

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

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

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)).



September 4, 2022

23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

"WHOEVER DOES NOT CARRY HIS  
OWN *cross* AND COME AFTER ME  
CANNOT BE *my disciple*."  
LK 14:27





## From Our Pastor

I wish everyone a happy Labor Day. On this public holiday, our parish office will be closed and we will have one Mass at 9 AM.

I am happy to welcome Fr. Achilleus this weekend as he begins his service here at St. Thomas. His arrival is opportune as I have been asked to accompany Bishop Tylka in Rome for diocesan meetings. In particular, we hope to ask for the Cause for the Beatification of Fulton Sheen to move forward once again.

I am thankful to John Grillot who presented information about Building Hope in Kids, Uganda. He has worked with Fr. Julius, who is known to many in Peoria, to support this missionary work. It is important for the Church to be mindful of the needs of the universal Church present throughout the world. Thank you for your generosity.

There is a change to the Annual Diocesan Appeal this year. Information about the appeal was mailed to your home addresses rather than distributing pledge cards in the pews. We will not have an ADA video shown during Mass this year. I encourage you to read the materials you received and consider your support of the Diocese of Peoria. Your gift helps us meet our parish goal for diocesan support.

We have also changed the way in which we report electronic contributions in our bulletin. In the past, we have taken the total amount of expected electronic contributions for the year and averaged them for our weekly report in the bulletin. Since the timing of on-line gifts can vary widely, it has been difficult to make accurate estimates. We have shifted to reporting the actual total of electronic contributions contributed each week. This will lead to greater week-to-week volatility in our contribution numbers, but will result in a more accurate year-to-date report. Contributions in July and August are always affected by summer vacation travel. However, your regular support of St. Thomas is critical to our success. I thank you for helping us catch up as we continue through our fiscal year.

- Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of September 4, 2022

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Wisdom 9: 13-18b; Philemon 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14: 25-33
<b>Monday</b>	1 Corinthians 5: 1-8; Luke 6: 6-11
<b>Tuesday</b>	1 Corinthians 6: 1-11; Luke 6: 12-19
<b>Wednesday</b>	1 Corinthians 7: 25-31; Luke 6: 20-26
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> Micah 5: 1-4a or Romans 8: 28-30; Matthew 1: 1-6, 18-23
<b>Friday</b>	<b>St. Peter Claver, Priest</b> 1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22b-27; Luke 6: 39-42
<b>Saturday</b>	1 Corinthians 10: 14-22; Luke 6: 43-49
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14; 1 Timothy 1: 12-17; Luke 15: 1-32

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, September 5, 2022

9:00 a.m. Smith & Hafner Families

### Tuesday, September 6, 2022

7:00 a.m. Winnefred Farragher & Frances Farragher

### Wednesday, September 7, 2022

7:00 a.m. J. Gordon & Jan Hannagan/Jeanne Whalen

9:15 a.m. Brooke Crawmer Joseph/Tom & Linda Castaldi

### Thursday, September 8, 2022

7:00 a.m. Melvin & Lucille Noe/Mary Ann Noe

### Friday, September 9, 2022

7:00 a.m. Richard Pittman/The Schafer Family

### Saturday, September 10, 2022

8:00 a.m. Mariano Tolentino/The Tolentino & Sarmiento Families

5:00 p.m. Paul Ruhaak/The George Mahrt Family

### Sunday, September 11, 2022

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

10:00 a.m. Chip Chan/Family

5:00 p.m. For the People

## Week of September 4

**REGISTRATION FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRY** After all Masses this weekend

**MISSION APPEAL—BUILDING HOPE IN KIDS-UGANDA** at all Masses this weekend

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL AND FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS** this weekend

**LABOR DAY** Monday, September 5, Parish Office & School Closed

**LABOR DAY** Monday, September 5, Mass at 9:00 a.m.

**ROSARY** Tuesday, September 6, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY** Thursday, September 8, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**TMIY** Friday, September 9, Doors open 6:00 a.m., program begins 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

### UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>St. Thomas Holy Hour</i>	<i>September 15</i>
<i>Trivia Night</i>	<i>September 16</i>
<i>Men's Club Golf Outing</i>	<i>September 23</i>
<i>Adoration</i>	<i>October 7</i>

## Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week



The Growing Disciples pastoral planning process will examine the current structure of parishes and schools to evaluate how they can best meet the needs of the faithful and address challenges facing the Church today.

The primary goals of the pastoral planning process are to:

- Enable the faithful to go make disciples within a mission-driven, sustainable structure of parishes and schools.
- Enhance the vibrancy of our parishes, schools and ministries.
- Increase our support of the happiness, health and holiness of our priests.

Why are we doing this? Why now?

The Church and its people continue to face unique opportunities and challenges as society evolves. In Illinois, and certainly in the Diocese of Peoria, the demographic landscape looks different than it did even 10 years ago, while the structural landscape has remained nearly the same.

The current challenges facing our diocese include:

- A changing regional and diocesan landscape.
- National trends regarding religion.
- Too few priests to staff more than 150 parishes.

While we have a strong and vibrant faith community, the current structural landscape combined with the above challenges limits our ability to fully live out our God-given mission as Catholics.

For more information, please visit [cdop.org/pastoral-plan](http://cdop.org/pastoral-plan).

## Pray with the Pope

September 2022

For the abolition of the death penalty



We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.



## Share Your Voice

The Choir sings Sundays—10:00 a.m. Mass

Practices are Tuesdays beginning September 13, 2022 at 6:30—7:30 p.m.

Contact Ann Horst, Music Coordinator, at 309-682-5507 if you have any questions.

## Weekly Collection

	August 28, 2022	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$180,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$9,308.....	\$102,156
Electronic Collections .....	\$3,665.....	\$24,439
Total Collected.....	\$12,973.....	\$126,595
Over/(Short) .....	\$(7,027).....	\$(53,405)

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.





Support St. Thomas School by eating out at Pancheros!

**Wednesday, September 14th 5:00pm – 8:00pm**

**7528 North Grand Prairie Drive, Peoria, IL**

St. Thomas School will receive 100% of sales from Extras for both in-restaurant and online orders. The Extras you can order include:

Queso | Guacamole | Extra Meat | Extra Tofusada  
Chips & Queso | Chips & Guacamole | Chips & Salsa  
Extra Sour Cream | Extra Cheese



## Parish Mission Appeal



**Building Hope In Kids - Uganda** (BHIKU) is the nonprofit organization that was formed to help build and support the Primary School in Uganda that was founded by Fr. Julius Turyatoranwa near Mbarara, Uganda.

The Annual Mission Appeal at St. Thomas will be held at all Masses on **September 3-4** for *Building Hope in Kids – Uganda*.

Their primary school is helping to break the cycle of generational poverty for over 800 children!

## St. Thomas Monsignor Watson Memorial Golf Outing

In support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Assistance Fund

**Friday, September 23, 2022 • Mt. Hawley Country Club**

All golf outing proceeds will be used in the support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Tuition Assistance program. The net proceeds from the outing will again fund scholarships for students at St. Thomas. The goal of the Men's Club is to fund 20 scholarships for St. Thomas families. Your support of the golf outing is greatly appreciated!

**GOLF REGISTRATION \$125/Person**

Golfer sponsorship includes: Door prize ticket, green fees, cart, and Hor d'oeuvres & Drinks in the Club House after the event.

**Registration Deadline Friday, September 16th**  
Late registration after September 16th, \$135 Per Person

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**TITLE SPONSORSHIP \$2,500 / Sponsorship**  
Placement of company logo at all sponsorship levels. Logo as title sponsor on welcoming banner. Logo on all printed materials.

**HOT SPOT SPONSOR**

- Golf Beverage Sponsors: \$250 / Logo on Sign at beverage stations
- Reception Sponsor - \$250 / Logo on Reception Tables

**TEE SPONSOR \$125 / 36 Sponsors**  
Placement of company logo sign at the Tee Box or at the Hole.

**BE A PRIZE OR RAFFLE SPONSOR**  
Feature your business by donating a raffle or prize item. Please drop off prize or raffle item to Macro Wealth Management at 6915 N. Knoxville Ave, Peoria IL 61614 Include donor information and value (optional).

**For more information please contact:**  
Terri Moon (309) 688-3446  
Email: [terrimoon@stthomas-church.net](mailto:terrimoon@stthomas-church.net)

**Please Submit Payment with Registration**

### REGISTRATION FORM

Contact Person: _____		Phone: _____
Address: _____		
Email: _____		
<b>Golfers</b>		
Player 1: _____	Phone: _____	Amount \$ _____
Player 2: _____	Phone: _____	Amount \$ _____
Player 3: _____	Phone: _____	Amount \$ _____
Player 4: _____	Phone: _____	Amount \$ _____
<b>Sponsorship</b>		
Sponsorship Category: _____		Amount \$ _____
<p>Make Checks Payable to: <b>St. Thomas Men's Club</b></p> <p>Mail registration along with payment to:</p> <p>Terri Moon / Golf • 904 E. Lake Ave. • Peoria Heights, IL 61616</p>		
		Total Enclosed \$ _____

## Teacher's Aide Needed

St. Thomas School is seeking to fill a half day teacher's aide position. Hours are: 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., assisting with our preschool program.

If interested, please send a letter and resume to **Mrs. Maureen Bentley**, principal at [maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net](mailto:maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net).



**GO MAKE DISCIPLES**  
Bringing People to Christ!

## Annual Diocesan Appeal supports EVANGELIZATION

When we experience the love and joy that comes with knowing and loving Jesus, we want to proclaim the difference Christ has made in our life and help bring others to Him.

Ministries and programs include support for all our Catholic grade schools and high schools, Totus Tuus - the summer parish program for youth, Newman Centers outreach to college students, Catholic Charities programs and more. Go to [www.cdop.org/ada](http://www.cdop.org/ada) to learn more about the ministries supported by ADA and to watch the ADA videos.

*I always thought that my friends would make fun of me, but I noticed that those friends that I would hang out with weren't really my friends. The friends I have now are friends that go to church with me, go to RCIA classes with me and are preparing to receive their sacraments with me. Father Dittmer has inspired me to follow Jesus Christ. He encourages us a lot to be faithful and to continue to grow in our relationship with Jesus for the rest of our lives. - Iván Sánchez, catechumen*

## When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



The seasons are changing, and September brings the start of school and all the preparations. On top of the recent inflation challenges and the rise in Ameren bills, families face more expenses to clothe and outfit their children for school. This can create a fair amount of stress for all of us, but especially for those in our community who live on limited incomes. I assure you we have seen this in the increased number of calls and the extent of the need our callers have. Last month we came very close to running out of funds. A couple timely donations and support from some of the other parish SVdP conferences helped us continue answering the calls.

Recently I met with a lady who works as a CNA in an assisted living facility. She earns \$17/hour for 32 hours a week. She had Covid in the spring and was off work, and now has tested positive again. Of course, health care workers are required to isolate and quarantine to the full extent of the government requirements. She has fallen behind in her rent payments. She has her adult daughter and 2 pre-school children living with her, so she called for our help.

Your generosity will allow us to aid her during this time of need. Please consider the less fortunate of our community during this season. We thank you again.

And if you could help us with the food pantry, we really need shelf stable items, like canned fruits, vegetables, breakfast cereals, and spaghetti.

~ Tom Pilat

We wish to thank you for your continued support of St. Vincent de Paul Society. As you can imagine we have been incredibly busy. You can send your donations to **St. Vincent de Paul Society c/o Cissy Carlson 127 W. Northland Avenue Peoria 61614** or **place your donation in the wooden boxes after Masses** the first week of each month.



### Green For Life

Your full-service waste and recycling services provider.

309.688.0760 | [gflenv.com](http://gflenv.com)

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
MSGR. GRAY HOSTS

# TRIVIA Night

SEPT 16TH @ 6PM  
ST. THOMAS PARISH HALL

TOPICS INCLUDE SKIING, ROME, 80'S MOVIES & MORE!  
TABLES OF 8 AVAILABLE!  
PAYMENT TAKEN AT THE DOOR!

\$30/PERSON INCLUDES TRIVIA & DINNER  
BY DENNHARDT'S BLUE RIBBON CATERING

REGISTER BY EMAILING [TRIVIA@STTHOMAS-CHURCH.NET](mailto:TRIVIA@STTHOMAS-CHURCH.NET)

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## EMMAUS KNIGHTS

CALLING ALL 7TH-12TH GRADE MEN

SEPTEMBER 11, OCTOBER 23,  
NOVEMBER 13, DECEMBER 11

4:30-6:30 PM  
2327 W. HEADING AVE.  
PEORIA, IL

PRAYER, PIZZA, PING PONG  
VISIT [WWW.COMEANDFOLLOWME.ORG](http://WWW.COMEANDFOLLOWME.ORG) FOR MORE DETAILS

USE THIS CODE & SCAN TO REGISTER





**HUGE**  
Parking Lot  
**RUMMAGE**  
**SALE**

**ST. THOMAS BACK LOT**  
**904 E Lake Avenue**  
**Saturday, October 15th**  
**8-9 Set Up, 9-1 Sale, 1-2 Clean Up**

\$20 per space (2 parking spots) \$5 table rentals if needed  
Renters sell and keep all profits!

**Must take all unsold items!** **Reserve your spot by our Sign Up Genius** **Spots Limited! 1st come 1st serve** **Garage Sale Items Vendor Booths**

### 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** \_\_\_\_\_

### St. Thomas - Food Pantry

September is *Hunger Action Month*, and the St. Thomas Food Pantry is experiencing its usual summer shelf-stable food shortage. The effects of inflation are bringing more of our neighbors into the pantry to supplement the groceries they are able to purchase. Please help fill our shelves so that we can continue to help them!

The pantry accepts any shelf-stable food items, but these items are needed most: Dry Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Rice, Boxed Side Dishes, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Canned Fruit and Vegetables, Canned and Dry Beans, Canned Meat, Jelly, Peanut Butter, Cereal, Meal Helpers, Mac & Cheese, Soup and Crackers.

*Thank you for your generous support!*

### Bread-making with Fr. Dominic Garramone

Peoria native Fr. Dominic Garramone, better known as *The Bread Monk*, will share his baking secrets at a demonstration at the East Bluff Community Center (Formerly St. Bernard's school gym) 512 E. Kansas, Peoria on **September 17 at 2 p.m.**

Father Dominic Garramone, OSB is a monk of Saint Bede Abbey in Peru, IL but grew up as a member of St. Bernard parish. He is the head of the Religion department at Saint Bede Academy and also its drama director. He was the host of the PBS cooking show *Breaking Bread with Father Dominic* from 1999 to 2001, and has written eleven cookbooks.

Fr. Dom will be presenting a program titled "In the Scone Zone," based on recipes from his new book. There will be drawings for free door prizes, and after the program Fr. Dominic's books and other Abbey products will also be for sale.

**\$10 per person. For reservations call Sue at 309 688-9883. Pay at the door.**

### Holy Hour for the Rights Of the Unborn

Saint Mark's Church,  
1113 W. Bradley Avenue, Peoria  
September 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

### 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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