



From Our Pastor

Please remember our young people in your prayers. On Monday, our eighth-grade students will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Tylka. Then, about two weeks from now, our second-grade students will make their First Communion.

These are two good opportunities to appreciate these two sacraments that **we** received, probably when we were young. Receiving Communion is a true gift, as we are invited to share in the life of our Savior in a personal way. The holiness of the Eucharist calls us to prepare ourselves, by practicing a life worthy of Jesus.

One of the best ways to prepare ourselves is by making a good confession. We all fail through sin. When that sin is serious, it is important for us to seek reconciliation to restore us to sanctifying grace, before we take the Body of Christ. Confession and Communion go hand in hand. It is ideal that we receive Communion frequently, and also receive absolution in Confession frequently, as well. The frequency depends on each person, but regular confession of our sins is an invaluable help in our journey to greater holiness.

The Sacrament of Confirmation gives us the gifts of the Holy Spirit, strengthening us and perfecting the gifts we have already received through Baptism. The gifts of the Holy Spirit help us find and embrace our vocation in life: for married persons, to be a better husband or wife, and a witness for your families; for priests or religious, to be a better servant of Our Lord, and a witness to the Church; for all of us, in order to be better disciples.

If you haven't made your First Communion or received the Sacrament of Confirmation, please ask. The Church very much wants all the faithful to be strengthened by these sacraments. If I can help anyone who has missed one of these sacraments, please let me know.

If you are not in a marriage blessed by the Church, there is also help available. Do not be afraid to ask if you need help requesting an annulment, or the blessing and validation of your current marriage.

-Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of April 18, 2021

Sunday Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5a; Luke 24:35-48

Monday Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29

Tuesday Acts 7:51—8:1a; John 6:30-35

Wednesday St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40

Thursday Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51

Friday St. George, Martyr

Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59

Saturday St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest & Martyr

Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69

Sunday FourthSunday of Easter

Acts 4:8-12; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 19, 2021

7:00 a.m. Norm & Gery Ralph/Family

8:00 a.m. Joseph W. Carlson/John F. Carlson

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

7:00 a.m. Blanche Sherman/Laura Sherman 8:00 a.m. Len Kuchan/Mary Ambrosch

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

7:00 a.m. Kevin Harmon/Orville & Linda Frank 8:00 a.m. Mike Faley/Eileen McDonough

Thursday, April 22, 2021

7:00 a.m. Joe Kelly/Sam Joseph

8:00 a.m. Glen Morton/Ed & Cathy Mallow

9:15 a.m. Jeffrey David Sapoznik/Bautista & Bennett Families

Friday, April 23, 2021

7:00 a.m. Ric Olson/Julie Revallo 8:00 a.m. Joe Connolly/Cari Connolly

Saturday, April 24, 2021

8:00 a.m. Chuck Gavin/Brian Kemp

5:00 p.m. Joe Kelly/Kevin & Lisa Schoeplein

Sunday, April 25, 2021

7:00 a.m. Remedios Tolentino/The Sarmiento Family

9:00 a.m. Nancy Kelly/John & Amy Kelly 11:00 a.m. Mark Brewer/Steve Darling

5:00 p.m. Celestino Gochoco/Manolito & Marianita Cabucos

Week of April 18

COFFEE AND DONUTS after Sunday morning Masses

CENTERING PRAYER Monday, April 19, 8:30 a.m., Church

CONFIRMATION Monday, April 19, 7:00 p.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, April 20, 10:00 a.m., Church

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY Tuesday, April 20, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

CCD Wednesday, April 21, 6:00 p.m., School

THAT MAN IS YOU Thursday, April 22, 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

CONFESSIONS Saturday, April 24, 4:00 & 6:00 p.m.

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

April 2021 Freedom from Addiction

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



Leisure is a form of silence, not noiselessness. It is the silence of contemplation such as occurs when we let our minds rest on a rosebud, a child at play, a divine mystery, or a waterfall.

- Fulton J. Sheen

Weekly Collection

	April 11, 2021	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$820,000
Sunday Collections	\$13,814	\$690,134
Electronic Collections	\$3,399	\$139,359
Total Collected		
Over/(Short)	•	-

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

Emily Babrowski

The Archbishop Fulton Sheen Foundation: We're retreading!

When Sheen submitted his resignation as Bishop of Rochester in 1969, he famously quipped that he wasn't retiring, he was retreading. While the status of the Cause for Sheen's Canonization is unfortunately paused, the work of the Foundation to celebrate and promote his legacy continues! Some of our plans for the coming year, include:

- Regular Newsletters highlighting events and offering reflections in Sheen's own words.
- Novenas to celebrate Sheen's birthday and honor our Blessed Mother (May); to promote Vocations to the Priesthood (September); and the annual Novena for the Cause culminating on his Dec 9 anniversary of his death.
- Pilgrims are welcome to pray at his tomb in the Peoria Cathedral, and to visit the Sheen museum.
- Be spiritually united with the work of the Foundation. Mail prayer requests to be remembered at the tomb.
- Sheen-focused retreats at the new Sacre Coeur Retreat Center.

Visit **ArchbishopSheenCause.org** for more information and to keep up to date.

Fulton Sheen Newsletters

The Sheen Foundation quarterly newsletters are back! They include excerpts from Sheen's works, as well as stories about upcoming events, prayers answered, and more!

To receive this FREE newsletter, send your contact information to *Info@SheenCause.org* or call Sr. Lea in the Foundation Office -- 309-671-1550.

Sponsor of the Week



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.

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 tax-payers 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 request a match at caterpillar.com/matching-gifts. Submit the matching gift request online by January 31 of the year following the donation.

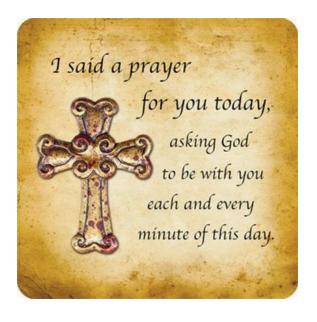
If you are interested in learning about the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship program, please contact Pat or Julie in the Parish Office at 309-688-3446.

We are so grateful for all the ways that our parishioners support St. Thomas.



Do not forget that the value and interest of life is not so much to do conspicuous things... as to do ordinary things with the perception of their enormous value.

- Teilhard de Chardin, SJ



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 or email the Parish Office at 309-688 -3446 or parishoffice@stthomas-church.net, to let us know.

Mass Intentions

Recently there have been inquiries as to how one goes about scheduling a Mass intention.

It is easy to request a Mass intention for a loved one, deceased or living, here at St. Thomas.

All you need to do is call or email the Parish Office at 309-688-3446 or parishoffice@stthomas -church.net, and ask to schedule a Mass intention. Subject to specific Mass availability efforts are made to accommodate your requested date and Mass time. The stipend is \$10.00 per Mass.

Marriage Blessing

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

Did you, because of the pandemic in the past year, miss your opportunity for a Marriage Blessing for a milestone anniversary?

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

Women's Care Center Baby Bottle Campaign 2021

Women's Care Center Peoria is holding their annual Baby Bottle Campaign to help assist their mission.

Since 2013, our Center, located on North University, is the only place where women can both make a decision for life, and receive necessary services such as counseling, pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, and parenting classes — all confidential and free of charge. While many places closed during the pandemic, because of your generosity and support, and our dedicated staff, our Center's doors remained open. Just in 2020, 490 babies were born to moms served by our Center.

Because of the pandemic, this year we have created a 2-minute video about the Women's Care Center Baby Bottle Campaign, featuring a quick tour of our Center, as well as an overview of the work we do. See the video here: https://youtu.be/xN101VmmDBE.

Because of the pandemic, this year we are using an envelope with a Baby Bottle *picture*, in place of the actual baby bottle. If you can make a gift to support our 100% privately-funded ministry, every offering makes a vital, life-affirming difference in the lives of these mothers and babies we serve. Finally, we also ask for your prayers. Our staff, clients and donors appreciate prayer support. We thank you for your thoughtful generosity. May God bless you and keep you safe and healthy during these unprecedented times.



Monday, May 3

Tuesday, May 4 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM *Parent meeting @ 5:15 PM Wednesday, May 5 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Thursday, May 6 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

- Where: Peoria Notre Dame Gym
- Parent meeting: Tuesday, May 4 @ 5:15 PM in the PND Commons (cafeteria).
- What to bring/wear: jazz shoes or tennis shoes, T-shirt, leggings, water, etc.
- The tryout dance and requirements will be taught on May 3rd, May 4th, and May 5th. May 6th will be the judged tryout.
- Please download and fill out the tryout form on our team website under Tryouts 2021-2022:

https://pnddanceteam.weebly.com/tryouts-2021-2022.html.

- Results will be posted by 9:00 PM on May 6th on our team website under Team Roster.
- If you have any questions, please contact Coach Sevier at pnddanceteam@gmail.com.



PEORIA NOTRE DAME DANCE TEAM KIDS CAMP 2021



The Peoria Notre Dame Dance Team will be having a dance camp for girls 4 years old to 8th grade. It will be held from 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM June 14 - 17, 2021. The cost is \$50 per dancer.

You may download the form at

https://pnddanceteam.weebly.com/2021-summer-kids-camp.html

or visit https://pnddanceteam.weebly.com/ and click on 2021 Summer Kids Camp for more information.

You can also access it on the PND Athletics website under "Camps."

Please contact Coach Tally Sevier at pnddanceteam@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Hope to see you there!

St. Thomas Food Pantry

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

Thank you for your aenerosity



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	
form.	ioner registration, complete and sec

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).
- Receive the Bulletin and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email parishoffice@stthomaschurch.net to sign up).
- Bookmark the parish webpage (stthomaspeoria.org).

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.



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	
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Pastor	AccountantJulie Streid(x1340)	
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paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net	Tuition CoordinatorPat Wombacher(x1341)	
SacristanMother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB(688-3500)	patwombacher@stthomas-school.net	
fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com	CCD Coordinator	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	angierobenstein@stthomas-school.net	
Deacon	Music Coordinator	
Den. Ed Mallow(360-7735)	Choir Director Erin Craig	
School Principal Maureen Bentley(x1210)	erincraig@stthomas-school.net	
maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net	Annulment ConsultantJohn Mackoway(699-5213)	
Sacrament of Raptism Confessions How to Submit Rulletin 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.





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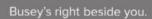
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