Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. Mark 1:17-18

January 24, 2021

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





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We can all be grateful for the progress that has been made in protecting everyone's health. I am happy to learn that many of you have already received the first dose of the vaccine or will be able to do so soon. I am thankful that we have seen a decrease in the positivity rate in our region and that we are able to resume some of our former practices. I look forward to increasingly returning to our new normal.

Ash Wednesday is coming in the third week of February, and the Holy See has made some modifications to assist with the distribution of ashes under our current precautions.

The custom in the United States has been for the cleric or extraordinary minister to apply ashes to the forehead in the sign of a cross. However, in Italy, they commonly have used the practice of sprinkling ashes on the top of the head. This practice of placing ashes on the top of the head, rather than on the forehead, is traditionally in line with the Old Testament references (see 2 Samuel 13:19, Judith 4:11, 1 Macc 3:47, Ezekiel 27:30).

This year, the Holy See has authorized the custom of sprinkling of ashes on the top of the head throughout the Church in order to provide for less contact when distributing ashes. This practice will also be consistent with the New Testament command: "When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting... When you fast, anoint your head and wash your face" (Mt. 6:16-17).

Although Lent is a few weeks away, please be aware of this upcoming change as we look ahead to the celebration of Ash Wednesday.

-Msgr. Gray



Never forget that there are only two philosophies to rule your life: the one of the Cross, which starts with the fast and ends with the feast. The other of Satan, which starts with the feast and ends with the headache.

Venerable Fulton Sheen



Readings for the Week of January 24, 2021

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Sunday	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Jonah 3: 1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31; Mark 1: 14-20
Monday	The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle Acts 22: 3-16; Mark 16: 15-18
Tuesday	Sts. Timothy & Titus, Bishops 2 Timothy 1: 1-8; Mark 3: 31-35
Wednesday	St. Angela Merici, Virgin Hebrews 10: 11-18; Mark 4: 1-20
Thursday	St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church Hebrews 10: 19-25; Mark 4: 21-25
Friday	Hebrews 10: 32-39; Mark 4: 26-34
Saturday	Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19; Mark 4: 35-41
Sunday	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Deuteronomy 18: 15-20; 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35; Mark 1: 21-28

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 25, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Bill Brewster/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley
8:00 a.m.	Jerry McDonough/Don & Ruth Stahl

Tuesday, January 26 2021

7:00 a.m.	Jeannette Holland/Catholic Women's League
8:00 a.m.	Norman Stahl/Jim & Nancy Becker

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Tom Burek/Steve & Linda Schrader
8:00 a.m.	Nancy Gordon/Jeanne Whalen

Thursday, January 28, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Intentions of Lucy Demowski/Mike & Tracy Seyfert
8:00 a.m.	Intentions of James Zucksworth/Ed & Cathy Mallow
9:15 a.m.	Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB

Friday, January 29, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Jerry Callahan/John Callahan
8:00 a.m.	Len Kuchan/Joe & Judy Naumann

Saturday, January 30, 2021

8:00 a.m.	Herman Riekert/Jim & Nancy Becker
5:00 p.m.	John, Tony, & Bill VanAusdall/Judy Bell

Sunday, January 31, 2021

7:00 a.m.	For the People
9:00 a.m.	Mike Barra/St. Vincent de Paul Society
11:00 a.m.	Rose Maloney/Mike & Theresa Haughney
5:00 p.m.	Angela Broida

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

Week of January 24

CENTERING PRAYER Monday, January 25, 8:30 a.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, January 26, 10:00 a.m., Church

CCD Wednesday, January 27, 6:00 p.m., School

RCIA Wednesday, January 27, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

THAT MAN IS YOU Thursday, January 28, 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adoration Ash Wednesday February 5 February 17



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.



There are ultimately only two possible adjustments to life; one is to suit our lives to principles; the other is to suit principles to our lives. If we do not live as we think, we soon begin to think as we live. The method of adjusting moral principles to the way men live is just a perversion of the order of things.

– Fulton J. Sheen

Weekly Collection

	January 17, 2021	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$580,000
Sunday Collections	\$22,517	\$467,844
	\$3,399	
	\$25,916	
	\$5,916	1 .

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

Please pray for those who have died this week

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. 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

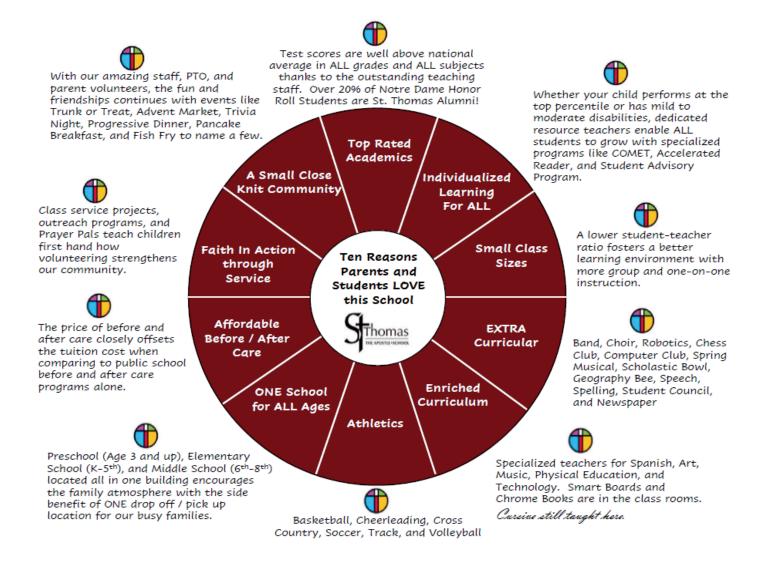
Stay in Touch

- 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).
- Download My Parish App to receive push notifications (Visit myparishapp.com/ download).
- Receive the Bulletin and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email parishoffice@stthomaschurch.net to sign up).
- 5. Bookmark the parish webpage (stthomaspeoria.org).





CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021 January 31 - February 6 #CSW21



St. Thomas the Apostle Church

Tuition Assistance Scholarship Grants Now Available

Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the Diocese of Peoria Rooted in Faith Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2021-2022 school year students enrolled in, or intending to enroll, in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are active members of a Catholic Parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need obiectively assessed.

Information about the grants, and application materials, may be obtained from any Catholic elementary or secondary school in the Diocese of Peoria, or on the Diocesan website www.cdop.org under Catholic Education and then under Financial Assistance. Consult the detailed protocols and procedures and checklist for all requirements necessary to be eligible for an award.

online Parents must apply at. online.factsmgt.com/aid. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for the 2021-2022 school year must reapply.

Completing the FACTS application also makes you eligible to receive financial assistance from our St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Fund.

Deadline date for the completed application is April 30, 2021. Notification of grant awards will be made by the end of June 2021.

If you need assistance in completing the FACTS application please contact Pat in the Parish Office at 309-688-3446, ext. 1341.



Word of God Sunday January 24

God's Word is "living and effective" because we welcome it, in the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd ed.), not as a human word, but as what it really is, the word of God ([Washington, DC: Libreria Editrice Vaticana-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2000], no. 104, quoting 1 Thes 2:13).

Begin to break open God's Word in your home by dedicating some family time each week for a brief reading of a Scripture passage, perhaps the Sunday Gospel. Given the hectic and stressed pace of life and our typically overworked schedules, making family time for the Bible reminds us of the need to put God first. Gathering around the table of God's Word enriches and strengthens the experience of family as a domestic Church.



PEORIA NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL RENOTHE

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!

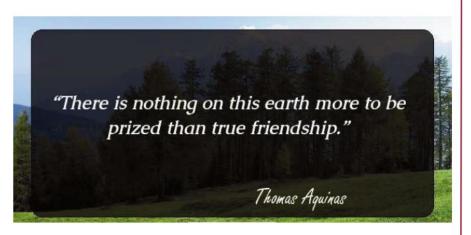
Holy Hour for the Rights of The Unborn

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

The first Monday, February 1, 7:00 P.M.,

Face masks and social distancing are requested.

The Holy Hour consists of Benediction, the Rosary, and other prayers. Please join us in praying to God for the protection of these innocent lives and the restoration of their Constitutional rights. Please remember that to have a right to do something is not the same as being right in doing it.



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.





St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: 677-7696

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

View Out Parish Supporters at www.DiscoverMass.com					
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish • 309-688-3446			Administrative Assistan	nt Terri Moon	(x0)
904 East Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights, IL 61616		terrimoon@stthomas-church.net			
stthomaspeoria.c	0		Bulletin Editor	Peggy Sullivan	(x1301)
parishoffice@stthomas-church.net		pec	agysullivan@stthomas-church.net		
Pastor		Accountant		(x1340)	
msgrgray@stthomas-ch		6.4	ju	uliestreid@stthomas-church.net	· · · ·
Parochial Vicar Rev. Paul Stark S.J		Tuition Coordinator	Pat Wombacher	(x1341)	
paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net			wombacher@stthomas-school.net	()	
Sacristan		02		(x1200)	
<u>fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com</u>				ierobenstein@stthomas-school.net	()
Deacon				Ann Horst	(682-5507)
Dcn. John Nelson		/16) 725)	Choir Director		
		<i>`</i>		erincraig@stthomas-school.net	
School Principal Maureen Bentley				John Mackoway	(699-5213)
				1	
Sacrament of Baptism	Confessions		to Submit Bulletin Inform		
Parents participate in a Baptism class Saturday Send information for the bulletin to parishoffice@stth					
before the Baptism of their first child.		4:00-4:45pm & subject Bulletin. Submissions are due by Friday noon, one full week prior. Sen			
Contact the Parish Office to				y be edited for	
schedule the class. content and length.					



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