St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

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

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

Choir Director: Erin Craig.....erincraig@stthomas-school.net

Annulment Consultant:

John Mackoway......699-5213

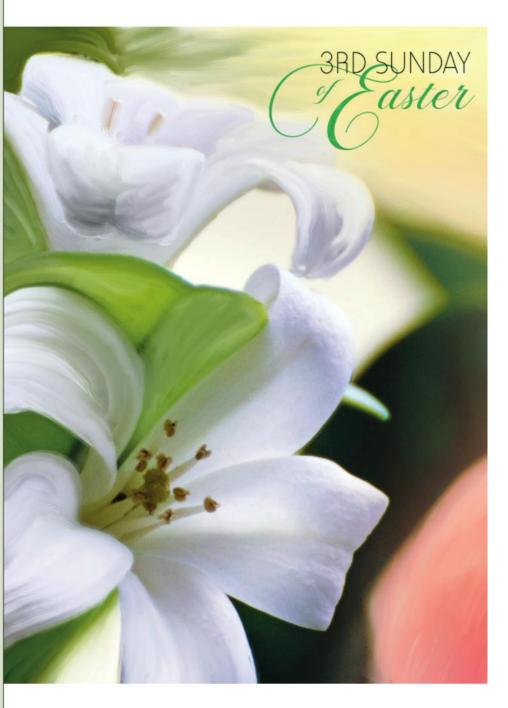
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty.(x1350) parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

Stay in Touch

- 1. 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).
- 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).



May 1, 2022 **Third Sunday of Easter**





From Our Pastor

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Divine Mercy Sunday devotions, and especially those who prayed the novena that led up to the Feast of Divine Mercy last Sunday. Thanks to the generosity of some of our parishioners, we have new images of Divine Mercy and Our Lady of Guadalupe to place in our chapel. Thank you!

On Saturday, April 30, our second-grade students made their First Holy Communion. Congratulations to them and their families. As our young people approach the Eucharist for the first time, this is a good moment for us all to renew our thanksgiving for this Blessed Sacrament. Let us all appreciate this profound gift of Our Lord to the Church. This coming Friday will be the First Friday of May and a day of Eucharistic Adoration. Please make time on Friday to spend with the Lord.

Lent is completed and Easter has come. Hence, this Sunday is the first Sunday of May and we resume Donut Sunday. Please join us after the morning Masses on Sunday for refreshments and fellowship.

With the month of May, our students will have our May Crowning on Monday, May 2, at 8:45 AM. May the Blessed Mother watch over our school and also show her maternal care to everyone at St. Thomas Parish.

Please pray for vocations and especially for those men who will be ordained to the diaconate on Saturday, May 21, at the Cathedral. We will have four new transitional deacons, Ignacio Cardenas, Daniel Dionesotes, Nathan Hopper and Patrick Wille, who will be ordained, God willing, to the priesthood next summer for service in our Diocese. Please remember them in your prayers.

-Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of May 1, 2022

Sunday Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 5: 27-32, 40b-41; Revelation 5: 11-14

John 21: 1-19

Monday St. Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Acts 6: 8-15; John 6: 22-29

Tuesday Sts. Philip & James, Apostles

1 Corinthians 15: 1-8; John 14: 6-14

Wednesday Acts 8: 1b-8; John 6: 35-40

Thursday Acts 8: 26-40; John 6: 44-51

Friday Acts 9: 1-20; John 6: 52-59

Saturday Acts 9: 31-42; John 6: 60-69

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 13: 14, 43-52; Revelation 7: 9, 14b-17

John 10: 27-30

Mass Intentions

Monday, May 2, 2022

7:00 a.m. Special Intentions of John & Family/Mary Ann Noe

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

7:00 a.m. Gordon Jockisch/The Barkley Family

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

7:00 a.m. Ralph Barnett/Paul & Ann Horst

Thursday, May 5, 2022

7:00 a.m. Melvin Noe 5th Anniversary/Family

9:15 a.m. Deceased members of Mallow & Hessling Families/Ed &

Cathy Mallow

Friday, May 6, 2022

7:00 a.m. Grace Cafaro/Denise Noell

Saturday, May 7, 2022

8:00 a.m. Purgatorial Society

5:00 p.m. Andrew Burgeson/Ann Jones

Sunday, May 8, 2022

8:00 a.m. Tom & Dorothy Lavin/Rich & Colleen Lavin

10:00 a.m. Mary Ward/Bill & Ann Fulton

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of May 1

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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL AND FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

COFFEE AND DONUTS after Sunday morning Masses, Parish Hall

MAY CROWNING Monday, May 2, 8:45 a.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, May 3, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CCD Wednesday, May 4, 6:00 p.m., School

ADORATION Friday, May 6, after 7:00 Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Thomas Holy Hour May 19
Adoration June 3

Pray with the Pope

May 2022 For faith-filled young people

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

Anniversary Celebration Coming

This July 12^{th} our pastor, Msgr. Jason Gray, will celebrate his 25th anniversary of Ordination. Several events are in the planning stages \sim please check future bulletins. We will publish information as soon as it is available.

Weekly Collection

	April 24, 2022	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$860,000
Sunday Collections	\$13,026	\$620,979
Electronic Collections	\$3,188	\$137,506
Total Collected	\$16,214	\$758,485
Over/(Short)	\$(3,786)	\$(101,515)

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

Pat Matarelli, sister of Kathy Kline

Congratulations on your First Communion

Teresa Arriaga

Joshua Braet Vincent Bui Johanna Campbell Jeffrey Craig Charles Crawford Giana Fontana Henry Gardner Donald Genzel Zadkiel Gonzalez Samuel Guingrich Katherine Humphrey Adele James Austin Kepple Carly Lacher Maddox Langholf Ella Lowry Owen Lowry Margerie Olson William Reusch Kenley Rich Francine Scherer George Thundathil Patrick Ullrich Blake Whitten Emma Wurzer



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Dear People of God in the Diocese of Peoria,

Every year as we celebrate Easter, we hear from the Gospels for the first encounters with the Good News: Jesus has risen from the dead! These historical events that are recorded in the Scriptures convey the experience of those first disciples with the empty tomb and the Risen Lord. In each of these awakenings, the one who discovers that Jesus is risen is moved to go forth from the empty tomb and tell others what they have witnessed. Some are moved interiorly by the joy they carry in their hearts; others are told explicitly by Jesus to go and tell others. In either case, we see evangelization taking place. Our Savior is risen; we must go and share this Good News!

In the present day and in our own way, we too must hasten to share our faith in Jesus. The task of evangelization has always been at the heart of the Church's mission, and it is for us today to take up the task anew in the midst of the joys and hopes, and the fear and anxieties, of the world in which we live. Our discipleship is rooted in having encountered Our Lord in a way that touched our heart, and our willingness to give witness to this experience of God's love.

At the beginning of this past Lent, on March 3, 2022, I succeeded Bishop Daniel Jenky, CSC as the Diocesan Bishop for the Diocese of Peoria. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to meet many of you and to experience the life of the Church across the twenty-six counties of our diocese. Since coming to the Heart of Illinois, I have experienced firsthand the vibrant faith in our parishes and I have seen the good work done by our priests, deacons, religious, and generous parishioners. I have listened to people's hopes and dreams, their struggles and fears, and most especially their faith in Jesus and their love for the Catholic Church. Bringing all of this into my prayer and reflection, I have asked daily for the grace of the Holy Spirit for the guidance necessary to shepherd the Church. I write today to share the fruit of my prayer, along with the knowledge and wisdom that you have offered as we discern the path forward. And, while there will be much more to discern in the months and years ahead, I offer to you five foundations for us to build upon as we take up the Lord's Great Commission.

Evangelization: Everything we do as a Church (diocese) needs to focus on our efforts of evangelization. The development of strategies to form missionary disciples to witness our faith in Jesus must undergird all our activities. The review of structures, resources, and efforts must be undertaken to align for the present reality so that we may find ways for people to encounter Jesus and commit themselves to living as disciples in the Church. As the Holy Father reminds us, we are living in a new Apostolic Age. So while the truths of our faith remain unchanging, the manner we present our truths must adapt. It is not simply a matter of instructing a fallen world on the teachings of the Church; rather, we must continually invite others to experience the joy of knowing Jesus in a personal way. We must learn to become comfortable with witnessing to our experience of Jesus in our own lives and thereby help others to share in the same transformative relationship. Evangelization is about our relationship with Our Lord and this must be at the heart of all we do.

Foundations 2-4, and the conclusion of Bishop Tylka's message, will be in coming bulletins.

St. Thomas Men's Club will host the



Msgr. William Watson Memorial Golf Outing

September 23, 2022 Mt. Hawley Country Club

More details and sponsorship opportunities will be in future bulletins.

Proceeds will benefit St. Thomas
Tuition Assistance

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



Invest in Kids Program ~ Help Our Students & Receive a Tax Credit

Just a reminder, now that you have completed your income tax returns for 2021, that making a donation to the *Invest in Kids Program* through *Empower Illinois* offers a significant opportunity to help the students at St. Thomas with financial assistance while generating a 75% tax credit on your Illinois income tax return.

A donation of \$1,000 to the *Invest in Kids Program* will give you a Illinois state income tax credit of \$750.00. A donation of \$5,000 will give you a credit of \$3,750.00.

If you have donated in the past we encourage you to donate again. All donations will be distributed to our St. Thomas students for the upcoming school year. To date, in 2022, we have 9 students who have received awards through *Empower Illinois*. We still have 31 students on our waiting list so our need is great.

If you have not donated to the *Invest in Kids Program*, but would like to learn more about it, or would like assistance in making a donation, please contact Pat in the Parish Office.



RSVP: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/ e/1FAlpQLSf6VgCmH7CdFsg4h5J_pcklguvedJCo3-47 -wOtV Si1BFasQ/viewform

Please bring a dish to share. The Men's club will be cooking the main dish. If you are interested in making a monetary contribution towards a group gift, please drop it by the school office by Monday, May 9th

Student Summer Service Hours Available

The St. Thomas Food Pantry offers an excellent opportunity for students who need service hours! Summers offer two days each week for four students to gain service hours.

On Monday and Thursday mornings, holidays excepted, the pantry distributes groceries to clients. Packing groceries, registering clients, restocking shelves, repackaging food, helping clients with food selection and assisting clients to their vehicles are activities students will perform while under adult supervision. An additional service opportunity occurs on one Thursday per month when we receive a truckload of food products from Midwest Food Bank. On these days, six students help adult volunteers unload the truck, repackage food, rotate stock and stock shelves.

Students interested in earning service hours at the food pantry this summer should email Diana Janda at sdjanda1@comcast.net.

Opportunities Available:

Monday and Thursday mornings – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Monthly Truck – 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

- Dates are June 16th, July 14th and August 11th



Full time custodian is needed

for St. Thomas School, to begin this summer. The custodian is responsible for cleaning all aspects of the school building. Hours are 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. during the school year Aug.-May, summer hours adjust, but are still full time. This person is eligible for medical insurance.

If interested, please contact the school principal, Mrs. Maureen Bentley at (309)685-2533 or by e-mail at maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net



When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus

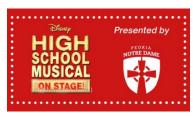
St. Vincent De Paul fills a niche in the community support system by stepping in to help when no government agency or program is set up for that need. As a volunteer for this remarkable aroup, I have purchased and delivered bus tickets, helped choose and arrange for delivery of secondhand furniture, pots and pans and refrigerators, provided funds for building materials to repair a home after it had been vandalized, helped with a deposit on a new and better place to live, and paid a dental bill for a person in pain. Each situation requires contemplation, prayer, and collaborative problem solving with the person who calls us for help, and I find I meet Jesus somehow in each one of them. Rent and utility assistance are more common needs, but when we are assigned a call, we must expect that when we try to understand the circumstances of the person, compassion may require extra legwork. A wonderful friend in the aroup could tell tales of strapping a donated mattress on the roof of her car. Affordable mattresses in good condition are not easy to find, so they were really going the extra mile, as is often the case. This week, my assignment was a person who needed help with her rent this month because she had funeral expenses for a family member.

We take on each case with the goal of helping the person understand, maximize, and pursue the resources available to them. We encounter situations that we may find difficult to understand, and hope, thankfully, and by the Grace of God, would not anticipate finding ourselves. It is indeed good to be needed, and we need and are grateful for our parish financial support, but just as important are the boots on the ground. Please consider joining us!

Chris Clemons

On behalf of the St. Vincent DePaul Society of St. Thomas Parish





Don't miss Peoria Notre Dame's production of *High School Musical* starring parishioners Maggie Guingrich, Chris Chiou, Logan Fricke, Johanna Bauers, Carmela Pag-Ong, Olivia Stuart, Ellie King and Christian Pag-Ong! The musical will be held *May 6th*, 7:00 pm and *May 7th*, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm.

Middle school **6-8 grade students** can join the cast for opening night by learning a dance to perform during the show! The **rehearsal** for the dance will be held **April 29 from 4:30-6:00**. Sign up using the QR code or email Annie Carroll.



For more details, email director Annie Carroll at **a.carroll@pndhs.org**, and come help us Bop to the Top!



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

Monthly Holy Hour for Vocations with Fr. Chase.

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

• May 10th, St. Vincent, Peoria

Blessing of the Grotto

PND will be celebrating the new Marian grotto on campus with a blessing ceremony on **May 8** at **2:00 pm**. Join us for a rosary procession, a blessing of the grotto, and a reconsecration of the whole school to Our Lady.

Light refreshments will be served following the blessing.



Join us on *May 7, 2022*

The Nun Run for Cancer is a 5k run/walk in Downtown Peoria, Illinois.

All proceeds will benefit the OSF
HealthCare Cancer Institute. This event

is focused around healthy habits and lifestyles for our families and community. We can't do this without YOU!

https://raceroster.com/events/2022/56600/nun-run-for-cancer

Volunteers Needed



Are you ready to share your faith with a servant's heart? **Sophia's Kitchen** will be

reopening our Spiritual Center in June, and we need volunteers!

Guests will be able once again to eat in our dining room, under the supervision of faith filled volunteers. During your 3 hour shift, you and a partner will be asked to wash tables, visit with guests, let people into the restrooms, and share your faith, formally or informally.

You'll be provided with training to work with our guests, and support from staff and other volunteers.

Volunteers are needed on Monday afternoons, and Wednesday and Thursday mornings at Sophia's Kitchen, 105 N Richard Pryor Place, next to St. Joseph Church.

To apply visit www.CatholicPeoria.com.

Know that the greatest service that man can offer to God is to help convert souls.

–St. Rose of Lima

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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