



### **From Our Pastor**

Today we begin Catholic Schools' Week.

In particular, we can all be proud of the excellent job that our own St. Thomas School does in providing a Catholic education to our children. It is evident from our test scores, but also from the atmosphere in our school building and among our students that we have a great school that we can all be proud of.

This is true in no small part due to the generous support of our parish. So many of you support our school directly and provide valuable tuition assistance to our families that are in financial need. Many of you also support our school activities and fundraisers, including Comet Cash. Thank you for your support and your prayers.

We will begin a new round of Financial Peace University for those who would like to learn the skills to manage money more effectively. Sometimes it takes a crisis to realize where we make mistakes or poor decisions. Our experience with Corona may be an encouragement to take advantage of this opportunity to improve the financial management of our households. We will have a limited number of scholarships at a reduced price for those who are interested.

Let us be grateful for grace and favor we know in the Lord. We have all been through a difficult year and, with God's blessings, we appear to be returning more and more to normal. Let us not take our faith for granted or the blessings that we have in being a part of our St. Thomas Parish family.

-Msgr. Gray



Criticism of others is thus an oblique form of self-commendation. We think we make the picture hang straight on our wall by telling our neighbors that all his pictures are crooked.

~ Fulton J. Sheen,

<u>Seven Words of Jesus and Mary: Lessons from</u> Cana and Calvary

### Readings for the Week of January 31, 2021

Sunday Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20; 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35;

Mark 1: 21-28

**Monday** Hebrews 11: 32-40; Mark 5: 1-20

Tuesday The Presentation of the Lord

Malachi 3: 1-4; Hebrews 2: 14-18; Luke 2: 22-40

Wednesday St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr

Hebrews 12: 4-7, 11-15; Mark 6: 1-6

**Thursday** Hebrews 12: 18-19, 21-24; Mark 6: 7-13

Friday St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

Hebrews 13: 1-8; Mark 6: 14-29

Saturday St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

Hebrews 13: 15-17, 20-21; Mark 6: 30-34

Sunday Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 7: 1-4, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23; Mark 1: 29-39

### **Mass Intentions**

Monday, February 1, 2021

7:00 a.m. Adeline Snyder/Allen 8:00 a.m. St. Brigid/LAOH

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

7:00 a.m. Amal Khoury/Jim & Mary Clare Geraghty

8:00 a.m. Harry LaHood, Sr./Family

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

7:00 a.m. Helene Flanigon/Lori Flores 8:00 a.m. Lois Streid/Bob & Clona Lause

Thursday, February 4, 2021

7:00 a.m. Mary Schlink/Ruhaak Family 8:00 a.m. Sue Gavin/Ed & Cathy Mallow 9:15 a.m. Raymundo Aguila/Juanita Corrales

Friday, February 5, 2021

7:00 a.m. Tom Burek/Mark & Anne Lucas

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

Saturday, February 6, 2021

8:00 a.m. Dr. Bill Marshall/Linda Osika

5:00 p.m. Bill, Tony, & John Van Ausdall/Judy Bell

Sunday, February 7, 2021

7:00 a.m. Hylee Kemp/Darrell & Mary Gualandri

9:00 a.m. Tom Burek/Tim & Julie Streid
11:00 a.m. Bette Grimm/Matt & Beth Salmon

5:00 p.m. For the People

### Week of January 31

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK** Virtual Open House

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION SIGN-UP in the Narthex

CENTERING PRAYER Monday, February 1, 8:30 a.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, February 2, 10:00 a.m., Church

CCD Wednesday, February 3, 6:00 p.m., School

RCIA Wednesday, February 3, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

THAT MAN IS YOU Thursday, February 4, 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**ADORATION** Friday, February 5, after 8:00 Mass until Benediction at 8:00 p.m.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Donut Sunday February 7
Ash Wednesday February 17

### **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.



### 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.

### Weekly Collection

	January 24, 2021	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$600,000
Sunday Collections	\$21,564	\$489,408
Electronic Collections	\$3,399	\$101,970
Total Collected	\$24,963	\$591,378
Over/(Short)	\$4,963	\$(8,622)

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

### **RCIA Topics**

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

March 3: Commandments 4, 5, 7, 8 March 10: Commandments 6, 9, 10

March 17: Precepts of the Church, Examination

of Conscience, Preparation for Confession

March 24: Review

March 31: Penance Service, Practice

### Stay in Touch

- 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).
- 5. Bookmark the parish webpage (stthomaspeoria.org).

Sponsor of the Week





# CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021

January 31-February 6 #CSW21

## Join us for a Virtual Open House!

Check out St. Thomas Catholic School "IN ACTION" by visiting http://school.stthomaspeoria.org
CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE A PRIVATE TOUR
See and hear ALL that St. Thomas has to offer!

CALL: **309-685-2533** 

### PRE3—8th GRADE

Now accepting Preschool/Kindergarten and New Student Applications
Contact Cheryl Reese at office@stthomas-school.net or visit our website http://school.stthomaspeoria.org

### Pre-K & Kindergarten

There is arguably no more important time in your child's education than the pre-k and kindergarten years. It's a special time for every child where they meet new friends, while developing academically and emotionally. At St. Thomas, we know just how special the early years of a child's education can be and we've created a nurturing and enriched environment designed to start your child off on the right educational path.

### Religion

Our Catholic faith is at the foundation of all that we do. Christian values are woven into daily school life, with religious instruction as a regular part of the curriculum and the ongoing development of your child's faith at the forefront of our teaching. We foster an environment where our child's faith comes to life.

#### Activities

We know that learning happens in many ways and that skills developed outside of the classroom are just as important as those developed within. We offer a wealth of extracurricular activities to help your child reach his or her fullest potential. From robotics to basketball, students are able to develop their social, physical and mental skills through peer interaction.

### **Academics**

Our students are well prepared to move on to the next grade level and we have the test scores to prove it. Our students in every grade consistently score well above the national averages on standardized tests.

They perform well because of a combination of an enriched curriculum, outstanding teachers and personalized attention to student learning.



We Teach Truth, Build Character and Inspire Service. Remember at our school everyone matters and counts.

# Community Fun. Friendly. Nurturing.

These are words students and families alike use to describe the atmosphere and spirit of St. Thomas School. Our sense of community is prevalent in everything we do, and is truly one of the distinguishing aspects of your child's learning environment.

# 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 objectively 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 <a href="www.cdop.org">www.cdop.org</a> under <a href="Catholic Education">Catholic Education</a> and then under <a href="Financial Assistance">Financial Assistance</a>. Consult the detailed protocols and procedures and checklist for all requirements necessary to be eligible for an award.

Parents must apply online 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.

### Friday Fish Returns

Knights of Columbus Spaulding Council #427

7403 N. Radnor Rd.

Fish and Chicken Dinners Resume Friday, Feb 5, 2021

Serving 5:00 pm—7:00 pm

Dine-In and Carry-Out



### **Respect Life**

Abortion and racism are both symptoms of a fundamental human error. The error is thinking that when someone stands in the way of our wants, we can justify getting that person out of our lives. Abortion and racism stem from the same poisonous root, selfishness.

~Alveda King

From: www.Pro-LifeArticles.org

Please join Cursillo for our first Rekindle Virtual Community Ultreya in 2021 "Let's Group, Pray and Share Together" on Saturday, Feb. 6; 7:00 – 8:30pm



Join us for a chance to pray and share!

Liturgy of the Word Service,
Spiritual Message from Dcn. Rick Miller,
Mini-Group Reunions, Breakout Rooms
and Social Time



Please signup via signup.com at: https://signup.com/go/epxPyCo

A Zoom link will be sent out a few days before the session.

You can contact the Cursillo Office at 309/676-5587; cursillopeoria@gmail.com

A free will offering can be sent to the Cursillo Office, or via our website at peoriacursillo.org/donations, for all Cursillo events

### Holy Hour for the Rights of The Unborn

Saint Mark Catholic 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 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.

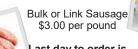
### **Parish Registration**

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.

New Parishioner	Change of address/phone
Phone	
City	ZIP
Address	
Phone	
Email	
First Name(s)	
Last Name	

### St. Mary of Lourdes

Men's Club Homemade Sausage Sale



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

### The Catholic Women's League Rosary Prayer

Monday, February 15th, 9:00 am

Holy Family Church 3720 N. Sterling Ave Peoria, IL 61615



### **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

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		
<b>Sacristan</b> Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB(688-3500) <u>fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com</u>		
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		

porters at www.biscovenilass.com			
Administrative AssistantTerri Moon	(x0)		
terrimoon@stthomas-church.net			
Bulletin EditorPeggy Sullivan	(x1301)		
peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net			
AccountantJulie Streid	x1340)		
juliestreid@stthomas-church.net			
Tuition CoordinatorPat Wombacher	x1341)		
patwombacher@stthomas-school.net			
CCD CoordinatorAngie Robenstein	x1200)		
angierobenstein@stthomas-school.net			
Music Coordinator Ann Horst	2-5507)		
Choir Director Erin Craig			
erincraig@stthomas-school.net			
Annulment ConsultantJohn Mackoway(699	7-5213)		

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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