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

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(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

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

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

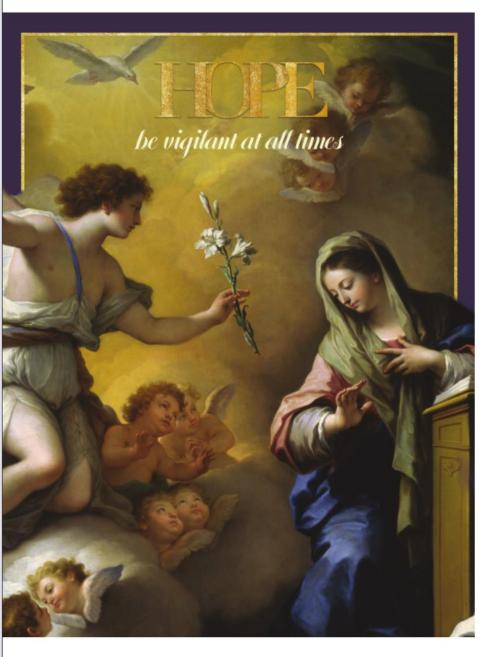
John Mackoway................699-5213
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)
parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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).



November 27, 2022 First Sunday of Advent





Today we begin our four-week journey of Advent preparing for the Nativity of Our Lord. Let's make this a good and holy Advent.

I have posted another video to encourage families to rebuild good habits by getting back into the routine of Sunday Mass. In addition, Advent is a good time to rebuild another habit, getting back to confession. You can have a positive impact on others by your example of participating in Mass and confession. The video can be found here:

https://youtu.be/aYumw8qTXjA

To make confession more available, I will add Advent confession times on Sunday mornings between Masses. During the four weeks of Advent, come to confession between 9 and 10 AM on Sundays, in addition to our regular times on Saturday afternoons and evenings.

One of the ways of keeping in contact with St. Thomas is through My Parish App. This app will have additional Advent resources available as well as messages, bulletins, and contact information for our parish. Visit Download | myParish App

Our Seasonal "Open House" celebration will take place on December 10-11 this year. Please join us after all Masses as we celebrate our parish and give thanks for all those who generously volunteer to make our parish and school successful.

Our Annual Giving Tree will be in the Narthex during Advent. You are invited to bring in Christmas gifts for needy families. Thank you for your generosity to St. Thomas and to those in need.

-Msgr. Gray

Additional Confession Times During Advent

All Sundays in Advent ~ 9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.



Readings for the Week of November 27, 2022

Sunday First Sunday of Advent

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

Monday Isaiah 4: 2-6; Matthew 8: 5-11

Tuesday Isaiah 11: 1-10; Luke 10: 21-24

Wednesday St. Andrew, Apostle

Romans 10: 9-18; Matthew 4: 18-22

Thursday Isaiah 26: 1-6; Matthew 7: 21, 24-27

Friday Isaiah 29: 17-24; Matthew 9: 27-31

Saturday St. Francis Xavier, Priest

Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9: 35—10: 1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11: 1-10; Romans 15: 4-9; Matthew 3: 1-12

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 28, 2022

7:00 a.m. Mark Brewer/Family

Tuesday, November 29, 2022

7:00 a.m. Jim Barkley/Joe & Judy Naumann

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

7:00 a.m. Kevin Wood/Bill & Joan Krumholz

Thursday, December 1, 2022

9:00 a.m. Intentions of Jessica Mallow/Ed & Cathy Mallow 9:15 a.m. Harry Alexander/Gerald & Julie Kirchgessner

Friday, December 2, 2022

8:00 a.m. Poor Souls in Purgatory/Angela Kenny

Saturday, December 3, 2022

8:00 a.m. Ralph Barnett/John, Kay & Rick Rossi 5:00 p.m. Jim Treber/The Rick Jockisch Family

Sunday, December 4, 2022

8:00 a.m. Tom & Dorothy Lavin/Rich & Colleen Lavin

10:00 a.m. John J. Snyder/Dad5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of November 27

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

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, November 27, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, November 29, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CHOIR Tuesday, November 29, 6:15 p.m., Music Room

CCD Wednesday, November 30, 6:00 p.m., School

RCIA/OCIA Wednesday, November 30, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WALKING WITH PURPOSE Thursday, November 1, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

THAT MAN IS YOU Friday, November 2, Doors open 6:00 a.m., program begins 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

ADORATION Friday, November 4, after 7:00 Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

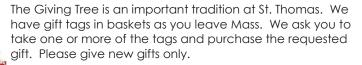
ADVENT MARKET Saturday, December 3, 10:00 a.m., School Gym

ULTREYA Saturday, December 3, at 5:00 p.m. Mass, Talk & Social follow

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Open House December 10/11

Giving Tree



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 generosity!

Our Sympathy

Ronald E. Richardson, Jr

Baptism Congratulations

Piper Kathleen Ewing, daughter of Jacob & Kelsey Ewing



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

Date

Topic

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



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Jesus began his public ministry, he called twelve Apostles to join him. When his ministry was complete, just before he ascended to heaven, he entrusted the mission to go make disciples to the Apostles while granting them his own power and authority through the gift of the Holy Spirit. While the Apostles were called specifically to the ministerial priesthood, they were not without support in their ministry. Many others, men and women, some who were acknowledged by name, and others who remained anonymous, provided support for them out of their means (cf. Lk. 8:1-3). To this day, our Lord continues to call men to himself for the sake of priestly ministry. Likewise, there remains the need to provide support for these men, especially during the time of a man's formal formation within the seminary.

We are currently blessed with 22 seminarians and there are others already applying for the coming year! Without including the expense of operating the Office of Vocations, the education alone - tuition, room and board - costs around \$270,000 per seminarian over the course of his six years of philosophical and graduate level studies in Theology.

In the diocese of Peoria, we do not lament the fact that we are burdened with these costs. Rather, we are thankful that Jesus has called so many men who are willing to enter seminary formation in order to be future priests serving your parishes and families. For this reason, we have chosen to focus attention on this Thanksgiving holiday to thank God for our seminarians and to thank God for all who provide for them.

I ask you to prayerfully consider making a financial donation towards priestly vocations at mass on Sunday, December 4th, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Your gift will directly contribute to the education of our seminarians. Your generous support is much needed and greatly appreciated. Please make your check available to the Catholic Diocese of Peoria Office of Priestly Vocations.

Peace and Prayers,

+Most Reverend Louis Tylka Bishop of Peoria

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.

Save the Date!

The St. Thomas the Apostle Progressive Dinner:

Rolling Out the Red Carpet

Saturday, February 18, 2023

Watch for more details in the coming weeks!

Christmas Open House Saturday December 10 After 5:00 pm

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

Sunday December 11

email, the Parish Office at *309-688-3446*, or *parishof-fice@stthomas-church.net*, if you are able to help in any way.

Advent ~ A Time to Prepare

Let's remember to prepare ourselves as well as our homes by welcoming Jesus as the savior of the world, and the King of our hearts. We've all heard the cliche, the family that prays together stays together, and it turns out that psychological studies agree! Some findings are:

- Families use prayer time as a way to transmit religious traditions to younger generations.
- Prayer enables family members to address problems or stresses they are facing, as well as reduce tensions in their relationships.
- Prayer helps family members bond with one another and create a sense of family unity.

Praying for a fruitful Advent and Christmas for you and your loved ones!

More next week

~ Mary Cushing Director of Faith Formation

Caterpillar Foundation LIMITED-TIME 2:1 MATCH LAUNCHING NOVEMBER 28!

The Caterpillar Foundation is celebrating seven decades of helping build resilient communities. Since its founding, the Caterpillar Foundation has invested \$851 million to help improve the lives of people around the world.

In support of the Caterpillar Foundation's 70th Anniversary and Giving Tuesday, the Caterpillar Foundation will provide a limited-time 2:1 match through our Caterpillar Foundation Matching Gifts Program for global employee and U.S. retiree gifts made starting November 28 through December 12, 2022 (or once the 2:1 match total reaches \$2 million USD - see details below).

If you are interested, we recommend taking action soon after the opportunity launches the week of November 28 as this 2:1 match is on a first-come first-serve basis, and we may reach our cap quickly!

- U.S. Gift Eligibility: Gifts to most 501 (c) (3) nonprofits and public/private preK-12 schools, as well as United Ways, are eligible for the 2:1 match
- Maximum Match: Each participant
 can enter up to \$500 USD (or local currency
 equivalent) in donations in the system and
 the Caterpillar Foundation will match at a
 2:1 ratio up to a maximum amount of
 \$1,000 USD. This is exempt from the
 standard \$10,000 USD Foundation annual
 cap.

Limited-time 2:1 Caterpillar Foundation Match Launching November 28! (newsweaver.com)

St. Thomas Advent Market

Saturday · December 3 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Photos with Santa Activities for Kids Great Shopping

St. Thomas School Gym

Sponsor of the Week



When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



Our December bulletin article is dedicated to you, our St. Thomas parishioners. We thank you so much for your prayers and your generous contributions to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Your prayers and financial support are what enable us to

help the poor. You are the foundation of our mission.

Those of us involved in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul say the following prayer at the end of every meeting. We want to share this prayer with you, as it reflects the spirit of our Vincentian Family.

Lord Jesus, you who willed to become poor, give us eyes and a heart directed toward the poor; help us recognize you in them, in their thirst, their hunger, their loneliness, and their misfortune.

Enkindle within our Vincentian Family, unity, simplicity, humility, and the fire of love that burned in St. Vincent de Paul.

Strengthen us, so that faithful to the practice of these virtues, we may contemplate you and serve you in the person of the poor, and may one day be united with you in your Kingdom.

Amen

Again, we thank you. God bless you.

Al Barhorst, Bettsey Barhorst, Brian Barkley, Edie Brereton, Cissy Carlson, Chris Clemons, Cynthia Hall, Mike Hallar, Loretta Hardgrove, Mary Heller, Nancy Higgins, Mike Hinchman, Kim Jaegle, Diana Janda, Mark Kelsch, Marlynn Kelsch, Brian Kemp, Colleen Matarelli, Jim Matarelli, Brian Medendorp, Nancy Medendorp, Mary Jennifer Meister, Mark Milford, Mike Phelan, Mary Kay Pilat, Tom Pilat, John Pusey, Pat Pusey, Dan Smith, Don Smith, Jan Smith, Linda Waible, Nanette Westerhold, Walter Wilkins

If you are interested in joining the St. Vincent de Paul Society, please call the church office at 688-3446, and a member who can answer your questions will contact you. Those of us who serve those in need through the Society know that we receive much more than we give.

~ Edie Brereton

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.



Please join Peoria Cursillo for our
December Ultreya
St. Thomas the Apostle
2022 Theme: "In God's Time"
Guests are Encouraged and Welcome!
Families are Welcome!
on Saturday, Dec. 3;
beginning with the 5:00 pm Parish Mass

Join us for a Mass, talk and social time!

Celebrant and Speaker: Msgr. Jason Gray

Host: Michele Konecki & St. Thomas parishioners

Social Time in the parish hall afterwards

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

St. Thomas, 904 E. Lake Ave., Peoria Heights, 61616

Msgr. Jason Gray will speak about "In God's Time" in relation to saints, including the current process regarding Bishop Fulton Sheen.

Reservation forms for Cursillo weekends in 2023 will be available. Dates will be announced soon!



All Parishioners Welcome!

Volunteer with OSF

Are you looking for a way to give back and help those who are sick? OSF Healthcare Saint Francis Medical Center is looking for volunteers to help us serve our patients. We have several opportunities to meet your interest and time. Partner with us and check out our website at https://www.osfhealthcare.org/saint-francis/giving-volunteering/opportunities/adults or call our office at 309-655-2118 for more information.

Latest News from Building Hope in Kids ~ Bukoba

It's here! The December BHIK-U newsletter is available at www.BuildingHopeInKids.org at the Newsletters tab. It's chock full of the latest news, photos from the school, and info on the perfect Christmas gift for Cardinals fans!



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.

Phone New Parishioner	Change of address/phone
City	ZIP
Address	
Phone	
Email	
First Name(s)	
Last Name	

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-

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



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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