St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

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Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB (688-3500); fsibpeoria@yahoo.com

Deacon: Dcn. John Nelson.......981-2716
Dcn. Ed Mallow......360-7735
Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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CCD Coordinator: Angie Robenstein......... 309-645-1364; ccd@stthomas-church.net

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

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

Annulment Consultant:

John Mackoway......699-5213

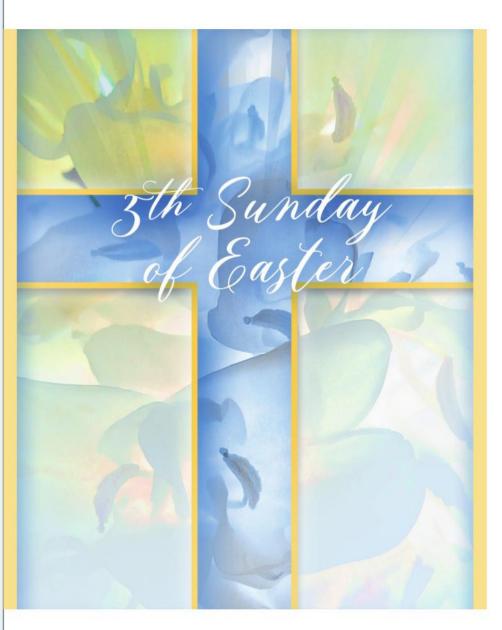
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty.(x1350) parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

Stay in Touch

- 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).
- 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 15, 2022 Fifth Sunday of Easter





From Our Pastor

It has been good to see our Mass attendance returning to more normal levels. As a reminder, the dispensation from attending Sunday Mass was lifted on Palm Sunday. Attending Mass on Sunday or Saturday evening is obligatory for all Catholics unless excused by illness, infirmity or impossibility.

Congratulations to Gary Thompson on his retirement and Deacon Mark Kelsch as he enters Senior Status as a Deacon. These celebrations will take place this weekend.

I am also grateful to Angie Robenstein for her 35 years of service as a teacher or coordinator in our CCD program. She retires as coordinator this year and will be missed. I am also grateful to Liz Plaskon who agreed to take on this responsibility next year. If you are interested in helping with our CCD program on Wednesday evening, we are looking for a few teachers to assist.

My 25th Anniversary of priesthood is coming up this summer as I was ordained on July 12, 1997. There are various events being planned as a parish to join in this silver jubilee. More information will be posted in the bulletin as it becomes available. I look forward to these celebrations in thanksgiving for the gift of the priesthood and the blessings that I have had to serve as a priest for these years.

Emmaus Days is coming up this Summer for young men who would like to attend a retreat with our seminarians. These retreats are a good time to meet our seminarians, pray with them, and enjoy a lot of fun activities. High school juniors and above are invited to St. John Newman Center at the University of Illinois in Champaign: high school graduates on June 10-12 and juniors and seniors on June 24-27. Younger high school and grade school students are invited to Peoria Notre Dame: Freshmen and sophomores on July 17-20 and seventh and eighth grade students on July 20-22. See the bulletin for more information.

-Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of May 15, 2022

Sunday Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 14: 21-27; Revelation 21: 1-5a

John 13: 31-33a, 34-35

Monday Acts 14: 5-18; John 14: 21-26

Tuesday Acts 11: 19-26; John 14:27-31a

Wednesday St. John I, Pope & Martyr

Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8

Thursday Acts 15: 7-21; John 15: 9-11

Friday St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest

Acts 15: 22-31; John 15: 12-17

Saturday St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, & Companions, Martyrs

Acts 16: 1-10; John 15: 18-21

Sunday Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 15: 1-2, 22-29; Revelation 21: 10-14, 22-23

John 14: 23-29

Mass Intentions

Monday, May 16, 2022

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

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

7:00 a.m. Cecilia LaHood/Family

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

7:00 a.m. Paul & Michael Tamkin/Manolito & Marianna Cabucos

Thursday, May 19, 2022

7:00 a.m. Ralph Barrett/Ed & Cathy Mallow

9:15 a.m. Mark Brewer/Family

Friday, May 20, 2022

7:00 a.m. Matt Hagan/Kitty Bienemann

Saturday, May 21, 2022

8:00 a.m. Eternal Repose for all who have died this year

5:00 p.m. Jean Best/Terry & Marty Best

Sunday, May 22, 2022

8:00 a.m. For the People

10:00 a.m. Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist

5:00 p.m. Blanche Sherman/Laura Sherman

Week of May 15

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

ROSARY Tuesday, May 17, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, May 19, 6:30 p.m., Rudy's Cantina

ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR Thursday, May 19, 7:00 p.m., Church

CARMELITES Saturday. May 21, 11:00 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adoration June 3

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**th 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.

A Note From Deacon Mark

For the past 10 years, it has been my personal blessing to serve as your deacon here at St. Thomas Parish. However, the time has arrived that I am required to move to senior status due to my age and increasing health conditions, which means I will no longer be on the altar. I wish to thank Monsignor Gray for graciously allowing me to serve.

I will, however, continue to be active behind the scenes with our St. Vincent de Paul Society and helping with communion services in area nursing homes. Please know that you, the members of St. Thomas, have witnessed so many times what it means to be Christ to others.

Please be assured that the St. Thomas Parish Community will continue to have a special place in my heart and my prayers.

~ Deacon Mark

Weekly Collection		
	May 8, 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. Thank you for your support.

Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week

Susanne Tillia



PARISH HOLY HOUR

Thursday, May 19 7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

Msgr. Gray's Silver Jubilee



Msgr. Gray was ordained a priest on July 12, 1997 and will celebrate 25 years of priesthood this summer.

Save the date...

Saturday, July 9 - Sunday, July 10: Everyone is invited to a reception after weekend Masses.

Monday, July 11: Vigil of Anniversary Holy Hour

Tuesday, July 12: Anniversary Mass of Ordination

In August: a celebration Run/Walk for the parish and school, hosted by school families

Friday, August 26: A Night in Rome celebration dinner at Connected.

In September: A Trivia Night with Msgr. Gray More to come...

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



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

PEORIA VOCATIONS UPDATES

21

E

MEN WILL BE ORDAINED TO TRANSITIONAL JACONATE ON MAY 2181

NEW MEN HAVE SAID YES' TO BEGIN FORMATION IN 2022

World Day of Prayer will be observed on Sunday, May S, 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.



May 26, 2022 6:30p.m.

Bring a snack to share it 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.



Emmaus Days is a vocations awareness program sponsored by the Diocese of Peoria. By providing a spiritual, fun environment for young men, we help make them more aware of God's presence in their lives and get them excited about living their faith. It is a mixture of spiritual activities and summer fun. We promise that, after this summer of fun and faith, you will walk away with the confidence to pray each and every day the Emmaus Days prayer: Lord, help me to want to be what you want me to be.

Session I June 10-12, 2022 Working and College Men St. John's Catholic Newman Center, Champaign

Session II June 24-27, 2022 High School Juniors & Seniors St. John's Catholic Newman Center, Champaign

Session III July 17-20, 2022 High School Freshmen & Sophomores Peoria Notre Dame

Session IV July 20-22, 2022 Seventh & Eighth Graders Peoria Notre Dame

More information and registration can be found online at: Cdop.weshareonline.org/emmausdays2022

Thank You to Angie Robenstein

We are very grateful for Angie's thirty-five years of service to our CCD program as a teacher, and more recently as the coordinator of the program. We thank you for your willingness to serve the parish and our families who attend CCD here at St. Thomas.



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

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

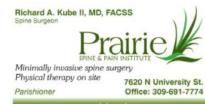
Just a reminder, now that you have completed your income tax returns for 2021, that making a donation to the *Invest in Kids Program* through *Empower Illinois* offers a significant opportunity to help the students at St. Thomas with financial assistance while generating a 75% tax credit on your Illinois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

Sponsor of the Week



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

The ST. Thomas Food Pantry will receive a percentage of all sales from the week of May 16th at the Peoria Heights Helping Hands Shop. Helping Hands is a resale shop at the corner of Monroe and War Memorial.

You can help by shopping or by donating items to the shop, including clothes, furniture, books, kitchen items and almost anything else in good, clean, usable condition.

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 sdiandal@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



Teaching Position Available

St. Thomas School is seeking to fill a full time middle school science or social studies teacher opening. Applicants must hold a teaching certificate from the State of Illinois. Please send a letter of interest and resume to Mrs. Maureen Bentley, princpal at: maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

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



SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE RALLY

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

RALLY GATHERING - 7:00 P.M.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church 2025 N Kickapoo Creek Rd in Peoria (off of Farmington Rd) Refreshments after rally

At the Rally, there will be a Memory Wall. With open arms, we invite men and women with abortion-wounded hearts to honor their children at the Memory Wall by writing a message of love on a paper heart (provided) and adding it to the Memory Wall Please join us in standing for life. Together we can make abortion unthinkable.

FEATURING MONICA CLINE

Monica is a former Training Manager for Planned Parenthood. Her career in comprehensive sex education (CSE) lasted over a decade. During this time, she thrived as an accomplished trainer. However, she came to deeply question what she was teaching. Her questions were not welcomed by her superiors, and she was told that if she wasn't pro-abortion, then

Today, Monica boldly exposes the truth behind CSE and the harm it causes to our children, families and community.

Monica's goal is to encourage parents to take on their God

given role as the primary educators for their children.

QUESTIONS? Email us at askCIRTL@gmail.com

she didn't belong there.

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

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





MAY 18 6-8 PM PND COMMONS



FEATURING PROJECTS AND PRESENTATIONS BY PND STUDENTS



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE.



Registration is now open for the PND Summer Athletic Camps. The camps include girls and boys basketball, cheerleading, dance, girls golf, boys and girls soccer, volleyball, and wrestling. Each camp is open to incoming K-8th graders. Registration information for all camps can be found on our website at pndhs.org/athletics.



The Peoria Notre Dame Dance Team
will be having a dance camp for
girls 4 years old to 8th grade.
It will be held from
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM June 13 - 16, 2022.
The cost is \$60 per dancer.
Visit the link below to sign up:

https://www.familyid.com/programs/2022-

Please contact Coach Tally Sevier at anddanceteam@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Hope to see you there!

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.

New Parishioner Change of address/phone
Phone
City ZIP
Address
Phone
Email
First Name(s)
Last Name
form.

PND AP Capstone Graduates

Congratulations to our St. Thomas graduates who participated in, and graduated from, the Advanced Placement Capstone Program at Peoria Notre Dame. We are so proud of each of you.

Ella Benjamin Andrew Berry John Frederickson Logan Fricke Danny Gutzwiller Abby Halberg Jenna Horst Clare Kube Eme Owen Carissa Phan Brady Socha Trey Socha Thatcher Spears Danny Ward 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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