

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that hour.

Matthew 15:28

Peoria Heights, Illinois

309-688-3446 stthomaspeoria.org

From Our Pastor



This weekend we recall the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated on Saturday, August 15th. Because it falls on a Saturday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year, but let us use this time to ask the Blessed Mother to watch over us. We ask for Mary's protection for St. Thomas Parish and St. Thomas School at the beginning of this new year.

We look forward to reopening this week for in-person instruction for our children. There are numerous precautions and adjustments that we have made to provide greater safety for the health of our students and their families. At the same time, we should be encouraged by the example of schools in other countries and by scientific evidence that shows that children have the lowest risk of ill health from Corona and are least likely to transmit an infection to others.

I am so personally proud of our faculty and staff who have gone above and beyond in providing excellence in education last spring. I have heard great praise for the e-learning work that was provided to our students. I know that our faculty is ready to face the challenges of a new school year. Please pray for them and encourage them, since our faculty and staff are truly heroic in their commitment to our young people.

I am glad that we are prepared for in-person instruction this fall, since even the best technology is no substitute for the learning that takes place in a classroom. We have contingency plans if we need to fall back to on-line instruction, but we want to emphasize the importance of quality interaction between the teacher and the student. I am worried that the intellectual growth of our students will suffer if they are not challenged.

Similarly, each of our spiritual lives can begin to atrophy if we are not challenged to practice our faith. It is easy to get comfortable in a pattern of not attending Mass. Many have told me how "Mass online" just isn't the same – and that is true! I encourage everyone who is healthy, safe, and ready to begin returning to Mass. For those who cannot yet return, I encourage you to make your spiritual sacrifices, and a life of prayer a true priority, especially on the Lord's Day.

-Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of August 16, 2020

Sunday Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7; Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32;

Matthew 15: 21-28

Monday Ezekiel 24: 15-23; Matthew 19: 16-22

Tuesday Ezekiel 28: 1-10; Matthew 19: 23-30

Wednesday St. John Eudes, Priest

Ezekiel 34: 1-11; Matthew 20: 1-16

Thursday St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Ezekiel 36: 23-28; Matthew 22: 1-14

Friday St. Pius X, Pope

Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Matthew 22: 34-40

Saturday The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ezekiel 43: 1-7ab; Matthew 23: 1-12

Sunday Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 22: 19-23; Romans 11: 33-36; Matthew 16: 13-20

Mass Intentions

Monday, August 17, 2020

7:00 a.m. Our Lady of Knock /LAOH

8:00 a.m. Mary Helen Runkle/Mr. & Mrs. Del Bertschy

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

7:00 a.m. Lucille & Melvin Noe/Family 8:00 a.m. Walter Arnold/Mary Ann Asciutto

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

7:00 a.m. Giles Keithly Jr./Family

8:00 a.m. Buddy Hannagan/Jeanne Whalen

Thursday, August 20, 2020

7:00 a.m. Thomas J. Farraher/Frances Farraher

8:00 a.m. John Ambrosch/Family

Friday, August 21, 2020

7:00 a.m. Rosemary Bartley/Paul & Ann Horst 8:00 a.m. Mrs. Mary McDemott/Family

Saturday, August 22, 2020

8:00 a.m. Smith & Hafner Families

5:00 p.m. Barb Adams

Sunday, August 23, 2020

7:00 a.m. Tom & Dorothy Lavin/Rich & Colleen Lavin

9:00 a.m. Frank Eaton/Dan Salrin

11:00 a.m. For the People 5:00 p.m. Mary Fricke/Family

Week of August 16

MEN'S CLUB FISH FRY Saturday, August 15, 6:00 p.m.

CENTERING PRAYER Monday, August 17, 8:30 a.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, August 18, 10:00 a.m., Church

MSGR RANK MASS Thursday, August 20, 6:00 p.m., Church

HOLY HOUR Thursday, August 20, 7:00 p.m., Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

Septemberfest September 6
Men's Club Golf Outing September 25

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.

RCIA: Those who are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith or joining the Church are invited to attend RCIA classes this fall. Classes will begin in the middle of September and will take place on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM in the school library. Classes are open to anyone who wants to attend: Catholics who want to learn more about their faith, those who want to become Catholic, and those who are just curious.

School Dates to Remember

The first day of school:

- ♦ For grades K-8 is August 19; PRE3/PK is August 24.
- ♦ Lunch times: 11:00 2-3; 11:30 K-1; 12:006-8; 12:30 4-5 while on 2:00 p.m. dismissal.
- Our PTO Welcome Coffee is August 24. The Spot will be on the back lot for parents to make purchases!

Weekly Collection

| | August 9, 2020 | Fiscal YTD |
|------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Collections needed | \$20,000 | \$120,000 |
| Sunday Collections | \$15,351 | \$73,995 |
| Electronic Collections | \$3,399 | \$20,394 |
| Total Collected | \$18,750 | \$94,389 |
| Over/(Short) | \$(1,250) | \$(25,611) |

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

Please pray for those who have died this week

Msgr. Rank Mass

This Thursday, on the feast of St. Bernard, we will celebrate the Msgr. Rank Mass in honor of our first pastor.

All are invited, as you are comfortable, with social distancing practiced.

Thursday, August 20, 6:00 p.m.

The Parish Holy Hour follows immediately.



Pray with the Pope

August 2020 The Maritime World

We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

St. Thomas Holy Hour

Thursday, August 20, 7:00 p.m.

Stay in Touch

- 1. **Join Msgr. Gray for Mass**. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org or the Parish App
- 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).
- 4. Receive the Bulletin and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email parishoffice@stthomaschurch.net to sign up).
- Bookmark the parish webpage (stthomaspeoria.org).

Sponsor of the Week



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Order of the symbols in the sanctuary

The depictions of the virtues are organized primarily around the theological virtues and the symbol of martyrdom. These images are set within a gold background to distinguish them from the reddish background of the other symbols. Beginning in the lower left, there is the cross of **faith**, the anchor of **hope**, the heart of **charity**, as well as the cross and palms for **martyrdom**.

In between the theological virtues on both the left and the right are the cardinal virtues (the mirror of **prudence**, the scales of **justice**, the tower of **fortitude**, the basin and ewer of **temperance**). At the bottom and the top are the Evangelical Counsels (the turtledoves of **poverty**, the lily of **chastity**, the commandments of **obedience**) and the lily of the valley of **humility**.

Beginning in the lower left, the virtue of **faith** is associated with **poverty**, since the freedom to sacrifice worldly possessions for Heavenly treasures can only be made by one who believes. **Faith** is also connected with **prudence**, since faith is necessary to help us discern what is prudently right. **Prudence** relates to **justice**, since our knowledge of what is the right course of action helps us to justly render to each person what is owed to them. **Justice** leads to **charity**, which strives to go beyond what is strictly required by justice to give generously for love of God and neighbor. **Charity** is connected with **obedience**, as Jesus asked us to obey a new commandment, to love one another. **Obedience** is set on top as obeying God's law is a supreme good: "Thy will be done."

Continuing on the right, the virtue of **humility** is on top as the crowning virtue of the saints who practice childlike simplicity and trust in God. **Humility** is modeled in **martyrdom**, since the martyr humbly lays down his or her life in witness to God. The strength of the **martyr** shows the virtue of **fortitude** which is necessary for one to surrender his or her life. The sacrificial spirit of the **martyr** and the strength of **fortitude** are necessary to practice self-denial through **temperance**, or moderation in the use of worldly goods. **Temperance** is connected with **hope**, since one who practices moderation also trusts that the promises of the Lord will be fulfilled. **Hope** is filled with trust and longing for the Kingdom of God, which is essential to **chastity**, which Our Lord describes as a sign of the Kingdom.



Children's Religious Education

Religious Education serves children in grades 1 through 8 who attend St. Thomas Parish, but do not attend the school.

At this time we have not yet set a plan in place for in-person instruction; however, be assured that your child(ren) will receive religious education despite the obstacles facing all of us due to COVID. Please follow the church bulletin for more details, and start up information.

Classes are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m., and we are hoping to start at the end of September or beginning of October.

Contact Angie Robenstein at 309-645-1364, or 309-685-2533, for registration materials to be sent to you, as plans progress.

Mosaics of the Stations of the Cross

<u>Stations of the Cross</u>: You are welcome to contribute to the purchase of new mosaic Stations of the Cross to match the new mosaics that we will have in our sanctuary.

Please contact Msgr. Gray or the parish office for more information.



Station 4

Station 6



Empower Illinois

Thank you for your continuing support of St. Thomas School through your donations to *Empower Illinois*. So far In 2020, we have received donations in the amount of \$47,200.00. These donations have provided tuition assistance to 18 students for the upcoming school year.

We still have 47 students on our waiting list. It is not too late to make a contribution to *Empower Illinois*. Contributions made through November 30, 2020 will be distributed to students for the upcoming 2020/2021 school year.

Your contributions to *Empower Illinois* through the *Invest in Kids* Act will give you a 75% credit toward your 2020 Illinois Income Tax liability. If you have previously taken advantage of the *Invest in Kids* Act to help St. Thomas students, and also receive a 75% state income tax credit, we encourage you to make a donation in 2020, if you have not already done so. If you have not made a donation in the past, we will be happy to help you with the process.

If you are interested in learning more about the *Invest in Kids Program* please contact Pat or Julie in the Parish Office. They can be reached at 688-3446.

2020 St. Thomas Golf Scramble

In support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Assistance Fund Hosted by: St. Thomas Men's Club

Friday, September 25th, 2020 Mt. Hawley Country Club

All golf outing proceeds will be used in the support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Tuition Assistance program. The net proceeds from this year's outing will fund \$500 scholarships for students of St. Thomas who demonstrate a financial need. It is the goal of the Men's Club to fund 15 scholarships for the 2020-21 school year. Your support of the golf outing is greatly appreciated.

GOLF REGISTRATION \$95per person

Golfer sponsorship includes: Door prize ticket, green fees, cart, and dinner. Registration Deadline Friday, September 11th . Late registration after September 11th, \$100 Per Person DINNER ONLY \$25 Per Person / Dinner starts at 5:30pm.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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- . Golf Beverage Sponsors: \$200 / Logo on Sign at beverage stations
- . Dinner Sponsors \$200 / Logo on table tents at dinner

TEE SPONSORS \$125 / 35 Sponsors

Placement of company logo sign at the Tee Box or at the

BE A PRIZE OR RAFFLE SPONSOR

Feature your business by donating a raffle or prize item. Please drop off prize or raffle item at 613 W. Glen Ave. Include donor information and value (optional).

- Registration/Check-in 11:00am-11:45am
- Shotqun Starts at Noon (Be at your hole by Noon)
- · Followed by a Steak Dinner at St. Thomas
- Registration Deadline Friday, September 11th
- Late Registration \$100 Per Person

For more information please contact:

Terri Moon (309) 688-3446

Email: terrimoon@stthomas-church.net

Please Submit Payment with Registration

REGISTRATION FORM

| ontact Person: | Phone: | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| lddress: | | |
| mail: | | |
| Golfers | | |
| layer 1: | Phone: | Amount \$ |
| Nayer 2: | Phone: | Amount \$ |
| Nayer 3: | Phone: | Amount \$ |
| Nayer 4: | Phone: | Amount \$ |
| | Dinner Only \$25 X | = Amount \$ |
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Mail registration along with payment to: Terri Moon / Golf • 904 E. Lake Ave. • Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Parish Office Hours

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

The Parish Office is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 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 is open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day.

Food Pantry

Current needs are: rice, syrup, pasta sauce, and meal helper.

Catholic Women's League Rosary

Monday, August 17th – 9:30 am

St. James Church

2240 E. Legion Road, Williamsfield, IL 61489

For any questions please contact **Melanie Picl (309)-682-4520**We will be practicing safe social distancing along with recommending masks as needed.

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.

| New Parishioner | Change of address/phone |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Phone | |
| City | ZIP |
| Address | |
| Phone | |
| Email | |
| First Name(s) | |
| Last Name | |
| About open the New Part form. | ishioner Registration, complete and subn |



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** for a link to the channel.

We are 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.



St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: 677-7696



Peoria Notre Dame Golf Classic

Get your foursome together and sign up for the 24th Peoria Notre Dame Golf Classic.

THURSDAY, September 10

At Weaver Ridge Golf Club.

The outing includes a round of golf with cart, great prizes, a box lunch, dinner and awards. This is a fun way to support Catholic secondary education.

Questions? Contact Tara Shane at 691-8741 or t.shane@pndhs.org.

Registration for golf participation, hole sponsors, and major sponsors is available at www.PeoriaNotreDame.com/golf.

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| onters at www.biscoveriviass.com |
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| Music Coordinator |
| Choir Director Erin Craig |
| erincraig@stthomas-school.net |
| Annulment ConsultantJohn 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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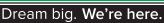
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Allison Buckardt - Parishioner

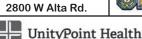


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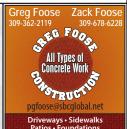
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