

**He said to her,  
“Daughter,  
your faith has  
saved you.  
Go in peace  
and be  
cured of your  
affliction.”  
Mark 5:34**

June 27, 2021

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

**13**  
**ORDINARY  
TIME**





## From Our Pastor

During these summer months, we have a celebration special to us at St. Thomas. On the celebration of our patron's feast day, Saturday, July 3rd, we will celebrate Mass to honor St. Thomas the Apostle at 8 AM. The day before, July 2, we have First Friday Adoration, from 8:30 AM to 8 PM. Please join us to adore the Eucharist and to celebrate our patron.

Let us give thanks for the freedoms and independence we enjoy in the United States, as we celebrate the Fourth of July next Sunday. May God bless our country!

There has been considerable discussion in the news about worthiness to receive the Eucharist. This might be a good time to review some basic aspects of our teaching on Holy Communion.

When we eat ordinary food, such as a donut, we do not ask ourselves whether we are worthy to consume this donut. We know the food we eat will be used to fuel our body as it is digested and incorporated into our cells. We might ask whether we should consume the calories, but we don't ask about our worthiness to eat the donut.

The Eucharist, however, is the Body of Christ. We are not receiving an inanimate source of nourishment. Communion is the living and real presence of Jesus, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, which we recognize by faith as truly present under the appearance of ordinary bread. This is no ordinary food, since we approach Our Lord Who is our Creator and the Savior of our souls. Rather than transforming the Host into our body, we are the ones transformed by Jesus to become members of **His** Body.

We say *Communion*, because through the Eucharist, we are in communion with Jesus and with the members of His body in the Church throughout the world. If we are not fully united in the communion of the Church, then receiving the Eucharist becomes a contradiction. This can occur if we are married outside the Church, or if we fall into grave sin that is mortal. We are always encouraged to ask for a blessing if we are not prepared to receive Communion at Mass. It is also best to go to confession when we need to be reconciled with Our Lord.

In future columns, I will talk about the importance of professing the faith in connection with receiving the Eucharist.

-Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of June 27, 2021

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24; 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15; Mark 5:21-43 or Mark 5:21-24, 35b-43
<b>Monday</b>	<b>St. Irenaeus, Bishop &amp; Martyr</b> Genesis 18:16-33; Matthew 8:18-22
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Sts. Peter &amp; Paul, Apostles</b> Acts 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16:13-19
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church</b> Genesis 21:5,8-20a; Matthew 8:28-34
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>St. Junipero Serra, Priest</b> Genesis 22:1b-19; Matthew 9:1-8
<b>Friday</b>	Genesis 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67; Matthew 9:9-13
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Thomas the Apostle</b> Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Ezekiel 2:2-5; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Mark 6:1-6

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, June 28, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Ted Pilat 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniv./Tom & Mary Kay Pilat
8:00 a.m.	Marge McNally/Family

### Tuesday, June 29, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Melvin & Lucille Noe/Family
8:00 a.m.	Linda Horton/Andy & Susan Piper

### Wednesday, June 30, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Mary Frances Cunningham/Karen & Bob Metzinger
8:00 a.m.	Alice Grow/The Pearl/Cain Family

### Thursday, July 1, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Helen Ann Farraher/Frances Farraher
8:00 a.m.	Rollie Wilson/Ed & Cathy Mallow

### Friday, July 2, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Souls of the Seyfert & Beyler Families
8:00 a.m.	Mary Ward/Ann & Paul Horst

### Saturday, July 3, 2021

8:00 a.m.	St. Thomas Parish
5:00 p.m.	Mary Carrigan/Jim & Mary Clare Geraghty

### Sunday, July 4, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Betty Shepherd
9:00 a.m.	Tom Burek/Mike & Theresa Haughney
11:00 a.m.	Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist
5:00 p.m.	For the People

## Week of June 27

**FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION SIGN-UP** after all Masses this weekend in the Narthex

**ROSARY** Tuesday, June 29, 10:00 a.m., Church

**ADORATION** Friday, July 2, after 8:00 Mass until Benediction at 8:00 p.m.

**PARISH SOLEMNITY** Saturday, July 3, Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Carmelites' meeting & Mass      July 10  
St. Thomas Holy Hour      July 15

## Our Sympathy

Sharon Miller, mother of Mike Miller

## Baptism Congratulations

William James Jackson, son of Chris & Madisen Jackson

Scarlet Rose Weed, daughter of Brandon Weed & Elizabeth Bender

## Pray with the Pope

June 2021  
The Way of the Heart

We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.



July 2021  
Our Families

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

## 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.*

## Parish Solemnity

Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle  
Our Parish Patron Saint  
will be celebrated at the 8:00 a.m. Mass  
Saturday, July 3

## Weekly Collection

	June 20, 2021	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$1,020,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$8,024.....	\$824,938
Electronic Collections .....	\$3,399.....	\$173,349
Total Collected.....	\$11,423.....	\$998,287
Over/(Short) .....	\$(8,577).....	\$(21,713)

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.

Sponsor of the Week



## Maintaining Personal Safety

July 7 at 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

How do you know if it's a scam? How do you know who to trust coming into your home? These, and other safety-related questions, will be addressed.



Join us, and a representative from the Peoria Heights Police Department, for a *Senior Safety* program. While the target audience is older adults, people of all ages will gain useful information.

There will be time at the end for questions from the audience. Come, and bring a friend.



## Invitation to Join the Permanent Diaconate

Have you, or someone you know, considered becoming a Deacon? The deadline for application has been moved to January 15, 2022. If you are a man who:

1. Is over 35 and under 55 years of age in January 2022
2. If a convert is in full communion with the Church for 5 years as of January 2022
3. Has the recommendation of the Pastor

Please consider prayerfully if you are being called to service to the Church as a member of the Permanent Diaconate.

You do not need to wait until the formal orientation to begin your process; you can begin any time. The first step is an initial interview with Msgr. Timothy Nolan, Episcopal Vicar for the Permanent Diaconate, after which you will be assigned a deacon who will help in your discernment process, and growth in the spiritual life.

If you have further questions, would like to join the Diaconate yourself, or have someone to recommend, please see Msgr. Gray.

## Staff Openings



St. Thomas School offers the following teaching positions for our 2021-2022 school year:

- 5-8 Grade English teacher
- Second grade teacher
- Fourth grade teacher

Applicants must hold an Illinois elementary education (K-9) teaching certificate. If interested, please submit a letter of interest and a resume to Mrs. Maureen Bentley at [maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net](mailto:maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net)

**Recent college graduates are welcome!**

Come join the caring, professional staff here at St. Thomas and help guide our students into the future.

## Emmaus Days

**Session II:** June 25-28 for HS Juniors and Seniors, at St. John's Newman Center, Champaign

**Session III:** July 18-21 for HS Freshmen and Sophomores

**Session IV:** July 21-23 for 7th and 8th graders sessions III & IV will be held at Peoria Notre Dame HS.

For more information, and to register, go to [comeandfollowme.org/emmausdays](http://comeandfollowme.org/emmausdays).

## 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 their 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](http://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.

## Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

July 5th, 2021, the first Monday; 7:00 P.M.  
Saint Mark's Church,  
1113 W. Bradley Avenue, in Peoria.

If you have received the vaccine, face masks are not required. If you have not you are asked to continue to wear a mask.



## Parish Solemnity July 3

On this day we celebrate the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, our Patron Saint for whom our church is named. In 1924, Bishop Joseph Schlarman designated the Mission of St. Thomas to serve Catholics in Peoria Heights, at the time part of the northern territory of St. Bernard Parish. On August 15, 1924, he purchased what had been well known as Herbstrith's café on the corner of Lake and Monroe streets for \$8,500. What had been a popular supper club was transformed: the sacristy was created from what was the bar; the dining room became a meeting room; and the dance hall was transformed into the church.

In 1937, Bishop Schlarman elevated St. Thomas from a Mission to a Parish. He appointed Father Bernard Rank to serve the new parish of 100 families. Then, in 1940, work began on a permanent church, dedicated by Bishop Schlarman on December 9. This church is now our Daily Mass Chapel.

In 1981, Msgr. (then Fr.) William Watson became our second pastor. He oversaw the 1995 addition to the school, and the construction of our current church, dedicated in 2002.

Most recently, Msgr. Gray has overseen the renovation of the church with the addition of more mosaics and the stenciling in the sanctuary, unifying the symbolism within our two worship spaces.

**St. Thomas the Apostle** appears in two mosaics ~ in the large mosaic in the narthex as *Doubting Thomas*, and as a carpenter in the far left mosaic in the sanctuary reredos.

St. Thomas also appears in a few specific passages of Scripture: when Jesus prepares to go to Jerusalem, Thomas says he will go to die with Him (Jn 11:5-16); at the Last Supper, Thomas asks a question and Jesus teaches him *He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life* (Jn 14:1-7). Thomas is probably best known for his words of faith after the Resurrection, *My Lord and My God* (Jn 20:19-29).

After the Resurrection, Thomas was said to have evangelized Parthia and brought the Gospel as far as India. According to Tradition Thomas visited the Indo-Parthian King Gondopernes who put him in charge of building the royal palace, since Thomas had skills as a carpenter. Hence, Thomas is depicted with the carpenter's square. He was martyred at Madras, which explains the depiction of the spear (spear and square are in our mosaic).

He is the patron saint of India, architects, builders, and our Parish.

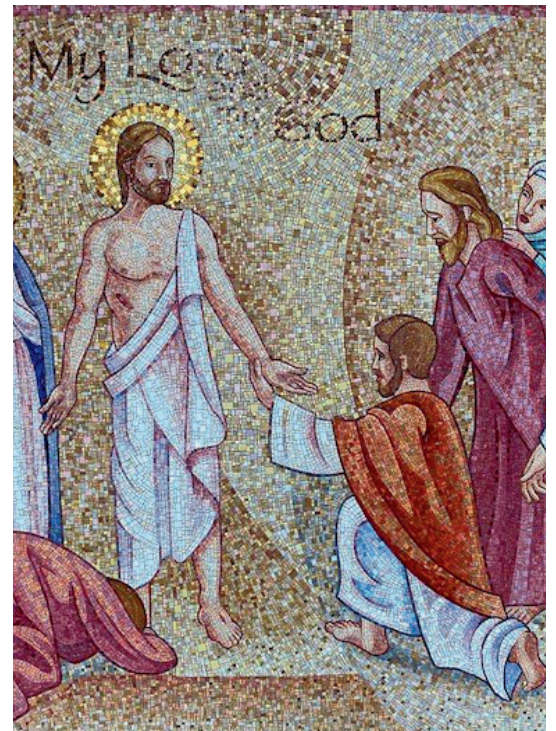
From: History ([stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org))

### Fulton Sheen Newsletters

The Sheen Foundation quarterly newsletters are back! They include excerpts from Archbishop's 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](mailto:Info@SheenCause.org) or call Sr. Lea in the Foundation Office -- 309-671-1550.



Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, We have seen the Lord. But he said to them, Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into His side, I will not believe (Jn 20:24-25).

St. Thomas the Apostle as carpenter



## St. Thomas Food Pantry

Current needs are: canned fruit, canned soup, jelly, meal helper, pasta sauce, peanut butter, and personal hygiene items

*Thank you for your generosity*

## Around the Diocese

June 27-July 2: *Totus Tuus*

St. Mark Parish, Peoria

July 11-17: *Totus Tuus*

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Morton

St. Mary Parish, Metamora

## July Ultreya



Please join us for our Cursillo July Ultreya

2021 Theme: *Go Make Disciples* Guests and families are Welcome!

Saturday, July 10 at 7:00pm at  
Holy Family Catholic Church, Peoria, and on the Peoria Cursillo Office  
Facebook Live page

Join us for a chance to pray and share!  
Lay Reflection by Ron Budzinski  
Host Couple: Maurice and Maureen Alouan  
Social Time outside afterwards with snacks and beverages - individually wrapped

Guests are welcome!

No sign up needed! Please join us!

You can contact the Cursillo Office at 309/676-5587 or  
[cursillopeoria@gmail.com](mailto:cursillopeoria@gmail.com) for more information.

## 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.

## 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** \_\_\_\_\_

## 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)).






**St. Vincent de Paul Helpline:**  
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Call this number if you need services



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<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:ccd@stthomas-church.net">ccd@stthomas-church.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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