



From Our Pastor

There are several items to bring up as we go through Lent:

First, we have been scheduling our school and CCD students for confession during Lent. This is a good reminder for all of us that we should benefit from this sacrament during Lent to prepare for Easter. It is a wonderful sacrament since it sets us free from the burden of our sins and brings us great peace. If it's been a while, please plan to make a good confession. We have confession times on Fridays and Saturdays during Lent.

Second, please come to the Men's Club Fish Fry, Friday evening, March 19. Tickets can be purchased in advance online through our website. Please purchase tickets ahead of time to insure that we have enough fish for all who want to attend. You can dine in or pick up curbside if you want to take the dinner home to eat. Thanks to the Men's Club for this excellent fish dinner! Visit https://

stthomaspeoria.org/product/st-thomas-fish-fry/

Third, we will have a presentation of the history of the Church in our RCIA class on Wednesday evening, March 17, at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. If you're interested in this topic, feel free to join us. The presentation will also be recorded and posted online.

Finally, thanks to everyone who has donated to our sanctuary renovation and to new mosaic Stations of the Cross. As they were installed this week, they are a wonderful addition to our church. Join us on Friday evenings at 7 pm to pray the Stations of the Cross.

-Msgr. Gray





March 2021 Catholics in China

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



Readings for the Week of March 7, 2021

Sunday Third Sunday of Lent

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

Monday St. John of God, Religious

2 Kings 5:1-15ab; Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday St. Frances of Rome, Religious

Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23

Friday Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34

Saturday Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Lent

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10;

John 3: 14-21

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 8, 2021

7:00 a.m. Joe Kelly/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley

8:00 a.m. Sarah Grace Barrowman/Jeanne Whalen

5:30 p.m. Dec. Members of Schumacher Family/The McCauley

Family

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

7:00 a.m. Tom Burek/John & Sonia Nelson

8:00 a.m. Jarlath & Lucille Watson

5:30 p.m. Ron Hardgrove/Pat & Sherry O'Brien

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

7:00 a.m. Barbara Adams/Sally Mahieu 8:00 a.m. Len Kuchan/Mike & Barb Chance 5:30 p.m. Suzie Draher/Jeanne Armstrong

Thursday, March 11, 2021

7:00 a.m. Michael P. Farraher/Francis Farraher 8:00 a.m. Loretta Corwin/Becky & Pat Foglesonger

9:15 a.m. Mike Gray/R. D. Campbell

5:30 p.m. Tom Frank/Ann Marie & Robert Walker

Friday, March 12, 2021

7:00 a.m. Joe Olson/Julie Revallo

8:00 a.m. Glen Morton/Warren & Bonnie Brietbarth 5:30 p.m. Jim Scherer/Stephen & Nancy Powers

Saturday, March 13, 2021

8:00 a.m. Canon John J. Flaherty

5:00 p.m. Frances McGinn/Mary Paul Long

Sunday, March 14, 2021

7:00 a.m. Alan Campbell/Ed & Carol Ryan 9:00 a.m. Tony Munoz/Tim & Julie Streid

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

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of March 7

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

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

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

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY Tuesday, March 9, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

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

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

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

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 28, 2021	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$700,000
Sunday Collections	\$17,806	\$607,790
Electronic Collections	\$3,399	\$118,965
Total Collected	\$21,205	\$726,755
Over/(Short)	\$1,205	\$26,755

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

Jan Alt

Henry L. Bauers father of Heidi Bauers and grandfather of Hanna Bauers

Mark Brewer

Little Black Book



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

Sunday Communion

Sundays, 12:00-12:30 p.m.

Pull up in the circle drive and someone will bring communion to you if you are as yet not comfortable coming back to Mass.

RCIA Topics

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**).
- 3. **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

"We've Got You Covered Since 1910"
1025 N Sheridan Road
Your New Home for School Uniforms
309-671-4543
www.sharrisuniforms.com







March 2021

Behold, I stand at the door and knock.
—Rev 3:20

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Soon our diocese will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Your support of this collection serves Jesus in the guise of the poor and vulnerable in some of the most marginalized communities in our world.

Sailors, fishers, harbor workers, and their families have unique pastoral needs because of mariners' long periods away from home. In addition to access to the Mass and sacraments on ships, seafarers also need hospitality and pastoral care in port cities as well as assistance with errands such as shopping and medical appointments. For the past hundred years, Stella Maris—also called Apostleship of the Sea—has ministered to the pastoral needs of mariners through chaplaincies and centers in port cities. This apostleship currently serves the community with more than 100 chaplains and lay ministers in 48 ports across the United States.

In November 2019, 21 bishops, 11 apostleship chaplains, and lay ministers and staff from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (PCMRT) gathered to discuss the experiences and challenges of chaplains and how best to take on the challenges of maritime ministry. They invited bishops to engage in efforts to raise awareness of the Apostleship of the Sea in their own dioceses. By gathering chaplains with bishops, the apostleship can address challenges in the maritime world and continue to meet the needs of mariners.

Apostleship of the Sea is one of the PCMRT ministries funded through The Catholic Relief Services Collection. When you give, you help to support this valuable ministry.

Your support of this collection makes a difference for so many around the globe. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection this year. To learn more about the collection and the people who benefit, please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C. BISHOP OF PEORIA

St. Thomas Food Pantry

Current needs are: cereal, canned fruit, pasta sauce, pancake syrup and meal helper, cleaning supplies

Thank you for your generosity



For what are you grateful today? Consider starting, or continuing, a daily gratitude journal and see how your attitude changes.



Congratulations
Spelling Bee winner!



Congratulations to our St. Thomas School Spelling Bee participants



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

Food Pantry Spring Clean Up

It's almost spring, and that means it's almost time for **SPRING CLEANING!**

During the months of March and April, the food pantry is asking for donations of cleaning supplies so our clients can get a jump on the grit and grime. Suggestions include window cleaner, dish soap, laundry detergent, fabric softener, bowl cleaner, all purpose cleaners, mops, brooms/dustpans and rags.

Donations can be left in the food pantry donation box in the narthex.

Thank you for brightening lives by helping our clients freshen up their homes!



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.

NOTRE DAME JFL

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



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	

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.

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 Women's League Rosary Prayer

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





St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: 677-7696

View Our Parish Supp	orters at www.DiscoverMass.c
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish • 309-688-3446	Administrative Assistan
904 East Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights, IL 61616	<u>te</u>
stthomaspeoria.org parishoffice@stthomas-church.net	Bulletin Editor
Pastor	Accountant
Parochial Vicar	ju Tuition Coordinator
SacristanMother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB(688-3500) fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com	CCD Coordinator
Deacon Dcn. Mark Kelsch (692-4908) Dcn. John Nelson (981-2716) Dcn. Ed Mallow (360-7735)	angi Music Coordinator Choir Director
School Principal Maureen Bentley(x1210) maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net	Annulment Consultant

PΡ	onters at www.discoveriviass.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
	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**

Screenprinting • Signs Embroidery • Awards

309-686-0026

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 Parishioners

ACCOUNTING Joseph G Runkle CPA

Professional Income Tax Preparation & Accounting Services

309.691.4417 • www.josephgrunklecpa.com



Commercial & Residential Construction Management Pre Engineered Structures

DESIGNERS & CONTRACTORS

Dennis Bishop, Parishioner 243-5599 2800 W Alta Rd.



EAST PEORIA 698-8404



CARL KAUFMAN

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 Dream big. We're here.



Amber Avila M.D. ~ Family Medicine

Illini Family Medicine location: 201 N Cummings Ln. Washington

Office: 309-444-3627





"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



2400 S.W. Adams

Trumpeter

www.kellyglass.com • (309) 676-3573

Large Indoor Pool & Whirlpool 1 & 2 Room Whirlpool Suites

9106 N Lindbergh Dr.

HEDIGER & MEYERS

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

COLLINS VOORHEES 309.691.5001 WILLIAM VOORHEES

VONACHEN



GRANDSTAY. H O T E L & S II I T E S www.grandstayhospitality.com

Commercial

Industrial

Free Enhanced Continental Breakfast Children under 12 stay FREE

309-692-9200

APPLIANCES ELECTRONICS FURNITURE MATTRESSES www.shermansnow.com Mon-Sat 10-5

Zack Foose



Peoria 309-690-0011 Galesburg 309-315-2135 MIDWEST-ENDO.COM



• Residential www.laserelectricinc.com



-24 Hour Service -

(309) 693-2400

(309)633-1313 www.dmiheatingandair.com

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



Concrete Walls • Finished Floo



group

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



46 Years Experience Working With The Aged

SANDI KISTNER, MSW, C-ASWSM

Assessment • Consultation • Recommendation

Assistance in Filing Long Term Care

Insurance Claims

BANKER S

The Real Estate

Group

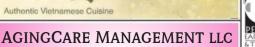
BILL McCARTHY REALTOR® - PARISHIONER

MIS

Cell: 360-0012



5835 N Galena Rd. • #114 • Peoria, IL 309-868-0204



PEORIA EAR, NOSE & THROAT GROUP 7301 N KNOXVILLE AVE. • 309-589-5900

> – Parishioner – JAMES A. GERAGHTY, M.D.



500 School St. Washington, IL

309-745-3300 storage@zosky.com

ezstoragellc.com





309-231-0318

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

Parishioner

1

Kavanaghi

Attornevs at Law Parishioners: GARY E. SCHMIDT KAREN M. STUMPE

ELIZABETH T. ARCOT 676-1381 • ksswf.com



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





203 EASTGATE DRIVE Washingtion, IL prairiehomealliance.com





obrientoyotaofpeoria.com



obrienlexusofpeoria.com



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



wyman-group.com 309.685.8222

114 West Stratford Dr. Suite E | Peoria



Robert W. McQuellon, MBA President / CEO and Parishioner

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

Parishioner

7620 N University St. Office: 309-691-7774

www.prairiespine.com

KEMP MFG. CO.

Precision Machining & Assembly of

Casting, Forging & Steel Products



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



PEARL COMPANIES

pearlcompanies.com 309.688.9000

INSURANCE • TECHNOLOGY • AUTOMOTIVE

