



May 16, 2021

St. Thomas the Apostle
904 East Lake Avenue
Peoria Heights, Illinois
309-688-3446
stthomaspeoria.org



Ascension of the Lord



From Our Pastor

Today we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord. With the Ascension, the public ministry of Jesus was brought to a close, while the mission of the Church was about to begin with the promised descent of the Holy Spirit. Jesus descended from Heaven at the Annunciation when the Word became flesh. Today, Jesus ascends back to Heaven, taking with him our human nature.

The Ascension is a foreshadowing of the promised resurrection that we will all share in at the end of time. We remain anchored in hope of the day when we can rejoice with God, body and soul in eternity.

We have other good news related to our return to normal after the pandemic. The Bishops of Illinois, with Cardinal Cupich, negotiated with the Governor the provision that allowed us to return to Mass with attendance of up to 25% of our church capacity. We have been fortunate to have a large main church, with additional seating in the narthex and chapel, and the capacity to broadcast Mass also to the parish hall. The Archdiocese of Chicago is about to raise the attendance limits up to 60% of capacity. This is a very hopeful sign and demonstrates the progress we are making.

For our lectors and extraordinary ministers, please note the refresher sessions we will have to review our procedures for reading and distributing Communion. As more and more of us return to regular Mass attendance, this is a good time to renew these important ministries.

Finally, please join us for the Msgr. Watson Memorial Mass on Tuesday, May 18, at 5:30 pm. We will remember the many years of service of our second Pastor. Everyone will be invited downstairs for refreshments after the Mass. It is good for us to pray for his eternal rest and to be thankful for his 34 years of faithful service to St. Thomas.

-Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of May 16, 2021

Sunday	The Ascension of the Lord Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Mark 16:15-20
Monday	Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-33
Tuesday	St. John I, Pope & Martyr Acts 20:17-27; John 17:1-11a
Wednesday	Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19
Thursday	St. Bernardine of Sienna, Priest Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; John 17:20-26
Friday	St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest and Companions, Martyrs Acts 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19
Saturday	St. Rita of Cascia, Religious Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21:20-25
Sunday	Pentecost Sunday Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23

Mass Intentions

Monday, May 17, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Pius & Caroline Willy Family/Jack & Margaret Weinstein
8:00 a.m.	Harry LaHood, Sr./Family

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Msgr. William Watson/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley
8:00 a.m.	Joseph & Florence Whalen/Jeanne Whalen

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB
8:00 a.m.	Rose Rahe/Friends

Thursday, May 20, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Joe Kelly/Beth Washburn
8:00 a.m.	Glen Morton/Warren & Bonnie Brietbarth
9:15 a.m.	Owen & Marge Dixon/Family

Friday, May 21, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Dr. James N. Kenny, Sr./Family
8:00 a.m.	Frank McCabe/Mary Ambrosch

Saturday, May 22, 2021

8:00 a.m.	Lois Streid/Eileen McDonough
5:00 p.m.	Angela Juneman/St. Vincent de Paul Society

Sunday, May 23, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Jack Lambert/Family
9:00 a.m.	Jane Doran & Anne Wombacher/Bill & Pat Wombacher
11:00 a.m.	Chuck Gavin/Dennis & Barb Tilly
2:00 p.m.	Elaine Gardiner/Kitty Bieneman
5:00 p.m.	For the People

Week of May 16

LECTOR TRAINING Sunday, May 16, 12:00 p.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, May 18, 10:00 a.m., Church

MSGR. WATSON MEMORIAL MASS Tuesday, May 18, 5:30 p.m., Church

LECTOR TRAINING Wednesday, May 19, 5:30 p.m., Church

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, May 20, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

HOLY HOUR Thursday, May 20, 7:00 p.m., Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

STS Graduation	May 23
Men's Club Golf Scramble	June 25

Msgr. Watson Memorial Mass

Tuesday, May 18 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Reception to follow at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Parish Hall



Msgr. Watson was laid to rest in his hometown of Odell, Illinois. While the distance and the size of the church limited the number who could participate, many of our parishioners and the priests of the diocese helped celebrate Msgr. Watson's funeral with the family.

Msgr. Watson's family members have been invited and look forward to our St. Thomas Memorial Mass as we pray for him and give thanks for 34 years as our pastor. Msgr. Watson was known for his devotion to Ireland, so you are welcome (though not required) to wear green. Our school families have also been warmly invited, and our students who have benefited from Msgr. Watson's dedication to our school may wear school colors.

After Mass, please join us in the parish hall for refreshments as we display various photos from Msgr. Watson's time at St. Thomas. Everyone is welcome to join in the reception and share stories and memories about the great legacy he has left us as our shepherd.

Our Sympathy

Janice Hackett, grandmother of Erik Hackett

Mary Ward, mother of Msgr. Jerry Ward and
Tim Ward, grandmother of Sarah, Erin, and
Danny Ward

Mike Doran, brother of Pat Wombacher

Baptism Congratulations

Taylor Alice Ryan, daughter of Kelly
& Kyle Ryon

Wedding Congratulations

Kimberly Eiten ~ Robert Parker



PARISH HOLY HOUR

Thursday, May 20

7:00 p.m. — 8:00 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.

Weekly Collection

	May 9, 2021	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$900,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$14,279.....	\$742,767
Electronic Collections	\$3,399.....	\$152,955
Total Collected.....	\$17,678.....	\$895,722
Over/(Short)	\$(2,322).....	\$(4,278)

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.



Pray with the Pope

May 2021
For Deacons

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

Sponsor of the Week

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2021 St. Thomas Golf Scramble

In support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Assistance Fund
Hosted by: St. Thomas Men's Club

Friday, June 25th, 2021 • Mt. Hawley Country Club

All golf outing proceeds will be used in the support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Tuition Assistance program. The net proceeds from this year's outing will fund \$500 scholarships for students of St. Thomas who demonstrate a financial need. It is the goal of the Men's Club to fund 15 scholarships for the 2021-22 school year. Your support of the golf outing is greatly appreciated.

GOLF REGISTRATION \$99/Person

Golfer sponsorship includes: Door prize ticket, green fees, cart, and *Hor d'oeuvres & Drinks in the Club House after the event.*

*Registration Deadline Friday, June 18th
Late registration after June 18th, \$110 Per Person*

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

HOT SPOT SPONSOR

- Golf Beverage Sponsor: \$200 / Logo on Sign at beverage stations
- Reception Sponsors - \$200 / Logo on table tents at the reception.

TEE SPONSOR \$125 / 36 Sponsors

Placement of company logo sign at the Tee Box or at the Hole.

BE A PRIZE OR RAFFLE SPONSOR

Feature your business by donating a raffle or prize item. Please drop off prize or raffle item to Macro Wealth Management at 6915 N. Knoxville Ave, Peoria IL 61614

- Registration/Check-in 11:00am-11:45am
- Shotgun Starts at Noon (Be at your hole by Noon)
- Followed by *Hor d'oeuvres & Drinks in the Club House*
- Registration Deadline Friday, June 18th
- Late Registration \$110 Per Person

For more information please contact:
Terri Moon (309) 688-3446
Email: terrimoon@stthomas-church.net

Please Submit Payment with Registration

REGISTRATION FORM

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Golfers

Player 1: _____ Phone: _____ Amount \$ _____

Player 2: _____ Phone: _____ Amount \$ _____

Player 3: _____ Phone: _____ Amount \$ _____

Player 4: _____ Phone: _____ Amount \$ _____

Sponsorship

Sponsorship Category : _____ Amount \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: **St. Thomas Men's Club**

Mail registration along with payment to:

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Day of Awesomeness

A day of fun, skills, and being together with friends.



May Crowning

Our 8th Grade students crown Mary



First Communion

On May 1st our Second Grade students made their First Communion



Student Summer Service Hours

The St. Thomas Food Pantry offers an excellent opportunity for students who need service hours. Summers offer two days each week for four students to gain service hours. On Monday and Thursday mornings, holidays excepted, the pantry distributes groceries to clients. Students will participate in all pantry activities with adult supervision.

An additional service opportunity is available one Thursday per month students help adult volunteers unload the truck, repackage food, rotate stock and stock shelves.

Students interested in earning service hours at the food pantry this summer should email Diana Janda at diana-janda1964@gmail.com

Opportunities Available:

Mon. & Thur. mornings – 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Monthly Truck – 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM – 6/17, 7/15 & 8/12

PND Irish Expo



Paving the way in advanced coursework for secondary education, Peoria Notre Dame senior AP Research and Project Lead the Way students have completed their final research projects. Now seniors are ready to present their projects to the public during the first PND Irish Expo.

May 19th at 6:00 pm in the Peoria Notre Dame Commons.

Enjoy light refreshments as you learn about interesting topics such as how landing zone variables impact course difficulty in golf, expanding the physicians well-being index to improve mental health among medical professionals, and musical patterns in AI generated songs. You will be blown away by the research and analytical work prepared by these high school seniors in these PhD dissertation style projects. Come see how PND students are going to change the world!

Review for our Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

We are holding several refresher sessions for readers and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. As we continue our return to normal, it is good to review the guidelines for serving as a reader or an extraordinary minister. Training sessions will be held in the church.

Lectors, please come on either Sunday, May 16 at 12 PM, or Wednesday, May 19 at 5:30 PM.

EMHC, please come on either Sunday, May 23 at 12 PM, or Wednesday, May 26 at 5:30 PM.

We will review everything involved in serving in these ministries. You can reserve your spot by signing up through Ministry Scheduler Pro for one of these sessions.

Participating at one of these sessions is required to continue serving in these ministries.

Thanks for your service!

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.

Last Name _____

First Name(s) _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

New Parishioner _____ Change of address/phone _____

St. Thomas Food Pantry

Current needs are: canned fruit, pasta sauce, meal helper, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items

Thank you for your generosity

Do not make prayer a monologue... make it a conversation.

- Author Unknown



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.

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

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