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); fsjbpeoria@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).
- 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).



November 20, 2022 Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe





Vocation Awareness at STS

Our school children celebrated Vocations Awareness Week with visits from Fr. Achilleus, Dcn. Ed Mallow, and Sr. Marion FSJB!

Please continue to pray for vocations in our diocese.





From Our Pastor

Rejoice for Jesus Christ is King!

Today we honor Jesus Christ who is King of the universe because He has become the sole mediator between God and man, and He alone has brought us the promise of salvation. Jesus became King on the Cross, and we have been ransomed from death by His sacrifice.

I draw attention to the role of Jesus Christ because sometimes we can be preoccupied by everything that seems to be unstable, or in turmoil in our world or in our own lives. Jesus Christ is the source of stability for us in a changing world. Hold fast to Our Lord and keep your eyes fixed on Him.

After putting out a video to encourage parishioners to return to Mass, I have noticed some increase and a greater participation among parishioners. I ask you to continue to call your family, friends, and others to reconnect with the Church. It is difficult to reestablish patterns that have fallen away, but let this be the time for you or for those you know to respond to the patient and loving call of the savior. Set aside excuses. Don't delay. Let this be the moment to respond to God's call.

To those who have been away, we look forward to having you at Mass again. It is a joy to see you and we are richer for your participation and sharing in our prayer as a parish family.

I wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving and pray for safety in travel and blessings for your families and loved ones. Join us for Mass at 9 AM on Thanksgiving. Your food donations for our pantry are welcome in the narthex on that day. May we be truly thankful for the gifts God has given to us.

—Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of November 20, 2022

Sunday Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

2 Samuel 5: 1-3; Colossians 1: 12-20;

Luke 23: 35-43

Monday The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Revelation 14: 1-3; 4b-5; Luke 21: 1-4

Tuesday St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr

Revelation 14: 14-19; Luke 21: 5-11

Wednesday St. Columban, Abbot

Revelation 15: 1-4; Luke 21: 12-19

Thursday St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest & Companions, Martyrs

Thanksgiving

Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Luke 21: 20-28 OR Sirach 50: 22-24; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Luke 17: 11-19

Friday St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr

Revelation 20: 1-4, 11—21: 2; Luke 21: 29-33

Saturday Revelation 22: 1-7; Luke 21: 34-36

Sunday First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2: 1-5; Romans 13: 11-14; Matthew 24: 37-44

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 21, 2022

7:00 a.m. Mary Ann Lassuy/Jeanne Whalen

Tuesday, November 22, 2022

7:00 a.m. Grace Cafaro/Family 9:15 a.m. Ralph Barnette

Wednesday, November 23, 2022

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

Thursday, November 24, 2022

9:00 a.m. Ward, Nyla, & Nedra Bell/Jack & Margaret Weinstein

Friday, November 25, 2022

8:00 a.m. Susanne Tillia/Ed & Cathy Mallow

Saturday, November 26, 2022

8:00 a.m. Elaine & Paul Oltman/Mary Camp

5:00 p.m. Msgr. William Watson/St. Thomas Parishioners

Sunday, November 27, 2022

8:00 a.m. Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist

10:00 a.m. Gordon Jockisch/Carla & Jack Jockisch Family

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of November 20

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, November 20, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, November 22, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CHOIR Tuesday, November 22, 6:15 p.m., Music Room

THANKSGIVING Thursday, November 24, Mass at 9:00 a.m.

PARISH OFFICE AND SCHOOL Closed November 24 & 25, for Thanksgiving holiday

UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent Market December 3
Parish Open House December 10/11

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is an important tradition at St. Thomas. We have gift tags in baskets as you leave Mass. We ask you to take one or more of the tags and purchase the requested gift. Please give new gifts only.

RETURN YOUR GIFTS IN GIFT BAGS WITH THE ORIGINAL TAG ATTACHED. You may leave them under the Giving Tree in the

Narthex, or deliver to the Parish Office. Your generosity providing gifts under the Giving Tree has been incredibly helpful in the past. Last year we were able to distribute gifts to almost 300 individuals. This includes St. Thomas Families, Foster Children, Catholic Charities, and neighbors in our community.

MONETARY DONATIONS This year a monetary donation might work best for many people. You can make your donation on our website: stthomaspeoria.org. Go to GIVING, then DONATE NOW. As you complete the form please Apply your Donation to The Giving Tree.

Please make your monetary donation as soon as possible so our elves have time to shop before the deadline.

If your requested gift is a **gift card** you may purchase through Comet Cash after Mass or email **Allison Buckardt** at **aebuckardt@gmail.com** or call **309-231-0449**.

PLEASE RETURN GIFTS BY DECEMBER 14TH. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Weekly Collection

	-	
	November 13, 2022	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$400,000
Sunday Collections	\$11,015	\$234,949
Electronic Collections	\$1,690	\$53,789
Total Collected	\$12,705	\$288,738
Over/(Short)	\$(7,295)	\$(111,262)

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



Date

Pray with the Pope

November 2022
For children who suffer

We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

RCIA/OCIA

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall **Topic**

November 23: No Class

November 30: Baptism, Confirmation

December 7: Blessed Virgin Mary, Rosary

December 14: Eucharist December 21: NO Class December 28: NO Class

January 4: Liturgical year, Church tour, Mass

practice

January 11: Marriage

January 18: Orders, Religious Life



Annual Diocesan Appeal as of October 31, 2022

St. Thomas Parish Goal\$	133,057
Total Pledged\$	88,115
Total Paid\$	71,390
Balance Due\$	44,942

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

Give online to ADA 2022

Or pick up an ADA envelope from one of the tables in the narthex



Parish Council

Seeking Nominations for the Council

We invite parishioners to recommend members of the parish to serve on our Parish Council. Term of service starts in January. The Parish Council is composed of nine elected members who each serve for a three-year term, and one member who is a liaison from the Parish Finance Committee.

The Parish Council advises regarding all aspects of parish life, including the spiritual, educational, social, and financial concerns of the Parish.

The Parish Council is assisted in studying the financial health of the parish by the Parish Finance Council.

You may present nominations to the Parish Office in writing or via email. Include the name of the person making the nomination, the person being nominated, and a short comment about the qualities that make the candidate a good nominee to the Parish Council. Each nominee will be asked if he or she will accept the nomination

Please consider nominating a fellow parishioner who can contribute to building our parish.

TMIY Update

That Man is You will Not meet Friday, Nov. 25 \sim enjoy your holiday weekend.

The last TMIY Fall session is December 9th. We will resume January 20, 2023.



Sunday December 11

After all Masses

Please join us in the lower level of the church to thank our parishioners who do so much to make St. Thomas a great community.

Many hands are needed to make this the best ever! Please call, or email, the Parish Office at *309-688-3446*, or *parishof-*

fice@stthomas-church.net, if you are able to help in any way.









Yearend Tax Planning-Invest in Kids Program through Empower Illinois

As 2022 winds down it is not too late to take advantage of the 75% state tax credit associated with a donation to the *Invest in Kids Scholarship* program through *Empower Illinois*. All donations pledged and paid for by November 30, 2022 will be awarded to eligible St. Thomas students for the current school year.

Through your generous donations 30 students have already received scholarship awards from Empower Illinois. We still have 17 students on our waiting list who are eligible to receive scholarship awards if we receive additional contributions. Any donations pledged and paid from Dec. 1- Dec 31, 2022 will still give you the 75% state tax credit for 2022 but the funds will be awarded to students during the 2023/2024 school year. Caterpillar will match donations made through the *Invest in Kids Act*.

Your continued support of Catholic education through the *Invest in Kids Program* as well as our *St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Program* is deeply appreciated. Our students and their parents are exceptionally grateful for the support provide by our very generous parishioners.

If you have any questions please contact Pat in the Parish Office.

Coat Drive Success!

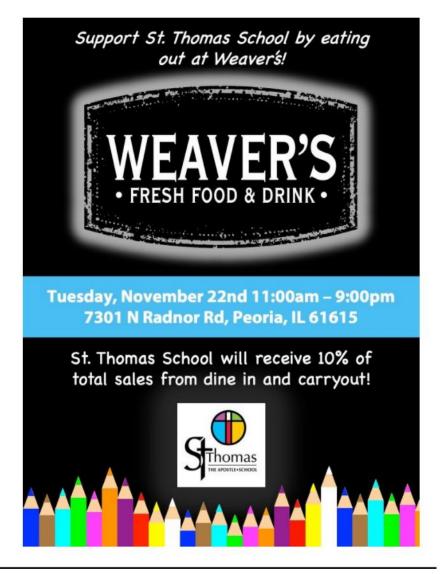
Thank you to everyone who donated to our coat drive. We received more than 140 coats for the Coats for Kids program and some clients of the St Thomas Food Pantry!!



Sponsor of the Week









Lagron-Miller is hosting *Emanuele Fontanini*, fourth generation Fontanini from Italy, at a tour event signing. Available to purchase will be an exclusive tour piece, Elisha, Shepherdess, as well as the 2022 Event Ornament which can be signed by Mr. Fontanini during these two hours. (You may also bring up to 2 pieces of your own previously purchased items and he will sign them as well.)

If you are interested in purchasing an event piece but will not be available to attend the signing, you can also purchase ahead of time (in person, online or by phone.) We will have it signed for you at the event and afterwards it can be picked up or even shipped if you prefer.

If you have any questions, please call Lagron-Miller Company 309-681-9171.

You are invited to the Christmas presentation talk:		
"Unwrapping God's Gift of Peace"		
Scripturally-based, using trust-worthy, Church-verified accounts, peppered with humor and given by:		
Jeanne McGann, M.Th, M.SpD, B.S.E.; CPM		
December 17, 2022		
10:00AM at St. Augustine Manor in the Chapel		
Parking lot is handicap accessible 1301 NE Glendale Ave. Peoria, IL 61603		
Get the peace God wants you to receive, and get rid of worry, fear, anxiety, and loneliness!		
that lights the glade, Silver schining through		
the gloom,		
Like Gods love illumes hristmas		
Leike God's love illumes the way. Leading to the perfect day. Peace and Goy.		
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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

St. Thomas - Food Pantry

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: pancake mix, syrup, cereal, crackers, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, peanut butter, meal helper, dry pasta, canned veggies, canned soup.

Thank you for your generous support!

PEORIA NOTRE DAME RANDY SIMMONS TUITION ASSISTANCE SCHOLARSHIP

Peoria Notre Dame and the Randy Simmons Family announce that the application process is now open for the Randy Simmons Tuition Assistance Scholarship. Created in memory of Randy Simmons, the scholarship provides tuition assistance to an incoming freshman at PND and continues for the four years at the school. The application deadline is **December 7**. Any questions, contact Cindy Dermody, Director of Advancement at:

c.dermody@pndhs.org. The application can be found at:.

https://www.pndhs.org/randy-simmons-tuition-assistance-scholarship-2/



Peoria Notre Dame is teaming up with Scherer for the 5th annual 12 Days of Christmas Cash and Car Raffle!

An Early Bird winner of \$500 will be drawn on November 17. Cash prizes will be drawn daily, beginning Monday, December 5 through Thursday, December 15.

The grand prize of a 2023 Mazda CX5 (MSRP \$28.075) will be drawn at 12:10 pm on Friday

\$28,075) will be drawn at 12:10 pm on Friday, December 16, 2022.

Tickets may be purchased online at **Peoria-NotreDame.com/12days**, or from a staff member or student of PND.

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.

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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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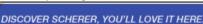
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