



From Our Pastor

Our Parish Council generally thanks outgoing members and welcomes new members at the end of the year. This year, the induction of new members was delayed because of the limitations on gatherings and meetings. However, we recently recognized both incoming and outgoing members.

I would like to thank Vicki Loberg and Dave Donnelly who have completed their terms. At the same time, I would like to welcome Mickey Donarski and John Donnelly as new members. They join our existing members of the Parish Council: John Bender, Mary Clare Geraghty, John Goddard, J.T. Kellock, Ann Kube, Jenn Lynch, Tim Messmer, and Rick Pantages.

I am grateful especially to Mary Clare Geraghty who is participating in the OSF training program for Parish Nurses. Mary Clare has volunteered to serve in this capacity which will help offer health related information and services to the parish. As she takes up this responsibility, it will be good to also form a health and wellness committee to assist her. In the coming weeks, volunteers will be invited to join in this effort.

Our RCIA class continues their journey to Easter. We have a large and very excited group of Catechumens and Candidates preparing to enter the Church. (You can see a picture from the Rite of Election in the bulletin.)

One of the upcoming RCIA classes will be an overview of Church history. In the fall, I offer an overview of the Bible (yes, the whole Bible) in one hour. In the next weeks, I will offer an overview of Church history (yes, all 2000 years) in one hour. More information will appear in the bulletin for those who would be interested in this presentation.

-Msgr. Gray



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.



Readings for the Week of February 28, 2021

Sunday Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34;

Mark 9:2-10

Monday Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38

Tuesday Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday St. Katharine Drexel, virgin

Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday St. Casimir

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31

Friday Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20:1-17: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25: John 2:13-25

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 1, 2021

7:00 a.m. Jeanette Holland/Anne & Kevin Morrissey

8:00 a.m. Rheua Morton/The Morton Family

5:30 p.m. Norbert Adams/Dan & Catherine Schaidle

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

7:00 a.m. Joe Kelly/Dee Brauer & Lynne Maybanks
8:00 a.m. Lois Streid/Jim & Mary Clare Geraghty
5:30 p.m. Mike Foster/Mark & Marlynn Kelch

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

7:00 a.m. Delores Wilts/Family 8:00 a.m. Ann Ribando/Mai Dang 5:30 p.m. Lucille Noe 22nd Anniv./Family

Thursday, March 4, 2021

7:00 a.m. Sandra Roberson/Angela Roberson

8:00 a.m. All Souls in Purgatory

9:15 a.m. Richard Durr/Thomas & Rita Williams 5:30 p.m. Thelma Antonacci/Jolene & Tim Doyle

Friday, March 5, 2021

7:00 a.m. Inge Volk/Ralph Lewis

8:00 a.m. World Peace and Special Prayer Intentions 5:30 p.m. Xavier Silva/Don & Catherine Schaidle

Saturday, March 6, 2021

8:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri FSJB

5:00 p.m. Mary Carrigan/Dave & Pat Donnelly

Sunday, March 7, 2021

7:00 a.m. George & Dorette Ruhaak/The Ruhaak Family 9:00 a.m. Rose Maloney/Mike & Theresa Haughney

11:00 a.m. Karen Helton/Ken McGann

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of February 28

FIRST FRIDAY SIGN-UP in the Narthex

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

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

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY Tuesday, March 2, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

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

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

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

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

CONFESSIONS & STATIONS OF THE CROSS, Friday, 6:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Club Fish Fry March 19

Lenten Devotions

Monday ~ Friday Extra Daily Mass 5:30 p.m.

Friday 6:00-7:00 p.m. Confessions/Adoration Stations of the Cross

Saturday 4:00-4:45 p.m. Confessions 6:00-6:30 p.m. Confessions

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.











Weekly Collection

	February 21, 2021	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$680,000
Sunday Collections	\$12,346	\$589,984
Electronic Collections	\$3,399	\$115,566
Total Collected	\$15,745	\$705,550
Over/(Short)	(\$4,255)	\$25,550

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

Kevin Harmon

Susan McPheeters

Little Black Book



This book of meditations for the Season of Lent is available in the narthex. Please help yourself.

Happy Birthday Fr. Watson

Fr. Watson will be celebrating his 85th Birthday on March 9, 2021. We would like to surprise him with lots of birthday wishes. If you would like to send a card or note it can be dropped at the Parish Office by March 3rd and we will mail the cards.

Or send yours directly to him at: Fr. William Watson, 313 W. Hamilton, Odell IL 60460.

RCIA Topics

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

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

Sponsor of the Week



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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.



A Lenten Prayer

Look with favor, Lord, on your household. Grant that, though our flesh be humbled by abstinence from food, our souls, hungering after you, may be resplendent in your sight.

- Pope Pius V

Save the Date Men's Club Fish Fry

St Thomas Men's Club will hold our 5th Annual, all homemade, fish fry on Friday, March 19th beginning at 4pm.

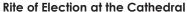
We will be offering social distanced eat-in service as well as a drive-thru option.

Please place your food order in advance:

Watch for a future announcement with details of how to order.

Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. - Mark 11:24

St. Thomas RCIA candidates and their sponsors







Pray with the Pope

March 2021 Catholics in China

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.



When you go the poor, you encounter Jesus

I started my involvement with the St. Thomas Saint Vincent DePaul group several years ago when, prompted by the Holy Spirit I suppose, I wandered through the church basement volunteer organizations fair after Mass one Sunday. An engaging and kind gentleman explained to me what the group does, and that they were in need of more helpers. That has day has turned out to be one of those times in my life that has most certainly helped to grow my faith, for many reasons. I have received much more than I have given.

The St. Thomas chapter of the St. Vincent DePaul Society is a prayerful, dedicated, kind, and beautiful group of folks who are living out the message of Christ by serving the poor, especially by making visits to them, meeting them where they are (in every sense). The money we receive from our generous parishioners allows this CONNECTION to be possible. COVID has limited our home visits, which has been difficult, but we have soldiered on, and are hoping to be able to resume soon, because it is the CONTACT that makes this mission such a powerful way to respond to Christ's words "Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, you do to Me".

My own faith was "turned up a notch", by working and learning with this group. They helped me to CONNECT with the poor in my own community. I have had to make a conscious effort to open my heart and mind in order to understand, love, and HELP (in many and creative ways). It's really something. And it is happening on a daily basis thanks to the donations that miraculously continue to be trusted to us. We are ever grateful.

Chris Clemons on behalf of St. Thomas St. Vincent De Paul Organization



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Registration is OPEN!
Spring 7 on 7 flag season starts April 6th
Summer Football Camp June 8 & 9
Fall Football season starts July 26th
Register today at www.NDJFL.com







Spring season ages 5-14 Summer Camp ages 8-14 Flag Football age 5-8 Cheer and Tackleage 8-14





Cursillo virtual Ultreya

Please join Cursillo for our March Rekindle Virtual Community Ultreya 2021 Theme: Go Make Disciples Guests are Welcome!

Saturday, March 6; 7:00-8:30pm on Zoom

Join us for a chance to pray and share: Reflection: Paul Henderson, Liturgy of the Word Service

Spiritual Homily: Dcn. Marty Pogioli Breakout Room Discussions, Social Time

Everyone is invited to join us via Zoom. It's easy!

We have technical support, if needed. Please signup via signup.com at https://signup.com/go/SHfOrKR

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 for more information

God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.



Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Post-Abortion Healing

Are you a mother, father, or grandparent, suffering from an abortion in your family? You need not suffer alone. Our Church offers hope and healing to women and men suffering after abortion.

A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat will be held in the Peoria area March 12-14, 2021. To register, or for additional information, call or text 309-264-1489, or email rvrpeoria@gmail.com

Online registration at https://www.cdop.org/rachels-vineyard All communications are confidential.

Blood Drive Peoria Heights High School

Gym 508 E. Glen Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Friday, March 19, 2021 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For an appointment call 686-8803 or sign up at school. Sponsored by the Key Club

Students need to bring either a driver's license or two forms of other ID (with one that has proof of age). Eat a healthy meal and drink an extra 16 oz. of water and fluids before the donation. You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass for more information.

All donations tested for COVID-19 antibodies. Results in 1-2 wks.

RedCrossBlood.org/AntibodyTesting



Your donation is essential. We'd like to show our gratitude for being a vital part of our American Red Cross community with a special gift. Get an exclusive Red Cross T-shirt when you come to give March 15-26, while supplies last.

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	
About open the New Parisi form.	hioner Registration, complete and subi

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.

Catholic Women's League Rosary Prayer

Monday, March 15th, 9:30 am St. Anthony's Church, 2525 S. Skyway Rd, Bartonville, IL 61607

Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

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

March 1, 7:00 p.m.

Face masks and social distancing requested.

Position Opening

DO YOU HAVE GRAPHIC DESIGN EXPERIENCE? **The Catholic Post** has an immediate opening to assist in the production of the award-winning bi-weekly newspaper of the Diocese of Peoria. Position requires approx. 25 hours per week, and includes some clerical duties. Must be proficient with InDesign and Photoshop.

Send resumes to tdermody@cdop.org or Tom Dermody, The Catholic Post, PO Box 1722, Peoria, IL 61656.

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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St. Thomas the Apostle Parish • 309-688-3446		
904 East Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights, IL 61616		
stthomaspeoria.org		
parishoffice@stthomas-church.net		
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Parochial VicarRev. Paul Stark S.J(x4)		
paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net		
SacristanMother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB(688-3500) fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com		
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 length.





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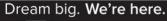
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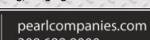
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