

February 14, 2021

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



6 ORDINARY TIME We will begin Lent this week with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. For those who are able to join us for Mass and the distribution of ashes, please see our Ash Wednesday schedule: 7, 8, and 9:15 AM, as well as 12:15 and 7 PM. Ashes will be distributed by sprinkling them on the top of the head, and not by touching the forehead. Please also note the rules for fasting and abstinence from meat during Lent.

We had a successful Catholic Schools Week and I would like to share some of the successes that we had both at St. Thomas School and Peoria Notre Dame. Since our precautions did not allow us to welcome you to a pancake breakfast at PND, or to tour STS in person, I am happy to share the videos that have been prepared for both schools.

PND has a video about the value of a Catholic High School education. Visit https://youtu.be/7YARWOkorTU or the school's homepage, pndhs.org. You may recognize our own parishioners, Abby Socha and Danny Ward, who are featured in this video. I think you will be impressed by the maturity and poise of our young adults.

Peoria Notre Dame has distinguished itself for a truly superior education in a safe environment. The video explains the rigorous curriculum and the modern technology integrated into their preparations for the future. The students give fantastic testimonials about their preparation to be leaders in our world and servants in our community. They study in an environment that reinforces a Christian attitude with good moral values. I encourage you to view this video.

STS has a video tour of our parish grade school that gives you a feel for the daily life of our grade school students. For those who cannot come in person for a tour, this video is a good way to learn about STS and what it offers your children and your family: https://youtu.be/9_GEfpck504

Even if you do not have young children at home, I think you will enjoy seeing how impressive our young people are as they guide you on this virtual tour. Every parishioner at St. Thomas can take pride in the excellence of our parochial school which is well represented by our students!

Thank you for your support of Catholic education through your contributions to St. Thomas, our scholarship programs, and the Illinois school tax credit program. For our school families, I encourage you to apply for aid according to your need through *Empower Illinois*, and through *FACTS* to benefit from the Diocesan Spalding Scholarships and our own parish Scholarship funds.

-Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of February 14, 2021

Sunday Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Mark 1: 40-45

Monday Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Mark: 8:11-13

Tuesday Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25

Friday after Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32

Sunday First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9: 8-15; 1 Peter 3: 18-22; Mark 1: 12-15

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 15, 2021

7:00 a.m. Joseph F. Bartley, Jr./Mike & Mary Lou Bartley

8:00 a.m. Frank Eaton/Linda Lee Hunter

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

7:00 a.m. Tom Burek/Mary Lou & Michael Bartley 8:00 a.m. Len Kuchan/Eileen McDonough

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

7:00 a.m. Tom Burek/Bob & Karen Metzinger

8:00 a.m. Cyril & Mary McNamara/Jeanne Whalen

9:15 a.m. Dr. Bill & Nancy Marshall

12:15 a.m. Joseph Daniel Arnold/Steve & Maggie Jackson

7:00 p.m. Alice Eaton

Thursday, February 18, 2021

7:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB 8:00 a.m. Allen Kelch/Ed Mallow 5:30 p.m. Mertle Shankwitz/Family

Friday, February 19, 2021

7:00 a.m. Bruce Freder/Amy & John Kelly

8:00 a.m. Margaret Waltman/Jim & Mary Clare Geraghty

5:30 p.m. Linda O'Leary/Marie Brien

Saturday, February 20, 2021

8:00 a.m. Ric & Joe Olson/John Szentes

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

Sunday, February 21, 2021

7:00 a.m. Bill & Luella Schierer/Family

9:00 a.m. Mary Thelma Knobeloch/Ann & Paul Horst

11:00 a.m. For the People 5:00 p.m. Mary Fricke/Family

Week of February 14

SCHOOL AND PARISH OFFICE CLOSED Monday, February 15

CENTERING PRAYER Monday, February 15, 8:30 a.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, February 16, 10:00 a.m., Church

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES 7:00, 8:00, 9:15 a.m., and 12:15, 7:00 p.m.

CCD Wednesday, February 17, 6:00 p.m., School

THAT MAN IS YOU Thursday, February 18, 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Financial Peace University March 2

Our Sympathy

Glen Morton

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m. School Mass

12:15 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. CCD Mass



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

	February 7, 2021	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$640,000
Sunday Collections	\$27,231	\$547,273
Electronic Collections	\$3,399	\$108,768
Total Collected	\$30,630	\$656,041
Over/(Short)	\$10,630	\$16,041

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.

RCIA Topics

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
- 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



Focusing on the health insurance needs of small businesses & individuals
Chase Bank Building • 411 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria IL 61602
www.HealthInsuranceExchangeCl.com 309-740-9850



Never worry about money again with Financial Peace University! It's the proven plan to help you master budgeting, beat debt, and live the life of your dreams. Through nine lessons rooted in biblical wisdom, you'll learn from Dave Ramsey and his team of financial experts.

Class starts Tuesday, March 2, 2021 in the St. Thomas Parish Hall.

We have a limited number of memberships at the discounted rate of only \$80. Call the Parish Office @ 309-688-3446 to register.



Lent 2021?

Ash Wednesday - February 17, 2021 Holy Triduum - April 1-3, 2021 Easter Sunday - April 4, 2021

Lent, a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It is a period of preparation to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

Prayer

For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy. -St. Therese of Lisieux (CCC 2558)

During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seek the Lord in prayer and reading Scripture, to service by giving alms, and to practice self-control through fasting. Dive into God's word in Scripture this Lent or pray the rosary with your family.







PRAYER

FASTING

ALMSGIVING

Please join our Peoria Cursillo Community... Invite a friend! "Lenten Reflections: Drawing Closer to God" Saturdays Feb. 20, 27, Mar. 6; 8:45-10:00am



Please join Sr. Subha Clare Ramesh who will lead this virtual Lenten program on Zoom.



Participants can signup on signup.com https://signup.com/go/arxOfWD

This is a large group event, so there is plenty of room for all! Guests are welcome!
A zoom link will be sent out the day before the first session.
You can contact the Cursillo Office at 309/676-5587;cursillopeoria@gmail.com

Lent 2021? ~ cont.

Fasting

Ash Wednesday and **Good Friday** are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

Members of the Eastern Catholic Churches are to observe the particular law of their own sui iuris Church.

If possible, the fast on **Good Friday** is continued until the **Easter Vigil** (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

Almsgiving

The foundational call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on "almsgiving," which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. As one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, almsgiving is a witness to fraternal charity and a work of justice pleasing to God. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2462).

More information is available from the United States Conference of Catholic bishops [USCCB] https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/lent

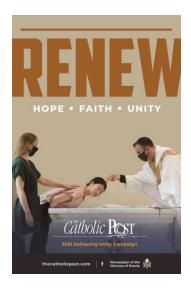


The Catholic Women's League Rosary Prayer

Monday, February 15th, 9:00 am

Holy Family Church 3720 N. Sterling Ave Peoria, IL 61615 Those who subscribe to our diocesan newspaper, **The Catholic Post**, have received materials to renew their subscription for another year. As Lent is about to begin, we encourage *all members* of our parish to receive and support this valuable resource for Catholic living and unity, especially during this challenging time.

Stay connected to your family of faith, especially in this time of pandemic, by subscribing instantly via credit or debit card online at **thecatholicpostcom**; by calling (309)671-1550 during business hours; or sending a check to The Catholic Post, PO Box 1722, Peoria, IL 61656. The subscription rate remains at \$30. Additional levels of support are invited.



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 St. Thomas.

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.

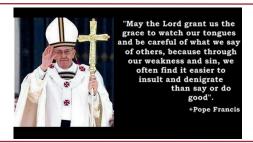
If you need assistance in completing the FACTS application please contact Pat in the Parish Office at 309-688-3446, ext. 1341.

Catholic Charities Thanks You

Last year, the **Catholic Charities Giving Tree Program** sent tree ornaments with specific items for parishioners to purchase. This year, we requested checks and gift cards, simply to minimize contact and adhere to strict COVID guidelines. mindful of closures and limited parishioner access. This is why we are especially grateful to members of St. Thomas for your willing participation in our Catholic Charities Giving Tree Program for 2020. Through your generosity, Catholic Charities raised a total of \$35,640 and was able to help 356 families.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly, calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father. 1 Thessalonians 1: 2-3

Sr. Michelle Fernandez, SCTJM
Director of Catholic Charities ~ Diocese of Peoria



Position Opening

Make a difference! **Women's Care Center Peoria**, a pro-life pregnancy center, seeks compassionate individuals for a nurse or sonographer part-time position. You must know and believe in our mission. 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.

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

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.

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

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		
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		

porters at www.biscoveriviass.com			
Administrative AssistantTerri Moon	(x0)		
<u>terrimoon@stthomas-church.net</u>			
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	(682-5507)		
Choir Director Erin Craig			
erincraig@stthomas-school.net			
Annulment ConsultantJohn Mackoway	(699-5213)		

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 length.





Academy of Screenprinting & Awards, Inc. **FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED Since 1977**

Embroidery • Awards

309-686-0026

Screenprinting • Signs

Mike Hallar, Parishioner • www.awardshirts.com • 1316 E. War Memorial Dr. Peoria, IL 61614



PDC Services, Inc. Peoria's Trash & Recycling Service Provider

674-5176 • pdcarea.com

Matt & Kris Coulter St. Philomena Parishioner.



ASPHALT CO. CARL KAUFMAN

EAST PEORIA 698-8404 www.tazwellcountyasphalt.com SPECIALIZING IN ASPHALT PAVING • ASPHALT SEALING



CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & CONSULTANTS 8726 N. Industrial Road • Peoria, IL 61615

Allison Buckardt - Parishioner FAX: 309.692.4159 gswcpa.com PHONE: 309.692.4030

DENTURES PAR EXCELLENCE

"Excellence in Removable Prosthodontics"

Richard P. June, DDS richardjunedds.com 309-693-7200

ACCOUNTING Joseph G Runkle CPA

Professional Income Tax Preparation & Accounting Services

309.691.4417 • www.josephgrunklecpa.com



Peoria Notre Dame High School 5105 N Sheridan Road Peoria, IL 61614 • 309-691-8741 peorianotredame.com 🃑 📘 🧧

Dream big. We're here.



- General Construction Design Build
- Commercial & Residential
- Construction Management Pre Engineered Structures

DESIGNERS & CONTRACTORS Dennis Bishop, Parishioner

243-5599 2800 W Alta Rd.





osfhealthcare.org



UnityPoint Health

Amber Avila M.D. ~ Family Medicine

Illini Family Medicine location: 201 N Cummings Ln. Washington

Office: 309-444-3627



BENNETT TREE SERVICE

(309) 688-TREE (8733)

"We think of them as our trees, but why don't we keep them in your yard."



OSF HEALTHCARE Cardiovascular Institute

Ronald Rabjohns, MD -- Parishioner (309) 691-4410 Compliments of

VONACHEN



Parishioner

2400 S.W. Adams

Trumpeter

www.kellyglass.com • (309) 676-3573

1 & 2 Room Whirlpool Suites

9106 N Lindbergh Dr.

Large Indoor Pool & Whirlpool Free Enhanced Continental Breakfast Children under 12 stay FREE

309-692-9200



APPLIANCES ELECTRONICS FURNITURE MATTRESSES

4208 PARTRIDGE WAY • P.O. BOX 3858 • PEORIA, IL 61612 WWW.HEDIGERANDMEYERS.COM

COLLINS VOORHEES 309.691.5001 WILLIAM VOORHEES

HEDIGER & MEYERS

www.shermansnow.com



www.monicalspizza.com



688-PEAR 4544 N Prospect Rd. Peoria Heights aperfectpearboutique.com LIBBY FRITSCH-KOSZUTA, CLASS OF '94



Concrete Walls • Finished Flo



www.laserelectricinc.com

GRANDSTAY.

www.grandstayhospitality.com

Commercial

Industrial

• Residential

HEATING-COOLING-REFRIGERATION RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

-24 Hour Service -

(309) 693-2400

(309)633-1313 www.dmiheatingandair.com

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
"FREE ESTIMATES ON NEW
EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION"



Parishioner

REFINANCING • HOME EQUITY LOANS • PURCHASING • CONSULTING

group

Mcomm Group, Inc. **Channel Marketing** Alumnus/Parishioner



BANKER S

The Real Estate

Group

BILL McCARTHY REALTOR® - PARISHIONER

MLS

Cell: 360-0012

PEORIA EAR, NOSE & THROAT GROUP

– Parishioner –



AGINGCARE MANAGEMENT LLC

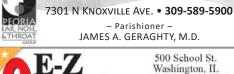
46 Years Experience Working With The Aged SANDI KISTNER, MSW, C-ASWSM

Assessment • Consultation • Recommendation Assistance in Filing Long Term Care Insurance Claims

309-231-0318

Parishioner

1



Kavanaghi

Storage

500 School St. Washington, IL

309-745-3300 storage@zosky.com

ezstoragellc.com Attornevs at Law

Parishioners:

GARY E. SCHMIDT

KAREN M. STUMPE

ELIZABETH T. ARCOT

676-1381 • ksswf.com





OM SMITH PLUMBING CO. 7 ILLINOIS LICENSE 055-004303

Plumbing • Heating • Sewering • COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

Том Ѕмітн tsptom@mtco.com www.tomsmithplumbing.com 429 E. Sciota

Peoria Heights, IL (309) 688-5114



Scherer Lincoln Volvo 2200 W. Pioneer Pkwy 309.692.9880

Scherer Mazda 2300 W. Pioneer Pkwy 309.691.0300

Peoria, IL 61615 www.SchererAuto.com







HealthInsuranceExchange

John E. Moore - President
Focusing on the health insurance needs of small businesses & individuals Chase Bank Building • 411 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria IL 61602 w.HealthInsuranceExchangeCl.com **309-740-9850** www.HealthInsuranceExchangeCl.com

group

wyman-group.com 309.685.8222

114 West Stratford Dr. Suite E | Peoria



Real Estate Tax Appeals

Commercial • Industrial • Residential 309-256-6700 Mobile • 309-693-2600 Office • 309-693-6200 Fax Email: bob@mcquellon.com • www.mcquellon.com



Minimally invasive spine surgery Physical therapy on site

7620 N University St. Parishioner Office: 309-691-7774 www.prairiespine.com



1308 E. Seiberling Peoria Heights Tues-Sat 11-5 Sundays in Dec 12-4

www.haciendaelmiradorpeoria.com Lucas & Julia



KRUMHOLZ BROTHERS LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS Landscape • Excavating • Erosion Control

www.krumholzbros.com DAVE & RICHARD KRUMHOLZ

JIM ROCHFORD ATTORNEY AT LAW

JIM ROCHFORD & ASSOCIATES 309.637.5322 PARISHIONER 101 South West Adams, #700 drochford@rochfordlaw.com

"We've Got You Covered Since 1910" 1025 N Sheridan Road

our New Home for School Uniforms! 309-671-4543

www.sharrisuniforms.com



KEMP MFG. CO.

Precision Machining & Assembly of Casting, Forging & Steel Products



pearlcompanies.com 309.688.9000

INSURANCE • TECHNOLOGY • AUTOMOTIVE

