

esus again in reply spoke to them in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come.

Matthew 22:1-3

#### From Our Pastor



Our parish is a family. As we celebrated the anniversary of the dedication of St. Thomas Church last week, we are reminded about the blessings of our church building. But, the readings for the anniversary Mass remind us that we are united by more than the physical structure where we pray. We are bound together for a common purpose: to worship Jesus Christ as members of his Body.

One of the most important qualities of a family is the loving support we give to each other. Our parish supports our school and our school is a central part of the life of our parish. The generosity of our parishioners to our community is also well known through our food pantry and outreach to the poor.

In the past, I have asked for your support through your financial offerings to our weekly collection or to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. In the past, I have asked for your support for our school through tuition assistance, or your contributions to the liturgical improvements in the sanctuary.

This week, I ask for a different kind of support by volunteering your time. We have all been impacted in one way or another by the virus, and St. Thomas has had to adapt as so many of you have to the present circumstances. Many have returned to Sunday Mass, while some have prudently taken extra precautions to stay safe for the sake of your own health or the health of those you love and care for. For those who are ready to return and even volunteer, I ask for your time in these ways.

We have a portion of our servers, readers, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion who have resumed their service. We will need some others to help fill in the gaps. We will need to train new ministers in a safe way, and insure they are prepared and qualified for these roles. If you are interested in volunteering, please step forward and we can make sure we have enough volunteers for our Masses.

We sometimes run short of volunteers for Comet Cash on the weekends, and for service in our food pantry which operates on Monday and Thursday mornings. If you can give your time, these are important roles of service needing volunteers.

We will have an evening Progressive Tour (not a Progressive Dinner) this year in November to escort small groups around the renovated Church and Parish Office spaces and celebrate our accomplishments.

Cont. pg. 2



## Readings for the Week of October 11, 2020

Sunday Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 25: 6-10a; Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20;

Matthew 22: 1-14

**Monday** Galatians 4: 22-24, 26-27, 31—5: 1; Luke 11: 29-32

**Tuesday** Galatians 5: 1-6; Luke 11: 37-41

Wednesday St. Callistus I, Pope and Martyr

Galatians 5: 18-25; Luke 11: 42-46

Thursday St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church

Ephesians 1: 1-10; Luke 11: 47-54

Friday St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin

Ephesians 1: 11-14; Luke 12: 1-7

Saturday St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr

Ephesians 1: 15-23; Luke 12: 8-12

Sunday Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5b;

Matthew 22: 15-21

## **Mass Intentions**

#### Monday, October 12, 2020

7:00 a.m. Tom & Tommy Marie Duhs/Mary & Cliff Stamm 8:00 a.m. Joseph & Florence Whalen/Jeanne Whalen

#### Tuesday, October 13, 2020

7:00 a.m. Edith Matarelli/David & Rebecca Shealy 8:00 a.m. Margarita Portalis/Humberto Portalis

#### Wednesday, October 14, 2020

7:00 a.m. Jerry Smith/Bev Tanner

8:00 a.m. Joseph Tesar/The Schafer Family

#### Thursday, October 15, 2020

7:00 a.m. Jack & Bertha Weinstein/Family 8:00 a.m. Donald Hughs/Ed & Cathy Mallow

9:15 a.m.

#### Friday, October 16, 2020

7:00 a.m. John Rush/Joyce & Joe Debruyn 8:00 a.m. Melvin & Lucille Noe/Family

#### Saturday, October 17, 2020

8:00 a.m. Charles Patrick/Steve & Maggie Jackson 5:00 p.m. Dr. Larry Harmon/Julie & John Chan

#### Sunday, October 18, 2020

7:00 a.m. Dolores Oppe/Shirley Oppe 9:00 a.m. Paula Claude/Sam Joseph

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

5:00 p.m. For the People

#### Week of October 11

COLUMBUS DAY Monday, October 12, School & Parish Office Closed

CENTERING PRAYER Monday, October 12, 8:30 a.m., Church

WOMEN'S GUILD DINNER Monday, October 12, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

ROSARY Tuesday, October 13, 10:00 a.m., Church

CCD Wednesday, October 14, 6:00 p.m., School Conference Room

RCIA Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m., School Library

THAT MAN IS YOU Thursday, October 15, 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**HOLY HOUR** Thursday, October 15, 7:00 p.m., Church

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Election Day November 3
Parish Open House December 12
Advent Market December 12

#### Pastor, cont.

This event will need volunteers to help with food and beverages, to serve as tour ambassadors, and even to help with guide book design and booking reservations. We have a committee, but could use additional helpers to fill in these roles.

We also look forward to other events, including our yearly Open House in December. In order to make this event both safe and successful, we will need to modify the way we serve food to minimize contact. This, too, will take many more volunteers.

If you can help with any of these opportunities of service, please step forward. Our parish family depends now – more than ever – on the generous service of our volunteers who make St. Thomas successful.

-Msgr. Gray

#### RCIA

RCIA classes continue, and all are invited to participate.

You are welcome on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm in the school library. Videos from each session will also be posted on our YouTube channel. Search "Jason Gray St. Thomas" on YouTube. You will find a dedicated RCIA playlist of each class session.

## **Weekly Collection**

	September 27, 2020	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$280,000
Sunday Collections	\$13,564	\$169,146
Electronic Collections	\$3,399	\$47,586
Total Collected	\$16,963	\$216,732
Over/(Short)	\$(3,037)	\$(63,268)

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

## **Wedding Congratulations**

Emily Anne Sadler & Anthony Michael Driscoll



#### **PARISH HOLY HOUR**

Thursday, October 15 7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.



## Pray with the Pope

October 2020 The Laity's Mission in the Church

We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

## **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.

#### SUGGESTIONS NEEDED

Do you have suggestions for topics that you might want to learn more about in an adult education series of presentations in the fall?

If you have thoughts or interests, please make your suggestions to Msgr. Gray or to the Parish Office.

Sponsor of the Week



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## Save the Date!



## Friday, November 13

Tour our latest renovations

## Saturday, December 12



Advent Market

# Weekend of December 12—13

Parish Open House

More information to follow

## Respect Life Resources

Resources from the Respect Life Program/Live the Gospel of Life, sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops may be found at: respectlife.org

All are free of charge.

## Food Pantry

Current needs are: peanut butter, pasta, pasta sauce, meal helper, mac & cheese, canned fruit, & boxed side dishes

Thanks for your generosity

## Stay in Touch

- Join Msgr. Gray for Mass. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org or the Parish App
- 2. **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).



## October Respect for Life Month

Human beings are made in the very image and likeness of God. It is for this reason that, although abortion is not the only evil that afflicts human society, the right to life is the very first of all our human rights, and the destruction of human life in the womb is an intrinsic evil. As is well recorded throughout the nearly twenty centuries of our religious history, Catholic believers have always opposed abortion and considered the act to be unjust and gravely sinful. Catholics may not in any way cooperate with this crime against humanity, and Catholic voters and politicians are not exempt from the shared obligation to protect innocent human life from conception until natural death. Despite the well-funded propaganda of the abortion industry, it is an obvious fact that abortion is horrifically painful to the child in the womb, and late term abortion is most especially cruel and barbaric. Organized abortion providers in America have also intentionally and disproportionately marketed their brutal business in poor neighborhoods and among racial and ethnic minorities. Catholics should therefore readily reach out to other believers and even non-believers to promote a culture of life and tirelessly oppose a culture of death.

For those in our Church, it is also certainly providential that October is not only Respect for Life Month but also the Month of the Holy Rosary. I urge all the faithful of the Diocese of Peoria not only work tirelessly for the Gospel of Life but also to ask the Blessed Mother, especially under her title of Our Lady of Guadalupe who is always reverently depicted as being with child, to pray with us and for us in the face of terrible evil.

May our good and just God always guide and protect us,

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

# Cold Weather Is On Its Way!



During the months of October and November, the food pantry will be collecting gently used winter hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to help our clients stay warm this winter.

This is a great opportunity to clean out your closets and make a difference in the lives of our community friends at the same time. Please place your donations in the food pantry box in the narthex. Thank you so much for your continued generosity!



## HELP SAVE LIVES IN PEORIA

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization! Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

#### Here's how to take part:

- Vigil location: Outside of Planned Parenthood at 2709 Knoxville Avenue in Peoria
- Vigil hours: 7 am to 7 pm daily
- Local contact: Michelle Marcinak 40daysforlifepeoria@gmail.com
- Kickoff rally: Mount Carmel Farm at 4600 Mount Carmel Way in Peoria. 6pm on Tuesday, September 22. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating.
  - \*Weather updates will post to FB @prolifePeorialllinois\*

Learn more and get involved by visiting 40daysforlife.com/Peoria

## Virtual Pro-Life Rally

Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m.

Central Illinois Right to Life is sponsoring this virtual event. You can attend via your computer, tablet, or phone.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Phillip Ney, a psychiatrist and retired medical professor. Dr. Ney of Mount Joy College in British Columbia has made significant medical discoveries, including post-abortion survivor syndrome. He wrote the empirically derived, evidence-based Hope Alive program to treat those deeply damaged by a combination of childhood mistreatment and abortion. His talk promises to be informative and entertaining.

To register, or for questions, email: danbohan@gmail.com

## Vigil for Life

## St. Thomas Day of Participation

Parishioners meet outside Planned Parenthood @ 4709 N. Knoxville Ave., Monday, October 26, 2020 from 7 a.m.—7 p.m., the day designated for St. Thomas sidewalk participation

Please sign up @ 40daysforlife.com/Peoria and click on sign up for vigil hours

# St Thomas Women's Guild



will host a dinner

for the ladies of the Parish on Monday, October 12 at 6:30 p.m.

in the Parish Hall!

Reservations are required for dinner.

PLEASE TEXT OR CALL WITH YOUR RESERVATION:

Nancy Krakowiecki, 682-3246 or Sonia Nelson, 231-2637







## **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.

## Catholic Women's League

#### **Rosary Prayer**

Date & Time: Monday, October 19th, 9 am

Place: St. Philomena Church

1000 W. Albany, Peoria, IL 61604

#### Join (or renew membership in) the Catholic Women's League

All Catholic Women are invited to join: The Catholic Women's League (new members and membership renewal) now – Nov. 1st, 2020

Please mail dues (\$10) to: Catholic Women's League P.O. Box 9674 Peoria, IL 61612-9674



#### Amazon Prime Day October 13 & 14.

Shop at **smile.amazon.com/ch/37-0662587** or with **AmazonSmile ON** in the Amazon Shopping app and AmazonSmile to donate to St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

## **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 \_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ZIP\_\_\_\_

Phono

New Parishioner \_\_\_\_\_ Change of address/phone \_\_\_\_

# 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.

# St. Bernard Chicken Noodle Dinner

Due to the COVID restrictions St. Bernard will not be having their annual sit-down Chicken Noodle Dinner. However, the dinner is still being held! This year the dinner is all take-out.

Both hot and cold quarts are available, \$10.00 per quart.

**Pick-up location**: Southeast orange door in the parking lot of St. Bernard Gym (East Bluff Community Center), 510 E. Kansas

Pick-up time: Hot quarts, 12-4 p.m., Friday, November 13 Cold quarts, 2-6 p.m., Saturday, November 14

#### To order your Chicken Noodle Dinner:

Call the Parish Office: **309-673-6316** or Email:

chickennoodlequarts2020@gmail.com

When you order give your name, phone number, and an email address, along with the number of auarts wanted.

Last day to order is October 31st!





St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: 677-7696

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parishoffice@stthomas-church.net			
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Parochial VicarRev. Paul Stark S.J(x4)			
paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net			
SacristanMother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB(688-3500) fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com			
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School Principal Maureen Bentley(x1210) maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net			

p	oners at www.discovermass.com
	Administrative AssistantTerri Moon(x0)
ı	terrimoon@stthomas-church.net
ı	<b>Bulletin Editor</b> Peggy Sullivan(x1301)
ı	peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net
ı	AccountantJulie Streid(x1340)
ı	juliestreid@stthomas-church.net
ı	<b>Tuition Coordinator</b> Pat Wombacher(x1341)
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ı	CCD CoordinatorAngie Robenstein(x1200)
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ı	Choir Director Erin Craig
ı	erincraig@stthomas-school.net
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ı	

#### Sacrament of Baptism

Parents participate in a Baptism class before the Baptism of their first child. Contact the Parish Office 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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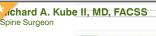
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