

# CHRIST THE KING



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



November 22, 2020



We have recently completed the work in the sanctuary at St. Thomas! We began this effort one year ago as we began to raise the funds we needed for this project, and it is a blessing to see it reach a successful conclusion.

We were not able to have the planned tour and celebration that we had hoped on November 13, but we still look forward to celebrating this progress for our parish. We have prepared guidebooks that explain the details in the sanctuary. These should be available soon.

To mark this event, we will have a blessing of the new elements in the sanctuary this Sunday at 9 AM as we also celebrate Christ the King. We will make information available on line and through our parish website for those who cannot attend.

Since the work in the main church is complete, we have moved our daily Masses from the smaller chapel into the larger church. This will allow those who come for daily Mass to be more distanced during these times when we are most concerned with keeping everyone safe. You are welcome and encouraged to join us for daily Mass.

The challenge now is for us to live out our spiritual lives with the same energy that went into the design of our sanctuary. Our souls should reflect the interior beauty that we see externally manifested in our church. It is easy to be overcome with fear, especially in these times when so much in our regular lives has been turned upside-down. Nevertheless, we must always remain confident in the knowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord and He has already won the victory. Be not afraid! Go to Our Lord with even greater courage, now more than ever.

Let us celebrate Christ our King, and may the next four weeks be a blessed Season of Advent to prepare for the birth of our Savior.

-Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of November 22, 2020

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</b> Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28; Matthew 25: 31-46
<b>Monday</b>	<b>St. Columban, Abbot</b> Revelation 14: 1-3, 4b-5; Luke 21: 1-4
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs</b> Revelation 14: 14-19; Luke 21: 5-11
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr</b> Revelation 15: 1-4; Luke 21: 12-19
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b> Sirach 50: 22-24; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Luke 17: 11-19
<b>Friday</b>	Revelation 20: 1-4, 11—21: 2; Luke 21: 29-33
<b>Saturday</b>	Revelation 22: 1-7; Luke 21: 34-36
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> Isaiah 63: 16b-17, 19b; 64: 2-7; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 33-37

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, November 23, 2020

7:00 a.m.	Sandy Rapp/D'Arcy Haeussner
8:00 a.m.	Catherine Richardson/Rose Seghetti

### Tuesday, November 24, 2020

7:00 a.m.	Vivienne Burek 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniv/Elizabeth A. Taylor
8:00 a.m.	Faye Ann Corrales/Felix & Juanita Corrales

### Wednesday, November 25, 2020

7:00 a.m.	Frank Eaton/Friends & Family
8:00 a.m.	Fay M. Corrales/Felix Corrales

### Thursday, November 26, 2020

9:00 a.m.	Florence & Jim Ryan/Family
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### Friday, November 27, 2020

8:00 a.m.	Smith & Hafner Families
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### Saturday, November 28, 2020

8:00 a.m.	Ed Dotta/Ken Matheny
5:00 p.m.	Joe Olson/Michele & Sarah Konecki

### Sunday, November 29, 2020

7:00 a.m.	For the People
9:00 a.m.	Mary Helen Runkle/Mr. & Mrs. Del Bertschy
11:00 a.m.	Joseph Nham Vu/Phan & Tam Vu
5:00 p.m.	Jean Quigley



## 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 22

**CENTERING PRAYER** Monday, November 23, 8:30 a.m., Church

**ROSARY** Tuesday, November 24, 10:00 a.m., Church

**THANKSGIVING MASS** Thursday, November 26, 9:00 a.m.

**MASS 8:00 A.M. ONLY** Friday, November 27, no 7:00 a.m. Mass

## Daily Mass in the Main Church

In order to all for parishioners who wish to attend, and maintain social distance, our daily morning Masses will be in the main 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.

## Book of Remembrance

The month of November begins with All Saints and All Souls, and is traditionally a month to pray for the dead. The Book of Remembrance is available in the narthex during the month of November to record the names of your loved ones who have died. We will remember all the faithful departed, especially those in our Book of Remembrance, at our Masses during this month.

As men & women of faith, we're all called to remember, pray for, & ask for the prayers of those who have gone before us in Christ. All of us, members of the Communion of Saints, bear witness to the Passion, Death & Resurrection of Jesus, and His victory over death.

Please make use of our **Book of Remembrance** in the narthex, as we all remember family members & friends, all people we love, no longer here with us.

## Weekly Collection

	November 15, 2020	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed .....	\$20,000 .....	\$400,000
Sunday Collections .....	\$19,323 .....	\$277,987
Electronic Collections .....	\$3,399 .....	\$67,980
Total Collected .....	\$22,722 .....	\$345,967
Over/(Short) .....	\$2,722 .....	\$(54,033)

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

## RCIA Topics

November 25: No class

December 2: Blessed Virgin Mary, Rosary

December 9: Liturgy, Sacraments,  
Sacramentals

December 16: Baptism, Confirmation

December 23: No Class (Penance Service)

## Giving Tree



The Giving Tree is an important tradition at St. Thomas. We have gift tags in baskets as you leave Mass. We ask you to take one or more of the tags and purchase the requested gift. Please give new gifts only.

**RETURN YOUR GIFTS IN GIFT BAGS WITH THE ORIGINAL TAG ATTACHED.** You may leave them under the Giving Tree in the Narthex, or deliver to the Parish Office. Your generosity providing gifts under the Giving Tree has been incredibly helpful in the past. We collect gifts for Catholic Charities and others in our parish and community who are in need of some help.

**MONETARY DONATIONS** This year a monetary donation might work best for many of you. You can make your donation on our website: [stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Go to GIVING, then DONATE NOW. As you complete the form please Apply you Donation to The Giving Tree. Please make your monetary donation as soon as possible so our elves have time to shop before the deadline.

**PLEASE RETURN GIFTS BY DECEMBER 15TH** Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

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## Annual Diocesan Appeal

Thank you to all who have generously donated to this year's ADA. If you have not had a chance to support the Appeal you can still do so through our parish office.

Checks should be made to *Diocese of Peoria*. Donations can also be made online, or by credit/debit card. Please contact the Parish Office if you have questions. 688-3446

### 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.

\_\_\_\_ **Come! 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.

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

Thanks for your service

## 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)).

## Virtual Advent Market

Join us this year for the redesigned St. Thomas Virtual Advent Market.

Starting Nov. 9, a new vendor(s) will be highlighted each day. Check out the FB post to see what wonderful items they have to offer. You can make your purchases directly through the vendor(s) ~ **shop online November 9<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>**, at our Facebook event: <https://tinyurl.com/adventmarket>.

**Order** craft at home kits for your kids or grandkids by calling the School Office (309.685.2533).

**Pick up** your purchases and craft kits **December 12<sup>th</sup> from 10- 1pm.**

Santa will be here for socially distant photos from 10-noon. **Sign up** for a time slot to visit Santa and item pick up: <https://signup.com/go/zGYkqZK>

Hot chocolate and cookies will be available as well.

The St. Thomas Virtual Advent Market is a **Facebook event** accessible from the St. Thomas School Facebook page.

### The line-up of vendors include:

Kimmie's Hair Pretties; Seek Apparel & Home, Mary Kay, Sam Harris, Yoli; A Perfect Pear Boutique; Arbonne; Mary and Martha; Bushbaby; Love Letter Jewelry; STS Spiritwear; Sucre Sweets; Perfectly Posh; Thirty-One; Faithful Presents; Four30 Scones

## LET US GIVE THANKS

### AND HELP THOSE IN NEED

While we are unable to have bags this year due to COVID, our St. Thomas Food Pantry is still in need this Holiday Season. Please bring your donation when you come to Mass at Thanksgiving and leave them in the Pantry box.

Mac & cheese  
Pasta sauce  
Peanut butter  
Canned/dry beans

Boxed meal helper  
Canned vegetables  
Cereal/oatmeal  
Pancake mix

Plain pasta  
Canned fruit  
Crackers  
Syrup/jelly

Personal hygiene products  
Canned meat (chicken, ham, pulled pork, tuna, salmon, etc.)  
Boxed side dish (rice, potatoes, pasta, quinoa, couscous, stuffing)

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!





November 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the Diocese of Peoria, we have a lot to be thankful for. In fact, the word *Eucharist*, the central reality of our faith, literally means *thanksgiving*. As a bishop, I am particularly grateful every time I ordain a man to the priesthood and send him out to minister to the people of this great diocese. I am also grateful for those young men who have said "yes" to discerning a call to the priesthood, and who have entered our seminary program. This Thanksgiving weekend, please give thanks for these men and show your support by giving generously to the St. Theresa Seminarian Fund.

This fund pays for the tuition, room, and board for theologians—those seminarians who have already graduated college (either a university or a college seminary). It also covers the salaries, office costs, and marketing expenses that help keep our seminarian program afloat.

On the Sunday after Thanksgiving, I invite you to give thanks for those who are giving their lives to the Church. There will be a second collection at each Mass that weekend. Please make checks payable to the Catholic Diocese of Peoria Office of Priestly Vocations.

Thank you for your generosity, and please know of my prayers,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C.  
Bishop of Peoria

## Rolan Johnson Ornament

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception are pleased to announce our 26th Annual Rolan Johnson Christmas Ornament ~ **Jesus Blesses the Children**



2020 Ornament Order Form	
PLEASE PRINT or USE ADDRESS LABEL	\$35.00 (+\$5 shipping)
SEND MY ORNAMENT(S) TO:	
NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____	EMAIL _____
Mail with check payable to: Heading Avenue Franciscans, 2408 W. Heading Ave, West Peoria, IL 61604	
Older ornaments available at the Motherhouse, through our brochure or online at <a href="http://westpeoriasisters.org">westpeoriasisters.org</a>	

Sisters will not be selling at any parishes this year and will miss seeing you. They pray daily for your intentions, health and well-being.

The 2020 Christmas Ornament is \$35 and is available at the following:

- Immaculate Conception Convent – West Peoria
- Hometown Community Banks (divisions of Morton Community Bank)
- Kay's Hallmark – Metro Center
- Lagron Miller Co. - Peoria

## Advent Lessons and Carols

By the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception  
Viewing Opportunity 1st Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29, 4 p.m.  
Watch virtually by linking the Peoria Cursillo Office Facebook page.  
A link to the Facebook page is also on the front page of the website:  
[peoriacursillo.org](http://peoriacursillo.org)



## Parish Council

### Seeking Nominations for the Council

We invite parishioners to recommend members of the parish to serve on our Parish Council. Term of service starts in November. 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 Parish Finance Committee.

The Parish Council advises regarding all aspects of parish life, including the spiritual, educational, 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.

You may present nominations to the Parish Office in writing or via email. 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. Each nominee will be asked if he or she will accept the nomination. Please consider nominating a fellow parishioner who can contribute to the building our parish.

## Cold Weather Is On Its Way!



During 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!

## Open House Postponed

Due to the additional COVID restrictions our Annual Parish Open House has been postponed. The date has yet to be determined ~ more information will be posted in the bulletin when it is available.

## Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

**Place:** Saint Mark's Church, 1113 W. Bradley Avenue, in Peoria.

**Time:** 7:00 P.M.

**Date:** Dec. 7th, the 1st Monday of the month

For the time being, facial masks and social distancing is requested.

Please join us in praying to God for the protection of these innocent lives and the restoration of their Constitutional rights.

## 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.



Peoria Notre Dame's

## 12 Days of Christmas

CASH AND CAR RAFFLE



Daily cash prizes will be awarded from  
December 7 through December 17  
with the

Grand Prize drawing for a 2021 Toyota RAV4 on December 18.

Tickets can be purchased from PND students, by  
calling **691-8741**,  
or online at **PeoriaNotreDame.com/12days**.

Ticket orders can be  
credited to PND students or staff for incentives.

Only 3,000 tickets will be sold.  
Cost is \$75 per ticket, 3 for \$200, 5 for \$300, 10 for \$550, and 12 for \$600.

Official rules, details, and online orders can  
also be found at **PeoriaNotreDame.com/12days**

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

2020 Diocesan Historical Exhibit

## A Look into Catholic Healthcare In the Diocese of Peoria

Spaulding  
Museum open by  
appointment only.



Contact us at  
**309-671-1550** or  
**Archives@cdop.org**

## An Invitation to Make or to Renew Your Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Through talks, video presentations and testimonies, come and discover:

- What does the Catholic Church teach about Our Lady and consecration to Her?
- Why should we give ourselves to Mary to be Christ's missionary disciples?
- How does consecration to Mary help our giving witness to our Faith in the world?

Participants will have the opportunity to make or to renew their consecration to Our Lady on **Saturday, December 12, at the 7:30 am Mass** in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

For more information please call **331-223-5564** or email **MINational@MissionImmaculata.com**

## 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**



<b>St. Thomas the Apostle Parish • 309-688-3446</b> 904 East Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights, IL 61616 <a href="http://stthomaspeoria.org">stthomaspeoria.org</a> <a href="mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net">parishoffice@stthomas-church.net</a>			<b>Administrative Assistant</b> .....Terri Moon ..... (x0) <a href="mailto:terimoon@stthomas-church.net">terimoon@stthomas-church.net</a>		
<b>Pastor</b> ..... Msgr. Jason A. Gray ..... (x3) <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..... (x4) <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>Sacristan</b> .....Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB.....(688-3500) <a href="mailto:fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com">fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com</a>			<b>Tuition Coordinator</b> .....Pat Wombacher .....(x1341) <a href="mailto:patwombacher@stthomas-school.net">patwombacher@stthomas-school.net</a>		
<b>Deacon</b> ..... Dcn. Mark Kelsch ..... (692-4908) Dcn. John Nelson ..... (981-2716) Dcn. Ed Mallow ..... (360-7735)			<b>CCD Coordinator</b> .....Angie Robenstein.....(x1200) <a href="mailto:angierobenstein@stthomas-school.net">angierobenstein@stthomas-school.net</a>		
<b>School Principal</b> ..... Maureen Bentley ..... (x1210) <a href="mailto:maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net">maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net</a>			<b>Music Coordinator</b> ..... Ann Horst..... (682-5507)		
<b>Sacrament of Baptism</b> Parents participate in a Baptism class before the Baptism of their first child. Contact the Parish Office to schedule the class.			<b>Choir Director</b> ..... Erin Craig <a href="mailto:erincraig@stthomas-school.net">erincraig@stthomas-school.net</a>		
<b>Confessions</b> Saturday 4:00-4:45pm & 6:00-6:30 p.m.			<b>Annulment Consultant</b> .....John Mackoway ..... (699-5213)		
<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 <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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