

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)
msggray@stthomas-church.net
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Achilleus Tegamaisho..
frachilleus@stthomas-church.net
Fr. John Twinomujuni.....In Residence

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

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

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

Administrative Assistant: Terri Moon.....(x0)
terrimoon@stthomas-church.net

Bulletin Editor: Peggy Sullivan.....(x1301)
peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net

Accountant: Julie Streid.....(x1340)
juliestreid@stthomas-church.net

Tuition Coordinator: Pat Wombacher(x1341)
patwombacher@stthomas-school.net

CCD Coordinator: Liz Plaskon
(309)339-4775 ..ccd@stthomas-church.net

Director of Faith Formation: Mary Cushing..
marycushing@stthomas-school.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).
3. 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).



October 16, 2022





From Our Pastor

An article recently appeared in the Wall Street Journal about education in Illinois. According to the article, only 36% of third-grade students can read at their grade level. For minorities, the numbers are even lower. The article cited statistics for different towns in our State, noting that 8% of black third-grade students in Peoria read at grade level. Some might expect that these statistics were influenced by the pandemic, but these numbers unfortunately came from pre-COVID tests. Statistics today may be even worse.

At a time when more money is being directed to public schools, the article laments the degree to which our children are being left behind. Students who can't read will not be able to do word problems in later grades and will also fall behind in math.

At St. Thomas, we have good news and many successes to report. Our students regularly take MAP tests as a means of objectively assessing their progress. Even after the pandemic, our students score above the national average by 7 points in Math, 9 points in Science, 9.5 points in Reading, and 10 points in Language Usage. Our kindergarten students are outscoring the national average by 14 points across all subjects.

Our students are also at or above the average of all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Peoria in every grade and subject. Our kindergarten students and eighth-grade students outscore the diocesan average by 6 points and 7 points respectively.

These results are a testament to the commitment of our excellent faculty as well as the loving support that our parents give to their children. They are very invested in the success and development of your children so they can be the best person that God wants them to be. The test results do not measure our expectations of our students regarding their behavior and discipline. A Catholic environment in our schools not only form our students intellectually but also spiritually and morally. If you would like to learn more about St. Thomas School, please call. We would be happy to arrange a tour.

Please join me in praising our entire STS family.

—Msgr. Jason Gray



Readings for the Week of October 16, 2022

Sunday	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Exodus 17: 8-13; 2 Timothy 3: 14—4: 2; Luke 18: 1-8
Monday	St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr Ephesians 2: 1-10; Luke 12: 13-21
Tuesday	St. Luke, Evangelist 2 Timothy 4: 10-17b; Luke 10: 1-9
Wednesday	Sts. John de Brébeuf & Isaac Jogues, Priests & Companions, Martyrs Ephesians 3: 2-12; Luke 12: 39-48
Thursday	St. Paul of the Cross, Priest Ephesians 3: 14-21; Luke 12: 49-53
Friday	Ephesians 4: 1-6; Luke 12: 54-59
Saturday	St. John Paul II, Pope Ephesians 4: 7-16; Luke 13: 1-9
Sunday	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sirach 35: 12-14, 16-18; 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18; Luke 18: 9-14

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 17, 2022

7:00 a.m. Dr. Larry Harman/Family

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

7:00 a.m. Grace Cafaro/Denise Noell

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

7:00 a.m. Kevin Wood/Mike & Pat Scherer

Thursday, October 20, 2022

7:00 a.m. Robert Maushard/Robert J. Peters & Family
9:15 a.m. Gerald & Mary Schwab/Family

Friday, October 21, 2022

7:00 a.m. Theresa Farragher Applebaum & Frances Farragher

Saturday, October 22, 2022

8:00 a.m. Ralph Barnett/John, Kay & Rick Rossi
5:00 p.m. Linda Schachtrup/Terry & Marty Best

Sunday, October 23, 2022

8:00 a.m. Mary Louise Jacquin/Family
10:00 a.m. Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist
5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of October 16

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, October 16, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

PND FRESHMAN REGISTRATION Monday & Tuesday, October 17 & 18, 4:00 p.m., PND

ROSARY Tuesday, October 18, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CHOIR PRACTICE Tuesday, October 18, 6:30 p.m., Church

PARISH COUNCIL Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 p.m.

CCD Wednesday, October 19, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA/RCIA Wednesday, October 19, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WALKING WITH PURPOSE Thursday, October 20, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, October 20, 6:30 p.m., Rudy's Cantina

CONFESSIONS Thursday, October 20, 6:30 p.m., Church

ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR Thursday, October 20, 7:00 p.m., Church

TMIY Friday, October 21, Doors open 6:00 a.m., program begins 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Trunk or Treat October 21
Adoration November 4



Pray with the Pope October 2022

For a Church open to everyone

We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

Weekly Collection

	October 9, 2022	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$280,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$13,088.....	\$176,219
Electronic Collections.....	\$3,835	\$39,793
Total Collected.....	\$16,923.....	\$216,012
Over/(Short)	\$(3,077)	\$(83,998)

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

Baptism Congratulations

William Michael Merkley

son of Dennis and Jaclyn Merkley

RCIA/OCIA

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall

Date

Topic

October 19: God the Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth

October 26: God the Son

November 2: God the Son (pt 2); God the Holy Spirit; Saints

November 9: Holy Catholic Church

November 16: Forgiveness of sins, Resurrection of body, Judgement, Eternal Life, Liturgy, Sacraments

November 23: No Class

Classes are open to anyone who wishes to join the church, or to current Catholics who wish to learn more about their faith.



GO!!! MAKE DISCIPLES

Bringing People to Christ!



Annual Diocesan Appeal as of September 30, 2022

St. Thomas Parish Goal.....	\$133,057
Total Pledged.....	\$ 59,960
Total Paid.....	\$ 44,180
Balance Due.....	\$ 73,097

For your convenience in making your ADA pledge a link is provided so that you may pledge, and make your payment(s), on-line:

[Give online to ADA 2022](#)

ST. THOMAS MEN'S SUNDAY

BASKETBALL LEAGUE

STARTS OCT. 9TH




ALL PARISH MEN & STS DADS WELCOME!

SUNDAY NIGHTS
7:00 PM- 9:00 PM
St. Thomas School GYM
PICK UP GAMES/OPEN GYM

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Sponsor of the Week




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obrienlexusofpeoria.com

*Our help is from
The Lord, who made
Heaven and earth.
Psalm 121:2*



Coats for Kids

The men of [That Man Is You](#) are once again sponsoring a **Coats for Kids** program at St. Thomas. We are collecting winter coats, gloves, hats and scarves. Coats and accessories should be new or "gently used/like new" condition. Collection boxes will be in the back of the church and at the bottom of the stairs starting the weekend of October 8th. The Coats for Kids Drive will end on Sunday November 6th. Please be generous and help keep the kids in our community warm this winter.



Enrollment Event

Learn more about
Peoria Notre Dame!

October 17 & 18 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Freshmen Enrollment for 2023-2024

Help Support Our School

Don't forget **Comet Cash** and **Boxtops for Education**, two ways to effortlessly support our school. **Comet Cash gift cards** are available after weekend Masses. You can drop your box tops in the Bboxtops box near the back parking entrance as you are coming or going from Mass, or get the **BoxTop\$** app in the App Store. Once you have the app choose St. Thomas and then just scan your box tops.

St. Thomas Monsignor Watson Memorial Golf Outing

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



Many thanks to Tim Streid and all of our sponsors for another great golf outing. \$8500 was raised for our Sponsor A Student program. Golfers included Fred Hafner, STS class of 1958, and many other alums, as well as St. Thomas parishioners, their friends and families!



A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers

Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties.

Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion.

Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

From: The US Catholic Conference of Bishops

ALL KIDS meet at the friendship bench!

TRUNK OR TREAT

CANDY & NON-CANDY OPTIONS WELCOME DUE TO ALLERGIES APPROX. 300 PIECES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21ST | 6:30-8 PM
ST. THOMAS BACK PARKING LOT
PARK IN A RECTANGLE
WITH YOUR DECORATED BACK FACING OUTWARD

6:30-7:00 P.M.
BACK LOT OPENS FOR SET UP/TAILOGTE
7:00 P.M.
GATES CLOSE- NO NEW VEHICLES
7:00 P.M.
TRUNK-OR-TREAT UNTIL CANDY IS OUT!
8:00 PM
GATES OPEN TO VEHICLES LEAVING THE LOT

COMETS22 **Concessions!**

*** IF YOU ARRIVE AFTER 7 PM, PLEASE PARK OUTSIDE & WALK IN!
DO NOT START TRUNK-OR-TREATING BEFORE THE SIGNAL!
PLEASE WAIT UNTIL ALL CHILDREN HAVE CLEARED BEFORE EXITING & CLEAN UP YOUR AREA!

40 Days for Life: September 28—November 6

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion! Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers worldwide!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

- Over 20,000 babies saved from abortion
- Over 200 abortion workers converted
- Over 100 abortion centers closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

Vigil location: Outside the Planned Parenthood on 2709 Knoxville Ave, Peoria, IL.

Vigil hours: 7:00am – 7:00pm daily

Local contact: Anthony Berlinger
Phone: **309-340-2002**

Email: anthonyberlinger@gmail.com

Learn more ... get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

40daysforlife.com/peoria

Catholic Women's League

Catholic Women's League of Peoria, Illinois
invites all women on
Wednesday, October 19th, 2022

10 am Rosary and Speaker, Delores Sheen will present a reflection on the World Rosary and Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

St. Anthony Church, 2525 S. Skyway Road, Bartonville, IL 61607

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.

Last Name _____

First Name(s) _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

New Parishioner _____ Change of address/phone _____

Interested in Volunteering as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to the Sick?

OSF Saint Francis Medical Center will be holding a two night training for volunteer Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on **Wednesday 10/19** and **Monday 10/26** from **6:00 – 7:30 p.m.** These volunteers perform a great service to the Church, by distributing Holy Communion to God's people on those occasions where they are hospitalized. If you are interested in this ministry to the sick please contact the pastoral care office at St. Francis to register **(309) 655-2084**.



BE HEALED



We are all sick – whether it's spiritual, emotional, or physical. *Prairie Fire Ministries* in Des Moines, Iowa, holds monthly healing services to rekindle the

Holy Spirit & witness to the power of God. Each service has packed the Des Moines Cathedral with people from all over the country. Many miraculous healings have occurred and been documented by the bishop. NOW THEY ARE COMING TO PEORIA!

Come and allow God to heal you!

SAT, Oct 22 at 6 PM
St. Vincent de Paul Church,
6001 N. University, Peoria

Women's Care Center Peoria is GROWING!

Since opening in our new location last month, we need extra support staff with a heart for our mission of serving women and building healthy families!

Full and part time Counselors are needed as well as a part time Counseling Assistant. Paid training is provided.

Please email resumes to:
wccconnie13@gmail.com or call **Connie McClure** at **402-659-4577** for details.

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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