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) msgrgray@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 Wombache(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.(x1350) parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

Stay in Touch

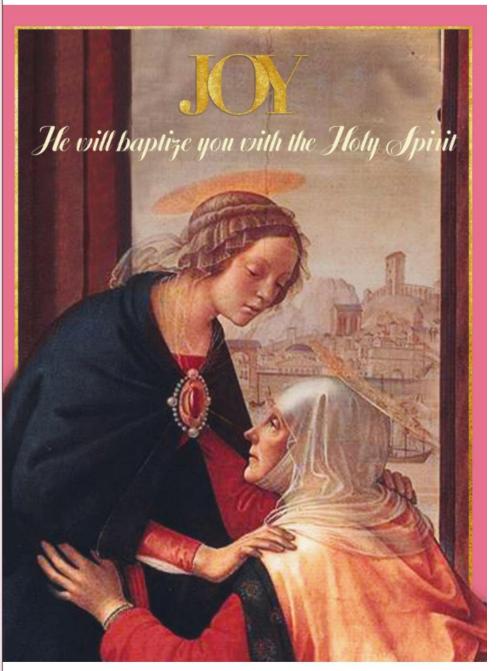
- Join Msgr. Gray for Mass. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org or the My Parish App
- Download My Parish App to receive push notifications (Visit myparishapp.com/download).
- Receive the Bulletin and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email parishoffice@ stthomas-church.net to sign up).
- 4. Bookmark the parish webpage (stthomaspeoria.org).



December 12, 2021

904 East Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights, Illinois 309-688-3446; stthomaspeoria.org

Third Sunday of Advent





From Our Pastor

Several things:

I am happy to welcome Father John Twinomujuni in residence at St. Thomas. Father John is from Uganda and has been assigned to pastoral care at OSF St. Francis Medical Center. He will be living at St. Thomas for a short time during his training and orientation, after which he will move into the chaplain's residence near the hospital. He will be able to assist with some Masses, though his primary responsibilities will be at OSF. If you see him around St. Thomas, please extend a warm welcome.

I have been exploring the reintroduction of the Sign of Peace at our weekend Masses. It appears that the parish would welcome the opportunity to exchange a sign of peace at Sunday Mass. However, please be aware of the comfort level of your fellow parishioners regarding your personal space and safety during the pandemic. It is not obligatory to shake hands to exchange the sign of peace. If your neighbor wants to avoid physical contact or does not extend his or her hand, please respect this wish. The Sign of Peace can be exchanged without physical contact by a greeting or a bow of the head.

As we get closer to the Nativity, I will extend time for confessions during this weekend before Christmas. On Saturday, December 18, extra confessions will be offered from 3:00 pm until 4:45 pm. On Sunday, December 19, extra confessions will be offered between morning Masses from 9:00 am until 9:45 am. Additional time for confessions will be available during the week before Christmas. Please make plans to go to confession during the Advent Season.

I also have a small collection of books and rosaries to give away. I will make them available on the tables in the narthex this weekend.

— Msgr. Gray



Pray with the Pope

December 2021 For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



Readings for the Week of December 12, 2021

Sunday Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3: 14-18a; Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 10-18

Monday St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

Numbers 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21: 23-27

Tuesday St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Zephaniah 3: 1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21: 28-32

Wednesday Isaiah 45: 6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7; 18b-23

Thursday Isaiah 54: 1-10; Luke 7: 24-30

Friday Genesis 49: 2, 8-10; Matthew 1: 1-17

Saturday Jeremiah 23: 5-8; Matthew 1: 18-25

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5: 1-4a; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 13, 2021

7:00 a.m. Edith Yount/Michael & Whitney Axelson Family

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

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

Wednesday, December 15, 2021 7:00 a.m. Bob Sullivan/Family

Thursday, December 16, 2021

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Paula Joseph Smith, Chad, Max, & Lexie/

Ed & Cathy Mallow

9:15 a.m. Jean Quigley/Delores Rockey

Friday, December 17, 2021

7:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Stark, S.J./Pat & Dave McCauley

Saturday, December 18, 2021

8:00 a.m. George & Hilda Harris/Family 5:00 p.m. Chuck Gavin/Brian Kemp

Sunday, December 19, 2021

8:00 a.m. Honor Jacquin

10:00 a.m. Lois Streid 1st Anniv./Dave & Beth Harding5:00 p.m. Jeanette Smith/The McNally Family

Week of December 12

PARISH CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE December 11 & 12 after all Masses

HEADING AVE. ORNAMENTS December 11 & 12 after all Masses

ROSARY Tuesday, December 14, 10:00 a.m., Church

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Tuesday, December 14, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

CCD Wednesday, December 15, 6:00 p.m., School

RCIA Wednesday, December 15, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S RETREAT INFORMATIONAL MEETING Thursday, December 16, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, December 16, 6:30 p.m., St. Thomas Center Gym

ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR Thursday, December 16, 7:00 p.m., Church

Parish Christmas Open House

Saturday, December 11 After 5pm Mass

Sunday, December 12
After all Masses



Please join us in the lower level of the church to thank our parishioners who do so much to make St. Thomas a great community.

We are looking for volunteers to help set up and serve.

Please call the Parish Office or

Denise Tascher @ 693-8633.

Mass for the Protection of the Unborn

Friday, January 28, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.

Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, 607 NE Madison Ave., Peoria

For more information contact: Cecilia Soñe at **309-671-1550** or **csone@ccdop.org**

Weekly Collection

	December 5, 2021	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$460,000
Sunday Collections	\$19,489	\$322,898
Electronic Collections	\$3,188	\$73,746
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

Please pray for those who have died this week

RCIA

Dec. 15: Eucharist Dec. 22: No Class Dec. 29: No Class

Jan. 5: Tour of the Cathedral (6:00 p.m.—Time

Change)

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is an important tradition at St. Thomas. We have gift tags in baskets as you leave Mass. We ask you to take one or more of the tags and purchase the requested gift. Please give new gifts only.



RETURN YOUR GIFTS IN GIFT BAGS WITH THE ORIGINAL TAG ATTACHED. You may leave them under the Giving Tree in the Narthex, or deliver to the Parish Office. Your generosity providing gifts under the Giving Tree has been incredibly helpful in the past. Last year we were able to distribute gifts to almost 300 individuals. This includes St. Thomas Families, Foster Children, Catholic Charities, and neighbors in our community.

MONETARY DONATIONS This year a monetary donation might work best for many people. You can make your donation on our website: stthomaspeoria.org. Go to GIVING, then DONATE NOW. As you complete the form please Apply your Donation to The Giving Tree.

Please make your monetary donation as soon as possible so our elves have time to shop before the deadline.

If your requested gift is a **gift card** you may purchase through Comet Cash after Mass or email **Allison Buckardt** at

aebuckardt@gmail.com or call 309-231-0449.

PLEASE RETURN GIFTS BY DECEMBER 14TH. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!



Masses and Confessions for Christmas

Advent Confessions

Before Christmas confession times include:

Saturday, Dec, 18, 3:00 – 4:45 PM and 6:00 PM Sunday, Dec. 19, 9:00 - 9:45 AM

Additional times will be added next week for the week before Christmas.

Christmas Masses will be offered Dec. 24, Christmas Eve at 5:00, 7:00, and 10:00 p.m. and **Dec 25**, Christmas Day at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Seating is available in the church and in the narthex and chapel.

RMDs and QCDs

Yes, we know that those of us who are at least 72 years old and have an IRA or 401K retirement account must withdraw a Required Minimum **D**istribution each year. But, did you also know that your RMD can be in the form of a Qualified Charitable Distribution? You can designate the amount to go directly to one, or more, qualifying 501(c)(3) charities, and you don't have to pay income taxes on your withdrawal.

Be sure to contact your financial advisor for more information.

St. Thomas Parish is a qualifying 501(c)(3)

Men's Club Christmas Gathering

The St. Thomas Men's Club will be having a Christmas Gathering Thursday, December 16 at 6:30p.m. in the St. Thomas Center (old aym). Spouses are invited. We will be serving fish, brats, and French fries. There will also be cold refreshments. Volleyball ends at 6:30 so nets will be removed and tables set up.

Looking forward to seeing everyone and their spouses to have some holiday cheer and welcome our new Men's Club Officers: Tom Majewski & Todd Dennhardt, Co-Presidents; Gary Doll, Secretary; Bob Stuart, Treasurer.

Please let us know if you can attend. God Bless and hope t see everyone.

- Gary Doll

You Did it Again!

Caterpillar announced a limited-time offer of a 2-for-1 match for donations to charities, and we did our best to get the news out to CAT employees and retirees. You saw the opportunity to help our school and responded generously. Thank you for your tremendous support!

Save the Date! Marriage Mass & Date Night

Bishop Louis Tylka cordially invites all married couples to celebrate the gift of Christian Marriage! Saturday, February 12, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral.



Holy Mass and Renewal of Wedding Vows at 4:00 p.m. followed by Dinner, Dancing, and Music at the Spalding Pastoral Center.

\$40 per person (\$80 per couple) for dinner and entertainment. Space is limited. Please register at cdop.org.

Any questions contact Julie Enzenberger at Jenzenberger@cdop.org.



December 17 & 18 at 8:00 p.m. St. Mary's Cathedral Tickets & Information: peoriasymphony.org

> George Stelluto · Conductor Catherine Cho · Violin/Viola Michelle Areyzaga · Soprano Katherine Lewis · Viola Alex Liedtke · oboe Sarah Carrillo · Trumpet Yukie Ota · Flute Justina Chu · Flute Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 Cantata No. 209 and much more



Each week we will highlight one of the volunteer opportunities available here at St. Thomas. This week it's Men's Club. You can call, or email, the Parish Office if you are interested in helping.

Men's Club

All men of the parish are welcome at the Men's Club meetings. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month.

Throughout the year the Men's Club hosts events for the whole parish, including:

> Fish Fry Golf Outing Septoberfest

The Men's Club supports the church and school with various projects.

If you would like to be notified of upcoming Men's Club meetings sign up today.

Men's Retreat

Men of St. Thomas Parish are invited to participate in a Men's Retreat in the **Spring of 2022** at White House Retreat in St. Louis.

An informational meeting about the retreat and how to register will be held in the church basement on Thursday, December 16th at 6:00 pm.

The retreat provides an excellent opportunity for you to reflect on and grow in your faith with like-minded Catholic men over a 3 day period. All men of the parish are welcome to participate and to invite others.

More information on White House can be found at: https:// whitehouseretreat.org/

If you have questions, you're interested but cannot attend the informational meeting on December 16th, or you'd like to learn more you can email George Burek at georgeburek@yahoo.com.

Catholic Charities Praying Partners

Starting on January 3, 2022 join us via Zoom on Mondays from 12-12:30 p.m. to pray a rosary of intercession for all the prayer requests received and in solidarity for all those that suffer.



Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89259333685?

pwd=UDg1Tjhvc04yLzUxWjNZYjlhblY5Zz09

Meeting ID: 892 5933 3685

Passcode: 483895

One tap mobile +13126266799,,89259333685#,,,,*483895# US (Chicago)

2022 Men's Retreat:

The Day Jesus Died!

Friday, January 28 to Sunday, January 30, 2022. Retreat Master: Fr. Gregory Jarzombek, OSB

Register online: www.scrcmagnolia,org Or call (815) 869-4106 for more information.

Sacré Coeur Retreat Center, 8508 County Road 100N Magnolia, IL 61336

Rolan Johnson Ornament

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception are pleased to announce our 26th Annual Rolan Johnson Christmas Ornament ~

Glad Tidings of Great Joy

The Sisters will be here at St. Thomas December 11 & 12. They will have ornaments for sale downstairs after all the Masses.

All ornaments may be viewed online at: ornaments (westpeoriasisters.org)

For more information please call the Development Office - 309-674-2005 or

email: develoment@westpeoriasisters.org

Proceeds benefit the Sisters' Retirement Fund.



That Man is You

Is returning in the Spring. It will run Fridays from January 28th until April 29th.

Doors open for coffee and light breakfast at 6:00 a.m. The program begins at 6:30 and ends at 7:30 a.m.

Bereavement Groups

Wounded Healer Support aroup is via Zoom on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m. starting in Spring of 2022.

For more information call Deacon Tom Mueller at 309-251-1868 or email at relleum.mot.nocaed@gmail.com

Holiday Survival Tips

Over the next few weeks we will have some links to some Holiday survival tips shared by Mary Clare Geraghty, Parish Nurse. These tips include ideas for healthy eating in order to avoid the holiday weight gain, sleep tips, and ways to support, or enhance, our mental health. Please check out the links.

Stress, depression and the holidays: Tips for coping

From Texas Southern University

https://hr.tsu.edu/wp-content/ uploads/2014/12/Coping-with-Holiday-Stress.pdf

Lois's Tips for Surviving the Holidays

From Al-Anon

https://pa-al-anon.org/wp-content/ uploads/2016/11/Surviving-the-Holidays.pdf

Moving Forward in Hope

an evening of prayer, connection, and hope

Tuesday, Dec. 28, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

From the Archdiocesan Commission on Mental Illness. Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/ meeting/register/ tZwvfGuqT8qG92RhpSEhUll8KDn5UCLiviQ

Sponsor of the Week



CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & CONSULTANTS 8726 N. Industrial Road • Peoria, IL 61615 Allison Buckardt - Parishioner

FAX: 309.692.4159 gswcpa.com PHONE: 309.692.4030

Memory Care Resources

Many families with aging adults are unaware of the several available memory care options and programs in their area that can help them support a high quality of life. So we created a free resource guide that highlights the best memory care facilities in Illinois.

Check out our Memory Care Guide here:

https://www.memorycare.com/memory-care-in-illinois/ https://www.memorycare.com/what-is-a-memory-care-facility/ https://www.memorycare.com/when-to-consider-memory-care/ https://www.memorycare.com/what-to-expect-in-memory-care/

For more information email Kimberly Lane at kimberly@memorycare.com.

From: MemoryCare.com - Dedicated to wellness and consumer education



Please join Cursillo for our Rekindle Advent Program
Praying with Imagination in Advent
on Monday, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13; 7:00 p.m.



Join us for prayer and music, followed by the rosary. Blessed Sacrament Church in Morton.



The Community is invited to join us at Blessed Sacrament in Morton in person or watch it on our Live Stream on the Peoria Cursillo Office Facebook page (or by visiting the Peoria Cursillo website: peoriacursillo.org for a link)

Please wear a mask to all in person events.

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	

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

Chicago March for Life

Saturday, January 8, 2022

The Catholic Diocese of Peoria Respect Life Ministry is sponsoring a bus pilgrimage to Chicago to attend the **March for Life 2022**.

This pilgrimage is open to adults 18+ only! Cost is \$25.00 for adults & \$10.00 for college students. Trip includes round trip transportation, participation in the 2022 Chicago March for Life, Sunday Vigil Mass after the March, lunch & dinner and a time for fellowship, community prayer, and pilgrimage.

For more information please call: Cecilia Sone at 309-671-1550 or email: csone@ccdop.org.
Online registration: https://cdop.weshareonline.org/MarchforLife-Chicago2022. Seats are limited—register early.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

February 25-27, 2022

Has the abortion experience that has left you feeling empty and alone? Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is available in our diocese for any man or woman who has struggled with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion. This healing weekend is for singles or married couples, mothers, fathers, grandparents, siblings, or anyone suffering the effects of an abortion loss.

Register now for the **Feb. 25-27, 2022** retreat by calling **309-264-1489** or email **rvrpeoria@gmail.com.**

All communications are strictly confidential. For more information: https://cdop.org/offices/respect-life/rl-programs-resources/rachels-vineyard or the national Rachel's Vineyard website at https://www.rachelsvineyard.org/.

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. Please, 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 through the mail slot 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.





group

Mcomm Group, Inc. **Channel Marketing** Alumnus/Parishioner



309-495-0179 1209 W. Main Street Peoria, IL 61606

Aging**Care** Management, LLC

47 Years Experience Working With The Aged

Sandi Kistner, MSW, C-ASWSM of • Consultation • Recommendation • Direct Care e in Filing Long Term Care Insurance Claims



ILLINOIS LICENSE 055-004303 Plumbing • Heating • Sewering • COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

Том Ѕмітн tsptom@mtco.com www.tomsmithplumbing.com

429 E. Sciota Peoria Heights, IL (309) 688-5114

BANKER 6 The Real Estate

Group

E-Z

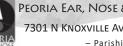
Kavanaghi

BILL McCARTHY

REALTOR® - PARISHIONER

MIS

Cell: 360-0012



PEORIA EAR, NOSE & THROAT GROUP

7301 N KNOXVILLE AVE. • 309-589-5900

– Parishioner – JAMES A. GERAGHTY, M.D.

Storage

500 School St. Washington, IL

309-745-3300

storage@zosky.com ezstoragellc.com

676-1381

ksswf.com

Attorneys at Law PARISHIONER: ARY E. SCHMIDT

Tammy Vu Parishioner

TOYOTA OF PEORI

obrientoyotaofpeoria.com

O'BRIEN LEXUS OF PEORIA

obrienlexusofpeoria.com

. natural looking nails For beautiful, strong ... 683-6968 Junction City's New Building

Become a weekly business

presence within your

parish community

Call Don Roe 616.340.8580

droe@diocesan.com



DISCOVER SCHERER, YOU'LL LOVE IT HERE.

SCHERERMAZDA

Stop in Scherer Mazda to see Keri Thierer, mother of Aberdeen in St. Thomas graduating class of 2026.

2300 W Pioneer Pkwy 309.691.0300 SchererAuto.com





Scherer Lincoln Volvo

2200 W Pioneer Pkwy 309.691.9880

LINCOLN



SchererAuto.com

DISCOVER SCHERER, YOU'LL LOVE IT HERE.

wyman-group.com 309.685.8222

Stratford Dr. Suite E | Peoria

114 West

JIM ROCHFORD

ATTORNEY AT LAW JIM ROCHFORD & ASSOCIATES

309.637.5322 PARISHIONER 101 South West Adams, #700 drochford@rochfordlaw.com

"We've Got You Covered Since 1910" 1025 N Sheridan Road our New Home for School Uniforms! 309-671-4543

www.sharrisuniforms.com

SUNROOMS CUSTOM BATH WOOD FRONT YEP, WE DO THAT TOO Parishioner Steve Jackson, President

203 EASTGATE DRIVE Washingtion, IL prairiehomealliance.com

Prairie Home Alliance

MCOUELLON CONSULTING, INC

Robert W. McQuellon, MBA President / CEO and Parishioner

Real Estate Tax Appeals

Commercial • Industrial • Residential 309-256-6700 Mobile • 309-693-2600 Office • 309-693-6200 Fax Email: bob@mcquellon.com • www.mcquellon.com

HealthInsuranceExchange

John E. Moore - President Focusing on the health insurance needs of small businesses & individuals

Chase Bank Building • 411 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria IL 61602 www.HealthInsuranceExchangeCl.com 309-740-9850



Minimally invasive spine surgery

Physical therapy on site

7620 N University St. Parishioner Office: 309-691-7774

www.prairiespine.com



KRUMHOLZ BROTHERS

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS
Landscape • Excavating • Erosion Control www.krumholzbros.com

DAVE & RICHARD KRUMHOLZ

KEMP MFG. CO.

Precision Machining & Assembly of Casting, Forging & Steel Products

INSURANCE I





DISCOVER

1208

VISA

Online at Diocesan.com/Business