# Hope

November 29, 2020



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

Advent

# From Our Pastor



Today, we begin a new Liturgical Year with the First Sunday of Advent. We are thankful for the celebration of Christ the King last Sunday to close the previous Liturgical Year. As we turn the page, we are now focused on our preparations for the Birth of Christ.

Current restrictions have limited what we would typically do at this time, but I encourage us all to take advantage of this season of grace to prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ Child. During the Season of Advent, we light the candles of the Advent Wreath. Some families like to have their own Advent Wreath to enlighten their own private prayers in the home.

We have moved daily Mass into the main church where everyone is able to spread out. For those who are ready to come back, I encourage you to attend Sunday Mass, and even Daily Masses in order to enter more spiritually into this Season. For those who take additional precautions, Masses and even RCIA classes are available online. See the link to our YouTube channel on our parish webpage. As people are traveling less and even shopping less, this could be a blessed time that allows us to be even more attentive than normal to our spiritual life.

This Friday is First Friday, so I encourage you to come to Adoration. The following Tuesday is Immaculate Conception. While December 8 is not strictly obligatory this year, please take time on this Day to honor the Immaculate Mother of God.

Thank you for your support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal and our end-of-year Annual Giving program. Your contributions to the Giving Tree will also be greatly appreciated by those needy families in our community.

As we get closer to Christmas, we will have more information about expanded confession times and Christmas Masses. Rather than having a penance service when we gather in a large group, we will offer more confession time in which people can come individually to receive reconciliation before we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.

- Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of November 29, 2020

Sunday First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63: 16b-17, 19b; 64: 2-7; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9;

Mark 13: 33-37

Monday St. Andrew, Apostle

Romans 10: 9-18; Matthew 4: 18-22

**Tuesday** Isaiah 11: 1-10; Luke 10: 21-24

Wednesday Isaiah 25: 6-10a; Matthew 15: 29-37

Thursday St. Francis Xavier, Priest

Isaiah 26: 1-6; Matthew 7: 21, 24-27

Friday St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Isaiah 29: 17-24; Matthew 9: 27-31

**Saturday** Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9: 35—10: 1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3: 8-14; Mark 1: 1-8

#### **Mass Intentions**

#### Monday, November 30, 2020

7:00 a.m. Margaret Waltman/Mike Shekleton 8:00 a.m. Dolores Oppe/Shirley Oppe

#### Tuesday, December 1, 2020

7:00 a.m. John Rush/Patty Rush 8:00 a.m. John Ambrosch/Family

#### Wednesday, December 2, 2020

7:00 a.m. Elizabeth Lehnhausen/Bible Study Group 8:00 a.m. Walter Arnold/Elmer & Eleanor Miller

#### Thursday, December 3, 2020

7:00 a.m. Janet Keithley/Family

8:00 a.m. Intentions of Jessica Mallow/Ed Mallow

#### Friday, December 4, 2020

7:00 a.m. John Snyder/Dad

8:00 a.m. World Peace & Special Prayer Intentions

#### Saturday, December 5, 2020

8:00 a.m. Purgatorial Society

5:00 p.m. Nancy Fifield/George & Lauren Kovac

#### Sunday, December 6, 2020

7:00 a.m. Lorretta Corwin/Eileen Gasper

9:00 a.m. For the People

11:00 a.m. Mary Rose Kelly/Family

5:00 p.m. Nora Niehus/Steve & Maggie Jackson

#### **Week of November 29**

FIRST FRIDAY SIGN-UP in the Narthex

ST VINCENT DE PAUL and FOOD PANTRY Collections this weekend

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

ROSARY Tuesday, December 1, 10:00 a.m., Church

RCIA Wednesday, December 2, 7:00 p.m., School Library

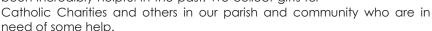
THAT MAN IS YOU Thursday, December 3, 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**ADORATION** Friday, Dec. 4 after 8:00 Mass until Benediction at 8:00 p.m.

#### **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



**MONETARY DONATIONS** This year a monetary donation might work best for many people. You can make your donation on our website: stthomaspeoria.org. Go to GIVING, then DONATE NOW. As you complete the form please Apply your 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!

Due to early publication updated information was not yet available

#### **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
	\$22,722	·
	\$2,722	•

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

Marge McNally

## **RCIA Topics**

December 2: Blessed Virgin Mary, Rosary

December 9: Liturgy, Sacraments,

Sacramentals

December 16: Baptism, Confirmation December 23: No Class (Penance Service)

#### **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.

# Daily Mass in the Main Church

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



## Pray with the Pope

November 2020 Artificial Intelligence

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

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# St. Thomas Parish Volunteer Opportunities

Name:
Email:
Phone:
Help St. Thomas Parish by volunteering in one of the following ongoing areas:
<b>Usher</b> : Help at weekend Masses with the collection and giving direction at Communion time.
<b>Lector</b> : 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 Commun-
ion: 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 this upcoming onetime event:

\_\_\_\_ Sanctuary/Office Tour: to be rescheduled at a date yet to be determined

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

# **Open House Postponed**

Due to the additional COVID restrictions our Annual Parish Open House has been postponed.

A new date has yet to be determined ~ more information will be posted in the bulletin when it is available.

#### **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 depart-

ed, 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.

#### When you go the poor, you encounter Jesus



As we enter this Advent season, please remember those in our community who are in need. Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society work year-round to meet the needs of individuals and families in our community. We are always humbled by your

love and support; however, needs often seem magnified this time of year. We ask for your continued help in sharing Christ's love through your prayers and donations to support our Food Pantry, Christmas Giving Tree, and regular community supports.

Thank you, and may you and your loved ones have a safe and blessed Christmas season.

Caroline Toner

# 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!

## Stay in Touch

- . **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).
- 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).

#### **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:		
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ADDRESS		
CITYSTATE ZIP		
PHONEEMAIL		
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 westpeoriasisters.org		

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

All ornaments may be viewed online at www.westpeoriasisters.org Development Office – 309-674-2005

email: develoment@westpeoriasisters.org

Proceeds benefit the Sisters' Retirement Fund.

#### **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.





Theme:

Let There Be

Peace on Earth

and Let It Begin

With Me

Grace: Sr. Diane
Piety: Dave Reising
Study: Bill Perry
Action: Karla Allen

Please join the Cursillo Community for our Rekindle Virtual Day of Renewal!

Guests are Welcome!

Saturday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>; 9:00am – 1:30pm on Zoom / Leader: Cassie Conklin

- Grace, Piety, Study and Action Reflections
- Break Out Discussion Rooms
- Opportunities to Ask Questions to Sr. Diane
- · Quiet Reflection and Meditation Music

You can sign up at the following link (please save a spot as it will fill up quickly!): https://signup.com/go/LOzbivw

Or, by leaving a message at the Peoria Cursillo Office 309.676.5587

#### **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

New Parishiener	Change of address/phone	
Phone		_
City	ZIP	-
Address		_
Phone		_
Email		
First Name(s)		
Last Name		-
	on our website at stthomaspeoria.org ishioner Registration, complete and s	

## 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 are requested.

Please join us as we pray to God for His protection of these innocent lives and the restoration of their Constitutional rights.

#### 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

# 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

View Our Parish Sup		
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parishoffice@stthomas-church.net		
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Parochial VicarRev. Paul Stark S.J(x4)		
paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net		
<b>Sacristan</b> Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB(688-3500) <u>fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com</u>		
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School Principal Maureen Bentley(x1210) maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net		

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Music Coordinat	<b>or</b>	
Choir Director	Erin Craig	
erincraig@stthomas-school.net		
Annulment Cons	ultantJohn Mackoway(699-5213)	

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 content and lenath.





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