

## 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

Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB  
(688-3500); [fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com](mailto:fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com)

Deacon: Dcn. Mark Kelsch.....692-4908  
Dcn. John Nelson.....981-2716  
Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735

School Principal: Maureen Bentley..(x1210)  
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CCD Coordinator: Angie Robenstein.....  
309-645-1364; [ccd@stthomas-church.net](mailto:ccd@stthomas-church.net)

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

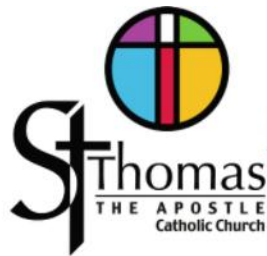
Choir Director: Erin Craig.....  
[erincraig@stthomas-school.net](mailto:erincraig@stthomas-school.net)

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)).



May 8, 2022  
*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

*May  
Crowning  
May 2, 2022*



## *First Holy Communion*





## From Our Pastor

Next weekend, we will have two retirements to celebrate. On Saturday, May 14, the school will honor Gary Thompson for 40 years of service in custodian and maintenance work for St. Thomas. He has focused primarily on the school, but his work has also served our parish at the same time. Please join us in honoring and congratulating Gary!

On Sunday, May 15, our parish will also recognize Deacon Mark Kelsch who enters *senior status*. Once ordained, a man never *retires* from being a deacon, but he will step back from his regular assignments at the altar. He will be recognized after the morning 8 AM and 10 AM Masses next weekend. Please join us in also honoring and recognizing Deacon Mark!

Because of your generosity, we have benefited from contributions for tuition assistance at St. Thomas School. At this point, based on the applications we have received, it appears that we will have unused tuition funds for the next school year, including a scholarship fund that was established to assist pre-school families. If you know of another family who would be interested in sending their children to St. Thomas School, please encourage them to come forward.

We will also offer a referral gift of approximately one month's tuition to any STS family who brings a new family to our school after they have successfully enrolled. You may know of families who are not satisfied with their options for the education of their children. St. Thomas School provides a safe environment and exceptional education that will not only prepare our children for success, but also ground them in Christian virtues to become upstanding young men and women in our society.

-Msgr. Gray

Sponsor of the Week



**Natural NAILS**  
For beautiful, strong... natural looking nails  
**683-6968** Junction City's New Building

**Tammy Vu**  
Parishioner





## Readings for the Week of May 8, 2022

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b><br>Acts 13: 14, 43-52; Revelation 7: 9, 14b-17<br>John 10: 27-30 |
| <b>Monday</b>    | Acts 11: 1-18; John 10: 1-10  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>St. Damien de Veuster, Priest</b><br>Acts 11: 19-26; John 10: 22-30                          |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Acts 12: 24—13: 5a; John 12: 44-50  |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>Sts. Nereus &amp; Achilleus, Martyrs</b><br>Acts 13: 13-25; John 13: 16-20                   |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>Our Lady of Fatima</b><br>Acts 13: 26-33; John 14: 1-6                                       |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>St. Matthias, Apostle</b><br>Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26; John 15: 9-17                             |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b><br>Acts 14: 21-27; Revelation 21: 1-5a<br>John 13: 31-33a, 34-35  |

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, May 9, 2022

7:00 a.m. Bob Nelson/John & Sonia Nelson

### Tuesday, May 10, 2022

7:00 a.m. Ginny Stanard/Jeanne Whalen

### Wednesday, May 11, 2022

7:00 a.m. Shirley Fay/Kitty Bienemann

### Thursday, May 12, 2022

7:00 a.m. Ron Stear/Ed & Cathy Mallow

9:15 a.m. Jim Treber/Chris & Dianna Russick

### Friday, May 13, 2022

7:00 a.m. Hafner & Smith Families

### Saturday, May 14, 2022

8:00 a.m. Donna J. Weinstein/Jack & Margaret Weinstein

5:00 p.m. Barbara Marcus/Terry & Marty Best

### Sunday, May 15, 2022

8:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB

10:00 a.m. Bob & Helen Vonachen & Susie Davidson/The Vonachen Family

5:00 p.m. For the People

## Week of May 8

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

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** Tuesday, May 10, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**GARY THOMPSON RETIREMENT CELEBRATION** Saturday, May 14, 11:00 a.m., School Cafeteria

**HONORING DEACON MARK** Sunday, May 15, after 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Masses, Parish Hall

### UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Thomas Holy Hour      May 19  
Adoration                      June 3

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



### PEORIA VOCATIONS UPDATES

#### A PRAYER FOR SACRED VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, Your divine Son taught us to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His vineyard. We earnestly beg You to bless our diocese and our Universal Church with many priests and consecrated men and women who will love You fervently, and gladly and courageously spend their lives in service to Your Son's Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We pray that their lives may be always centered on our Eucharistic Lord; that they be always faithful to the Holy Father; that they may be devoted sons and daughters of Mary, our Mother, in making You known and loved; and that all may attain Heaven. Bless our families and our children and choose from our homes those whom You desire for this holy work. Amen

**21** CURRENT SEMINARIANS  
**4** MEN WILL BE ORDAINED TO TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE ON MAY 21st  
**3** NEW MEN HAVE SAID "YES" TO BEGIN PRIESTLY FORMATION IN 2022

World Day of Prayer will be observed on Sunday, May 8, 2022 also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood and consecrated life.

## Our Sympathy

Tom Challacombe, father of Nikki Rusk and grandfather of Emily, Garrett and Abigail Rusk, and Taylor Rusk Kauffman

## Baptism Congratulations

Eden Rae Parkinson, daughter of Laura & John Parkinson



## Congratulations Honor Society Inductees

Peoria Notre Dame is proud to announce seven St. Thomas parishioners have been inducted into the National Honor Society! The academic and personal accomplishments of

Will Bucklar  
Brock Carver  
Claire Girard  
Nevin Libert  
Meredith Anne Oliver  
Hernan Josh Rosalem  
Elizabeth Sherman

were celebrated at a ceremony during an all school mass recently. At that time, the students were welcomed into the highly prestigious organization. Congratulations! We are proud of you.



## Weekly Collection

May 1, 2022

Fiscal YTD

|                              |               |            |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Collections needed.....      | \$20,000..... | \$880,000  |
| Sunday Collections.....      | \$19,746..... | \$640,725  |
| Electronic Collections ..... | \$3,188.....  | \$140,694  |
| Total Collected.....         | \$22,934..... | \$781,419  |
| Over/(Short) .....           | \$2,934.....  | \$(98,581) |

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.



## 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.



Foundations, cont. from last week:

2. **Eucharist:** The source and summit of the Church's life is the Holy Eucharist. Deepening our own appreciation for the Eucharist in our lives is essential to deepening our relationship with Christ. Eucharistic revival is a priority for the Church in the United States and in our local Church. The Eucharist is always an encounter with Jesus Christ, whether that be at Mass or in a Eucharistic Adoration. We must not only teach about the Real Presence of Christ in the Most Sacred Body and Blood, we must also help others to encounter this most intimate gift of the Lord. Within the Diocese of Peoria, we will align our efforts with the three-year plan of *Eucharistic Revival* culminating in the *National Eucharistic Congress in 2024*. The most important thing we do every week is to participate in the Eucharist! This is a truth we live by.
3. **Discipleship** - Forming Minds, Shaping Hearts, Developing Christian Leaders: A hallmark of discipleship is the ongoing deepening of one's own relationship with Jesus. After encountering Our Lord, a disciple begins the life-long journey of learning more about Jesus and who we are called to be as His followers. The ministry of catechesis whereby one learns the truths of our faith and the teachings of the Church is an important aspect of this. However, evangelization is more than catechesis. It entails facilitating an encounter with Jesus that, by divine grace, enables one's heart and mind to be captured by Christ. When this happens, those who have experienced the love of God naturally desire to have their minds and hearts more deeply formed so they become more like Christ. This formation occurs in our parishes and Newman centers, in our schools and religious education programs. It happens first in Christian homes! The development of creative and engaging catechetical models along with the formation of leaders is important in every age.
4. **Vocations:** Everyone has a vocation! As disciples of Jesus, we naturally want to strengthen people's response to God's call in their life. The promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious life are key. We all share the responsibility to encourage and support those who believe they have a divine call to serve the Church as a priest or religious. The seeds we plant today—especially in our families—will bear fruit for the sake of God's kingdom.
5. **Archbishop Fulton Sheen:** We are committed to promoting the cause for the canonization of the Venerable Fulton J. Sheen. Our beloved native son, ordained to serve as a Priest of Jesus Christ for the Diocese of Peoria, went on to serve the universal Church by his dynamic, creative, and inspiring ministry as a bishop. Utilizing the cutting-edge technology of his time, combined with the gift of his great mind and his natural ability to communicate, Sheen is a model of evangelization for us today. While imploring the Church to move forward on his official cause of beatification and ultimately canonization, the Diocese of Peoria will work tirelessly to share the legacy of this holy man and his tremendous impact on the world.

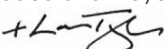
My dear brothers and sisters, as we celebrate Easter, we celebrate a new life in Christ Jesus. The first disciples encountered the Good News of the Resurrection, and their hearts were stirred by the Holy Spirit to go and share what they witnessed. Even before they fully understood all that had transpired—because of their personal encounter with Jesus, their experience of His love, and the renewal of their minds and hearts that had taken place through His teaching—they knew what they had to do: *Go and tell the others*. And thus, through the activity of the Holy Spirit in their lives, the Church began to grow. And now, in our time, we commit ourselves anew to this same essential task. *Christ is Risen! Christ is truly Risen!* This truth has changed our lives and it continues to have the power to change the world. Let us hear the Risen Lord say to us as well

*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. Matthew 28: 19-20*

This is the joy of Easter and the joy of discipleship!

Blessings to you and your loved ones. Know of my daily prayers for you as I ask for yours. Together let us join in singing God's praises: Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia!

Peace and Prayers,

  
✠ Most Reverend Louis Tylka  
Bishop of Peoria

## 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](mailto:sdjanda1@comcast.net).

### Opportunities Available:

Monday and Thursday mornings  
– 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Monthly Truck – 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
– Dates are June 16th, July 14th  
and August 11th



## 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.

**ST THOMAS SUMMARY REPORT OF OPERATING REVENUE AND EXPENSES**  
**Quarter and Year Ending March 31, 2022**

|  | <b>Quarter Ending March 31, 2022</b> |                  | <b>YTD March 31, 2022</b> |                  |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
|  | <b>Actual</b>                        | <b>Budget</b>    | <b>Actual</b>             | <b>Budget</b>    |
| <b>CHURCH</b>  |                                      |                  |                           |                  |
| <b>Operating Revenue</b>   |                                      |                  |                           |                  |
| Collections, Gifts and Bequests  | 258,200                              | 309,100          | 896,200                   | 947,600          |
| Other: Parish Organizations, Etc   | (2,800)                              | 8,500            | 12,600                    | 23,400           |
| Total Operating Revenue  | 255,400                              | 317,600          | 908,800                   | 971,000          |
| <b>Operating Expenses</b>  |                                      |                  |                           |                  |
| Salary and Related   | 44,000                               | 47,300           | 139,700                   | 146,400          |
| PND Tuition & Assessment   | 24,700                               | 24,800           | 74,100                    | 74,300           |
| Other Operating Expenses   | 96,800                               | 104,600          | 281,900                   | 281,800          |
| Total Church Expenditures  | 165,500                              | 176,700          | 495,700                   | 502,500          |
| <b>NET CHURCH OPERATING REVENUE</b>  |                                      |                  |                           |                  |
| <b>OVER EXPENSES</b>   | <b>89,900</b>                        | <b>140,900</b>   | <b>413,100</b>            | <b>468,500</b>   |
| <b>SCHOOL</b>  |                                      |                  |                           |                  |
| <b>Operating Revenue</b>   |                                      |                  |                           |                  |
| Tuition and Fees   | 315,200                              | 309,100          | 854,500                   | 856,300          |
| Other: Café, Athletics, etc  | 150,300                              | 111,000          | 396,800                   | 300,300          |
| Total Operating Revenue  | 465,500                              | 420,100          | 1,251,300                 | 1,156,600        |
| <b>Operating Expenses</b>  |                                      |                  |                           |                  |
| School Expenditures  | 449,500                              | 438,800          | 1,489,300                 | 1,491,900        |
| Other: Café, Athletics, etc  | 86,600                               | 83,400           | 251,000                   | 239,800          |
| Total School Expenditures  | 536,100                              | 522,200          | 1,740,300                 | 1,731,700        |
| <b>NET SCHOOL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>   |                                      |                  |                           |                  |
| <b>OVER REVENUE</b>  | <b>(70,600)</b>                      | <b>(102,100)</b> | <b>(489,000)</b>          | <b>(575,100)</b> |
| <b>COMBINED OPERATING EXPENSES</b>   |                                      |                  |                           |                  |
| <b>OVER REVENUE</b>  | 19,300                               | 38,800           | <b>(75,900)</b>           | <b>(106,600)</b> |
| <b>NON OPERATING ACTUAL REVENUE/EXPENSES</b>   |                                      |                  |                           |                  |
| Annual Giving (Window Fund)  | 70,300                               | -                | 200,000                   | 70,000           |
| Depreciation   | -                                    | -                | (43,000)                  | (40,000)         |
| Investments  | 55,600                               | 25,000           | 147,700                   | 75,000           |
| Total Non-Operating Revenue  | 125,900                              | 25,000           | 304,700                   | 105,000          |
| <b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS</b>   | <b>145,200</b>                       | <b>63,800</b>    | <b>228,800</b>            | <b>(1,600)</b>   |
| <b>NOTE:</b> The unrealized activity of our investments is not included in the above numbers.<br>Those numbers are stated below. |                                      |                  |                           |                  |
| Unrealized Depreciation  | (301,000)                            | 25,000           | (146,400)                 | 75,000           |



**May 26, 2022 6:30p.m.**

Bring a snack to share if you would like. We'll be trying a new card game this time!

*All ladies of the parish are welcome.*

*Please bring a friend!*

Call **Jessica Ramsay** at **309-265-1989** to RSVP or for any questions.

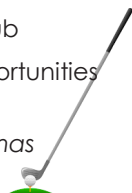


**St. Thomas Men's Club** will host the  
**Msgr. William Watson**  
**Memorial Golf Outing**

September 23, 2022  
Mt. Hawley Country Club

More details and sponsorship opportunities will be in future bulletins.

Proceeds will benefit St. Thomas  
Tuition Assistance



## Deacon Mark to Senior Status

After serving us faithfully in his ministry for these many years Deacon Mark Kelsch is moving to senior status. Please join us **May 15<sup>th</sup>** at either the **8:00 or 10:00 a.m. Mass** as we honor the service of Deacon Mark.

Senior status does not mean he is leaving, just stepping back from regular duties. Please also join us at the reception in the Parish Hall for Deacon Mark after either the 8:00 or 10:00 a.m. Mass.

## Full time custodian 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](mailto:maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net)

Students in grades K-8 can participate in a free scavenger hunt with prizes for the winners!

Talk with PND AP Capstone & Project Lead the Way students about their innovative research.

# PND IRISH EXPO



**MAY 18  
6-8 PM  
PND  
COMMONS**

## A RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

FEATURING PROJECTS AND  
PRESENTATIONS BY PND STUDENTS



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL  
BE AVAILABLE.

### 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 Hour for Vocations with Fr. Chase.

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

- May 10<sup>th</sup>, St. Vincent, Peoria

**LET'S CELEBRATE**

## Gary Thompson

on his  
**40<sup>TH</sup> YEAR &  
RETIREMENT**

**Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**  
STS Cafeteria  
**POTLUCK PARTY**  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

RSVP and donate using the Sign Up Genius sent via email. We greatly appreciate any potluck donations!

\*\*\* Gary **LOVES** the Vikings! We are asking that guests wear purple/gold or Comet attire!!!

RSVP: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6VgCmH7CdFsg4h5J\\_pcklguvdJCo3-47-wOtV\\_Si1BFasQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6VgCmH7CdFsg4h5J_pcklguvdJCo3-47-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 9<sup>th</sup>

### 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*

### 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.



**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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