

## 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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Dcn. John Nelson.....981-2716  
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Music Coordinator: Ann Horst..... 682-5507

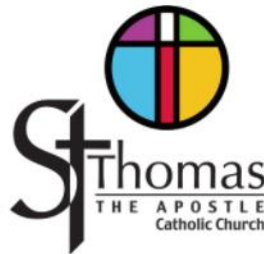
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Annulment Consultant:  
John Mackoway.....699-5213

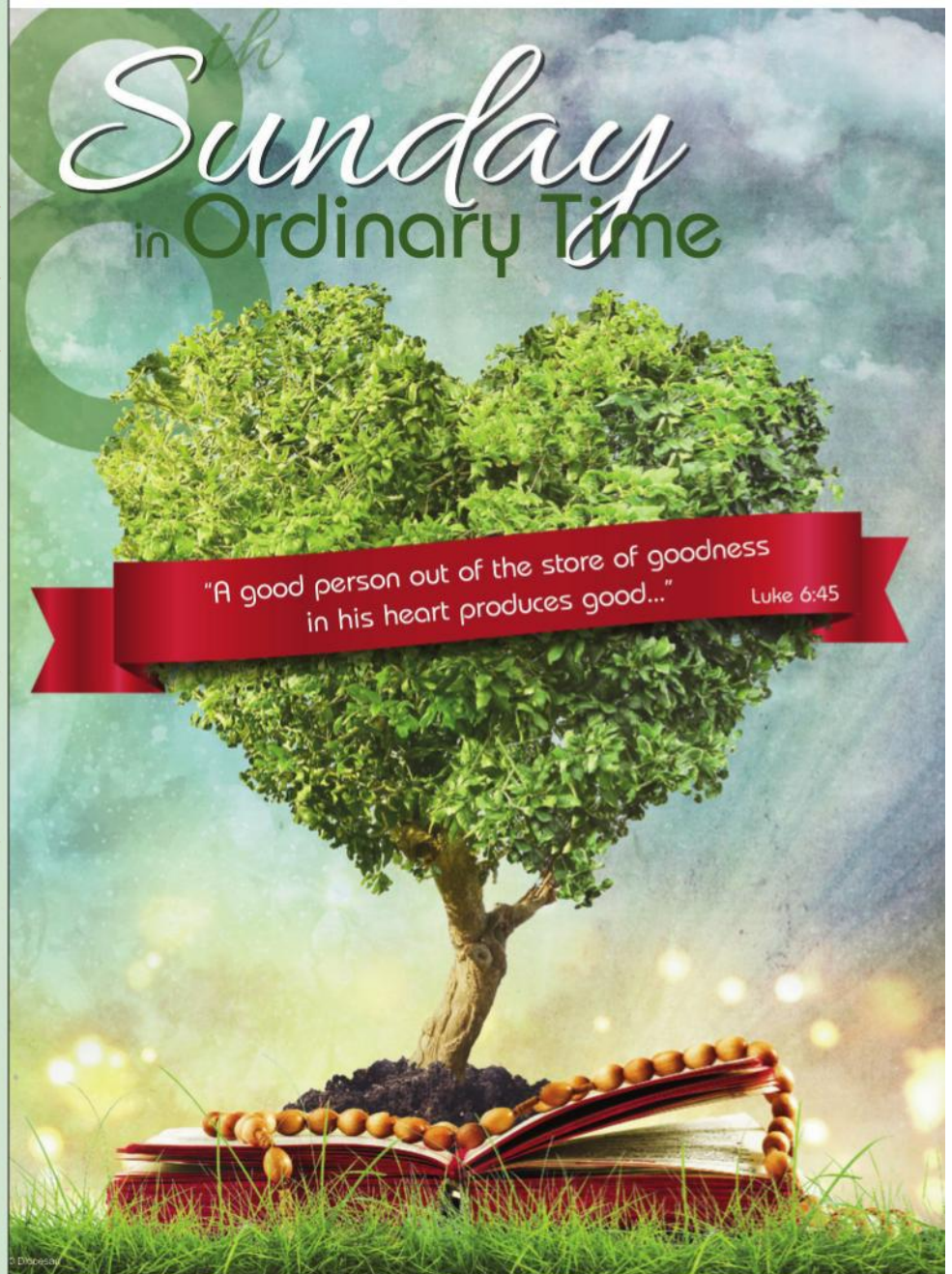
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty.(x1350)  
[parishnurse@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishnurse@stthomas-church.net)

### Stay in Touch

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



*February 27, 2022*  
*Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*





## From Our Pastor

The Season of Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday. I am allowed to celebrate up to three Masses on Sundays and other days of obligation, so please note:

- Masses for Ash Wednesday will be offered at 7 AM, 9:15 AM (school Mass), and 7 PM.
- At 12:15 PM we will have an Ash Wednesday Service outside of Mass, with the Liturgy of the Word, the distribution of Ashes, and the distribution of Holy Communion.

On the Fridays of Lent, we will add confessions and adoration at 6 PM and Stations of the Cross at 7 PM. I am grateful to the Franciscan Sisters of John the Baptist who have prepared Station books with our own mosaic stations. These will be a special blessing to us as we meditate on the Passion of our Lord.

On the Sundays of Lent, I am also happy to add additional confessions between our morning Masses, from 9:00 to 9:45 AM, and before our Sunday evening Mass, from 4:15 to 4:45 PM.

With the help of the Franciscan Sisters, we have found special angel holy water fonts that we can place in the narthex. When these angels are placed, we will move our missalettes into the pews, which should be more convenient for everyone. Those who wish to use one of our large print missalettes for Mass can pick them up in the narthex.

I am very grateful for the installation of new blinds in our cry rooms, which are both very attractive and more functional. With the help of our Buildings and Grounds committee, and with the melting of snow and ice on the roof, we have hopefully addressed the leaks in the narthex.

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for making available the traveling icon of St. Joseph, the guardian of the Christ Child. We will have the icon available for a short time until it moves to the next parish.

I am grateful for your support of our men's group and the food pantry for our small appliance drive. Your charity will help provide needed items, in addition to food donations, for those in need in our community.

-Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of February 27, 2022

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Sirach 27: 4-7; 1 Corinthians 15: 54-58; Luke 6: 39-45
<b>Monday</b>	1 Peter 1: 3-9; Mark 10: 17-27
<b>Tuesday</b>	1 Peter 1: 10-16; Mark 10: 28-31
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Joel 2: 12-18; 2 Corinthians 5: 20—6: 2; Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin</b> Deuteronomy 30: 15-20; Luke 9: 22-25
<b>Friday</b>	<b>St. Casmir</b> Isaiah 58: 1-9a; Matthew 9: 14-15
<b>Saturday</b>	Isaiah 58: 9b-14; Luke 5: 27-32
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Deuteronomy 26: 4-10; Romans 10: 8-13; Luke 4: 1-13

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, February 28, 2022

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Bob & Deb Wenzel Family/Mary Ann Noe

### Tuesday, March 1, 2022

7:00 a.m. Donna Abdnour/The Barkley Family

### Wednesday, March 2, 2022

7:00 a.m. Randy & Kim Hunzeker/Michael & Whitney Axelson  
9:15 a.m. Mary Kay Barkley/The Barkley Family  
7:00 p.m. Rose Seghetti/Dorothy Bertschy

### Thursday, March 3, 2022

7:00 a.m. Lucille Noe, 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniv./Family

### Friday, March 4, 2022

7:00 a.m. Lois & John Lipka/John & Betty Pall

### Saturday, March 5, 2022

8:00 a.m. Purgatorial Society  
5:00 p.m. Harry M. Williams/Jeanne & Dan Smith

### Sunday, March 6, 2022

8:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB  
10:00 a.m. Kevin Harmon & Ed Harmon  
5:00 p.m. For the People

## Week of February 27

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

**COFFEE AND DONUTS** after Sunday morning Masses, Parish Hall

**ROSARY** Tuesday, March 1, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES** March 2, 7:00 & 9:15 a.m., 7:00 p.m., Ashes & Communion Service 12:15 p.m., Church

**CCD** Wednesday, March 2, 6:00 p.m., Mass at 7:00 p.m., School

**RCIA** Wednesday, March 2, 7:00 p.m., Mass

**ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR** Thursday, February 24, 7:00 p.m., Church

**THAT MAN IS YOU** Friday, March 4, doors open 6:00 a.m., program 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**ADORATION** Friday, March 4, after 7:00 Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Friday, March 4, 7:00 p.m., after Benediction

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Fish Fry

March 25



## Ash Wednesday

Masses at 7:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., & 7:00 p.m.

Distribution of Ashes & Communion Service at 12:15 p.m.

## Lenten Confessions

**Fridays** 6:00 – 7:00 PM; **Saturdays** 4:00 – 4:45 PM and 6:00 until the last confession

**Sundays** 9:00 – 9:45 AM; 4:15 – 4:45 PM



## Pray with the Pope

March 2022

*For a Christian response to bioethical challenges*

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

## Weekly Collection

February 13, 2022

Fiscal YTD

Collections needed.....	\$20,000	\$680,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$8,061	\$487,500
Electronic Collections .....	\$3,188	\$108,814
Total Collected.....	\$11,249	\$596,314
Over/(Short) .....	\$(8,751)	\$(83,686)

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

Donald Driggs, father of George Driggs

## Baptism Congratulations

Ismije Aaliyah Juarez, daughter of Dominique Juarez & Willie Richardson

Anna Elizabeth Ayers, daughter of Kathryn & Justin Ayers

## Scripture Homework

For those who would like to dive more into scripture, read the readings for the Sunday and then consider the following homework for further study.

First Sunday of Lent: March 6, 2022

Jesus and the Devil both quote Scripture in today's Gospel from Luke 4. Look up the following old testament passages that are quoted in today's Gospel:

Regarding the first temptation, read Deuteronomy 8:1-10, especially v. 3.

Regarding the second and third temptations, read Deuteronomy 6:1-19, especially v. 13, & v. 16.

Regarding the Devil's quote in the third temptation, read Psalm 91, especially v. 11-12.

Regarding the Devil's offer in the second temptation, see how Jesus received authority over the whole world from the Father, and not from the Devil: Read Matthew 28:16-20, especially v. 18.

## RCIA Topics

**Mar 2:** Ash Wednesday, NO Class

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

**Mar 16:** Commandments 4, 5, 7, 8

**Mar 23:** Commandments 6, 9, 10

**Mar 30:** History of the Church

**Apr 6:** Examination of Conscience, Preparation for Confession, Review

**Apr 13:** Penance Service, Practice

**Apr 16:** Easter Vigil (Saturday)

**Apr 20:** Mystagogy



## Free 3-D Ultrasound

Expectant mothers up to 32 weeks are invited to volunteer for the 3-D ultrasound as a gift to the mission of **Destiny for Women**



Serve God as a model during the weeks of **February 27 or March 6**

Assist our Nurse Practitioners (we have two) and Registered Nurse in becoming certified in Limited Obstetric Ultrasound

There will be no charge to the mothers who volunteer as it is to provide the opportunity for Destiny For Women staff to gain experience.

This is in addition to the care you are receiving from your own OB/GYN and in no way does this replace the care from your OB/GYN

Schedule an Appointment at:  
**[DestinyforWomen.com](http://DestinyforWomen.com)**

## Local Pro-life resources for expectant mothers

There are two resources available to serve pregnant mothers in our area. Both facilities support the pro-life movement.

The Women's Care Center is temporarily located at 7620 N. University Street, Suite 106. They provide free, confidential counseling as well as support and education for pregnant women which includes options for counseling and parenting classes. Free pregnancy testing and ultrasounds are available.

Destiny for Women is located at 2805 N. Knoxville Avenue, Peoria. Located next to Planned Parenthood, the facility encourages women to choose an alternative to abortion. They offer pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, STI testing and treatment, and educational information.

## Support the Catholic Post

Those who subscribe to our excellent diocesan newspaper, **The Catholic Post**, have received materials to renew their subscription for another year. As Lent is about to begin, we encourage all members of our parish to receive and support this valuable resource for Catholic living and unity.

Subscribe instantly via credit or debit card online at **[thecatholicpost.com](http://thecatholicpost.com)**; by calling **(309) 671-1550** during business hours; or sending a check to **The Catholic Post**, PO Box 1722, Peoria, IL 61656. The subscription rate remains at \$30. Additional levels of support are invited.

## St. Thomas School presents **SciencePALOOZA** Saturday, March 12th 9:30 am - noon

Fun for the whole family!

Bring your friends!

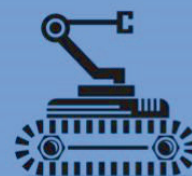


**FREE!!**

Enter at the cafeteria doors in the back parking lot.



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Prairie Park  
demonstrations



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Edible Science  
Rockets



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## Men's Retreat

All men from St. Thomas are invited to attend a 3 day spiritual retreat to be held from **September 15 - 18, 2022** at the **White House Retreat Center in St. Louis**.

The 3 day retreat schedule includes a series of conferences/talks led by the retreat director, Benediction, Masses, Rosary, Confession opportunities, Sacrament of Anointing, time for personal prayer, discernment, meditation and more. Spiritual retreats provide an excellent opportunity to renew and deepen your personal faith and relationship with God.

If you have any questions or would like to register, please contact **George Burek** at **[georgeburek@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeburek@yahoo.com)**.

## Sponsor of the Week

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## When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus

Count your blessings! I say this to myself so often as I meet people who call on the St. Vincent de Paul Society. There but for the grace of God.

Some are stuck in situations that make their lives a constant struggle just to get by, leaving them with little hope and very few resources. We sometimes offer financial assistance, and we always offer concern and information on community agencies that might be of assistance. Occasionally we meet a person who is trying hard to make their future better than their past or present. A recent caller, a single mom with four children, needs help because she knows she needs to get into a career that will provide a higher, stable income. She is currently enrolled in the nursing program at ICC, scheduled to graduate in December. But, because the curriculum is intense, counselors told her she cannot continue to work full time; therefore, she cut back to twenty hours per week at the nursing home where she has been employed for several years. Imagine working, going to classes and hospital clinicals, studying, and taking care of four children! We helped her with a rent payment, but she will need more than we can provide over the next several months. Please keep her in your prayers.

On behalf of her and all the people we help, thank you for your continued generosity to support the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

~ Pat Pusey

## Icon of St. Joseph and the Infant Jesus

This beautiful icon is on display in the narthex. It is on loan from the Illinois Knights of Columbus, and will be here until March 6 after which it will move to St. Pius X parish in Rock Island.

Holy Cards, with a picture of the Icon, are available in the narthex, which you are free to take. There are also a few booklets available—the Knights ask that you take and read and please return.



## Small Appliance Drive

That Man Is You is sponsoring a Small Household Appliance Drive.

We have identified needs from some of the clients of the St. Thomas Food Pantry for small household appliances. Similar to the Christmas Giving Tree Program, you will find slips of paper with the identified needed item in the gathering area in the back of the church. You can select a needed item, and then provide either a new or gently used appliance that's listed on the slip of paper. Bring the item back to St. Thomas with the slip of paper attached to it, and place it in one of the collection bins in the back of the church. **The slips of paper will be available after all Masses the weekends of February 19 & 20 & February 26 & 27.**

We ask that you obtain the item requested and bring it in with the label attached by Sunday March 6th. The St. Thomas Food Pantry will then distribute the items to the recipients. Please join us in helping those less fortunate in our community, who have a need but not the means to have some of the basic household appliances that many of us take for granted.

If you have any questions or need assistance in transporting an item to the church, please email **George Burek** at [georgeburek@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeburek@yahoo.com)

*Thank you for your support of those less fortunate in our community.*

February is American Heart Month. I am sharing Heart Health tips throughout the month. Please call (309) 688-0288 x1350, or email me [ParishNurse@stthomas-church.net](mailto:ParishNurse@stthomas-church.net) if you have any questions.

♥☐ Mary Clare Geraghty, RN, BSN, Parish Nurse

### Heart Disease and Stroke Are Often Preventable

The good news is that many heart attacks and strokes can be prevented. The right lifestyle changes can significantly reduce the risk. That's why DHHS, the CDC and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are leading the Million Hearts® national initiative <https://millionhearts.hhs.gov>. Federal, state and local agencies and private-sector partners also provide support for the campaign.

Million Hearts encourages Americans to make lifestyle choices that could decrease their chances of suffering a heart attack or stroke:

Use aspirin when appropriate; Control blood pressure; Manage high cholesterol; Stop smoking; Lower sodium consumption; Lower trans fat consumption

### What Can You Do?

To protect yourself, stay smart about your heart:

Know the signs of a heart attack, and stroke (see next week's bulletin)  
Keep your weight, blood pressure and cholesterol in a healthy range.  
Talk to your doctor about your numbers and ask if medication is needed.  
Exercise most days of the week.  
Do not smoke or use tobacco.  
Limit alcohol use.  
If you think you are having a heart attack, call 911 right away.  
And if you haven't had regular heart screenings with your doctor, start today.

Need help getting started making heart-healthy lifestyle changes? Check out these resources:

Videos about high blood pressure - what it is and what to do about it:

<https://millionhearts.hhs.gov/news-media/media/videos.html#bpc>

DASH healthy eating plan to keep blood pressure under control

<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/education/dash-eating-plan>

Move Your Way® - tools, videos and fact sheets for adults and kids

<https://health.gov/moveyourway>



## PND Annual Blue & Green Gala

March 19, 2022



Join us for the 39th Annual Blue & Green Gala - Heart of PND County Fair - Saturday, March 19, 2022. Our creative and energetic Gala Committee members have done a great job planning a very fun evening of delicious food and entertainment reminiscent of the county fair. You could:

- Win a pair of diamond stud earrings valued at \$1400 from Jones Bros. Jewelers!
- Show off your basketball skills at our Pop-A-Shot competition!
- Purchase your keepsake glass and choose from two signature drink options!
- Bring home a gift card for two (2) new pairs of Maui Jim Sunglasses (non-prescription, value: \$700)!
- View our NEW! Live & Silent Auction items!

To register online, please visit: <https://pndhs.ejoinme.org/Gala2022> or scan the QR code above. We will see you at the fair!

## Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

March 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.  
St. Mark Church, 1113 W. Bradley Ave, Peoria

Holy Hour of Benediction, the Rosary, and other prayers. Please join us in prayer for the protection of these innocent lives and the restoration of their Constitutional rights.

Please wear your mask.

## 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** \_\_\_\_\_

## 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*



## March Ultreya

Please join Cursillo for our March Ultreya  
2022 Theme: *In God's Time*

Saturday, **March 5, 2022 at 5:00pm** beginning with the parish Mass  
Holy Family Catholic Church, Peoria

Guests are welcome!  
Families are welcome!

Join us for a chance to pray and share!  
Celebrant: Fr. Paul Langevin  
Lay Reflection by John Szentes  
Hosts: Tom Morss Memorial Group Reunion

Social Time in the parish hall with beverages and snacks

No sign up needed! Please join us!

Call the Cursillo Office at **309/676-5587** or email [cursillopeoria@gmail.com](mailto:cursillopeoria@gmail.com) for more information.

## St. Bernard's Fish Fry



The St. Bernard Men's Club is having a fish fry on **Friday, March 4, 5:30-7:00 p.m.** in the school gym, 512 E. Kansas in Peoria.

*Dine in or carry out.* **Cost:** \$15.00 for catfish or a baked cod dinner, and \$10.00 for shrimp or fried cod dinners, which include coleslaw, choice of potato and bread.

Children's meals of corn dogs, fried cod, or shrimp are available for \$5.00.

## 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? 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.

- March 8<sup>th</sup>: St. Jude's, Peoria
- April 5<sup>th</sup>: St. Edward's, Chillicothe
- May 10<sup>th</sup>: St. Vincent's, Peoria



**How to Submit Bulletin Information**

Send information for the bulletin to [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto: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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Aberdeen in St. Thomas  
graduating class of 2026.

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