

February 7, 2021

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



5 DRDINARY TIME



From Our Pastor

We can be grateful that our State continues to make progress with Corona allowing some restrictions to relax. This allows us to have a Donut Sunday this weekend, the last opportunity we will have before Lent begins. The tables in the Parish Hall are spread out, but please join us as we share some fellowship after Sunday morning Masses.

We have been blessed to have 19 people express interest in becoming Catholic by taking part in our RCIA program this year. This is an increase over previous years and is a very encouraging sign.

Our candidates in RCIA will reach an important stage in their journey after Lent begins. They will be invited to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election which indicates that they are approaching their moment to enter the Church. Those who are not baptized will receive baptism and those who are baptized Christians will make their profession of faith in the Catholic Church. Then new Catholics will receive the sacrament of Confirmation and finally their first Holy Communion. Please remember them in your prayers as they continue their preparations.

Our RCIA classes are recorded and anyone is welcome to attend or view the videos that we have posted.

Sometimes it happens that someone who was brought up Catholic may have missed one or more of these sacraments for specific reasons as they were raised. Regardless of the circumstance, if you have not made your first Confession or first Holy Communion, or received the sacrament of Confirmation, it is not too late. Please ask, and we will help you prepare for these important sacraments that are part of our Christian initiation.

-Msgr. Gray



Books are the most wonderful friends in the world. When you meet them and pick them up, they are always ready to give you a few ideas. When you put them down, they never get mad; when you take them up again, they

seem to enrich you all the more.

Fulton J. Sheen, Life is Worth Living



Readings for the Week of February 7, 2021

Sunday Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monday St. Jerome Emiliani

Genesis 1: 1-19; Mark 6: 53-56

Tuesday Genesis 1: 20—2:4a; Mark 7: 1-13

Wednesday St. Scholastica, Virgin

Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-17; Mark 7; 14-23

Thursday Our Lady of Lourdes

Genesis 2: 18-25; Mark 7: 24-30

Friday Genesis 3: 1-8; Mark 7: 31-37

Saturday Genesis 3: 9-24; Mark 8: 1-10

Sunday Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10: 31—11:1;

Mark 1: 40-45

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 8, 2021

7:00 a.m. Jack & Frances McGinn/Mary Eaton

8:00 a.m. All Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

7:00 a.m. Elizabeth Lehnhausen/Mike Phelan Family

8:00 a.m. Jan Hannagan/Jeanne Whalen

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

7:00 a.m. James A. Geraghty, Sr./James Snyder 8:00 a.m. Mary Tesar/Sheldon & Mary Ann Schafer

Thursday, February 11, 2021

7:00 a.m. Deceased Members Farraher/Shane Families/Frances

Farraher

8:00 a.m. Intentions of Sandra Tucubal/Ed & Cathy Mallow

9:15 a.m. Bette Grimm/Mary Kay Kemp

Friday, February 12, 2021

7:00 a.m. Ric & Joe Olson/Leslie, Jack, & Joe Ruff

8:00 a.m. Krystle Camp/Mary Camp

Saturday, February 13, 2021

8:00 a.m. Mary Helen Runkle/The Runkle Family

5:00 p.m. Ed Dotta/Mary Matheny

Sunday, February 14, 2021

7:00 a.m. Jerry Callahan/John Callahan 9:00 a.m. Marcie Meixner/Cari Connolly

11:00 a.m. Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of February 7

COFFEE & DONUTS after morning Masses, Parish Hall

ST VINCENT DE PAUL AND FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

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

ROSARY Tuesday, February 9, 10:00 a.m., Church

CCD Wednesday, February 10, 6:00 p.m., School

RCIA Wednesday, February 10, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

THAT MAN IS YOU Thursday, February 11, 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

February 2021 Violence Against Women

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

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

Nancy Marshall

Fredrick Allen

RCIA Topics

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

Sponsor of the Week Prairie Home alliance





To the clergy, Religious, and Laity of the Diocese of Peoria,

When we finally emerge from this time of contagion it is my hope that our diocese comes out like roaring lions - renewed and ready in new ways to win central Illinois and indeed the whole world for Jesus Christ and His Holy Catholic Church.

It will be an exciting time. The Holy Spirit and the People of God will be active. And our excellent diocesan newspaper, **The Catholic Post**, is ready to share the stories and images of this year of renewal via all kinds of media.

Like so many individuals and ministries in our diocese, **The Catholic Post** rose to the challenges of 2020. Its staff, often working from home, kept us informed, inspired, and united during a year marked by separation, isolation, and loss. I am particularly pleased with the extensive coverage introducing our new Coadjutor Bishop Louis Tilka.

The Catholic Post is launching its 2021 *Delivering Unity Campaign* with a very appropriate theme of *RENEW: Hope, Faith, Unity*. I strongly urge your support and readership. This campaign funds both print and digital outreaches to share The Catholic Post's essential information as widely and rapidly as possible. Details about how to subscribe are printed below.

Thank you for choosing to be an informed Catholic with your family for faith across our great diocese. With prayers for your health and for your own personal renewal in 2021. I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

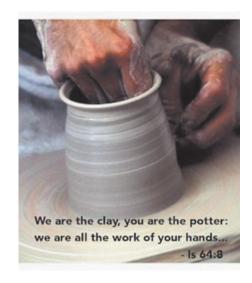
Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C. Bishop of Peoria

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO AND SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC POST:

The subscription price is \$30, but larger gifts in support of the mission are welcome. Subscribe online at the catholic post.com; call 309-671-1550; or send a check made out to **The Catholic Post** to P.O. Box 1722, Peoria, IL 61656. More information, including an envelope will appear in the Feb. 14 issue of the newspaper.



Pray wherever you are.





When you go the poor, you encounter Jesus

The members of St. Vincent de Paul have been Covid busy. Because of added federal programs to help people in poverty, SVdP has experienced a temporary slowdown in numbers of people seeking assistance.

But we are kept busy . . .

helping those who fall through the cracks, and those who have never asked for help before;

helping people navigate their way to often overworked social service agencies;

helping people learn about funds available for emergency rental assistance (where to go online to find application procedures, to learn about eviction protection, etc.).

Our referrals have begun to increase since the start of 2021 and we expect this trend to continue.

Our members try hard to help people in financial crisis find the government assistance for which they are eligible. We also help with your financial hand up to them.

Thank you for sharing your material blessings with others in need.

Perhaps you have thought you might want to join us. If so, please call the parish office.

If you are able to donate, please always check with your employer, whether you are working or retired, for any available matching funds. Caterpillar and other companies now provide this opportunity.

Thank you! Tom & Mary Kay Pilat

Tuition Assistance Scholarship Grants Now Available

To be considered for tuition assistance 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 makes you eligible to receive financial assistance from our St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Fund and the Lancaster Spalding Endowment 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.

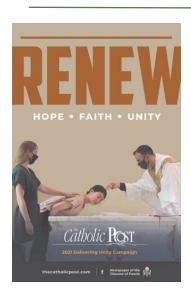
Illinois State Tax Scholarship Credit News

The opportunity to support students at St. Thomas School is again available in 2021 through the State of Illinois' *Invest in Kids Act*. Illinois taxpayers can receive a state income tax credit of 75% of their total donation. Donations can be made throughout the year and will be awarded to our students on the *Empower Illinois* waiting list who are eligible to receive a *State Tax Credit Scholarship*. Last year we received donations to support 25 of our students through this program. We are hoping to be able to help even more students during the upcoming school year.

We have recently learned that Caterpillar will match donations made through the *Invest in Kids Act*. This is a great way to maximize your donation.

If you are interested in learning about the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship program, please contact Pat or Julie in the Parish Office at 309-688-3446.

We are so grateful for all the ways that our parishioners support \$t. Thomas.



We strongly encourage support and readership of our diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Post.

We hope all members of our parish will use this valuable resource for Catholic living and unity in our diocese, especially during this challenging time.

Follow *The Catholic Post* on Facebook to get breaking news first, and to share stories and images of faith with your friends and family.

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

The fight for the right to life is not the cause of a special few, but the cause of every man, woman and child who cares not only about his or her own family, but the whole family of man.

~ Dr. Mildred Jefferson

From: www.Pro-LifeArticles.org

Marriage Mass

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky and Bishop Louis Tylka invite all married couples to celebrate the gift of Christian Marriage.

Feb. 13, 2021, 3:30 p.m. concert 4:00 p.m. Mass and renewal of wedding vows

To register for the Mass go to: marriagemasspeoria.eventbrite.com

The Catholic Women's League Rosary Prayer

Monday, February 15th, 9:00 am

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

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.

Position Opening

Make a difference! Women's Care Center Peoria, a pro-life pregnancy center, is seeking compassionate individuals for a position as a nurse and/or sonographer. Must believe in our mission. Part-time. Training will be provided.

Please email resume and cover letter to Connie McClure, Director: wccconnie13@gmail.com or send to: 7319 N. University Street, Peoria, IL 61614

Parish Registration

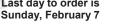
Complete this form and drop it in the collection basket, **or** mail to the Parish Office **or** Register on our website at stthomaspeoria.org. Under About open the New Parishioner Registration, complete and submit the form.

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

St. Mary of Lourdes

Men's Club Homemade Sausage Sale





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

Seasons of Hope Bereavement Group

Seasons of Hope is a grief and faith sharing group with a process centered on God and grounded in the healing wisdom, traditions, and practices of our Church is meeting

6 Wednesdays, beginning February 17th, and ending March 24th.

The meetings are via Zoom. Prayer, scripture, faith sharing, and fellowship begin at 10:00 a.m.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact: Lorraine Kim, MSW, Catholic Charities Good Samaritan Program, 217-721-3489 (call or text), or Lorraine.kim@ccdop.org.

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

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paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net		
Sacristan 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		

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CCD Coordinator		
angierobenstein@stthomas-school.net		
Music Coordinator		
Choir Director	Erin Craig	
erincraig@stthomas-school.net		
Annulment Consultant		

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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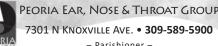
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