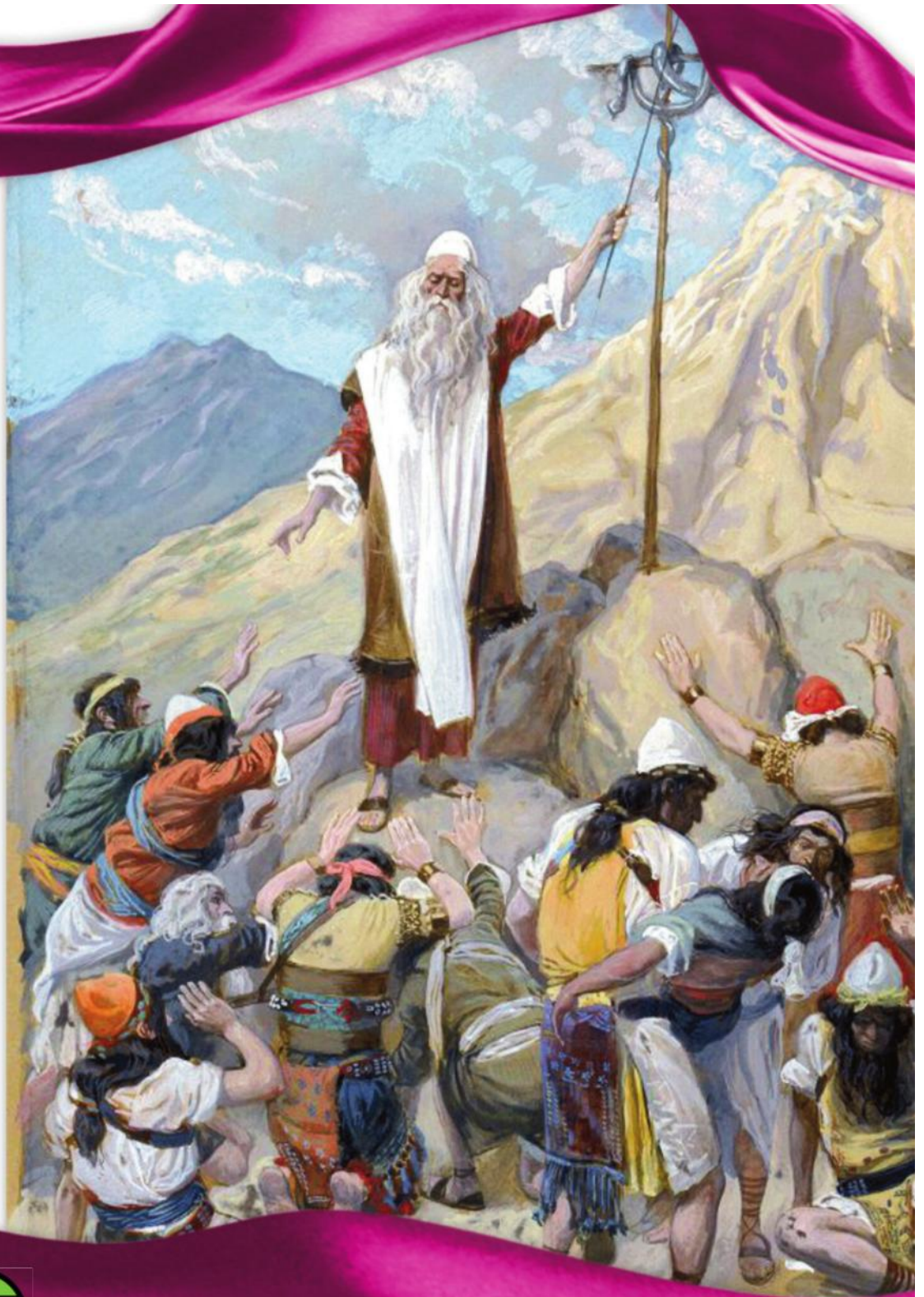


Jesus said to  
Nicodemus:  
“Just as Moses  
lifted up the  
serpent in the  
desert, so must  
the Son of Man  
be lifted up,  
so that everyone  
who believes  
in him may have  
eternal life.”

*John 3:14,15*

The Brazen Serpent  
by James Tissot, circa 1899



March 14, 2021

St. Thomas the Apostle  
904 East Lake Avenue  
Peoria Heights, Illinois  
309-688-3446  
[stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org)



4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF  
*LENT*



## From Our Pastor

Rejoice on this Laetare Sunday! As we move through the Season of Lent, we see that Easter is approaching and are encouraged to redouble our efforts for our Lenten sacrifices since the Resurrection of Our Lord is near.

Please join us to celebrate the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings. I am very grateful for all those who donated toward the beautiful mosaic Stations that we are privileged to have. The previous set of Stations came from our original church. I look forward to finding a permanent home for them so they can be displayed for our parishioners to see.

The Men's Club Fish Fry will take place this Friday, March 19. Tickets are available for purchase this weekend. I urge everyone to purchase tickets in advance, either in person this weekend or through our website. This will ensure that we will have enough fish for all who want to come to the Fish Fry.

Each year at the Msgr. Rank Memorial Mass, celebrated on the Wednesday closest to the anniversary of his death on March 25, we remember parishioners and family members who have died in the past year. Because of the pandemic, this Memorial Mass had to be delayed, and not everyone was able to attend the Mass we rescheduled in August.

This year, we return to our regular schedule, with Mass at 5:30 pm, Wednesday, March 24. We will invite all those who have lost a family member or friend during the past 12 months. If you have a loved one who should be included in the intentions for this Mass, please contact the parish office.

Friday, March 19, is the liturgical Solemnity of St. Joseph. As a reminder, the law of abstinence does not oblige on a solemnity, so you are not required to abstain from eating meat on that day.

-Msgr. Gray



## 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.



## Readings for the Week of March 14, 2021

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> 2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2: 4-10; John 3: 14-21
<b>Monday</b>	Isaiah 65: 17-21; John 4: 43-54
<b>Tuesday</b>	Ezekiel 47: 1-9, 12; John 5: 1-16
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>St. Patrick, Bishop</b> Isaiah 49: 8-15; John 5: 17-30
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop &amp; Doctor of the Church</b> Exodus 32: 7-14; John 5: 31-47
<b>Friday</b>	<b>St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> 2 Samuel 7: 4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4: 13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1: 16, 18-21, 24a
<b>Saturday</b>	Jeremiah 11: 18-20; John 7: 40-53
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> Jeremiah 31: 31-34; Hebrews 5: 7-9; John 12: 20-33

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, March 15, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Jeanette Holland/Anne & Kevin Morrissey
8:00 a.m.	Dr. Bill Marshall/Linda Osika
5:30 p.m.	Jan Alt/Joe & Judy Naumann

### Tuesday, March 16, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Joe Clyde & Joe Broussard/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley
8:00 a.m.	Glen Morton/Dave & Pat McCauley
5:30 p.m.	Jan Alt/Jim & Mary Clare Geraghty

### Wednesday, March 17, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Kathleen McDuffy/The McNally Family
8:00 a.m.	Mary Carrigan/Dave & Lynn Wargo
5:30 p.m.	Mary Cooper/Friends

### Thursday, March 18, 2021

7:00 a.m.	John Rush/Mary Jane Joseph
8:00 a.m.	Joe Kelly/Ed & Cathy Mallow
9:15 a.m.	Jack McGinn/Mary & Aral Eaton
5:30 p.m.	Rudy Habben/John F. Carlson

### Friday, March 19, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Living & Deceased Sisters of St. Joseph
8:00 a.m.	Adeline Snyder Anniv./Allen
5:30 p.m.	Celestino Gochoco/Manolito & Marianita Cabucos

### Saturday, March 20, 2021

8:00 a.m.	Ron Hardgrove/Pat & Sherry O'Brien
5:00 p.m.	Barb Crumrine/Carol Wickert

### Sunday, March 21, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Tom & Dorothy Lavin/Colleen & Rich Lavin
9:00 a.m.	Anna Meixner/Cari Connolly
11:00 a.m.	Elizabeth Lehnhausen/Jim & Mary Clare Geraghty
5:00 p.m.	For the People



## Week of March 14

**FISH FRY TICKETS** Available after Masses this weekend

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

**ROSARY** Tuesday, March 16, 10:00 a.m., Church

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY** Tuesday, March 16, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

**CCD** Wednesday, March 17, 6:00 p.m., School

**RCIA** Wednesday, March 17, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

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

**PARISH HOLY HOUR** Thursday, March 18, 7:00 p.m., Church

**MEN'S CLUB FISH FRY** Friday, March 19, 4:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m., School

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

## 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

	March 7, 2021	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$720,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$23,875.....	\$631,665
Electronic Collections .....	\$3,399.....	\$122,364
Total Collected.....	\$27,274.....	\$754,029
Over/(Short) .....	\$7,274.....	\$34,029

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](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Thank you for your support.

## Our Sympathy

Angela Juneman, sister of Nanette Westerhold

Marlene McCauley, sister-in-law of  
Dave McCauley

## Little Black Book



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



## PARISH HOLY HOUR

Thursday, March 18

7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

## RCIA Topics

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](http://stthomaspeoria.org) or the Parish App
2. **Bookmark the Parish Blog** which will feature regular updates ([jgray.org/st\\_thomas](http://jgray.org/st_thomas)).
3. **Download My Parish App** to receive push notifications (Visit [myparishapp.com/download](http://myparishapp.com/download)).
4. **Receive the Bulletin** and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net) to sign up).
5. **Bookmark the parish webpage** ([stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org)).

Sponsor of the Week



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Office: 309-444-3627



## Our New Stations of the Cross

I. Jesus is condemned to death



II. Jesus carries His cross

III. Jesus falls the first time



Please come pray The Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 6:00 p.m.

Thank you to our generous donors who made these possible.

### St. Thomas Food Pantry

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

*Thank you for your generosity*

**St. Thomas Men's Club**

All Homemade

50 / 50 Drawings

# All-you-Can-Eat FISH FRY

All Covid Protocols are followed

**Friday, March 19, 2021**

Serving from  
4:00 pm – 7:30 pm

In the school cafeteria

Adults (13 and older) – \$10.00  
Children (6 through 12) – \$5.00  
Children five and under free with paid adult.

**Dine-In**

Menu includes: Fried Fish, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Bread and Drink  
Children's Choice: Fish or Grilled Cheese

**Drive-Thru (Enter the Back Parking Lot)**

Adult meal: 2 pieces of Fish, French Fries, Cole Slaw and Bread  
Children's meal: 1 Fish or Grilled Cheese, French Fries, Cole Slaw and Cookie

Cookies made by Women's Guild

Scan this QR code to place your fish fry order

St. Thomas the Apostle  
904 East Lake Avenue  
Peoria Heights, IL

Proceeds support new St. Thomas play ground equipment

**After Mass Tickets For Sale Downstairs\***

\*Weekend masses on 3/14 - 3/15 only

## 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.



## 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!

## Fish Fry Tickets



Available for purchase after all the Masses this weekend. Advance ticket purchase is requested.

## Funeral Planning

Often, when a person passes away, the family members are left to make decisions about the burial and the funeral Mass. Sometimes, a person makes arrangements for their burial in advance with a funeral home or cemetery. This pre-planning is a great act of charity and relieves the family from having to make so many decisions at a time of loss.

It is also possible to make advanced arrangements for the funeral Mass as well. We have funeral planning resources on our Parish website. They list the various options for Scripture readings, songs, and intercessions that are commonly used in a Catholic funeral Mass. There is also a one page checklist that helps with liturgical planning. The checklist can be downloaded with the option of typing your selections in the various fields.

These resources are readily available at <https://stthomaspeoria.org/>. Follow the link to *Funeral planning*.

## Congratulations Peoria Catholic Schools 8th Grade Volleyball Champions



## Parish Prayers for the PND Class of 2021



This year has been challenging for all of our students no matter what their grade; trying to find a sense of *normal* hasn't been easy. This hasn't been the year our Peoria Notre Dame seniors had hoped it would be. The PND family has created a *prayer wall* at the school. We are asking our parish families to send a note or card addressed to our seniors letting them know they are in our thoughts and prayers. Those notes will be displayed until our students leave our school for the final time.

Notes can be mailed to:  
Peoria Notre Dame  
Attn: Parish Prayer for PND 2021  
5105 N Sheridan Road  
Peoria, Illinois 61614

## Tuition Assistance, Scholarship Grants Now Available

To be considered for tuition assistance parents must apply online at: [online.factsmgmt.com/aid](https://online.factsmgmt.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 completing the *FACTS* application please contact Pat in the Parish Office at 309-688-3446, ext. 1341.

## Yard Clean-Up for Veterans and Widows of Veterans

The Illinois Valley Fuller Center for Housing is offering FREE spring yard cleanups for Veterans and widows of Veterans. Volunteers will provide a maximum of 2 hours of service, weather permitting.

To sign up for this service, or to volunteer to help, call Debbie Gaught at the Illinois Valley Fuller Center For Housing at **309-363-3737**.

## 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.

## 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](http://www.NDJFL.com)



Spring season ages 5-14

Summer Camp ages 8-14

Flag Football age 5-8

Cheer and Tackle-  
age 8-14



Lent comes  
providentially to  
reawaken us, to shake  
us from our lethargy.

Pope Francis

## 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](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Under About open the New Parishioner Registration, complete and submit the form.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New Parishioner \_\_\_\_\_ Change of address/phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Catholic Women's League Rosary Prayer

Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am

St. Anthony's Church, 2525 S. Skyway  
Rd, Bartonville, IL 61607



St. Vincent de Paul Helpline:  
**677-7696**



<b>St. Thomas the Apostle Parish • 309-688-3446</b> 904 East Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights, IL 61616 <a href="http://stthomaspeoria.org">stthomaspeoria.org</a> <a href="mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net">parishoffice@stthomas-church.net</a>			<b>Administrative Assistant</b> .....Terri Moon ..... (x0) <a href="mailto:terimoon@stthomas-church.net">terimoon@stthomas-church.net</a>		
<b>Pastor</b> ..... Msgr. Jason A. Gray ..... (x3) <a href="mailto:msggray@stthomas-church.net">msggray@stthomas-church.net</a>			<b>Bulletin Editor</b> .....Peggy Sullivan.....(x1301) <a href="mailto:peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net">peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net</a>		
<b>Parochial Vicar</b> ..... Rev. Paul Stark S.J..... (x4) <a href="mailto:paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net">paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net</a>			<b>Accountant</b> ..... Julie Streid .....(x1340) <a href="mailto:juliestreid@stthomas-church.net">juliestreid@stthomas-church.net</a>		
<b>Sacristan</b> .....Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB.....(688-3500) <a href="mailto:fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com">fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com</a>			<b>Tuition Coordinator</b> .....Pat Wombacher .....(x1341) <a href="mailto:patwombacher@stthomas-school.net">patwombacher@stthomas-school.net</a>		
<b>Deacon</b> ..... Dcn. Mark Kelsch ..... (692-4908) Dcn. John Nelson ..... (981-2716) Dcn. Ed Mallow ..... (360-7735)			<b>CCD Coordinator</b> .....Angie Robenstein.....(x1200) <a href="mailto:angierobenstein@stthomas-school.net">angierobenstein@stthomas-school.net</a>		
<b>School Principal</b> ..... Maureen Bentley ..... (x1210) <a href="mailto:maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net">maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net</a>			<b>Music Coordinator</b> ..... Ann Horst ..... (682-5507)		
<b>Sacrament of Baptism</b> Parents participate in a Baptism class before the Baptism of their first child. Contact the Parish Office to schedule the class.			<b>Choir Director</b> ..... Erin Craig <a href="mailto:erincraig@stthomas-school.net">erincraig@stthomas-school.net</a>		
<b>Confessions</b> Saturday 4:00-4:45pm & 6:00-6:30 p.m.			<b>Annulment Consultant</b> .....John Mackoway ..... (699-5213)		
<b>How to Submit Bulletin Information</b> Send information for the bulletin to <a href="mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net">parishoffice@stthomas-church.net</a> with subject <i>Bulletin</i> . 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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