

**And people brought
to him a deaf man
who had a speech
impediment and
begged him to lay
his hand on him.
And immediately the
man's ears were
opened, his speech
impediment was
removed, and he
spoke plainly.
Mark 7:32,35**

September 5, 2021

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



23
ORDINARY
TIME



From Our Pastor

Happy Labor Day Weekend! This weekend often marks an official end to summer and a beginning of fall, even though many of our students have been back in school for several weeks already. I wish everyone a joyful weekend and invite you to our one 9 AM Mass on Labor Day.

I am very grateful for your participation at our Volunteer Fair we last weekend. Many people came downstairs to explore the various groups, activities, and service opportunities at St. Thomas that can thrive only with your participation. In order to continue the fruits of this weekend, I will periodically feature some of these areas in upcoming bulletins.

For those who see the bulletin online before the weekend, I offer a special encouragement to join our *Fulton Sheen Eucharistic League*, and help fill in empty Adoration spaces, First Friday, September 3. Adoration runs from 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM. We depend on volunteers ready to come in to pray during one of the 30-minute spots on our schedule. The members of our *Eucharistic League* simply give their email address and will receive an email notification about filling in any gaps in our schedule. The Venerable Archbishop Sheen was known for spending an hour before the Blessed Sacrament every day in prayer. His example is a model we can imitate by coming in to pray on First Friday once a month.

We will start CCD this week (September 8), RCIA next week (September 15), and *That Man is You* the week after. I encourage you enroll your children for religious instruction if you haven't done so already. I welcome you and anyone interested in the Catholic Faith to take part in our classes about the Catholic Faith through RCIA each Wednesday at 7 PM. I am also happy to see our men's group resume their Friday meetings through TMIY.

For the women of the parish, I am happy to host a Ladies' Night Out on Thursday, September 9. Come to the Parish Hall at 6 PM where Msgr. Gray will offer a brief spiritual reflection followed by social time with refreshments. As we get into the fall, this will be a good time for the parish women of all ages to spend time together.

— Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of September 5, 2021

Sunday	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 35:4-7a; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37
Monday	Colossians 1:24—2:3; Luke 6:6-11
Tuesday	Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 6:12-19
Wednesday	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-32 or Matthew 1:18-23
Thursday	St. Peter Claver, Priest Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 6:27-38
Friday	1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14; Luke 6:39-42
Saturday	1 Timothy 1:15-17; Luke 6:43-49
Sunday	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 50:5-9a; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 6, 2021

9:00 a.m. Winnifred A. Farragher/Frances Farragher

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

7:00 a.m. Msgr. Maurice Salmon/Jack & Margaret Weinstein
8:00 a.m. Jing Bautista/Bautista & Bennett Families

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

7:00 a.m. Melvin & Lucille Noe/Family
8:00 a.m. Ed Dotta/Donna Foli

Thursday, September 9, 2021

7:00 a.m. Kevin Harmon/Orville & Linda Frank
8:00 a.m. Tom Yock 4th Anniv./Tom & Mary Kay Pilat
9:15 a.m. Lou Phelan/Joe & Sandy Whalen

Friday, September 10, 2021

7:00 a.m. Mariano Tolentino/The Sarmiento Family
8:00 a.m. Nareen Therens/Jeanne Whalen

Saturday, September 11, 2021

8:00 a.m. Chip Chan/Family
5:00 p.m. Mary Kay Barkley/Rosemary Szidon

Sunday, September 12, 2021

7:00 a.m. Mary Ward/Mr. & Mrs. Richard Caldwell
9:00 a.m. Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist
11:00 a.m. Sharon Miller/Matt & Lesley Vonachen
5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of September 5

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

LABOR DAY Monday, September 6, Parish Office and School Closed

LABOR DAY Monday, September 6, Mass, 9:00 a.m.

ROSARY Tuesday, September 7, 10:00 a.m., Church

CCD Wednesday, September 8, 6:00 p.m., School

LADIES NIGHT OUT Thursday, September 9, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

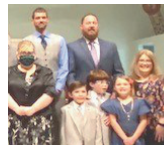
UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>St. Thomas Holy Hour</i>	September 16
<i>Septoberfest</i>	September 25
<i>Adoration</i>	October 1



RCIA

The *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults* is a series of weekly classes through the fall and spring, leading up to Easter.



RCIA classes will begin **Wednesday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the Parish Hall.



Now is the time to invite someone you may know to consider joining our RCIA class. You do not need to preregister—just come to the first class. If you have questions, please call the Parish Office.



Pray with the Pope

September 2021
Respect for the Planet's Resources

We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

Weekly Collection

	August 29, 2021	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$180,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$7,830.....	\$113,356
Electronic Collections	\$3,188.....	\$29,114
Total Collected.....	\$11,018.....	\$142,470
Over/(Short)	\$(8,982).....	\$(37,530)

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

Antonio Algas

Dr. Richard Flores

Patty Parrett



St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

904 East Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights, IL 61616
stthomaspeoria.org; 309-688-3446
parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

Pastor: Msgr. Jason A. Gray.....(x3)
msggray@stthomas-church.net

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Paul Stark S.J.....(x4)
paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net

Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB
(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

Deacon: Dcn. Mark Kelsch.....(692-4908)
Dcn. John Nelson.....(981-2716)
Dcn. Ed Mallow.....(360-7735)

School Principal: Maureen Bentley.....(x1210)
maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

Administrative Assistant: Terri Moon.....(x0)
terrimoon@stthomas-church.net

Bulletin Editor: Peggy Sullivan.....(x1301)
peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net

Accountant: Julie Streid.....(x1340)
juliestreid@stthomas-church.net

Tuition Coordinator: Pat Wombacher.....(x1341)
patwombacher@stthomas-school.net

CCD Coordinator: Angie Robenstein
309-645-1364;
ccd@stthomas-church.net

Music Coordinator: Ann Horst.....(682-5507)
Choir Director: Erin Craig
erincraig@stthomas-school.net

Annulment Consultant: John Mackoway
(699-5213)

Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty.....(1350)
parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

Septemberfest ~ Volunteers Needed

Septemberfest will be here before we know it ~ **September 25th**

Helpers still needed!

The 5 areas of need:

- Set-up, on 9/25, beginning at noon
- Kitchen help, 3:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.
- Beverage station, 3:00 p.m.—11:00 p.m.
- Ticket counter, 3:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.
- Tear down, beginning at 10:30 p.m.



If you have questions or are able to **volunteer for two (2) hours** in one of the areas, please call Gary Doll at 309-369-9617, Todd Dennhardt 309-472-7178, or Tom Majewski 309-657-3402

Scan the QR Code to sign up to volunteer:



Ticket pre-sale for the event will begin the weekends of September 11/12 and September 18/19

Be Sure to Mark Your Calendar

Ladies Night Out

All Ladies of the Parish are Invited

Bring a snack to share

Come for sharing and learning and a fun time

Thursday, September 9, 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall



Each week we will highlight one of the volunteer opportunities available here at St. Thomas. This week it's *Fulton Sheen Eucharistic League*. You can call or email the Parish Office if you are interested in volunteering for any of these activities.

Fulton Sheen Eucharistic League

Join us for monthly Adoration on First Fridays from 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM, and once a month on a Thursday evening from 7 to 8 PM.

Support our Adoration program by signing up to be part of the Fulton Sheen Eucharistic League.

The Venerable Fulton Sheen made a personal commitment to his Eucharistic Holy Hour each day.

Members of the Eucharistic League will receive email reminders about upcoming adoration and can sign up online to fill in any openings. Help us make sure we have at least two people for each half-hour slot on First Fridays.



That Man is You

That Man is You (TMIY) returns this fall

Sessions begin **Friday, September 24th**, and run through **Friday, December 3rd**

TMIY opens with a continental breakfast at 6:00 a.m., program 6:30—7:30 a.m.

This year's theme is *All Things New* Sessions by Dr. Scott Hahn & Dr. John Bergsma

If you missed registration email George Burek at georgeburek@yahoo.com

Save the Date

St. Thomas Progressive Dinner

November 6, 2021



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.

St. Thomas - Food Pantry

Current needs are: canned fruit, canned soup, jelly, meal helper, pasta sauce, peanut butter, and boxed side dishes

Thank you for your generosity

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



The members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society seek God through helping the poor. As we talk to a client about their needs, we strive to help them as if we are seeing the face of Christ before us. We not only help relieve the client's current financial stress, we also counsel the client in ways to help them help themselves out of the cycle of generational poverty they find themselves in, hoping to jumpstart generations of self-sustaining families.

We invite you to join us in our mission! Ways you can help:

- Donate to the St. Vincent de Paul collections after Masses on the first weekend of every month. No donation is too small, and every donation is gratefully received.
- Donate to our parish food pantry by leaving food and/or personal hygiene items in the collection boxes in the church gathering space.
- Volunteer in the food pantry and/or join the St. Vincent de Paul Society here at St. Thomas.
- Pray that God will grant our St. Vincent de Paul Society members the strength, wisdom, and means to continue helping the poor.

Diana Janda



Ask Msgr. Gray

What happens on First Fridays and why is it important?

The First Friday of each month is a day especially dedicated to the Sacred Heart and Eucharistic devotions. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque received special revelations about the Sacred Heart and called the faithful to make acts of devotion on the First Fridays. Many who are devoted to St. Margaret Mary keep this devotion by receiving Communion on 9 consecutive First Fridays and also by praying an act of reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for sins.

St. Margaret Mary also speaks of 12 promises for those who are devoted to the Sacred Heart, including graces, peace, consolation, blessings, mercy, fervor, spiritual perfection and help in the hour of death. There is a special promise of the grace of final repentance for those who keep the 9 consecutive First Fridays.

Here at St. Thomas, we observe First Friday by offering Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day. The consecrated Host is placed in the monstrance and is visible on the altar throughout the day. You are welcome to come in all day for a period of silent prayer before Our Lord. This time of quiet and prayer is a blessed time to draw strength from Jesus Christ present in the Eucharist. In order not to leave the Blessed Sacrament alone, we ask volunteers to sign up so someone is with Our Lord continuously throughout the day.

The priests also use First Friday as the traditional day to bring the Eucharist to the homebound and shut-in members of the parish who cannot physically join us for Mass.

Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Saint Mark's Church, 1113 W. Bradley Avenue, Peoria. 7:00 p.m., September 6th, 2021

Sponsor of the Week



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SEPTEMBER 13 & 14
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Sign up for your shift at: bit.ly/3AVhhAI

PART TWO

OCTOBER 3
10 AM TO 2 PM

Sophia's Kitchen | 103 Richard Pryor Place, Peoria
It's time for soup! Our masterful volunteer cooks have created delicious soup for your home. Reserve your favorite frozen quart today. \$10 a quart. Painted Soup bowls available for \$25 each. Your choice.
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Tickets \$25 ea. / 5 for \$100

Drawing – September 25, 2021

Early Drawing for \$500 – September 1, 2021

Proceeds go toward Sisters' Ministries

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Phone: _____

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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 _____

4th Annual Golf Outing to Benefit Building Hope in Kids—Uganda

Saturday, September 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m. start
Quail Meadows Golf Course
\$90 per player, includes: greens fees, cart, Avanti's dinner after at Quail Meadows

Make checks payable to: Adolph Arnold
111 Regent Ct.
East Peoria, IL 61611

To sponsor a hole, or for more information call
Annie at 264-7221

Peoria Heights High School Blood Drive

Peoria Heights Public Library

Community Room
816 E. Glen Ave.
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Friday, September 24, 2021
11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

For an appointment call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) or

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=PeoriaHeightHS>

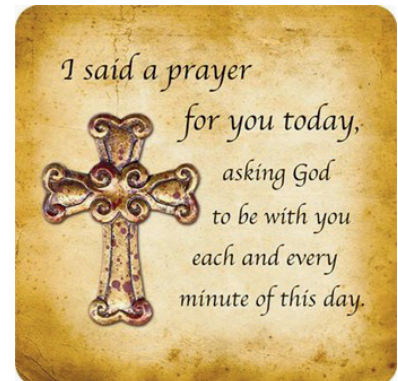
Donate between Sept. 13-30 and receive a limited-edition college football (Red Cross) T-shirt while supplies last

Help Wanted

For cleaning the Parish Hall.
1-2 hours per week usually, hours are flexible.



Please contact the Parish office if you are interested.



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. DO NOT send PDFs.**

Sacrament of Baptism
Parents participate in a Baptism class before the Baptism of their first child. Contact the Parish Office to schedule the class.

Confessions
Saturday 4:00-4:45pm & 6:00-6:30 p.m.

Parish Office Hours














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 Assist.
- 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).
1. **Bookmark the parish webpage** (stthomaspeoria.org).

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