jesus Christ. Even if the martyrs are offered life if they deny Christ, they consider themselves privileged to suffer for the sake of the Name of Jesus (Acts 5:41). The Virtue of Hope is seen in their trust that Jesus, who died and rose, will fulfill His promise of eternal life. The Martyrs trust in the Word of Jesus, that those who remain faithful will receive the crown of life (Rev 2:10). The Virtue of Charity is seen in the supreme sacrifice of one's life: *No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends* (Jn 15:13).

A martyr is the victim of an unjust persecutor who acts in hatred of the faith or of Christian morality. The persecutor attempts to silence the proclamation of Christ by killing those who witness to Him. However, history has demonstrated that the courage of the martyrs is inspiring and strengthens the Church. It has been said that the blood of martyrs is the seedbed of Christians.

From the early days of the Church, those who have suffered martyrdom are considered victors. They have faced the trials and conquered. They are the ones who have washed their robes in the blood of the lamb and made them white as wool (Rev 7:14).

Martyrdom is depicted by the cross, since the martyrs are those who have faithfully taken up their cross and carried it after Our Lord to the very end. Unlike the cross used for the virtue of Faith, the cross of Martyrdom is often adorned with the instruments of martyrdom. The martyr's cross is depicted with the sword, or the crown of thorns to depict their suffering. It is often also adorned with the crown of palms, representing their victory, since the martyr can say with St. Paul, *I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me* (2 Tim 4:7-8).

### Stay in Touch

1. **Join Msgr. Gray for Mass.** Link can be found on the parish website, [stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org) or the Parish App
2. **Bookmark the Parish Blog** which will feature regular updates ([jgray.org/st\\_thomas](http://jgray.org/st_thomas)).
3. **Download My Parish App** to receive push notifications (Visit [myparishapp.com/download](http://myparishapp.com/download)).
4. **Receive the Bulletin** and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net) to sign up).
5. **Bookmark the parish webpage** ([stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org)).

## St. Thomas Men's Club



**Saturday, August 15, 2020**

Serving from  
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

In the school cafeteria

Adults (13 and older) – \$10.00\*

Children (6 through 12) – \$5.00\*

Children five and under free with paid adult. \*

*Advance sales recommend - So we can order enough fish*

**Tickets  
For Sale  
After Mass**

### Carry Outs Available

Menu includes: Fried Fish, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Bread, and Drink  
Children's menu: Fish or Grilled Cheese  
Women's Guild : Cookies

St. Thomas the Apostle 904 East Lake Avenue Peoria Heights, IL

## St. Thomas Parish & School Picnic



**Join us for the St. Thomas Parish/School Picnic.**

**Sunday, August 9th after 11AM Mass**  
on the back lot.

Bring your chairs and picnic blankets to enjoy lunch and fellowship  
as we start to kick off the new school year.

**Hot dogs, chips, and waters will be provided.**

You are welcome to bring additional food for your family, but we  
will not be having a potluck this year.

## When you go the poor, you encounter Jesus



The range of requests for assistance from our neighbors in need is broader than the "big three" requests of Rent, Ameren, and Water. We're used to those requests, and can anticipate what to expect and how to address our clients' needs in most cases. But from time to time, there are calls for help that challenge our resources and resourcefulness. The table below offers you an idea of what we might face with some of the more infrequent and unusual requests. This is why we make home visits (except at present); circumstances surrounding many of these requests may need extended conversations to understand the needs of the client more fully.

The work of St. Vincent de Paul is never routine or boring; come and join us on a most gratifying and interesting journey. You will be blessed by the people you meet and by the words and feelings you share and the insights into poverty you receive on every visit. Thank you for your continued support.

### Some other St. Vincent de Paul Requests besides Rent/Ameren/Water Bills

Air conditioner	Hearing aids
Attorney fees	Knee brace
Baby stroller	Medications
Bus pass (city)	Medical bills
Car payment	Phone bill
Class fee	Property tax
Clinic payment	Refrigerator
Clothing	Sanitation bill
Day care	Toiletries
Dental	Train ticket
Eye exam & glasses	U-Haul rental
Funeral expenses	Washer/dryer
Furnace	Water heater
Furniture	
Green card renewal	

Don Smith

## For our Liturgical Volunteers

*Ministry Scheduler Pro* has released a new version of the program that we use to manage liturgical volunteers. Readers, servers, ushers, and extraordinary ministers should check out the new platform. If you use the mobile app, it should have updated automatically.

## Please Help!

It's time to start thinking about backpacks for school children in need! The COVID-19 pandemic has left many parents struggling, so we expect more need than ever before!

This year, we are putting together backpacks for grades K-8, and to make things easy and safe for everyone, we are asking only for monetary donations. This keeps everyone out of the stores and away from the virus. It also allows our committee to purchase supplies in bulk, making your donations go even further.

If you can help, please put your donation in an envelope marked BACKPACKS and place it in the collection plate during Mass, or drop it off at the Parish Office.

If you already have backpacks and/or school supplies you would like to donate, we will still gladly accept them. Please put supplies in the designated boxes in the narthex.

Thank you

## Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

August 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.  
St. Mark's Church, Peoria



St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: 677-7696

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Parish Office Hours

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

We will continue to have limited hours in the Parish Office. The office will be open Monday-Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Staff will also be available by email or voicemail. To leave a message, call 309-688-3446, and at the prompt press:

3 - Msgr. Gray

4 - Fr. Stark

0 - Terri-Administrative Assistant

1340 - Julie-Accounting

1341 - Pat-Tuition

If you have items to deliver for the Parish Office you are welcome to put them under the door of the Office downstairs in the Church, or under the door of the main Sacristy upstairs. The church building is open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day.

## For those not yet ready to come back to Mass

We will continue to have Communion available outside of Mass on Sunday from 12:00 to 12:30 pm. Come into the narthex, or pull up in the crescent drive to receive.

We will continue to record Mass and post the recordings on YouTube. See the parish website [stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org) for a link to the channel.

We will begin recording the Sunday 7 AM Mass in place of the Saturday 5 PM Mass. As we begin to have music at Saturday evening Mass, we may have copyright issues with videos posted on YouTube. The silent Mass on Sunday morning at 7 AM will be easier to upload.

## AmazonSmile

To date, **AmazonSmile** has donated \$1,039.98 to help with continued expenses of our school. Please join us, as a parish family, to support our school.

*AmazonSmile*, a website operated by Amazon, lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on *AmazonSmile*, the *AmazonSmile Foundation* will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to charitable organizations. Please use this link to shop and help St. Thomas!

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<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:msggray@stthomas-church.net">msggray@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) <a href="mailto:maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net">maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net</a>			<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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