# 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; 309-688-3446 parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

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

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

School Principal: Maureen Bentley..(x1210) maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

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> CCD Coordinator: ...... ccd@stthomas-church.net

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

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

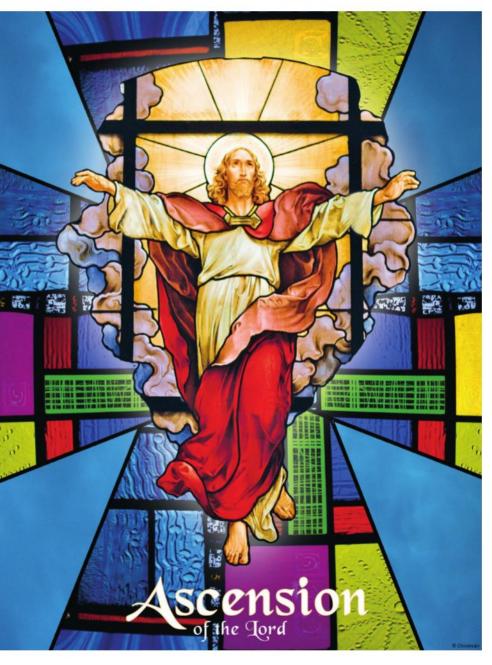
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty.(x1350) parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

## Stay in Touch

- 1. Join Msgr. Gray for Mass. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org or the My Parish App
- 2. 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).
- Bookmark the parish webpage (stthomaspeoria.org).



# May 29, 2022 The Ascension of the Lord





## From Our Pastor

St. Thomas School concluded the school year earlier this week and I am thankful for the successes that we have had this year and all the hard work of our faculty and staff in the service of Catholic education. This summer will be a time for a break which is well deserved. During the summer, we look forward to the replacement of the original single pane windows. Thank you to everyone who donated toward this important goal. This project will serve the energy efficiency of the building and will add to the beauty of the school.

The school office continues to keep regular hours over the summer. New students are welcome to visit and take a tour. We look forward to distributing the financial aid that has been generously donated, so that our families most in need will have the resources needed to provide for their children's education at St. Thomas.

This Sunday is the celebration of the Ascension as we remember Jesus' return to his place at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. Next Sunday will bring the Easter Season to a close with the celebration of Pentecost (June 5) and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Following these feast days, we celebrate some special solemnities in the following weeks. We celebrate Trinity Sunday (June 12) and Corpus Christi (June 19). On Corpus Christi, you are invited to a Eucharistic procession in honor of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. We also will celebrate the Sacred Heart of Jesus (June 24) and will hold our monthly holy hour on the vigil of this solemnity. After that, our patronal solemnity of St. Thomas falls on Sunday (July 3) which will be a special celebration for us.

I am grateful also to those helping to plan the events around my 25th anniversary of priesthood. More information will come about the anniversary celebrations in July around the date of my ordination. I look forward to these festivities!

-Msgr. Gray



## 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.



# Readings for the Week of May 29, 2022

Sunday	<b>The Ascension of the Lord</b> Acts 7: 55-60; Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20 John 17: 20-26
Monday	Acts 19: 1-8; John 16: 29-33
Tuesday	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Zephaniah 3: 14-18a OR Romans 12: 9-16; Luke 1: 39-56
Wednesday	<b>St. Justin, Martyr</b> Acts 20: 28-38; John 17: 11b-19
Thursday	Sts. Marcellinus & Peter, Martyrs Acts 22: 30; 23: 6-11; John 17: 20-26
Friday	<b>St. Charles Lwanga &amp; Companions, Martyrs</b> Acts 25: 13b-21; John 21: 15-19
Saturday	Acts 28: 16-20, 30-31; John 21: 20-25
Sunday	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b> Saturday Vigil: Genesis 11: 1-9; Exodus 19: 3-8a, 16-20b; Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Joel 3: 1-5; Romans 8: 22-27; John 7: 37-39 Sunday: Acts 2: 1-11; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-7, 12-13 OR Romans 8: 8-17; John 20: 19-23

## **Mass Intentions**

#### Monday, May 30, 2022

9:00 a.m. Jean Hubert/Family

#### Tuesday, May 31, 2022

7:00 a.m. Sr. Madeline Marie Brophy, SSND/Frances Farraher

#### Wednesday, June 1, 2022

7:00 a.m. Jay & Lois Streid/Ed & Cathy Mallow

#### Thursday, June 2, 2022

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Timothy Owomugisha/Ed & Cathy Mallow

#### Friday, June 3, 2022

7:00 a.m. Dick Whalen/Jeanne Whalen

#### Saturday, June 4, 2022

8:00 a.m. Robert Maushard/Paul & Ann Horst 5:00 p.m. Martin O'Brien/The Barkely Family

#### Sunday, June 5, 2022

8:00 a.m.	Mary Ward/Mr. & Mrs. Edward Habecker
10:00 a.m.	Intentions of Bella Axelson
5:00 p.m.	For the People

## St. Thomas the Apostle Church

## Week of May 29

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

MEMORIAL DAY Monday, May 30, Parish Office Closed

MEMORIAL DAY Monday, May 30, Mass 9:00 a.m. only

ROSARY Tuesday, May 31, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

ADORATION Friday, June 3, after 7:00 Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Thomas Holy Hour Parish Picnic Men's Club Golf Outing June 16 August 14 September 23

## 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...

## Weekly Collection

May	22	2022

1		
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$940,000
Sunday Collections		
Electronic Collections		
Total Collected		
Over/(Short)		
	······ψ(0,2,7+) ·······	φ(110,007)

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

Jim Barkley



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 &
00110 24 21, 2022	Seniors
	St. John's Catholic Newman
(	Center, Champaign

Session III July 17-20, 2022

7-20, 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



## Pray with the Pope June 2022 For families

We pray for Christian families around the world; may they embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives.

Fiscal YTD

# Together We Play Accessible Playground Update and Vote Request

The St. Thomas RoboComets Together We Play team, comprised of St. Thomas School RoboComets team members and alumni (now at PND), have been working since the beginning of 2020 to raise funds to build an accessible playground in Tower Park.

With the help of many generous donations, the playground fund is now nearing its inflation adjusted goal of \$125K. However, we could use your help.... (1) The Gilmore Foundation has provided \$16,000 matching funds to get us to our goal, please consider a donation to take advantage of this match. (2) To go beyond our goal and further enhance the engagement of children of all abilities, we have also submitted a proposal and have been selected as a finalist for the *Build Peoria* 2022-2023 project.

**Please vote** for the Together We Play Accessible Playground Project https://www.buildpeoria.org/vote and encourage others to vote for our project.

To learn more about the project or see how you can donate, please go to *http://advocatesforaccess.com/together-we-play*. You can also leave a check, made out to "Together We Play", in the school office.

# **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, principal at:

maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net



## 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

# Full time custodian needed

St. Thomas School seeks a full-time custodian 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

# 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 <u>sdianda1@comcast.net</u>.

#### **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



Sponsor of the Week

## AgingCare Management, LLC 47 Years Experience Working With The Aged Sandi Kistner, MSW, C-ASWSM Assessment • Consultation • Recommendation • Direct Care

Assessment • Consultation • Recommendation • Direct Cale Assistance in Filing Long Term Care Insurance Claims 309-231-0318 Parishioner

# When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



In recent weeks, we are asking for new volunteers to join the ministry of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Pope Francis has called us to become more aware of the poor and marginalized in our midst and to serve them with the love of Christ. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus says, As you did to the

least of these you did unto me. Personal home visits to those requesting help are the essence of the Society's ministry. By listening to their stories, we discern how best to help them. We make every effort to be a hand up rather than a handout.

Each month *in this space* we have shared stories of people we have recently assisted with your generous financial support. We try to reflect their humanity and suffering, and we hope you empathize and pray for them with us. We encourage them to pray and find a home church. Many have a strong faith, while others are adrift. The gift of patient listening, guidance and encouragement distinguishes us from government funded agencies. We strive to avoid judgement or blame during our calls.

As government assistance, related to Covid has subsided, calls to our Helpline have increased, and we need more volunteers. We worry we may have to turn callers away. Please prayerfully consider joining us. St. Vincent said; Go to the poor: You will find God. Those of us in the Society can attest that through serving the poor, we come to a more tangible and personal understanding of Jesus' ministry, and we deepen our relationship with God. As members, we support one another through difficult cases and share our joy over the hopeful ones.

Turning now to address common questions. Our group at St. Thomas is a conference of the Society that has been active for 12 years, so our procedures are well established and tested. Many who are new to this ministry feel nervous initially, but for most that feeling passes quickly. We visit in pairs during daylight hours. New members start as support persons going out with experienced leaders. Most visits going forward will be in person at the home or another location unless a particular team prefers a phone visit for a particular reason. There is no specific time commitment. You can go on as few or as many visits as you choose each month. You don't need any special skills – just a concern for people.

\*If you would like to join or learn more about the St. Vincent de Paul Society, contact **Nancy Medendorp** at **309-678-4504** or **skendermed@gmail.com** 

Please continue to pray for us and bless this ministry by donating what you can to distribute to those in need. Thank you!

~ Edie Brereton

PEORIA NOTRE DAME

With your support, the Peoria Notre Dame "Kitchen" (aka the gym) will undergo a major renovation this summer featuring a redesigned gym floor. The project will include sanding, coating, and adding the current logo

and crest. Based on the funds raised, the project will also include new rubber flooring in the gym area hall and new gym wall pads. For more information and to view a video about the project, visit https://www.pndhs.org/gym/.



# Cursillo June Ultreya 2022

Theme: "In God's Time"

June 4<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm at Mt. Hawley Community Church 6900 N. Mt. Hawley Rd., Peoria, IL 61614

Join us for a lay talk, pastor message and social time! Lay Reflection by Derek Amerman Pastor: Darnell Starks Host: Sally Amerman

Social Time with beverages and snacks Guests are welcome! Families are welcome!

You can contact the Cursillo Office at **309/676-5587**; **cursillopeoria@gmail.com** for more information.

(Please note that it will not be a Mass for Catholics and communion will not be served).

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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**.



# Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Saint Mark's Church, 1113 W. Bradley Ave., Peoria 7:00 p.m., June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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.

Masks are optional.

# 

# Holy Hour for Vocations

Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. St. Thomas



Pray with Fr. Chase Hilgenbrinck for vocations in our diocese.

### Peoria Notre Dame High School Blood Drive St. Philomena School

Gym 3216 N Emery Ave Peoria, IL 61604

#### Thursday, June 2, 2022 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org. You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass for more information. By donating at this blood drive, you are helping one or more graduating seniors earn a scholarship.

> me to give June 1-30 and get a \$5 e-gift card to merchant of your choice.

> > Peoria Heights, IL



## St. Thomas the Apostle Church

View Our Parish Supporters at www.DiscoverMass.com

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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