# 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

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Annulment Consultant:

John Mackoway......699-5213

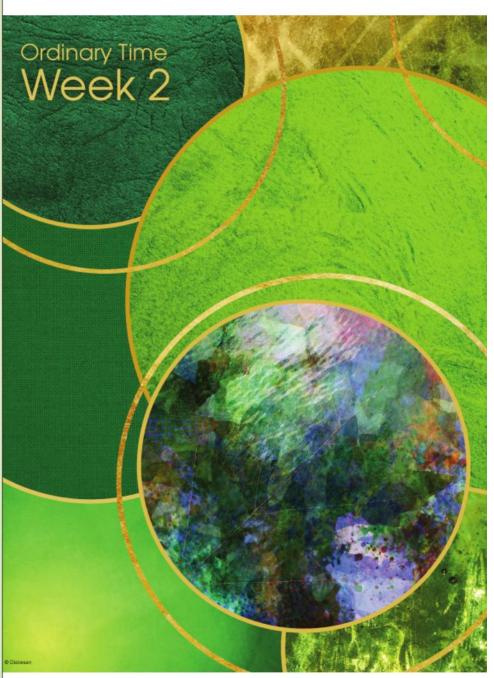
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty.(x1350) parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

### Stay in Touch

- Join Msgr. Gray for Mass. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org or the My Parish App
- 2. 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).



January 16, 2022 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time





It is good to be back from some time away. I enjoyed a much-needed break from all the activities leading up to Christmas. There is a great advantage to time spent on vacation or on retreat, since we gain perspective from a break in our regular day-to-day activities. I know the *That Man Is You* group is considering a trip to St. Louis for a men's retreat. I join them in recommending this time for spiritual renewal.

I am grateful to our parishioners who have helped to revive our Buildings and Grounds committee. The assistance of many volunteers has been very helpful to me in assessing the needs of our physical plant. There are several improvements that we are planning.

The blinds in the cry room have been around since the church was dedicated. They are heavy and the drawstrings are long and awkward. They are generally needed only when using the cry rooms as confessionals. However, since several of the drawstrings have broken, we will plan to replace these blinds with something easier to operate in the coming weeks.

Some of the exterior lights around the church are not working. As with most lighting projects, the plan will be to replace broken fixtures with more energy efficient options. I hope to see these improvements in the coming months.

There has been some rainwater leaking through the roof in the narthex. With some careful study, we have identified the source of this infiltration. We are working on bids to make this repair in the spring.

Finally and most significantly, we have been working with several companies to collect bids for our school windows. We have received many generous donations for the replacement of our inefficient single-pane windows in the school. We have not yet reached the total for matching the lead \$160,000 gift for these windows, so additional pledges are still encouraged. As we receive bids and fine-tune the expected cost, we will continue to appeal for your support to accomplish this project.

— Msgr. Gray



### Readings for the Week of January 16, 2022

Sunday Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 62: 1-5; 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11; John 2: 1-11

Monday St. Anthony, Abbot

1 Samuel 15: 16-23; Mark 2: 18-22

**Tuesday** 1 Samuel 16: 1-13; Mark 2: 23-28

**Wednesday** 1 Samuel 17: 32-33, 37, 40-51; Mark 3: 1-6

Thursday St. Sebastian, Martyr

1 Samuel 18: 6-9; 19: 1-7; Mark 3: 7-12

Friday St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr

1 Samuel 24: 3-21; Mark 3: 13-19

Saturday Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

2 Samuel 1: 1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mark 3: 20-21

Sunday Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nehemiah 8: 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12: 12-30;

Luke 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21

### **Mass Intentions**

Monday, January 17, 2022

7:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of Noe & Eisele Families/

Mary Ann Noe

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

7:00 a.m. Hafner & Smith Families

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

7:00 a.m. Shirley Faux/Carmelite Community

Thursday, January 20, 2022

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Justin Butler/Ed & Cathy Mallow

9:15 a.m. Jeremy Snyder/Grandpa

Friday, January 21, 2022

7:00 a.m. Augusta Gamperl/Family

Saturday, January 22, 2022

8:00 a.m. Thomas S. Farraher/Frances Farraher 5:00 p.m. Paul Ruhaak/George Mahrt Family

Sunday, January 23, 2022

8:00 a.m. John Smith/Ken & Judy Zika 10:00 a.m. Del Bertschy/Helen Cassidy

5:00 p.m. For the People

### Week of January 16

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY Parish Office and School Closed

ROSARY Tuesday, January 18, 10:00 a.m., Church

CCD Wednesday, January 19, 6:00 p.m., School

RCIA Wednesday, January 19, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, January 20, 6:30 p.m., Rudy's Cantina

ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR Thursday, January 20, 7:00 p.m., Church

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Ladies Night January 28
Adoration February 4



### 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.



The St. Thomas Food Pantry would like to extend a most sincere thanks to the St. Thomas parishioners for unfailing support over the past year. We thank the St. Thomas fourth grade classes for sponsoring the annual school food drive and the school

families for their plentiful donations. We are also grateful for the food we received from the Peoria Notre Dame food drive, as well as the unending donations of food that fill our parish collection box each week. Because of your prayers and donations of food and funds, you have helped us to provide 1,129 carts of food in 2021, serving 3,474 individuals. Your generosity truly humbles us.

Thank you for spreading the love of our Savior to so many of our neighbors. We wish you health and happiness in the New Year!

~ Diana Janda

### **Weekly Collection**

	January 9, 2022	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$560,000
Sunday Collections	\$14,704	\$408,334
Electronic Collections	\$3,188	\$89,686
Total Collected	•	•
Over/(Short)	\$(2,108)	\$(61,980)

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**

Joan Adler

Alice Ann Balcain

### **RCIA Topics**

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

prepare for Lenf **Feb 23:** Moral Law, grace

Mar 2: Ash Wednesday, NO Class

Mar 9: Ten & Great Commandments, #1-3; Divine/Natural Law

### 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**.

Sponsor of the Week





# Catholic Schools Week 2022 January 30-February 5

www.NCEA.org/csw

#CSW22

### Join us for an Open House!

Check out St. Thomas Catholic School on Sunday, January 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Come see and hear ALL that St. Thomas has to offer!

**CALL: 309-685-2533** 

### PRE3—8th GRADE

Now accepting Preschool/Kindergarten and New Student Applications
Contact Cheryl Reese at office@stthomas-school.net or visit our website http://school.stthomaspeoria.org

### Pre-K & Kindergarten

There is arguably no more important time in your child's education than the pre-k and kindergarten years. It's a special time for every child where they meet new friends, while developing academically and emotionally. At St. Thomas, we know just how special the early years of a child's education can be and we've created a nurturing and enriched environment designed to start your child off on the right educational path.

### Academics

Our students are well prepared to move on to the next grade level and we have the test scores to prove it. Our students in every grade consistently score well above the national averages on standardized tests.

They perform well because of a combination of an enriched curriculum, outstanding teachers and personalized attention to student learning.

### Religion

Our Catholic faith is at the foundation of all that we do. Christian values are woven into daily school life, with religious instruction as a regular part of the curriculum and the ongoing development of your child's faith at the forefront of our teaching. We foster an environment where our child's faith comes to life.



We Teach Truth, Build Character and Inspire Service. Remember, at our school everyone matters and counts.

### Activities

We know that learning happens in many ways and that skills developed outside of the classroom are just as important as those developed within. We offer a wealth of extracurricular activities to help your child reach his or her fullest potential. From robotics to basketball, students are able to develop their social, physical and mental skills through peer interaction.

### Community Fun. Friendly. Nurturing.

These are words students and families alike use to describe the atmosphere and spirit of St. Thomas School. Our sense of community is prevalent in everything we do, and is truly one of the distinguishing aspects of your child's learning environment.

### St. Thomas - Food Pantry

Current needs are: boxed skillet meals, pasta sauce, peanut butter, boxed side dishes, and personal hygiene products

Thank you for your generosity

## Monthly Holy Hours for Vocations with Fr. Chase.

Did you know that Fr. Chase Hilgenbrinck hosts a monthly holy hour and leads meditation in various Peoria area parishes? See the schedule below and join the movement of monthly devotion to our Eucharistic Lord for the increase in faithful vocations to priesthood and consecrated life!

All holy hours are from 6:30pm-7:30pm.

- January 18th: St. Mary's, Princeville
- February 15th: St. Mark's, Peoria
- March 8<sup>th</sup>: St. Jude's, Peoria
- April 5th: St. Edward's, Chillicothe
- May 10th: St. Vincent's, Peoria



Friday, January 28st\* in the Parish Hall 6:00 pm - Dinner 7:00 pm - Bunco Starts

All Ladies of the Parish are invited!

This is a covid-friendly event, with individual dinners from Panera. RSVP to Jessica Ramsay at 309-265-1989

# 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



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.

The monthly meeting is *this* Thursday, *January 20<sup>th</sup>* at *Rudy's Cantina & Grill*, 3311 N. Sterling at 6:30 p.m.



### Moms and Mom-osas!

MOMS! Please join us!

Let St. Thomas treat you to brunch. Bring friends!

Join us for food, mimosas, games, and new friends in the St.

Thomas Cafeteria.

February 5, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

RSVP: cometmoms123@gmail.com by January 31, 2022.

### **School Window Update**

Many of us remember, some not so fondly, those heavy, drafty school windows. Now is the time to replace them.

We have received more than \$125,000 in donations thus far, but this is still short of the matching gift of \$160,000. Please prayerfully consider if you could be one of those who is able to help us reach that additional \$35,000 needed to match.



Thank you for your generosity.

### 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 **R**equired **M**inimum **D**istribution each year. But, did you also know that your RMD can be in the form of a **Q**ualified **C**haritable **D**istribution? 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)

### Catholic Women's League

### **Membership Dues**

For the calendar year Jan. 1st - Dec. 31, 2022

Members - \$20/per year Life Members - \$10/per year

Please pay before April 1st, 2022

New Members contact **Ann Gerardo** for applications and questions (630)-464-8474 (cell)

# CATHERAN WILKS IN THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY

### Walk for Life

St. Mary of Lourdes, Germantown Hills Second Annual Parish Walk for Life January 23, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

As many Catholics across the country are preparing to join in the Washington DC March for Life in January, please join us at St. Mary of Lourdes for our 2nd Annual Parish Walk for Life.

We will begin the 2nd Annual Parish March for Life with the rosary at 1:00 pm in the church. Following the rosary, you are invited to walk around the parish grounds & cemetery and/or pray in church. We will end the Parish Walk for Life at 3pm under the church awning with a short prayer. In the event of inclement weather, the parish hall will be open for our walkers.

We are also collecting diapers, baby powder/shampoo/wash, baby wipes, diaper cream, etc. These items will be donated to the Bessette Center. All items can be left in the boxes marked "March for Life" in the back of the church.

For more information, please contact St. Mary of Lourdes Faith Formation Office, (309-383-4460).

# 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



NAMI of Tri-County Illinois is again offering their education and support group monthly meetings starting this month.

Proof of vaccination or negative test within the week and masks are required

Support groups meet at **7:00 p.m**. on **Thursday**, **January 20**th in Poplar Hall, ICC North Campus.

Same vaccine requirements!

**Connection**: For individuals living in recovery of any mental health diagnosis. Poplar Hall, Rm 127, ICC North Campus.

**Family Support Group**: For family, close relations of individuals living with mental health conditions, Poplar Hall, Rm 132

Contact NAMI Tri-County Illinois:

Phone information line 309-693-0541 <u>www.namitricountyillinois.org</u> Fb: Nami Tri- County IL

### Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

February 25-27, 2022

Has the abortion experience 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: <a href="https://cdop.org/offices/respect-life/rl-programs-resources/rachels-vineyard">https://cdop.org/offices/respect-life/rl-programs-resources/rachels-vineyard</a> or the national Rachel's Vineyard website at <a href="https://www.rachelsvineyard.org/">https://www.rachelsvineyard.org/</a>.

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

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 p.m.-until last confession heard.

### **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 4:00 p.m. every day.



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