



From Our Pastor

Christ is risen!

The sacrifices of Lent have prepared us for the joy of Easter. Let us rejoice in the knowledge that we have such a loving and merciful savior who has risen from the dead and filled us with his grace.

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Triduum celebrations. This is a privileged time of the year with special celebrations that mark the Lord's passion, death and resurrection.

Congratulations also to our 19 members of our RCIA class who have received the Easter sacraments! Join me in congratulating them as they were baptized, received into the Church, confirmed, and made their first Communion.

As we move from the spring into the summer, I will also work with the parish council to find ways to revive other activities in our parish. I look forward to holding a ministry / volunteer fair to encourage people to sign up for different groups at St. Thomas. In particular, we will be looking for extraordinary ministers to help bring Communion to our nursing homes and shut-ins. We will also look for volunteers who are interested in helping provide for funeral luncheons. These are much needed services that are greatly appreciated by our elderly parishioners and by those grieving the loss of a loved one.

We can also celebrate as we look forward to restarting some of our customs that have fallen away over the past year. We will begin again to celebrate wedding anniversaries. In particular, for those who had a major anniversary that was missed because of the pandemic, please contact the office if you would like to be included in an upcoming marriage blessing. We will reach out especially to those who celebrated 25 years, 40 years, and 50 years of marriage.

-Msgr. Gray



Pray with the Pope

April 2021 Freedom from Addiction

We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.



Readings for the Week of April 4, 2021

Sunday Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

Monday Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18

Wednesday Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35

Thursday Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48

Friday Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14

Saturday Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15

Sunday Divine Mercy Sunday

Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 5, 2021

8:00 a.m. Norm & Gery Ralph/Family

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

7:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri FSJB

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

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

7:00 a.m. Jan Alt/Jim & Mary Clare Geraghty

8:00 a.m. All Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, April 8, 2021

7:00 a.m. Mary Janke

8:00 a.m. Gordon Jockisch 1st Anniv./David & Sharyn Joseph

Friday, April 9, 2021

7:00 a.m. Letlet Fajardo/The Sarmiento Family

8:00 a.m. Joe Kelly/John & Amy Kelly

Saturday, April 10, 2021

8:00 a.m. Hylee Kemp/Thomas & Phyllis Duncan 5:00 p.m. Lawrence Cooling/Steve & Edie Brereton

Sunday, April 11, 2021

7:00 a.m. Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist

9:00 a.m. William B. Wombacher/Bill & Pat Wombacher 11:00 a.m. Amal Khoury/Jim & Mary Clare Geraghty

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of April 4

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED Monday, April 5

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL Closed for Spring Break this week

CENTERING PRAYER Monday, April 5, 8:30 a.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, April 6, 10:00 a.m., Church

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

CCD Wednesday, April 7, 6:00 p.m., School

THAT MAN IS YOU Thursday, April 8, 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

CONFESSIONS Saturday, April 10, 4:00 & 6:00 p.m.

Easter Schedule

Easter Vigil Mass Saturday, April 3, 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday April 4, Mass 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 a.m., NO 5:00 p.m. Mass



All Easter Masses will be broadcast live to the Parish Hall for overflow and for those who wish to maintain more distance.

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 21, 2021	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$760,000
Sunday Collections	\$7,780	\$653,511
Electronic Collections	\$3,399	\$129,162
Total Collected	\$11,179	\$782,673
Over/(Short)	\$(8,821)	\$22,673

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

Linda Horton

Congratulations To our RCIA Catechumens & Candidates

Catechumens

Kenny Bannon
Nikki Garcia
Elio Garcia
Jacob Anderson
Jerry Lowry
Owen Lowry
Ella Lowry
Phil Ramsay
Lonnie Lawson
Ashley Rolett
Brianna Menchaca

Candidates

Kyle Anderson Lindsey Anderson Gracie Anderson Tracey LaForge Amanda Lowry Chris Neaveill Suzanne Smith



Do not store up riches for yourselves here on earth. Instead, store up riches for yourselves in heaven, for your heart will always be where your riches are.

~ Matthew 6:19-21

Sponsor of the Week



Easter Prayer of Saint Hippolytus

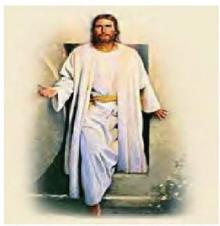
Christ is Risen: The world below lies desolate
Christ is Risen: The spirits of evil are fallen
Christ is Risen: The angels of God are rejoicing
Christ is Risen: The tombs of the dead are empty
Christ is Risen indeed from the dead,
the first of the sleepers,
Glory and power are his forever and ever.

~St. Hippolytus of Rome



The Season of Easter

- Easter is the "Solemnity of Solemnities". The principal feast of the liturgical year.
- Pope Leo I calls Easter the "Festum festorum", the "Feast of Feasts". "Christmas," he says, "is celebrated only in preparation for Easter".
- Easter, "The Great Sunday", is one of the five liturgical seasons of the Church cycle or year. These season are: Advent, Christmas, Ordinary time, Lent, and "EASTER".



He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Matthew 28:6

Volunteers Needed

As COVID restrictions begin to lift, we need volunteers.

Our **Martha Group** needs helpers to bring in food, or to assist, for luncheons following funerals at St. Thomas.

In anticipation of resuming taking Communion to homebound parishioners, we also will need additional Extraordinary Ministers.

If you are able to participate in either ministry, please call the Parish Office to let us know.

Live Stream of the Mass in the Parish Hall

For those who have been hesitant to return to Mass in person because of COVID, we have a live broadcast of the 11:00 a.m. Mass every Sunday in the Parish Hall.

All those attending in the Parish Hall will be required to wear a mask and maintain social distance. Communion will be distributed in the Parish Hall.

Beginning Palm Sunday Communion is no longer distributed outside of Mass from 12-12:30 p.m.

Marriage Blessing



It has been our custom throughout the year to bless the milestone marriage anniversaries of our Parishioners. We generally have this blessing at the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass the last Sunday of the month.

Did you, throughout the past year because of the pandemic, miss your opportunity for a Marriage Blessing

for a milestone anniversary?

If you would like a Marriage Blessing please call or email the Parish Office, 309-688-3446 or **parishoffice@stthomas-church.net** to make arrangements.



We only have a few openings remaining in our 4 year old program for the 2021-2022 school year!

Register now by going to: school.stthomaspeoria.org Admissions Apply Today!

When you go the poor, you encounter Jesus

May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father...Colossians 1:11-12

Thanks for all your generosity to assist those in need through your contributions to St. Vincent de Paul at St. Thomas. As you are aware, we have not been able to visit our St. Vincent de Paul clients in their homes due to Covid. In order to determine their needs, we visit via phone interviews. Our requests include money for rent, utilities and furniture.

Service workers have been hard hit, especially in the food service industry. Many have lost their jobs. We try to help short term and offer encouragement to help them get additional education in other careers. We encourage clients to seek help at Goodwill that provides educational opportunities and job fairs for those looking for work.

Several months ago, one client requested help to reconnect the water to her rental house. Her neighbor allowed her to connect a hose to his home for her needs until she could pay her water bill. She was a long-term experienced waitress at an upscale restaurant in downtown Peoria. With the Civic Center being closed and hotels with little occupancy, her employer had to lay off staff. Occasionally she would get a few hours of work. Full time work is still limited since occupancy in the restaurant is limited.

We were able to cover her water bill and give her hope that someone cared about her as a person.

In Mother Theresa's words: Do you want to do something beautiful for God? There is a person who needs you. This is your chance.

Nancy Medendorp

Thank You

Thank you to all the members of the Men's Club who worked so hard to put on a great Fish Fry. The drive-through option for pick-up was a great addition for those who still want to maintain social distance.



Thank you also to all those who ordered and ate our fish. Your orders, and additional donations, added greatly to the fundraising efforts for the new playground facility for our STS students.

Invitation to the Permanent Diaconate

A new class of Permanent Deacon candidates will form in June, 2022. However, now is the time to begin discerning if you are called to serve as a deacon.

Candidates must be between 35 and 60 years of age when beginning formation.

Candidates are invited to speak with Msgr. Gray or with Msgr. Tim Nolan in the Office of the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Peoria. The Diocese will provide candidates with other deacons to meet with to discern and grow in the spiritual life.

Candidates should begin their active discernment now, to prepare for application and acceptance into the formation program next year.



Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him. ~St. Augustine

Caterpillar Matching Gifts Program ~ Invest in Kids Act

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.

In addition, The Caterpillar Foundation is proud to offer the year-round Matching Gifts Program to support U.S. employees, retirees and board of directors in their contributions to worthy causes. Eligible Caterpillar participants may request an annual combined total maximum match of \$10,000 each calendar year to accredited public/private preK-12 schools in the U.S., to which contributions are tax deductible. After making the donation directly, Caterpillar participants then may then request a match at **caterpillar.com/matching-gifts**. Submit the matching gift request online by January 31 of the year following the 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 our parishioners support St. Thomas School.

Playground Fundraiser

If you haven't seen it already, check out this great video from our students - https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=5T5yIHQcRKc&feature=youtu.be

OR ~ just scan this QR code:



Our students' excitement about the playground is contagious. Through our families' generosity, we are very close to our goal. St. Thomas's new playground is going to be AWESOME. If you haven't already, please consider making a donation. The easiest way to donate is directly via check, payable to St. Thomas School.

Thank you in advance! NOW, LET'S PLAY!!!





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.

Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Saint Mark's Church, 1113 W. Bradley Avenue, Peoria, 7:00 P.M., April 5th, 2021.

Masks and social distancing is requested.

Please join us for Benediction, the Rosary, and other prayers for the protection of these innocent lives and the restoration of their Constitutional rights.

St. Thomas Food Pantry

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

Thank you for your generosity

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



St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: 677-7696

View Our Parish Supporters at www.DiscoverMass.com		
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish • 309-688-3446	Administrative AssistantTerri Moon(x0)	
904 East Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights, IL 61616	terrimoon@stthomas-church.net	
stthomaspeoria.org parishoffice@stthomas-church.net	Bulletin EditorPeggy Sullivan(x1301)	
	peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net	
Pastor	AccountantJulie Streid(x1340)	
Parochial Vicar Rev. Paul Stark S.J(x4)	<u>juliestreid@stthomas-church.net</u>	
paulstarksi@stthomas-church.net	Tuition CoordinatorPat Wombacher(x1341)	
SacristanMother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB(688-3500)	patwombacher@stthomas-school.net	
fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com	CCD CoordinatorAngie Robenstein(x1200)	
Deacon	angierobenstein@stthomas-school.net	
Dcn. John Nelson (981-2716)	Music Coordinator	
Dcn. Ed Mallow(360-7735)	Choir Director Erin Craig	
School Principal Maureen Bentley	erincraig@stthomas-school.net	
maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net	Annulment ConsultantJohn Mackoway(699-5213)	
Sacrament of Pantism Confessions How to Submit Pullatin Information		

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 Parishioners

ACCOUNTING Joseph G Runkle CPA

Professional Income Tax Preparation & Accounting Services

309.691.4417 • www.josephgrunklecpa.com



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

Dennis Bishop, Parishioner

243-5599 2800 W Alta Rd.



osfhealthcare.org

EAST PEORIA 698-8404



CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & CONSULTANTS

8726 N. Industrial Road • Peoria, IL 61615

Allison Buckardt - Parishioner

FAX: 309.692.4159 gswcpa.com PHONE: 309.692.4030

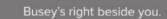
DENTURES PAR EXCELLENCE

"Excellence in Removable Prosthodontics"

Richard P. June, DDS richardjunedds.com

CARL KAUFMAN

www.tazwellcountyasphalt.com SPECIALIZING IN ASPHALT PAVING • ASPHALT SEALING



Buseybank busey.com



Amber Avila M.D. ~ Family Medicine

Illini Family Medicine location: 201 N Cummings Ln. Washington

Office: 309-444-3627



(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



2400 S.W. Adams

Trumpeter

www.kellyglass.com • (309) 676-3573

Large Indoor Pool & Whirlpool

Free Enhanced Continental Breakfast 1 & 2 Room Whirlpool Suites

Children under 12 stay FREE 9106 N Lindbergh Dr. 309-692-9200

APPLIANCES ELECTRONICS FURNITURE MATTRESSES www.shermansnow.com

Mon-Sat

10-5

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

LINS VOORHEES 309.691.5001 WILLIAM VOORHEES

HEDIGER & MEYERS

www.monicalspizza.com

GRANDSTAY. www.grandstayhospitality.com Commercial Industrial

• Residential

-24 Hour Service -(309) 693-2400









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







RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL (309)633-1313 www.dmiheatingandair.com

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

© 2021 DIOCESAN

www.laserelectricinc.com





309-495-0179 1209 W. Main Street Peoria, IL 61606

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

Parishioner

1

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





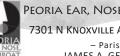
group

BILL McCARTHY

BANKER S The Real Estate Group

REALTOR® - PARISHIONER

MIS Cell: 360-0012



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

Kavanaghi

Attornevs at Law Parishioners: GARY E. SCHMIDT KAREN M. STUMPE ELIZABETH T. ARCOT 676-1381 • ksswf.com

Tammy Vu Parishioner . natural looking nails For beautiful, strong ... 683-6968 Junction City's New Building

Portraits by Adrienne Art Studio

Hand drawn or painted from your photograph

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

9 x 12 painted • \$180

11 x 14 drawn • \$150

Mcomm Group, Inc.



SCHERER







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

John E. Moore - President
Focusing on the health insurance needs of small businesses & individuals

group

Chase Bank Building • 411 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria IL 61602 w.HealthInsuranceExchangeCl.com **309-740-9850**

HealthInsuranceExchange

Prairie Home Alliance CUSTOM BATH WOOD FRONT SUNROOMS YEP, WE DO THAT TOO Parishioner Steve Jackson, President 203 EASTGATE DRIVE Washingtion, IL prairiehomealliance.com





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

nchard A. Kube II, MD, FACSS



KRUMHOLZ BROTHERS

www.krumholzbros.com

DAVE & RICHARD KRUMHOLZ

Minimally invasive spine surgery

Physical therapy on site

Parishioner

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

www.prairiespine.com

obrientoyotaofpeoria.com

O'BRIEN I EXUS OF PEORIA

obrienlexusofpeoria.com

GLOBAL

www.HealthInsuranceExchangeCl.com

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

wyman-group.com

309.685.8222

114 West

Stratford Dr.

Suite E | Peoria

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.haciendaelmiradorpeoria.com Lucas & Julia

pearlcompanies.com 309.688.9000

KEMP MFG. CO.

Precision Machining & Assembly of

Casting, Forging & Steel Products

INSURANCE • TECHNOLOGY • AUTOMOTIVE





PEARL COMPANIES

