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); fsibpeoria@yahoo.com

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Dcn. Ed Mallow......360-7735
Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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John Mackoway......699-5213

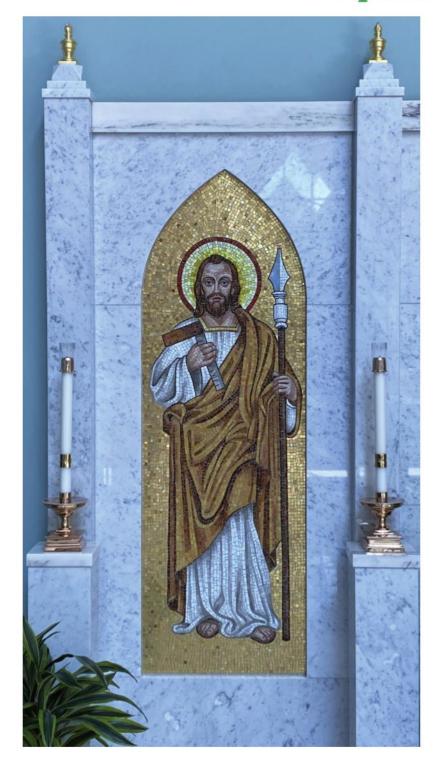
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty.(x1350) parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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).



July 3, 2022 Solemnity of St. Thomas the Apostle



From Our Pastor

Happy Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle! It is a special privilege for us to celebrate our patron this weekend. We ask St. Thomas to intercede for us as we grow in our faith.

As we celebrate our independence on the Fourth of July, please join us Monday for Mass at 9 AM.

I look forward to the celebrations next weekend as I mark twenty-five years of priesthood. I am grateful to God for the graces I have received that have brought me to this milestone. I am also very appreciative of the volunteers who will help make the celebrations this weekend so delightful.

When we celebrate marriage anniversaries, I sometimes ask couples what they've learned over so many years of marriage and what has sustained them in their commitment. The answer I receive is generally not that everything went perfectly or that everything has been easy. It is usually through confronting the challenges of life and facing tough times that a couple grows in love for one another.

In my years of priesthood, I can also say that things do not always work out perfectly nor has my work always been easy. However, I am grateful for the experiences that I have had with all the ups and downs of life. Sometimes priests receive unexpected assignments or are asked by the Bishop to take on new challenges. These challenges can lead to personal growth and often turn out to be great blessings in disguise.

Sometimes young men may be reluctant to consider the priesthood because of fear of the unknown or about the future. Based on my experience, I encourage them to trust in God and to have faith that the Lord who calls them will sustain them. Accepting the call has been a great privilege for me as a priest. Let us encourage young men to not be afraid to step forward when the Lord calls. Like Isaiah 6:8, respond, Here am I, Lord. Send me.

-Msgr. Gray

Sponsor of the Week





Readings for the Week of July 3, 2022

Sunday Solemnity of St. Thomas the Apostle

Isaiah 52:7-10; Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29

Monday Hosea 2: 16, 17c-18, 21-22 OR 1 Kings 3: 11-14 OR

Isaiah 9: 1-6; James 3: 13-18 OR Colossians 3: 12-15;

Matthew 9: 18-26 OR Matthew 22: 15-21 OR John 20: 19-23

Tuesday St. Elizabeth of Portugal

Hosea 8: 4-7, 11-13; Matthew 9: 32-38

Wednesday St. Maria Goretti, Virgin & Martyr

Hosea 10: 1-3, 7-8, 12; Matthew 10: 1-7

Thursday Hosea 11: 1-4, 8e-9; Matthew 10: 7-15

Friday Hosea 14: 2-10; Matthew 10: 16-23

Saturday St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, & Companions, Martyrs

Isaiah 6: 1-8: Matthew 10: 24-33

Sunday Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 30: 10-14; Colossians 1: 15-20; Luke 10: 25-37

Mass Intentions

Monday, July 4, 2022

9:00 a.m. Barbara Adams

Tuesday, July 5, 2022

7:00 a.m. Winifred Haughney/Mike & Theresa Haughney

Wednesday, July 6, 2022

7:00 a.m. Mary Janke

Thursday, July 7, 2022

7:00 a.m. Joseph & Florence Whalen/Jeanne Whalen

Friday, July 8, 2022

7:00 a.m. Janny Osten/Dorothy Bertschy

Saturday, July 9, 2022

8:00 a.m. Lynn Pavelka/Kitty Bienemann

5:00 p.m. Del Bertschy/Maurice & Sharon Caudill

Sunday, July 10, 2022

8:00 a.m. Donna Abdnour/Don & Amy Stephens

10:00 a.m. Del Bertschy/Dorothy, Tim, Nick, & Chris Bertschy5:00 p.m. Intentions of Mary Zucksworth/Ed & Cathy Mallow

Week of July 3

ST VINCENT DE PAUL AND FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

SOLEMNITY OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE July 2-3, Masses 5:00 p.m. Saturday, all Sunday Masses

INDEPENDENCE DAY Monday, July 4, Mass at 9:00 a.m. only

INDEPENDENCE DAY Monday, July 4, Parish Office Closed.

ROSARY Tuesday, July 5, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

MSGR. GRAY RECEPTION Saturday, July 9, after 5:00 p.m. Mass, Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Thomas Holy Hour

Parish Picnic

Men's Club Golf Outing

July 21

August 14

September 23

ALL NEW ST. THOMAS

... COMING THIS FALL!

Women's Ministry

Scan here to learn more and watch the bulletin for details.



Weekly Collection

	June 26, 2022	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$1,040,000
Sunday Collections	\$9,284	\$765,161
Electronic Collections	\$3,188	\$166,198
Total Collected	\$12,472	\$931,359
Over/(Short)	\$ (7,528)	\$(108,641)

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

Arminda Diaz

Lisa Chatwood Flaugher

Frances Farraher



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**: Celebration of 25 years of priesthood at weekend Masses. A reception will follow each Mass in the Parish Hall.

Monday, **July 11**: Vigil of Anniversary Holy Hour, 6:00 p.m. Pizza will be offered to the servers who attend after the Holy Hour.

Tuesday, **July 12**: Anniversary Mass of Ordination, 7:00 a.m. Refreshments will be served after Mass.

Wednesday, July 27: Jubilee Fun Run/Walk, Donovan Park 6:30-8:30 p.m. As a tribute to a healthy lifestyle, join Msgr. Gray for this fun evening.

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

Friday, September 16: A Trivia Night with Msgr. Gray. The questions will not be about Msgr. Gray, but he will choose the topics based on his areas of interest. Test your knowledge of mathematics, theology, Rome and Italy, health and nutrition, 80s movies, and skiing.



Pray with the Pope July 2022

July 2022 For the elderly

We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

Readings for The Solemnity of St. Thomas the Apostle

July 3

First Reading: Is 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, saying to Zion, "Your God is King!" Listen! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy, For they see directly, before their eyes, the LORD's return to Zion. Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For the LORD has comforted his people, has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; All the ends of the earth can see the salvation of our God.

Psalm: Ps 117:1bc,2

R./ Go out to all the world and tell the Good

News

Praise the Lord, all you nations; glorify him, all you peoples! R./

For steadfast is his kindness for us, and the fidelity of the Lord endures forever. R./

Second Reading: Eph 2:19-22

Brothers and Sisters: You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone. Through him the whole structure is held together and grows into a temple sacred in the Lord; in him you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Gospel: Jn 20:24-29

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.

St. Thomas - Food Pantry

Due to inflation, the food pantry is seeing an increase in the number of clients seen per month, and our shelves are emptying faster than usual. Please help us restock the pantry so that we can continue to serve our neighbors in need! We accept any shelf-stable food items, but the most needed items are: canned corn, canned or dried beans, pasta, pasta sauce, pancake mix, syrup, mac and cheese, pasta or rice side dishes, meal helper, peanut butter and canned chicken.

Thank you for your generosity

25th and 50th Wedding Anniversaries



On **September 25, 2022**, Bishop Tylka will celebrate a Mass at the Cathedral of St. Mary **for couples who are celebrating** their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2022.

If you are celebrating your 25th or 50th this year please contact the parish office by **July 1** and give us your names and the date of your wedding. We will forward your names to the Diocese and you will receive a personal invitation to attend this celebration. **309-688-3446** or **parishoffice@stthomas-church.net**

Save the Date



A Night in Rome

A dinner to celebrate Monsignor Gray's 25th Anniversary of the Priesthood.

AUGUST 26TH Connected Restaurant If you would like to make a gift for Monsignor to this celebration and the building fund, please contact Stephanie Schachtrup Coad

STEPH.COAD@GMAIL.COM

309.253.3315



Save the Date

Monsignor Gray's Jubilee Fun Run/Walk.

July 27th 6:30-8:30pm Donovan Park Cross Country Course

Open to all ages and abilities. Details to come on registration and commemorative t-shirts.

Please contact Melissa Bare (309-643-4433) for any auestions.

CCD Teacher Needed

We have an opening for a CCD teacher to help with religious on Wednesday instruction evenings during the school year. All teaching materials are provided. If you are interested, please contact Liz Plaskon at ccd@stthomaschurch.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



God will love you, of course, even though you do not love Him, but remember, if you give Him only half your heart, He can make you only 50% happy.

~ Fulton J. Sheen

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus

Here's the Thing...

Words from our dearly beloved Fr. Paul Stark, S.J. Father Stark advised our St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Thomas to provide data to our parishioners in addition to the stories of those we have helped. Please see the data below for year-to-date expenditures through 5/31/2022.

Our pantry served 480 homes with a total of 1,462 members in their households. Thank you for your financial and food donations that allowed us to serve those in need.

Our members visited with 111 clients to understand their needs. We help guide our clients to governmental agencies, jobs and healthcare resources. Year-to-date we have provided funding to Ameren of \$7,274.35 for 23 clients. Sewer and water bills totaled \$5,133.89 for 17 clients. Auto related funds totaled \$1,555.25. We helped 7 clients in this category with gas cards and car repairs for our clients to be able to get to their jobs. We helped with miscellaneous expenses such as used appliances, tuition and clothing for 12 clients. The miscellaneous expenditures totaled \$3,144.40. We served 52 clients with rent totaling \$22,621.03.

Your donations allowed us to provide a total of \$39,728.92 to serve those in need.

A brief story about a 32-year-old woman who has disabilities. She works two days a week at the Community Action Center Workshop. She was financially challenged by a move to a safer apartment. She had been in an apartment for several years but recently was being taken advantage of financially and physically. She needed help with a deposit at a new apartment complex that was safe. Your contributions allowed us to assist her with her deposit. She is safe now and very appreciative for your help.

Thank you and may God bless you.

Nancy Medendorp



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 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

St Jude's Summer Basketball Camp

Jim Carlson will again be conducting a Basketball Camp for St. Jude's Hospital. It will be held at the St Vincent de Paul Catholic School Gym from July 5-8 for Boys and Girls Grades 1-8. Applications have been passed out in school. Any questions please call Jim at 309-681 -8717 or james.j.carlson@countryfinancial.com



Peoria Heights High School Blood Drive Country Club of Peoria

Lakeside Room 4700 Grandview Dr Peoria Heights, IL 61616



Friday, July 15, 2022 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) For an appointment cail 1-800-14-DCROSS (1-800-7/33-2767)
or visit RedCrossBlood.org.
Students need to bring either a driver's license or two forms of other ID
(with one that has proof of age).
Eat a healthy meal and drink an extra 16 oz. of water and fluids before the donation.
You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPassI
Visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass for more information.



Calling all Shark Week fin-atics: Come to donal July 1-31 to automatically be entered for a chance t an exclusive Shark Week merchandise package th to Discovery! See reblood.org/sharkweek. Get ycheart pumping and give blood!

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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	



Part-Time Helper Needed to Clean the Church & Parish Hall

We have an opening for a part-time paid position for someone who can help vacuum and help with other light cleaning in the church. The position is five to ten hours per week. The schedule is flexible and can fit your needs. If you are interested, please contact the parish office.

Peoria Notre Dame is now enrolling incoming 9-12 grade students for the 2022-2023 school year! Become a part of

the Irish family built upon 160 years of Catholic education and tradition. With 50 honors classes to choose from, your teen has the opportunity to be challenged with college level work throughout high school. And our outstanding Student Services team provides just the right help for students who need additional learning assistance.

For more information about how your child can ao further at Peoria Notre Dame, call Admissions Director Matt Blackford at 309-691-**8741** today!

Right to Life Run for Life

Come join the Central Illinois Right to Life Run for Life 5K Run & Walk on Saturday, July 9 at 7:30 a.m. at Metamora Fields Golf Course. Metamora, IL

Mail in registration forms at wpeo.com.

Register online at https://raceroster.com/ events/2022/56371/run-for-life-5k 2022 — Run for Life 5K —

Holy Hour for the Unborn

July 4, 7:00 p.m.

St. Mark's Church, Bradley Ave., Peoria Holy hour consists of Benediction, the Rosary, & other prayers. Please join us in prayer for the protection of these innocent lives. Masks are optional.

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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Keri Thierer, mother of Aberdeen in St. Thomas graduating class of 2026

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