

## 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](http://stthomaspeoria.org); 309-688-3446  
[parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net)

Pastor: Msgr. Jason A. Gray.....(x3)  
[msggray@stthomas-church.net](mailto:msggray@stthomas-church.net)  
Fr. John Twinomujuni.....In Residence

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Dcn. John Nelson.....981-2716  
Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735

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309-645-1364; [ccd@stthomas-church.net](mailto:ccd@stthomas-church.net)

Music Coordinator: Ann Horst..... 682-5507

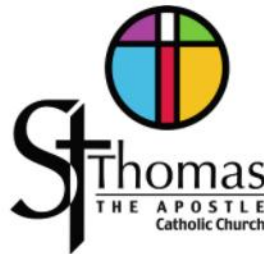
Choir Director: Erin Craig.....  
[erincraig@stthomas-school.net](mailto:erincraig@stthomas-school.net)

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)).

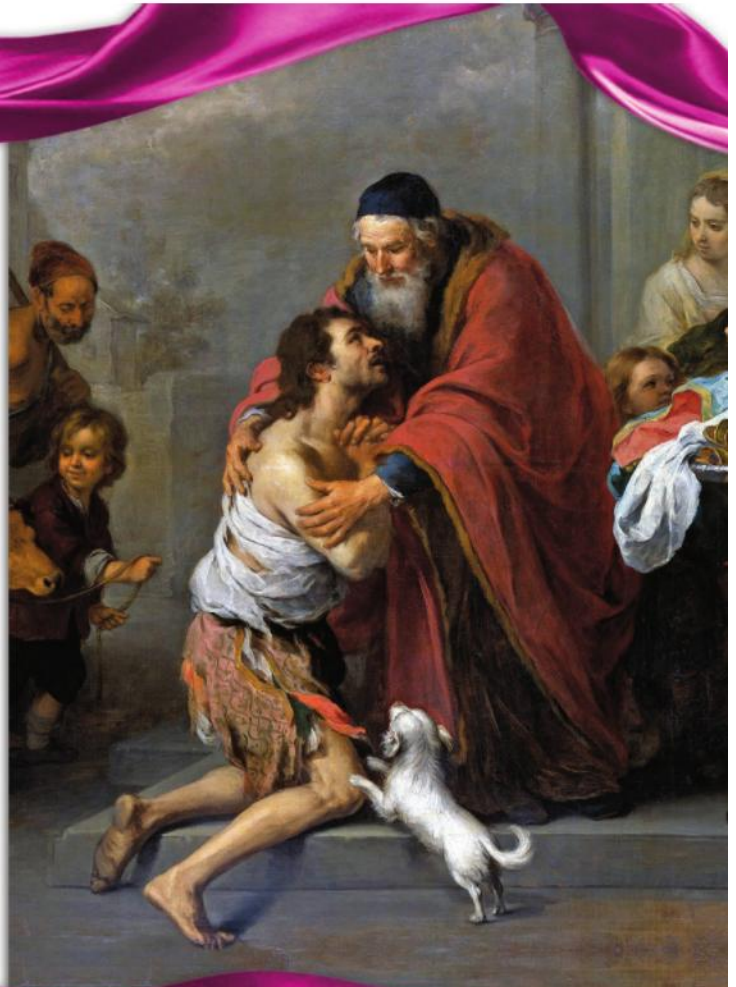


*March 27 2022  
Fourth Sunday of Lent*

Then let us  
celebrate  
with a feast,  
because this  
son of mine  
was dead,  
and has come  
to life again,  
he was lost, and  
has been found.

*Luke 15:23, 24*

The Return of the Prodigal Son  
by Barolomé Esteban Murillo,  
circa 1670



4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF  
*LENT*



## From Our Pastor

Congratulations to our eighth grade students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation. We had a very beautiful Mass with Bishop Tylka last Monday.

We received word from the Bishop's Office that the dispensation from attending Sunday Mass will come to an end on April 9<sup>th</sup> with the celebration of Palm Sunday. Many people have already returned to regular Sunday Mass, and you may be surprised to know that the dispensation was still in effect! Those who are sick and homebound, and those who are incapable of attending Mass are excused. For everyone else, we now ask those who have not yet returned to regular Sunday Mass to do so as we prepare for Easter.

Each year we remember the faithful departed, praying for parish members and their relatives. We have traditionally observed this memorial on the anniversary of Msgr. Bernard Rank's passing on March 25, 1983. This year, with the consultation of our parish council, we will observe this memorial on the anniversary of Msgr. William Watson's passing on April 27, 2021. On that day we will remember Msgr. Rank, Msgr. Watson, and those who have passed in the last year.

I look forward to a special presentation on the Old Testament religious festivals and sacrifices and their connection to Jesus Christ and the New Testament. Please come on Tuesday, March 29, at 7 pm in the Parish Hall for this presentation.

Additional Lenten confession times continue to be available, as well as the celebration of the Stations of the Cross. Make time for your spiritual recommitment to the Lord by making a good confession during this season.

-Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of March 27, 2022

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> Joshua 5: 9a, 10-12; 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21; Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32
<b>Monday</b>	Isaiah 65: 17-21; John 4: 43-54
<b>Tuesday</b>	Ezekiel 47: 1-9, 12; John 5: 1-16
<b>Wednesday</b>	Isaiah 49: 8-15; John 5: 17-30
<b>Thursday</b>	Exodus 32: 7-14; John 5: 31-47
<b>Friday</b>	Wisdom 2: 1a, 12-22; John 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Francis of Paola, Hermit</b> Jeremiah 11: 18-20; John 7: 40-53
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> Isaiah 43: 16-21; Philippians 3: 8-14; John 8: 1-11

## Mass Intentions

<b>Monday, March 28, 2022</b>	7:00 a.m. Hylee Kemp/The Barkley Family
<b>Tuesday, March 29, 2022</b>	7:00 a.m. Mary Basler/Mary Ann Noe
<b>Wednesday, March 30, 2022</b>	7:00 a.m. Lois Lipka/Paul & Ann Horst
<b>Thursday, March 31, 2022</b>	7:00 a.m. Intentions of Joe Russick/Ed & Cathy Mallow 9:15 a.m. Fr. Paul Stark, S.J./Bob & Barb Gusman
<b>Friday, April 1, 2022</b>	7:00 a.m. Joe Maier/Friends
<b>Saturday, April 2, 2022</b>	8:00 a.m. Purgatorial Society 5:00 p.m. Deceased Members of McCauley Family
<b>Sunday, April 3, 2022</b>	8:00 a.m. For the People 10:00 a.m. Kevin Harmon & Ed Harmon 5:00 p.m. Andrew Burgeson/Michael & Diane Gootee

Sponsor of the Week



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Office: 309-444-3627



## Week of March 27

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

**ROSARY** Tuesday, March 29, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**CHRIST IN JEWISH LITURGY** Presentation by Msgr. Gray, Tuesday, March 29, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**CCD** Wednesday, March 30, 6:00 p.m., School

**RCIA** Wednesday, March 30, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**THAT MAN IS YOU** Friday, April 1, doors open 6:00 a.m., program 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**ADORATION** Friday, April 1, after 7:00 Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Friday, April 1, 7:00 p.m., after Benediction

### UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>Pancake Breakfast</i>	<i>April 10</i>
<i>St. Thomas Holy Hour</i>	<i>April 21</i>
<i>Memorial Mass</i>	<i>April 27</i>

## Lenten Confessions

**Fridays** 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Saturdays** 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. until the last confession

**Sundays** 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. & 4:15 – 4:45 p.m.

## Stations of the Cross

**Fridays** 7:00 P.M.

## Weekly Collection

	March 20, 2022	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000	\$760,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$7,764	\$546,903
Electronic Collections .....	\$3,188	\$121,566
Total Collected.....	\$10,952	\$688,469
Over/(Short) .....	\$(9,048)	\$(91,531)

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

Robert Maushard

James Treber

Kathryn Weisbruch, mother of Marti Monckton

Kevin Wood

## Baptism Congratulations

Eloise Jean Prout, daughter of Kathleen & Glen Prout

## 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.



## Pray with the Pope

April 2022

**For health care workers**

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

## RCIA Topics

**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:** Mystagoga





Gracie Anderson  
Rylie Bare  
James Beyer  
Blake Buckardt  
Ella Edwards  
Julie Garcia  
Mario Gonzalez

Sophia Gordon  
Paul Gordon  
Michael Guingrich  
Jacob LaBarre  
William Lynch  
Devin Miller  
Stephen Petri

Michael Plaskon  
Andrew Plaskon  
Remington Joesting  
Jacob Robenstein  
Julian Sturm  
Emily Taylor  
Julia Watts

## Catholic Relief Services Collection

Soon our diocese will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Your support of this collection serves Jesus in the guise of those who are poor and vulnerable in the most marginalized communities in our world.

Your support of this collection makes a difference for so many around the globe. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection this year, at Mass or through your parish online giving platform. #iGiveCatholicTogether also accepts funds for the collection. To learn more about the collection and the people who benefit, please visit [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief). Envelopes are available in the narthex.



Make plans now to attend the Pancake Breakfast coming soon to a cafeteria near you! That's right, here at St. Thomas on **April 10<sup>th</sup>** ~ pancakes and goodies.

More information in an upcoming bulletin.



## WOMEN'S RETREAT with Bonnie Engstrom



A free will offering may be made the day of the retreat. To sign up or questions ~ email:

[parishoffice@saintannpeoria.com](mailto:parishoffice@saintannpeoria.com).

OPEN TO ALL WOMEN  
APRIL 9, 2022  
7:30-NOON  
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PEORIA, IL  
BREAKFAST INCLUDED



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



Several years ago I was asked by a customer if our company would donate product to a church here in Peoria. I obliged and the church Pastor came to our facility on a beautiful fall Saturday afternoon. Everyone had left for the day except the two of us. When we were finished loading the Pastor's van he asked if our business had ever been blessed. I said "No" and he proceeded to bless the buildings with holy water while I walked with him holding a crucifix. We ended the ceremony in our offices and after thanking him we shook hands in the parking lot. He was a wonderful priest, whom I had never met before, and asked me a simple question "Who owns all this?" I thought for a moment and gave the typical stock answer "Well, the Bank, my folks, and our families." He looked stunned and said "Come on, that's not truly what you think, is it?" I was baffled and didn't have a second answer to his question. "God owns everything and I mean everything! Your family is just being allowed the use of it. You're His caretaker and always act accordingly with the precious gift He has bestowed." As he drove off I stared at his van until it was out of sight. Completely speechless. Anyone who knows me, rarely am I speechless!

That day, God gave me more than I could ever give back to Him. Isn't that how it always is? Since becoming a Vincentian midway through 2021 He continues to bless me in ways I cannot fully comprehend. The people we encounter, who have contacted the call center asking for our help, are the poor Christ talks about all through the Bible. They are the same from centuries ago with a different face. The need is always there and goes on day after day. Our SVdP society is immensely grateful for all you have done and will do here at St. Thomas Church in the form of your monetary contributions. We also need YOU and your compassion for those in need. If you're looking for a way to become more involved here at St. Thomas please consider our group.

*If you no longer have any income, you will not be neglected – you will not starve to death.... We panic at first, but God does not always allow the evil that is feared to happen.*

~ St. Vincent de Paul

Sincerely,  
Brian Barkley



March 27, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

Just over two years ago, the world entered an unprecedented time as the coronavirus pandemic began. No aspect of our lives went untouched, including the practice of our faith. From the onset, the Diocese of Peoria, in consort with the other dioceses in the State of Illinois, implemented protocols intended to protect the health and wellbeing of our brothers and sisters—especially the most vulnerable among us. I take this opportunity to acknowledge and honor all the sacrifices that were made, and to thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Now, having reached a point where many of the safety protocols are able to be lifted, the time has come to rescind the dispensation from obligation to attend Sunday Mass. This will occur on Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022. Each year on this occasion, we mark Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem as we begin Holy Week. This year, it will also mark our Church's triumphant renewal of Sunday worship. Having born the cross of COVID-19 Pandemic, Holy Week is a most fitting time to enter anew into the death and resurrection of Jesus and experience the renewed life of the Church as we celebrate the source and summit of our lives as Catholic Christians—the Most Holy Eucharist.

During the past couple of years, many of our parishes began the praiseworthy practice of streaming their Masses and liturgical events. I am glad to know that a number of our churches will continue this practice for the benefit of our sick and homebound. However, it must be noted that watching Mass on TV or via the internet—even when it is live-streamed—does not fulfill the Sunday obligation. As has always been the case, those who are ill or homebound—along with those who care for them—are not obligated to attend Mass. Furthermore, charity indicates that if you are contagious, you should stay home.

We have all suffered through this pandemic together; therefore, it will be a great blessing to fully welcome back all our brothers and sisters to Mass, particularly for our beautiful and deeply significant liturgies of Holy Week and Easter!

My dear friends, let us continue to pray for one another as many still struggle with matters related to the coronavirus pandemic. We pray that Jesus' healing touch may come upon those who continue to suffer.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us!

Peace and Prayers,

✙ Most Reverend Louis Tylka  
Bishop of Peoria



## Enrollment Going on Now at PND

Peoria Notre Dame is now enrolling! With the solid foundation rooted in Catholicism provided by PND, students are more likely to continue practicing their faith into adulthood. With a 100% graduation rate and 98% of alumni attending a college or university, students are on a path to a bright and successful future. For more information, contact **Admissions Director Matt Blackford** at 309-691-8741 or [m.blackford@pndhs.org](mailto:m.blackford@pndhs.org).



## 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*

## Lebanese Food Festival

**Sunday, April 3, 2022,**

St. Sharbel Church will hold its **44th Annual Lebanese Food Festival**  
St. Sharbel Parish Hall, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

It is Carry Out only. Tickets are \$12 each.



Please join Cursillo for our  
April Ultreya

Highview Christian Church,  
403 James Parkway  
Washington, IL

2022 Theme: "In God's Time"  
Guests are Welcome! Families are Welcome!  
on Saturday, Apr. 2 : 6:00pm

Join us for a lay talk, prayer service and  
social time!

Lay Reflection by Scott Koch  
Host: Pastor Jim Gorby

No Sign Up Needed! Please Join Us!

You can contact the Cursillo Office at 309/676-5587;  
[cursillopeoria@gmail.com](mailto:cursillopeoria@gmail.com)

*(Please note that it will not be a Mass of Catholics and  
communion will not be served)*



**JOIN US FOR OUR  
IN PERSON APRIL  
ULTREYA!**

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## 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.

- April 5th: St. Edward's, Chillicothe
- May 10th: St. Vincent's, Peoria

## Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

St. Mark's Church,  
1113 W. Bradley Avenue, Peoria  
November 2, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Holy Hour consists 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.

## Participation in the Legislative Process

A trip to the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield, hosted by Peoria Notre Dame, is **Wednesday, March 30th**. We will be there to encourage lawmakers to pass House Bill 4126 which makes improvements to the Invest in Kids Act.

Everyone will meet at PND at 7:30 am, attend a legislative session in the morning, lunch, and an afternoon session before departing for home between 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm.

If you would like to take part in the legislative process to make Catholic education more affordable for lower-income families, contact the Director of Advancement **Cindy Dermody** at [c.dermody@pndhs.org](mailto:c.dermody@pndhs.org) or call the school at 309-691-8741.



**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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