

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

904 East Lake Avenue,
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parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

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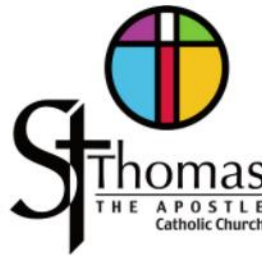
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Stay in Touch

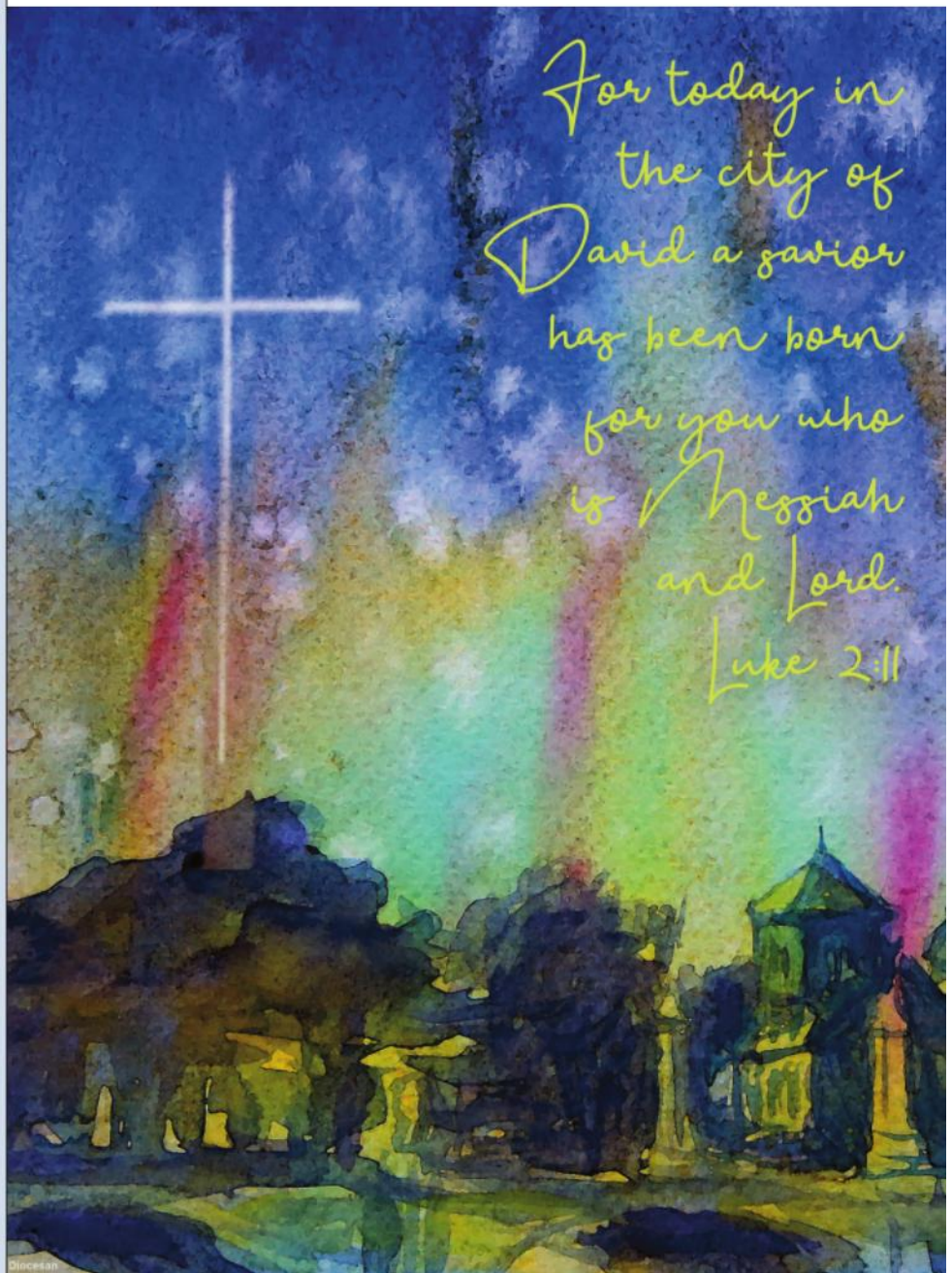
1. Join Msgr. Gray for Mass. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org or the My Parish App
2. Download My Parish App to receive push notifications (Visit myparishapp.com/download).
3. Receive the Bulletin and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email parishoffice@stthomas-church.net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



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

December 26, 2021
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

January 2, 2022
Feast of the Epiphany





From Our Pastor

Christ is born for us! I wish each and every parishioner and your families a Merry Christmas and blessings in the new year. Thank you for your encouragement, your support, and your generosity. May God continue to watch over St. Thomas Parish and School.

The Sunday after Christmas, December 26, is the feast of the Holy Family as we honor Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In our own families, let us look to the righteousness of Joseph, the tender care of the Blessed Mother, and the obedience of the Christ child.

On the Octave of Christmas, January 1, we celebrate Mary, Mother of God. This ancient title reminds us that Jesus truly God and man and that these two natures are inseparable. Thus, Mary is the Mother of Jesus and therefore the Mother of God. This solemnity is not a holy day of obligation this year because it falls on Saturday.

On the Sunday following Mary, Mother of God, January 2, we celebrate the Epiphany in which we recall the gifts of the wise men presented to the Christ Child, as Jesus is revealed to the gentiles and to the world as the light shining forth.

The following Sunday, January 9, is the Baptism of the Lord and concludes the Christmas Season as we return to Ordinary Time.

Let us walk with Our Lord through this Christmas Season and grow in holiness by becoming childlike in imitation of the Christ Child born for us.

— Msgr. Gray

Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Saint Mark's Church, 1113 W. Bradley Avenue, Peoria.

7:00 p.m., January 3rd, 2022.

Holy Hour consists of Benediction, the Rosary, and other prayers.

All attending need to wear a mask, please.



Readings for the Week of December 26, 2021

Sunday	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph 1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24; Luke 2: 41-52
Monday	St. John the Apostle & Evangelist 1 John 1: 1-4; John 20: 1a, 2-8
Tuesday	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs 1 John 1: 5—2: 2; Matthew 2: 13-18
Wednesday	Fifth Day Within the Octave Of the Nativity of the Lord 1 John 2: 3-11; Luke 2: 22-35
Thursday	Sixth Day Within the Octave Of the Nativity of the Lord 1 John 2: 12-17; Luke 2: 36-40
Friday	Seventh Day Within the Octave Of the Nativity of the Lord 1 John 2: 18-21; John 1: 1-18
Saturday	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Numbers 6: 22-27; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 16-21
Sunday	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2: 1-12

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 27, 2021

7:00 a.m. Joe Casten/Joe & Amy Kelly
Joe Maier/Family

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

7:00 a.m. Holy Innocents/LAOH
Rose & William Chase/Rose & Dave Chase

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

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

Thursday, December 30, 2021

7:00 a.m. Harold Zimmerman/Ed & Cathy Mallow

Friday, December 31, 2021

7:00 a.m. Hafner & Smith Families

Saturday, January 1, 2022

8:00 a.m. Msgr. William Watson/Mike Phelan Family
10:00 a.m. Del Bertschy/Maurice & Sharon Caudill

Sunday, January 2, 2022

8:00 a.m. Mary Kay Barkley/Doug & Sandy Milby
10:00 a.m. Kevin Harmon/Ed Harmon
5:00 p.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB



Readings for the Week of January 2, 2022

Sunday	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2: 1-12
Monday	The Most Holy Name of Jesus 1 John 3: 22—4: 6; Matthew 4: 12-17, 23-25
Tuesday	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious 1 John 4: 7-10; Mark 6: 34-44
Wednesday	St. John Neumann, Bishop 1 John 4: 11-18; Mark 6: 45-52
Thursday	St. André Bessette, Religious 1 John 4: 19—5: 4; Luke 4: 14-22a
Friday	St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest 1 John 5: 5-13; Luke 5: 12-16
Saturday	1 John 5: 14-21; John 3: 22-30
Sunday	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11; Titus 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7; Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 3, 2022	
7:00 a.m.	Sharon Miller/Laurie Pearl & David Williams
Tuesday, January 4, 2022	
7:00 a.m.	Edith Yount/Michail & Whitney Axelson
Wednesday, January 5, 2022	
7:00 a.m.	Fr. Paul Stark, S.J./Angela Kenney
Thursday, January 6, 2022	
7:00 a.m.	Velma Stear/Ed & Cathy Mallow
9:15 a.m.	Richard Flores/Linda Osika
Friday, January 7, 2022	
7:00 a.m.	Merton Hubert/Family
Saturday, January 8, 2022	
8:00 a.m.	Purgatorial Society
5:00 p.m.	Donna Abdnour/Michele Konecki
Sunday, January 9, 2022	
8:00 a.m.	Mary Kay Barkley/Friends
10:00 a.m.	Intentions of Victoria LaHood/Michael & Whitney Axelson
5:00 p.m.	Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist

Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week



Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

January 1, 2022. This is normally a Holy Day of Obligation, but since it falls on a Saturday all are dispensed from the obligation this year.



Holiday Schedules

PARISH OFFICES will be open on Friday, December 24 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The offices will then be closed through January 1. We will resume office hours on Monday, January 3.

FOOD PANTRY will be closed from December 24 until January 1. It will reopen January 3.

RCIA Topics

Dec. 29:	No Class
Jan. 5:	Tour of the Cathedral (6:00 p.m.—Time Change)
Jan 12:	Orders, Religious Life
Jan 19:	Penance, Anointing, Funerals
Jan 26:	Marriage
Feb 2:	Moral Life, virtues, sin, moral society
Feb 9:	Prayer, Universal Call to Holiness
Feb 16:	Our Father, Hail Mary, other prayers, prepare for Lent
Feb 23:	Moral Law, grace



Week of December 26

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED December 27 through December 31

ROSARY Tuesday, December 28, 10:00 a.m., Church

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS January 1, 8:00 a.m.



Week of January 2

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

SIGN-UP FOR FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION This Weekend after all Masses, narthex

ROSARY Tuesday, January 4, 10:00 a.m., Church

CCD Wednesday, January 5, 6:00 p.m., School

RCIA Wednesday, January 5, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ADORATION Friday, January 7, after 7:00 Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

CARMELITES Saturday, January 8, 11:00 a.m., Parish Hall



Sisters of St. Francis
of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 13, 2021

Dear Friends,

The bare trees are a visible reminder of the coming winter, and the Church calendar tells us that Advent is here. It is a special time of prayer for us as we prepare for the celebration of the coming of Christ at Christmas. Our Christmas Novena is prayed for our relatives, friends, and benefactors from December 16-24, and we consider it a privileged time to remember all of you.

During this special season of giving, we want to again express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for your generous support, in allowing the sisters to sell our ornaments this weekend, you join us in our efforts to be a *caring, praying presence* in the world through our mission and our ministries.

In addition to our Christmas Novena, we Heading Avenue Franciscans continue to remember all of you in our daily prayers and in a monthly Mass offered for our benefactors' intentions. Please continue to notify us of any intentions you may have. We wish you and your loved ones a hope-filled Advent and a joyful Christmas.

Sincerely yours,

Sister Kathleen Ann Mourisse
President

Jenny Winne
Director of Development



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

Financial Peace University

Tell your money where to go instead of wondering where it went! Financial Peace University is designed to help you build a budget, dump debt, grow your wealth, and leave money stress behind.



Through nine lessons rooted in biblical wisdom and common sense, you'll learn a proven process taught by Dave Ramsey and his team of financial experts.

Based on interest, there are one to two classes per year held at St. Thomas.

Please call or email Erich and Becky Crismore for more information. 309-696-2582 e.crismore@hotmail.com



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.



Pray with the Pope

January 2022
For true human fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



St. Vincent de Paul Society Annual Report

The St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Thomas is comprised of 33 members who answer and respond to client requests and several who work in the pantry. Within that group of volunteers, we have a finance coordinator and scheduling coordinator who volunteer their time to keep this complex program running.

The calls we receive are from those in distress who cannot pay their rent, or their utility bills. They face eviction and utility disconnections. Two Vincentians work in teams on each case. Currently, due to Covid, the contacts are made by phone. We are looking forward to home visits as we did pre Covid. We continue to deliver food in emergency situations. Each call takes 1-1.5 hours and each Vincentian takes 1-2 call per week. We aren't able to help each caller because they are too far in debt or if they have called too frequently. We try to help as many people as possible.

We made 251 calls and helped 460 people. These numbers are down this past year and we believe that Federal stimulus checks and other help from the Federal and State government has reduced the number of calls.

The *Coming Together to Get Ahead* program is being resurrected in 2022. This program is 16 weeks in length designed to educate our clients in order to change their lives.

We try our best to help our clients and provide assistance to meet their needs. We have learned from experience that the poor will always be with us.

If you know someone who needs help, the helpline number is **309-677-7696**.

These are the numbers for the year October 1, 2020- September 30, 2021 is as follows:

Balance 10/1/2020	\$21,224
Income	
Church Collections	\$60,577
Other Donations	\$15,810
Expenses	
Pantry	\$2,096
Miscellaneous	\$2,657

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 Distribution** 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)

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That Man is You

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

Everyone who participated in the fall is automatically enrolled for spring. All other men who are interested are invited to join.

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.

If you have questions, or want to join, please email George Burek at georgeburek@yahoo.com.

Ladies Night/Bunco

Friday, January 21st in the Parish Hall
6:00 pm - Dinner
7:00 pm - Bunco Starts

All Ladies of the Parish are invited!



Pope Francis' Prayer to St. Joseph

Everyone can find in St. Joseph—the man who goes unnoticed, the man of daily, discreet and hidden presence—an intercessor, a support, and a guide I times of difficulty, the pope said. He reminds us that all those who are seemingly hidden or in the 'second row' have unparalleled agency in the history of salvation.

Saint Joseph
you who guarded the bond with
Mary and Jesus,
help us to care for the relationships in our lives.
May no one experience that sense of
abandonment that comes from loneliness.
Let each of us be reconciled with our own
history, with those who have gone before,
and recognize even in the
mistakes made
a way through which Providence has made its
way,
and evil did not have the last word.
Show yourself to be a friend
to those who struggle the most,
and as you supported Mary and
Jesus in difficult times,
Support us too on our journey.
Amen.

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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89259333685?pwd=UDg1Tjhvc04yLzUxWjNjZlYjIhbiY5Zz09)
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FRIDAY JANUARY 21ST 2022 @ 7:15 PM

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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

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

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/>.

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 _____

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
- 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.

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