

**The next day
John was there
again with two of
his disciples, and
as he watched
Jesus walk by, he
said, “Behold,
the Lamb of
God.”**

John 1:35-36

January 17, 2021

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



2
**ORDINARY
TIME**

From Our Pastor



We return to Ordinary Time following the celebrations of the Christmas Season. However, next Sunday, we have a special celebration introduced by Pope Francis a year ago. The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is also now known as Word of God Sunday.

You might remember several years ago that St. John Paul II named the Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday in response to the devotion to Divine Mercy and St. Faustina Kowalska.

Word of God Sunday is a time to reflect principally on the gift that we have been given of the Scriptures by which we come to know Jesus. As St. Jerome famously said, *Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ*. This celebration continues the call from the Second Vatican Council to incorporate more Scripture into the life of the Church.

I find sometimes that people are hesitant to make use of the Bible because there is much that may seem difficult to understand.

However, the Word of God is given to each of us and we should never be afraid to dive into the Scriptures more deeply. The riches in the Scriptures are inexhaustible, and even the greatest scholars can discover new insights even after many years of study. None of us should be afraid to open our Bibles to learn more of the wisdom of the Lord.

When Pope Francis established this celebration, he referred to the disciples on the road to Emmaus whose minds Jesus opened to the understanding of the Scriptures (Lk 24: 27, 32). The Homily is a central moment of importance in the Mass, since it is the moment for the Scriptures to be opened for the faithful and applied to each of our lives of faith.

The Word of God has been written down so that we may believe (Jn 20:31). It is by the assistance of the Holy Spirit that we come to recognize and believe the wisdom of God present in the Scriptures. Let us ask the Blessed Mother to help us know her Son better by reflecting on the Scriptures, since she is the one who pondered all these things, reflecting on them in her heart (Lk 2:19).

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of January 17, 2021

Sunday	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Samuel 3: 3b-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20; John 1: 35-42
Monday	Hebrews 5: 1-10; Mark 2: 18-22
Tuesday	Hebrews 6: 10-20; Mark 2: 23-28
Wednesday	St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr Hebrews 7: 1-3, 15-17; Mark 3: 1-6
Thursday	St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr Hebrews 7: 25—8: 6; Mark 3: 7-12
Friday	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children Hebrews 8: 6-13; Mark 3: 13-19
Saturday	St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr Hebrews 9: 2-3, 11-14; Mark 3: 20-21
Sunday	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Jonah 3: 1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31; Mark 1: 14-20

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 18, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Jeanette Holland/Ann & Kevin Morrissey
8:00 a.m.	Deceased Members of the Catholic Women's League

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Delores Oppe/Shirley Oppe
8:00 a.m.	Elizabeth Lehnhausen/The Mike Phelan Family

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Dr. James N. Kenny, Sr./Family
8:00 a.m.	Intentions of Justin Butler/Ed & Cathy Mallow

Thursday, January 21, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Joseph Nham Vu/Matt & Beth Salmon
8:00 a.m.	Augusta Gamperl/Family
9:15 a.m.	Bette Grimm/Matt & Susan Clark

Friday, January 22, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Thomas S. Farragher/Frances Farragher
8:00 a.m.	Intentions of Carnelle Maryse Caracena/Carlo

Saturday, January 23, 2021

8:00 a.m.	Living & Deceased Members of Noe & Eisele Families
5:00 p.m.	Leo Meixner & The Meixner Family/Cari Connolly

Sunday, January 24, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Ric & Joe Olson/Phan & Tami Vu
9:00 a.m.	Marita Merkle/Mike & Theresa Haughney
11:00 a.m.	James A. Geraghty, Sr./James Snyder
5:00 p.m.	For the People

Week of January 17

PARISH OFFICE & SCHOOL CLOSED Monday, January 18

FOOD PANTRY CLOSED Monday, January 18

CENTERING PRAYER Monday, January 18, 8:30 a.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, January 19, 10:00 a.m., Church

CCD Wednesday, January 20, 6:00 p.m., School

RCIA Wednesday, January 20, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

THAT MAN IS YOU Thursday, January 21, 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR Thursday, January 21, 7:00 p.m., Church



PARISH HOLY HOUR

Thursday, January 21
7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.



Pray with the Pope

January 2021
Intention for evangelization - Human fraternity

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.



If you don't behave as you believe, you will end by believing as you behave.

— Fulton J. Sheen

Weekly Collection

	January 10, 2021	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$560,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$25,597.....	\$445,327
Electronic Collections	\$3,399.....	\$95,172
Total Collected.....	\$28,996.....	\$540,499
Over/(Short)	\$8,996.....	\$(19,501)

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

Dr. Bill Marshall

Rena Dixon, mother of Patti Heimann

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.

RCIA Topics

Jan. 20: Moral Life, Virtues, Sin, Moral Society
Jan. 27: Prayer, Universal Call to Holiness
Feb. 3: Our Father, Hail Mary, other prayers, Prepare for Lent
Feb. 10: Moral law, Grace
Feb. 17: Ash Wednesday ~ NO CLASS
Feb. 24: Ten & Great Commandments, #1-3; Divine/Natural Law

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).

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Parishioner

St. Agnes

Agnes of Rome (c. 291 – c. 304) is a virgin martyr, venerated as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church, the Anglican Communion, and Lutheranism. Her family was wealthy so her hand in marriage was highly sought. She, however, refused all comers because she had made a promise to God to never stain her purity. The rebuked young men became so angry they submitted her name to the authorities as a Christian follower.



When she refused the son of the Governor she was put in chains, but still she refused and her face shone with joy. She was next sent to a place of sin, but an Angel protected her. Agnes was then sent to her death. Before that it is said she was to be dragged through the streets naked, but her hair grew instantly to cover her entire body and when men tried to rape her they were immediately struck blind.

St. Agnes, whose feast we celebrate this week, Thursday, January 21, is the patron saint of those seeking chastity and purity. She is also the patron saint of engaged couples, gardeners, Girl Scouts, victims of sexual assault, and of young girls. St. Agnes is one of several virgin martyrs commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass.

Prayer to Saint Agnes

St. Agnes, although you were only a child, you believed that Jesus was always with you; help us to remember that he is also with us, and to remain true to his presence.

St. Agnes, you refused to give up your faith; help us to be proud of our faith, to love it, to be strong in it, and to give witness to it daily.

St. Agnes, patron saint of children, watch over the children of the world; keep them safe from harm; be with them in their hour of need; and always pray for them.

From: https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=106
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agnes_of_Rome
<http://www.catholic-saints.info/catholic-prayers/prayer-to-saint-agnes.htm>



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CLASS OF 2025

VIRTUAL ENROLLMENT WORKSHOP

January 26, 2021 - 6:30 P.M

Check pndhs.org for the meeting link

Enrollment Process Overview
Tuition and Financial Assistance Overview
Curriculum and Course Placement Overview
Q & A

WE'RE #PROUDTOBEPND!

Food Pantry Closed

Monday, January 18,
in observance of
Martin Luther King
Day.

Pantry will be open
regular hours
Thursday, Jan. 21



Beautiful while it lasted.



Peoria Heights High School Blood Drive

Country Club of Peoria

Lakeside Room
4700 Grandview Dr
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

**Friday, January 22, 2021
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

For an appointment call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or find the drive on the App.

Students need to bring a driver's license or 2 forms of other ID with proof of age.

Eat a healthy meal and drink an extra 16 oz. of water and fluids before donation. You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass for more information.

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 _____

St. Mary of Lourdes

Men's Club
Homemade Sausage Sale



Bulk or Link Sausage
\$3.00 per pound



**Last day to order is
Sunday, February 7**

To order, contact Bill Kessling at 309-645-7795

Curbside pickup ONLY on Sunday, February 14 from 7 am-Noon at the lower entrance of the Parish Hall

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER UNTIL OCTOBER 2021

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: Cereal, Crackers,
Canned Fruit, Meal Helper, Pancake Mix, &
Syrup

Thank you 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		
Pastor Msgr. Jason A. Gray (x3) msggray@stthomas-church.net			Bulletin EditorPeggy Sullivan.....(x1301) peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net		
Parochial Vicar Rev. Paul Stark S.J..... (x4) paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net			Accountant Julie Streid(x1340) juliestreid@stthomas-church.net		
SacristanMother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB.....(688-3500) fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com			Tuition CoordinatorPat Wombacher(x1341) patwombacher@stthomas-school.net		
Deacon Dcn. Mark Kelsch (692-4908) Dcn. John Nelson (981-2716) Dcn. Ed Mallow (360-7735)			CCD CoordinatorAngie Robenstein.....(x1200) angierobenstein@stthomas-school.net		
School Principal Maureen Bentley (x1210) maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net			Music Coordinator Ann Horst..... (682-5507)		
Sacrament of Baptism Parents participate in a Baptism class before the Baptism of their first child. Contact the Parish Office to schedule the class.			Choir Director Erin Craig erincraig@stthomas-school.net		
Confessions Saturday 4:00-4:45pm & 6:00-6:30 p.m.			Annulment ConsultantJohn Mackoway (699-5213)		
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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