

**So they went off in  
the boat by  
themselves to a  
deserted place.  
People saw them  
leaving and many  
came to know about  
it. They hastened  
there on foot from  
all the towns and  
arrived at the place  
before them.  
Mark 6:32-33**

July 18, 2021

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

**16**  
**ORDINARY  
TIME**





## From Our Pastor

In the past weeks, I have spent time reflecting on receiving Communion. It is important that we be in a state of grace when receiving the Lord. We should also be in communion with the Church by professing all those things that are at the heart of our Catholic Faith. Among those beliefs is the fundamental truth that we are all created in the image and likeness of God, and that human life is precious and sacred.

The Bishops throughout the United States are taking up the question about the circumstances in which a public person should not receive Communion. At what point does a person hold a public opinion fundamentally opposed to a core teaching of our faith? In order to demonstrate the complexity of this issue, I have highlighted several political questions related to the right to life. Various elected officials hold a variety of opinions on each of these issues:

*Should access to abortion be legal? Should access to abortion be free of charge? Should Federal and State laws be able to restrict abortion? Should judges be appointed with a view to protecting abortion? Should abortifacient medications be restricted? Should the Hyde Amendment, the Helms Amendment, or the Mexico City Policy be supported?* (The Hyde Amendment states that no taxpayer dollars shall be used to fund abortion in this country. The Helms Amendment states that no US foreign aid funds shall be used to perform abortions, while the Mexico City Policy restricts foreign aid from promoting abortion.)

Some further issues: *Should Planned Parenthood be federally funded? Should health care programs provide education to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies? Should expectant mothers have access to health care including adoption programs? Should public policies be supported to make abortion "safe, legal, and rare" or "less necessary"? Should individual conscience be respected in reproductive decisions? Should religious and ethical concerns about abortion be recognized?*

Please remember to pray for our Bishops as they consider this complex question. At what point does a public person hold an opinion no longer consistent with living in communion with the Catholic Church? Next week, I will consider the pastoral response the Bishops can adopt in these circumstances.

— Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of July 18, 2021

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ephesians 2:13-18; Mark 6:30-34
<b>Monday</b>	Exodus 14:5-18; Matthew 12:38-42
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>St. Appollinaris, Bishop &amp; Martyr</b> Exodus 14:21—15:1; Matthew 12:46-50
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest &amp; Doctor of the Church</b> Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15; Matthew 13:1-9
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>St. Mary Magdalene</b> Song 3:1-4b or 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; John 20:1-2, 11-18
<b>Friday</b>	<b>St. Bridget, Religious</b> Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 13:18-23
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Sharbel Makhluf, Priest</b> Exodus 24:3-8; Matthew 13:24-30
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 2 Kings 4:42-44; Ephesians 4:1-6; John 6:1-15

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, July 19, 2021

7:00 a.m. Gabrielle & Kyle Haste/Famiy  
8:00 a.m. James A. Geraghty, Sr./James Snyder

### Tuesday, July 20, 2021

7:00 a.m. Deceased Members of Peoria Police Dept/Jack & Margaret Weinstein  
8:00 a.m. Msgr. William Watson/Tim & Diana O'Hanlon

### Wednesday, July 21, 2021

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Marie Brien/Frances Farraher  
8:00 a.m. Lois Streid/Family & Friends

### Thursday, July 22, 2021

7:00 a.m. Catherine Rees/Terry, Wendy, & Tara Young  
8:00 a.m. Mary Ward/Ed & Cathy Mallow

### Friday, July 23, 2021

7:00 a.m. Naya & Tony Ferris/Ken & Carmen Hurm  
8:00 a.m. Intentions of Mark Karosky/Ed & Cathy Mallow

### Saturday, July 24, 2021

8:00 a.m. Joseph Tesar/Sheldon & Mary Ann Schafer  
5:00 p.m. Margaret & Bernard Sauer/Family

### Sunday, July 25, 2021

7:00 a.m. For the People  
9:00 a.m. John Schlicksup, Jr./Family  
11:00 a.m. Kevin Harmon/Ed Harmon  
5:00 p.m. Elmer & Wilma Ellebrecht/The Janda Family

## Week of July 18

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS EXEMPLIFICATION** Today, July 18, 1:00 p.m., Church

**ROSARY** Tuesday, July 20, 10:00 a.m., Church

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Adoration	August 6
Parish Picnic	August 15
St. Thomas Holy Hour	August 19
St. Thomas Volunteer Fair	August 29

## Knights of Columbus, Spalding Council #427 ~ Exemplification

**Sunday, July 18, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Church**

Registration is at 12:30 p.m.

Family members are invited to attend



### 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.*

## Weekly Collection

	July 11, 2021	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$40,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$12,045.....	\$28,783
Electronic Collections .....	\$3,399.....	\$3,399
Total Collected.....	\$15,444.....	\$35,581
Over/(Short) .....	\$(4,556).....	\$(4,419

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

Del Bertschy

Mary Crank

Diocesan Historical Museum  
June—December 2021



## My Time in Peoria

Honoring Bishop Jenky's  
20 Years  
As Our Shepherd



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## Safety Tips from Peoria Heights Police

The Heights Police were here this past week and gave a great presentation on personal safety. Here are a few highlights:

- Telephone scammers will ask to verify your information, this is a **Red Flag**—the legitimate agency will already have this information so never give it out:
  - Ask for caller's name, phone number, extension number—this will usually result in a hang-up
- Government agencies will **NEVER** call—Social Security, IRS, Medicare, Unemployment, etc.—they use the US mail to contact you.
  - If you receive a letter from IL Unemployment offering to start your claim—**DO NOT** respond; this is a scam. If you need to file for unemployment you must contact them.
  - The Police will never call for tickets, fines, relative in jail, etc.
- Someone coming to your house seeking for work:
  - Ask for Business License number, Insurance number, Bond number, business address and phone number—all legitimate businesses have these and are happy to share.
    - If you have called someone to do something, such as give you an estimate—if you are at all uncomfortable, have someone else in the home while they are there.
    - Before hiring, check with the Better Business Bureau—if the business is legitimate, there will be some record at the BBB.
    - When choosing someone use word-of-mouth recommendations, BBB information; avoid randomly calling any unfamiliar business.
- If you have hired someone to do work and they are slow to finish it, or show up randomly, or ask for more money, and ultimately to not finish:
  - You can report this to the police
  - If you work out a deal with the worker, and they still do not finish, it is no longer criminal, it is a matter for the civil court
- If you are at one of the downtown Court Houses after dark, or any of the 3 Peoria hospitals after dark—ask for an escort to your car—they are happy to help you.
- Phone calls asking for disaster donations are scams—the Red Cross does not call.
- Mace will hurt you as badly as the person you want to spray—better to use a whistle, there is one that works by pulling the plug
- When going to your car in public places, do it purposefully:
  - Walk straight to your car with keys in your hand ready to use;
  - Get in as quickly as you can and *close and lock* your doors quickly. You can fuss with your things once you are in—do not sit with the door open.
  - If you do see someone suspicious, go back into the store and if needed call police from there.
    - If the someone suspicious is in the store, report to the manager—it is their job to deal with the person.
- Door-to-door sales are legal, but the person must have a Peddler's License (Peoria Heights, yes; check with other towns) - you can ask to see this.
- Pandering is now legal—if uncomfortable, lock doors and keep windows up, avoid eye contact
- If in doubt—call: 911 for any emergency—it will route to the correct agency. For all non-emergencies: **Peoria Police** 697-7841; **Peoria Heights Police** 697-7841; **Peoria Co. Sheriff** 672-6011; **Better Business Bureau** 688-3741



## Project Backpack

Please help us get area K - 8th grade students ready to go back to school!

Please donate a new backpack(s) filled with the following items by **Sunday, August 8th**:

- \* 2 Wide-Ruled Notebooks
- \* 2 2-Pocket Poly Folders
- \* 1 Pack of Wide-Ruled Loose Leaf Paper
- \* 1 12-Pack #2 Lead Pencils
- \* 1 Pack Black or Blue Pens
- \* 1 Pink Eraser
- \* 1 Metric/English ruler
- \* 1 10-Pack of Crayola Markers
- \* 1 24-Pack Crayola Crayons
- \* 1 12-Pack Crayola Colored Pencils
- \* 1 4 oz. Bottle Elmer's School Glue
- \* 2 Elmer's Glue Sticks
- \* 1 Pair School Scissors
- \* 1 Pencil Pouch



Backpacks may be left in the collection tubs in the narthex or dropped off at the St. Thomas Food Pantry (M and Th, 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM).

Donations of any of the above school supplies are also appreciated. If you would rather provide a monetary donation, we will do the shopping for you! Please put your donation in an envelope marked "Backpacks" and place it in the Sunday collection or drop it at the parish office.

Please contact Diana at [diana-janda1964@gmail.com](mailto:diana-janda1964@gmail.com) with any questions. Thank you for helping area students get off to a great start for the 2021-2022 school year!

## Volunteer Weekend Coming

As we get more and more back to normal, it will be time to reestablish many of our regular activities.

We will only be able to do this with your help. Everyone is encouraged to take an active part by getting involved in those functions in which you are most interested.

More to come as we approach Labor Day...





## **Proclamation in honor of 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of Monsignor Jason Gray**

Whereas Monsignor Jason Gray was ordained in the Diocese of Peoria in 1997 and since then has nearly doubled his time on this earthly sphere, with just a touch of gray on this Gray to show for it ...

Whereas Monsignor Gray has graced the altar at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Peoria Heights since 2015 ...

Whereas Monsignor Gray has overseen a number of improvements at St. Thomas – from the Community Center/St. Rose Village Kitchen to the school to the sanctuary – making the church campus more beautiful and accessible than ever and a true credit and beacon to the neighborhoods that surround it ...

Whereas Monsignor Gray is an expert in church law who knows his way around a canon, which means it's wise not to question his aims ...

Whereas Monsignor Gray has assisted in the effort to put Archbishop Fulton Sheen on the pathway to sainthood, with that true son of central Illinois now back home where he belongs ...

Whereas Monsignor Gray has lived and studied in some of the world's great cities, from Silvis, Illinois to Rome, Italy, both locked in a tie for second to the great Village of Peoria Heights ...

We, the Village Board of Peoria Heights, proclaim this day, July 8, 2021, as the golden anniversary of a well-lived life of service, while celebrating the community's good fortune in having such exemplary spiritual leadership.

***Happy birthday, Monsignor Gray!***

4901 N. Prospect Rd., Peoria Heights, IL 61616  
P 309-686-2385 F 309-686-2379  
Peoria Heights.org

## 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*

## Peoria Notre Dame 25th Annual Golf Classic



To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Peoria Notre Dame Golf Classic, the annual outing will take place this year on **Wednesday, September 8 at the Country Club of Peoria.**

Gather your foursome for lunch, a round of golf on a pristine course, drinks and dinner along with great prizes.

Hole sponsorships and event sponsorships are also available. You can register for golf and sponsorships at [pndgolfclassic.maxgiving.golf](http://pndgolfclassic.maxgiving.golf).

Questions? Contact Sarah Huenefeld at [s.huenefeld@pndhs.org](mailto:s.huenefeld@pndhs.org) or **691-8741**.

## Emmaus Days

**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).

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Peoria Heights High School Blood Drive

In the *Community Room*, Peoria Heights Library  
Friday, July 23, 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment call: **1-800-RED-CROSS** or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

Students need to bring a driver's license, or 2 forms of other ID, at least one must have proof of age.



## Staff Openings

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

- 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!**

## 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](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)).



<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 ..... 309-645-1364 <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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