

ALL SOULS

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day. John 6:40

Let us make haste to our brethren who are awaiting us

Why should our praise and glorification, or even the celebration of this feast day mean anything to the saints? What do they care about earthly honours when their heavenly Father honours them by fulfilling the faithful promise of the Son? What does our commendation mean to them? The saints have no need of honour from us; neither does our devotion add the slightest thing to what is theirs. Clearly, if we venerate their memory, it serves us, not them. But I tell you, when I think of them, I feel myself inflamed by a tremendous yearning.

Calling the saints to mind inspires, or rather arouses in us, above all else, a longing to enjoy their company, so desirable in itself. We long to share in the citizenship of heaven, to dwell with the spirits of the blessed, to join the assembly of patriarchs, the ranks of the prophets, the council of apostles, the great host of martyrs, the noble company of confessors and the choir of virgins. In short, we long to be united in happiness with all the saints. But our dispositions change. The Church of all the first followers of Christ awaits us, but we do nothing about it. The saints want us to be with them, and we are indifferent. The souls of the just await us, and we ignore them.

Come, brothers, let us at length spur ourselves on. We must rise again with Christ, we must seek the world which is above and set our mind on the things of heaven. Let us long for those who are longing for us, hasten to those who are waiting for us, and ask those who look for our coming to intercede for us. We should not only want to be with the saints, we should also hope to possess their happiness. While we desire to be in their company, we must also earnestly seek to share in their glory. Do not imagine that there is anything harmful in such an ambition as this; there is no danger in setting our hearts on such glory.

When we commemorate the saints we are inflamed with another yearning: that Christ our life may also appear to us as he appeared to them and that we may one day share in his glory. Until then we see him, not as he is, but as he became for our sake. He is our head, crowned, not with glory, but with the thorns of our sins. As members of that head, crowned with thorns, we should be ashamed to live in luxury; his purple robes are a mockery rather than an honour. When Christ comes again, his death shall no longer be proclaimed, and we shall know that we also have died, and that our life is hidden with him. The glorious head of the Church will appear and his glorified members will shine in splendour with him, when he forms this lowly body anew into such glory as belongs to himself, its head.

Therefore, we should aim at attaining this glory with a wholehearted and prudent desire. That we may rightly hope and strive for such blessedness, we must above all seek the prayers of the saints. Thus, what is beyond our own powers to obtain will be granted through their intercession.

From a sermon of St Bernard of Clairvaux

November 1, 2020

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



ALL SAINTS

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Matt 5:12



From Our Pastor



Happy Feast of All Saints! Today is a Holy Day of Obligation, but since it falls on Sunday this year, it replaces the thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Today we honor all those Saints in Heaven who have won the victory and attained their eternal reward. In Heaven, they have eternal and perfect bliss with the Father, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. We benefit from the saints in two important ways: **Intercession** – that is, they pray for us here on Earth, and **Imitation** – that is, we can follow their example. The Saints show the path of holiness by their lives and urge us on with their prayers.

It is good to remember that the selection of the symbols in the sanctuary came from my experience in the Congregation of the Causes of Saints. The Church canonizes saints who are either martyrs by their death for Christ, or confessors who confessed the faith by living a life of heroic virtue.

For martyrs, the Church asks whether it is proven that they were martyrs and that they died for Christ. For confessors, the Church asks whether they practiced the theological virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love of God and neighbor, as well as the cardinal virtues of Prudence, Justice, Temperance, and Fortitude, with the virtues connected to their state and to a heroic degree. The virtues connected to their state in life include the observation of the evangelical counsels of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience, as well as the crowning virtue of Humility.

From this list, we have the 12 symbols: Martyrdom, Faith, Hope, Charity, Prudence, Justice, Temperance, Fortitude, Poverty, Chastity, Obedience, and Humility.

Please remember all the souls in Purgatory as we celebrate All Souls Day on Monday, November 2. All throughout this month, we are especially invited to remember the faithful departed in our prayers and to visit the graves of our loved ones.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of November 1, 2020

Sunday	Solemnity of All Saints Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3: 1-3; Matthew 5: 1-12a
Monday	Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) Wisdom 4: 7-14; Romans 5: 17-21; John 6: 51-58
Tuesday	St. Martin de Porres, Religious Philippians 2: 5-11; Luke 14: 15-24
Wednesday	St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop Philippians 2: 12-18; Luke 14: 25-33
Thursday	Philippians 3: 3-8a; Luke 15: 1-10
Friday	Philippians 3: 17—4:1; Luke 16: 1-8
Saturday	Blessed Virgin Mary Philippians 4: 10-19; Luke 16: 9-15
Sunday	Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Wisdom 6: 12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18; Matthew 25: 1-13

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 2 2020

7:00 a.m.	Joe Broussard/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley
8:00 a.m.	Lucille & Melvin Noe/Family
9:15 a.m.	Richard Durr/Tom & Rita Williams

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

7:00 a.m.	Elizabeth Lehnhausen/Bible Study Group
8:00 a.m.	Deceased members of Bennet, Bautista, & Mejia Families

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

7:00 a.m.	John Rush/Jim & Ruth Corey
8:00 a.m.	Joseph Nham Vu/Phan & Tam Vu

Thursday, November 5, 2020

7:00 a.m.	Patty Resutko/Family
8:00 a.m.	Walter Arnold/Dr. Michael & Bernadette Shekleton

Friday, November 6, 2020

7:00 a.m.	Mick Donahue/Carol, Scott, & Tim
8:00 a.m.	World Peace & Special Prayer Intentions

Saturday, November 7, 2020

8:00 a.m.	Purgatorial Society
5:00 p.m.	Jerry Willard/Ed & Cathy Mallow 1 st Anniv

Sunday, November 8, 2020

7:00 a.m.	For the People
9:00 a.m.	Betty Little/John & Amy Kelly
11:00 a.m.	Intentions of Ben West/Ed Mallow
5:00 p.m.	Lucille Phelan/The O'Connells



Pray with the Pope

**November 2020
Artificial Intelligence**

We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

Week of November 1

FIRST FRIDAY SIGN-UP in the Narthex

ST VINCENT DE PAUL and FOOD PANTRY Collections this weekend

COFFEE AND DONUTS After Sunday morning Masses, Parish Hall

CENTERING PRAYER Monday, November 2, 8:30 a.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, November 3, 10:00 a.m., Church

ELECTION DAY Tuesday, November 3

CCD Wednesday, November 4 6:00 p.m., School Conference Room

RCIA Wednesday, November 4, 7:00 p.m., School Library

THAT MAN IS YOU Thursday, November 5, 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

ADORATION Friday, Nov. 6 after 8:00 Mass until Benediction at 8:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>Saints, Symbols, and Swing Sets Tour</i>	November 13
<i>Parish Open House</i>	December 12
<i>Advent Market</i>	December 12

RCIA Topics

November 4: Holy Catholic Church

November 11: Forgiveness of sins, resurrection of the body, judgment, life everlasting

November 18: Liturgical year, Church tour, Mass practice

November 25: No class

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.

Weekly Collection

	October 25, 2020	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$340,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$15,060.....	\$213,426
Electronic Collections	\$3,399.....	\$57,783
Total Collected.....	\$18,459.....	\$271,209
Over/(Short)	\$(1,541).....	\$(68,791)

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

Mary Carrigan, mother of Maureen Pantages & Peggy King & grandmother of Bryan, Erin & Meghan Pantages & Ellie King

Helene Flanigan

Alice Rupert

Rose Maloney, mother of Ron Maloney & grandmother of Kevin, Rebecca & Colleen Maloney

PRAYERFUL PILGRIMAGE TO SUPPORT VOCATIONS

Travel to France with Father Timothy Hepner

Aug 17-26, 2021 with an optional pre-tour to Lourdes August 14-17, 2021

Informational Meeting Thursday, Nov. 5th at 7:00PM

A live presentation will be held at St. Louis Catholic Church, 616 S. Gosse Blvd, Princeton IL.

If you prefer, you may also attend via Zoom.

Kindly RSVP with your preference by November 3rd to Bonnie Newman, Blue Horizon Travel & Yacht Charters at (309) 737-0059 or bonnie@bluehorizon.net.

Proceeds from this tour will go toward the Monsignor Carton Scholarship Fund that helps finance the seminarians in the Diocese of Peoria.

Stay in Touch

1. **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).
3. **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@stthomas-church.net to sign up).
5. **Bookmark the parish webpage** (stthomaspeoria.org).

St. Thomas Parish Volunteer Opportunities

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Help St. Thomas Parish by volunteering in one of the following ongoing areas:

____ **Usher:** Help at weekend Masses with the collection and giving direction at Communion time.

____ **Lector:** Help at weekend Masses, proclaiming the scripture readings and leading the intercessions.

____ **Altar Server:** After appropriate training, assist the priest in the Sanctuary at Mass.

____ **Cantor:** Help with leading songs and singing the responsorial psalm at Mass.

____ **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:** After appropriate training, assist with the distribution of Holy Communion at weekend Masses.

____ **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to the Homebound:** After appropriate training, assist with bringing Holy Communion to the sick and shut-ins.

____ **Comet Cash:** Help sell gift cards after Masses for the benefit of St. Thomas School PTO.

____ **Food Pantry Volunteer:** Help our food pantry on select Mondays/Thursdays between 9 to 11 AM.

Volunteers are needed for these upcoming one-time events:

____ **Sanctuary/Office Tour:** Help with our upcoming Parish Progressive Tour of the Church and Parish Offices on November 13, 2020, as an ambassador or volunteer.

____ **Christmas Open House Volunteer:** Help with our annual Open House after Masses on December 12-13, 2020. Volunteers are needed for contactless service of refreshments and cleaning.

Leave the form in the baskets outside church, and you will be contacted with more information.

Thanks for your service

Parish Council

Seeking Nominations for the Council

Elections for our Parish Council members take place each year in November. **Between now and November 13** we are inviting parishioners to recommend members of the parish who would be ideal candidates to serve on our Parish Council.

The Parish Council is a vehicle for fulfilling the pastoral mission of our Parish. The Parish Council does this by fostering growth in our parish family and the sharing of spiritual gifts and talents. The Council advises and assists the pastor in the formulation of policy, in fostering good communication, and in providing leadership in carrying out our parish mission.

The Parish Council advises regarding all aspects of parish life, including the spiritual, education, social, and financial concerns of the Parish. The Parish Council is assisted in studying the financial health of the parish by the Parish Finance Council.

The Parish Council is composed of nine elected members who each serve for a three-year term, and one member who is a liaison from the Finance Committee.

The deadline for nominating a parishioner is **November 13**. Nominations may be presented to the parish office in writing or via email. Each nomination should include the name of the person making the nomination, the person being nominated, and a short comment about the qualities that make the candidate a good nominee to the Parish Council.

After the nominations have been presented, each nominee will be asked if he or she wishes to accept the nomination. The Parish Council elects the new members from the list of nominees at the November meeting. Please consider nominating your fellow parishioners who can help contribute to the building up of our parish.



Holiday Shopping Online? Make it AmazonSmile

Make a difference this holiday. Shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/37-0662587 to generate donations for St. Thomas the Apostle Church and check out our AmazonSmile Charity Lists to donate items we need most.



Save the Date!

Friday, November 13

Saints, Symbols, and Swing Sets Tour
Celebrating our Sanctuary, Pledging for our playground

Saturday, December 12

Advent Market



Weekend of December 12—13

Parish Open House

More information to follow

You are invited to

St. Thomas Parish & School



Saints, Symbols and Swingsets

St. Thomas Parish will host an exciting evening of CELEBRATION showcasing the newly renovated sanctuary and parish offices to kick off a fundraising campaign to help build a new playground for our school.

Please come see all the beautiful changes that we have been working on over the last few months and take a glance into our future.

Small, adult geared tours will be given throughout the evening.
Light snacks and adult beverages will be served.

RESERVE YOUR FREE SPOTS NOW through our Sign Up genius link or by calling the Parish Office at #688-3446

*** Due to COVID restrictions, masks are required, as well as an RSVP!

When: Friday, November 13th 4:30-7:00 P.M.

Where: St. Thomas Church, Lake St. Entrance



The Turkey is Pardoned

But, we are sad ~

The Thanksgiving dinner **will not** take place this year because of COVID 19.
We apologize to those inconvenienced by this decision.



When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



*We are pilgrims on the journey
We are travelers on the road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load...*

This is from a familiar hymn we sing at St. Thomas.

St. Vincent de Paul had a vision of Christ, not as a teacher or healer, but as an Evangelizer to the Poor. Our goal is to help alleviate the problems that confront the poor in our area. Sometimes it is by financial assistance, other times by giving additional information or a referral.

Because of your generosity (in the first Sunday of the month collections) we have funds available to provide assistance to people who call Catholic Charities requesting help. They then refer the calls to the St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter in the Peoria parish nearest to the family's home. SVdP then determine the need and how we can be of assistance.

Thank you for your continuing help. Thought for the day: *We are all just walking each other home.*

Loretta Hardgrove

Cold Weather Is On Its Way!



During the months of October and November, the food pantry will collect 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!

Election Prayer



+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, You told us to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God. Enlighten the minds of our people [in] America. May we choose a President of the United States, and other government officials, according to Your Divine will. Give our citizens the courage to choose leaders of our nation who respect the sanctity of unborn human life, the sanctity of marriage, the sanctity of marital relations, the sanctity of family, what belongs to You, our God. If we do this, as a nation, we are confident You will give us an abundance of Your blessings through our elected leaders. Amen.

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

By The Venerable Servant of God, Father John A. Hardon, SJ

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 Day of Reflection – Rosary – Annual Meeting – Box Luncheon

Coyote Creek Golf Club, 8201 W. Lancaster Road, Bartonville, IL

Sr. Michelle Fernandez SCTJM, Catholic Charities

Monday, November 16th, 9:30 am – Registration, 10:00 am – Rosary

Box Lunch Cost - \$15.00 each: Choice of Ham or Chicken Sandwich

Reservations are limited to 50 members

RSVP Sandy (309)-697-8796 by Thursday, November 10th

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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 _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

New Parishioner _____ Change of address/phone _____

Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Saint Mark's Church, 1113 W. Bradley Avenue, Peoria.

November 2, 7:00 P.M.

Face masks and social distancing requested.

Holy Hour consists of Benediction, the Rosary. Please join us in prayer for the protection of these innocent lives and the restoration of their Constitutional rights.

St. Bernard Chicken Noodle Dinner

Due to COVID restrictions, St. Bernard will not host their annual *sit-down* Chicken Noodle Dinner. However, the dinner is still being held: **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, Peoria

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 quarts you are ordering.

Last day to order is October 31st!



Food Pantry

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

Thanks for your generosity



St. Vincent de Paul Helpline:
677-7696

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish • 309-688-3446 904 East Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights, IL 61616 stthomaspeoria.org parishoffice@stthomas-church.net			Administrative AssistantTerri Moon (x0) terimoon@stthomas-church.net		
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School Principal Maureen Bentley (x1210) maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net			Music Coordinator Ann Horst..... (682-5507)		
			Choir Director Erin Craig erincraig@stthomas-school.net		
			Annulment ConsultantJohn Mackoway (699-5213)		
Sacrament of Baptism Parents participate in a 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 <i>Bulletin</i> . 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.		



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