Peace

December 6, 2020



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

Advent

From Our Pastor



We continue our Advent pilgrimage to the Nativity of Our Lord at Christmas. Let this be a holy season for us to prepare our hearts to welcome the Birth of Jesus.

There are several adaptations we will have this year because of precautions due to Corona. We have been given permission to add an earlier Mass on Christmas Eve. Therefore, we will have Masses on Christmas Eve at 3 PM, as well as 5, 7, and 10 PM. Masses on Christmas Day will be at the normal times: 7, 9, and 11 AM. We have overflow seating in the narthex and in the Chapel to allow for distancing. We will also be able to add additional overflow seating in the Parish Hall downstairs where we will be able to use the projector screen to broadcast the Mass in the main church for any who attend there. Communion will be brought to those attending in each area.

We will not schedule a Parish penance service, since we do not want to encourage groups of people to gather if it is not necessary. Rather, we will add additional confession times. We will have expanded confession hours for the Fourth Sunday of Advent on both Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. We will hear confessions each weeknight before Christmas Eve (from December 21-23).

Daily Masses have been moved to the main church where the congregation is able to spread out more than in the daily Mass chapel. You are most welcome to join us for weekday Masses.

This Tuesday is a Holy Day of Obligation for the Immaculate Conception, though the obligation to attend Mass has been dispensed this year. For those who wish to attend, please note the special Mass times: There will not be a school Mass during this time of e-learning.

For those who have downloaded My Parish App, there are special resources for Advent you can use. If you haven't downloaded this app, you will find it in both the Apple and Google app stores.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of December 6, 2020

Sunday Second Sunday of Advent

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

Monday St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Isaiah 35: 1-10; Luke 5: 17-26

Tuesday The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Genesis 3: 9-15, 20; Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-2; Luke 1: 26-38

Wednesday St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

Isaiah 40: 25-31; Matthew 11: 28-30

Thursday Our Lady of Loreto

Isaiah 41: 13-20; Matthew 11: 11-15

Friday St. Damasus I, Pope

Isaiah 48: 17-19; Matthew 11: 16-19

Saturday Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zechariah 2: 14-17; Luke 1: 26-38

Sunday Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24;

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 7, 2020

7:00 a.m. Jeannette Halland/Anne Morrissey8:00 a.m. Alice Grow/The Pearl/Cain Family5:30 p.m. Mary Helen Runkle/Maureen Williams

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

7:00 a.m. Lucille & Melvin Noe/Family

8:00 a.m. Catherine Richardson/Gloria Christian

12:15 p.m. Florence & Jim Ryan/Family

5:30 p.m. For the People

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Ann, Erin, & Frances 8:00 a.m. Rose Maloney/Dave & Lynn Warso

Thursday, December 10, 2020

7:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri FSJB

8:00 a.m. Michael Haughney, Sr./Mike & Theresa Haughney

Friday, December 11, 2020

7:00 a.m. Annie Joseph/Mike Phelan 8:00 a.m. Frances McGinn/Mary Paul Long

Saturday, December 12, 2020

8:00 a.m. Mrs. Inez Marie DePrato McDemott/Family 5:00 p.m. Margaret Waltman/St. Vincent de Paul Society

Sunday, December 13, 2020

7:00 a.m. Remedios Tolentino/The Sarmiento Family

9:00 a.m. Robert Sullivan/Family

11:00 a.m. Jack & Jane Donnelly/T.J. & Lynne Seiler

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of December 6

ST VINCENT DE PAUL and FOOD PANTRY Collections this weekend

CENTERING PRAYER Monday, December 7, 8:30 a.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, December 8, 10:00 a.m., Church

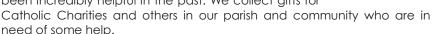
RCIA Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

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

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!

Weekly Collection

	November 29, 2020	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$440,000
Sunday Collections	\$11,796	\$307,593
Electronic Collections	\$3,399	\$74,778
Total Collected	•	•
Over/(Short)	\$(4,805)	\$(57,629)

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

Colleen Dwyer, sister of Sheila Ogilvie

December 8 ~ Feast of the Immaculate Conception



Masses for the Feast Day ~ Monday: Vigil Mass 5:30 p.m. Tuesday: 7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 5:30 p.m.

This is a Holy Day of obligation, but during this time we are dispensed. Please join us as you are able.

With seating available in the main Church, narthex, and Chapel it is possible to maintain social distancing.

RCIA Topics

December 9: Liturgy, Sacraments,

Sacramentals

December 16: Baptism, Confirmation

December 23: No Class

Daily Mass in the Main Church

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



Pray with the Pope

December 2020 For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Sponsor of the Week

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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.

Masses for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day



Christmas Eve: 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. Christmas Day: 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Please join us as you are able. In order to maintain social distancing, seating for Masses is available in the main Church, the narthex, the Daily Mass Chapel, and special for Christmas will be the broadcast of the Mass in the Parish Hall. Communion will be distributed wherever you are.



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.

Reconciliation

Since we do not want to encourage large groups of people to gather if it is not necessary, we have cancelled our usual Penance Service. In its, place we will offer expanded opportunities for individual Reconciliation.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: expanded hours on both Saturday afternoon

and Sunday morning

Weeknights: December 21—23

Specific times will be published next week.

Please come if you can ~ it is a great way to enter into the season of Christmas.

Mosaic Stations of the Cross



The work on our new Stations of the Cross is underway!



The O Antiphons of Advent

There are seven short verses sung before the Magnificat during Evening Prayer of the Church on the seven days before the vigil of Christmas. They each begin with the exclamation O, each ends with a plea for the Messiah to come. As Christmas approaches the cry becomes more urgent.

The antiphons were composed in the seventh or eighth century when monks compiled texts from the Old Testament which looked forward to the coming of our salvation. They form a rich mosaic of scriptural images. These seven antiphons appear to be the originals, although from time to time other texts were used. They became very popular in the Middle Ages. While the monastic choirs sang the antiphons the great bells of the church were rung.

A curious feature of these antiphons is that the first letter of each invocation may be taken from the Latin to form an acrostic in reverse. So the first letters of Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, Clavis, Oriens, Rex, and Emmanuel, form the Latin words: *ERO CRAS*. This is the response of Christ Himself to the heartfelt prayer of His people: *Tomorrow I will be there*.

We pray the antiphons from December 17—December 23. The antiphons will be in next week's bulletin.

- From Catholic Online

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

MyParish app



Do you have the MyParish app? At any time it is a good resource for the Mass readings of the day, additional prayers,

and staying in touch with Parish events. During Advent, it is an additional resource for Advent prayers and meditations.

MyParish app can be obtained one of three ways: go to *myparishapp.com* and download to your tablet or smartphone; you can find it in the Google play store, or the Apple app store, and download. Just type *my parish* and click *download*. This app is always free to download and free to use. Once downloaded, use the search to find *St. Thomas*, then mark it as *favorite*. The app will then open to *St. Thomas*.

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).
- 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).

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 Or	der Form	
PLEASE PRINT or USE ADDRESS LABEL SEND MY ORNAMENT(S) TO:	\$35.00(+\$5 shipping)	
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ADDRESS		
CITYSTATE	_ ZIP	
PHONEEMAIL_		
Mail with check payable to:		
Heading Avenue Franciscans, 2408 W. Heading A	ve, West Peoria, IL 61604	
Older ornaments available at the Mother brochure or online at westpeoria		

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.

Shop using COMET CASH gift cards for the Holidays

Many people do not wish to go out and shop during these unsettling times. You can still buy all your Holiday gift cards and shop with your Comet Cash cards, all while supporting St. Thomas Church, with over +750 brands available. Shop the gift guide at ShopWithScrip.com

View online tutorial app on how to get and use the RaiseRight mobile app: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18ClQVbGvvc

What better time to set up your Scrip account and start saving on tuition and helping STS?

We work through a company called Great Lakes Scrip. I encourage you to take a look at their website to find out more about Scrip. You can create an account, see what vendors are available, start shopping, and start SAVING. Even better, you can receive email updates directly from them about special bonus rebates and offers during the Holidays. Our school code is **BA38E9AD7759**.

I am keeping on hand several cards, along with great stocking stuffers, for instance Panera Bread \$5.00 and Starbucks \$5.00. You may go to Ren-Web under Resource Documents to see what is available. In addition, anything listed on the www.shopwithscrip.com website can be ordered. Special orders need to be placed by 7am Monday. Your order will be available by Friday. You may contact me at angierobenstein@stthomasschool.net, to arrange for card orders and pick-ups. I will be working in the school office until December 18th.

Thank you for caring and supporting your school, Anaie Robenstein



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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

form.	
Last Name	
First Name(s)	
Email	
Phone	
Address	
City	ZIP
Phone	

Change of address/phone

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.



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 Dec. 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 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 are also 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: peanut butter, pasta, pasta sauce, meal helper, mac & cheese, canned fruit, & boxed side dishes



St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: 677-7696

New Parishioner

View Our Parish Sup
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish • 309-688-3446
904 East Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights, IL 61616
stthomaspeoria.org
parishoffice@stthomas-church.net
Pastor
Parochial VicarRev. Paul Stark S.J(x4)
paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net
SacristanMother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB(688-3500) fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com
Deacon Dcn. Mark Kelsch (692-4908) Dcn. John Nelson (981-2716) Dcn. Ed Mallow (360-7735)
School Principal Maureen Bentley(x1210) maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

2	orters at www.discoverMass.com		
	Administrative AssistantTerri Moon(x0)		
	terrimoon@stthomas-church.net		
	Bulletin Editor Peggy Sullivan(x1301)		
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	AccountantJulie Streid(x1340)		
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	CCD CoordinatorAngie Robenstein(x1200)		
	angierobenstein@stthomas-school.net		
	Music Coordinator		
	Choir Director Erin Craig		
	erincraig@stthomas-school.net		
	Annulment ConsultantJohn Mackoway(699-5213)		
	La Carla carla Davilla Para La Carrara al Para		

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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