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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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)

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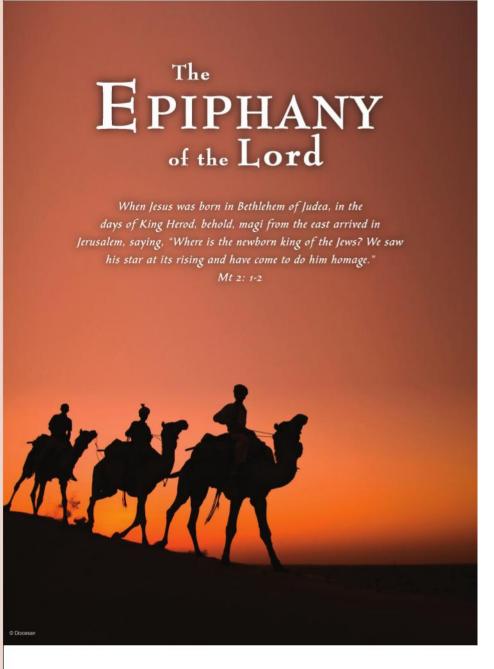
John Mackoway...........699-5213
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)
parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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).



January 8, 2023





From Our Pastor

Blessed Epiphany to you this weekend! Epiphany refers to the light that "shines forth" as Christ is revealed to the world. The Epiphany celebrates three events in the life of Christ: His revelation to the Gentiles when the three Wise Men come to Jesus with their gifts, his revelation as the Son of God when he was baptized by John the Baptist, and the first miracle that Jesus performed at the Wedding feast in Cana.

We will have our annual Progressive Dinner on February 18. In the past, we have held our Progressive Dinner in November. With the help of some parishioners who opened their homes, guests were invited to one home for drinks and appetizers, another home for dinner, and to a common venue for dessert. The Progressive Dinner has served two purposes: as a social event by inviting guests to meet new parishioners to promote fellowship; and as a fundraising event by selecting a goal for funds raised during the evening.

This year, we will "Roll out the Red Carpet." This theme describes the warm welcome for all our parishioners who take part in the Dinner. It also reflects the need to refurbish the pews, kneelers... and carpet... in our Church.

I encourage you to take part in this Progressive Dinner. You can sign up on line by following links in the bulletin or on our website. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the parish office. I look forward to this special celebration.

-Msgr. Gray

Our church looks lovely in all seasons, but is especially beautiful this Christmas season. **Thank You** to the Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist for their many hours of hard work!





Readings for the Week of January 8, 2022

Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2: 1-12

Monday The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7 OR Acts 10: 34-38; Matthew 3: 13-17

Tuesday Hebrews 1: 1-6 AND Hebrews 2: 5-12; Mark 1: 14-20 AND

Mark 1: 21-28

Wednesday Hebrews 2: 14-18; Mark 1: 29-39

Thursday Hebrews 3: 7-14; Mark 1: 40-45

Friday St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Hebrews 4: 1-5, 11; Mark 2: 1-12

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday Hebrews 4: 12-16; Mark 2: 13-17

Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3; John 1: 29-34

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 9, 2023

Sunday

7:00 a.m. E. A. Presley/Jack & Margaret Weinstein

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

7:00 a.m. For the Intentions of Ed & Cathy Mallow

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

7:00 a.m. John Carlson/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley

Thursday, January 12, 2023

7:00 a.m. Gerald & Mary Schwab/Family

9:15 a.m. Fr. Paul Stark, S.J./Tony & Mary Honey Jacob

Friday, January 13, 2023

7:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of Noe & Eisele Families/

Mary Ann Noe

Saturday, January 14, 2023

8:00 a.m. Mariano Tolentino/The Sarmiento Family

5:00 p.m. Jose Rosalem/Rexy Legaspi

Sunday, January 15, 2023

8:00 a.m. Judy Campbell/The Catholic Women's League 10:00 a.m. Fred Darche/Stacey Hawley & Dan Higgins

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of January 8

COFFEE AND DONUTS after morning Masses

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

CHOIR Tuesday, January 10, 6:30 p.m., Music Room

ST VINCENT DE PAUL Tuesday, January 10, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

CCD Wednesday, January 11, 6:00 p.m., School

RCIA Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

LADIES NIGHT OUT Friday, January 13, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

CARMELITES Saturday, January 14, 11:00 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Holy Hour Adoration January 19 February 3

Cold Wind Blows No More



Throughout the fall the new windows were installed in all classrooms in our school! All are now complete and students and teachers will learn and teach in comfort.

Thank You to all who so generously donated to make this possible! A special Thank You to Dr. Phil Adams who spent many hours spearheading the project and seeing it to completion.

Weekly Collection

January 1, 2023

		113Cai 11D
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$540,000
Sunday Collections	\$12,009	\$349,536
Electronic Collections	\$13,589	\$94,224
Total Collected	\$25,598	\$443,760
Over/(Short)	\$5,598	\$(96,240)

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

Gayle Rogy

Baptism Congratulations

Charlie Ryan Hedges , son of Jenny & James Hedges



Pray with the Pope

January 2023

For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.



RCIA/OCIA

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

Date

January 11: Marriage

January 18: Orders, Religious Life

January 25: Penance, Anointing, Funerals

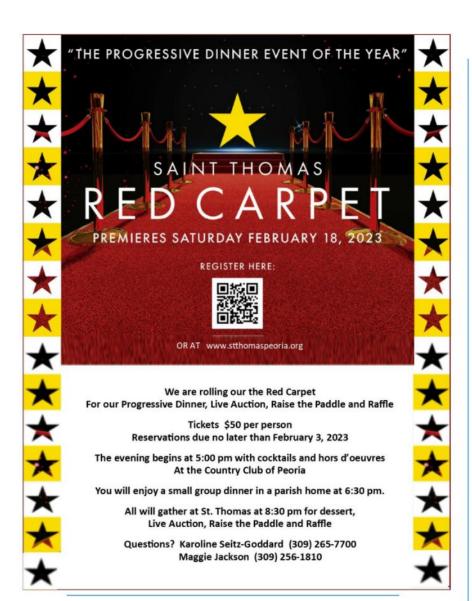
February 1: Individual aspects of the Moral Life February 8: Prayer, Universal Call to Holiness February 15: Our Father, Hail Mary, other prayers, prepare for Lent

Sponsor of the Week



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Empower Illinois Scholarship Applications for 2023/2024 School Year

The application process for an *Empower Illinois Scholarship* for the 2023/2024 school year will begin **Wednesday**, **January 18**, **2023**, **at 7:00 p.m.**

The application is a two-step process: first, reserve your place in line through the *Empower Illinois* website, **www.empowerillinois.org**, January 18th beginning at 7:00 p.m. After you reserve your spot, Empower Illinois will contact you to complete the second part of the application.

Applications are considered on the basis of the date and time this first step is completed, as well as prior receipt of an Empower Illinois Scholarship, so it is important to complete step one as soon as possible once the process begins. The reservation page will open at 6:30 p.m. to provide families time to complete the form before submission at 7:00 p.m.

If you would like help applying for the *Empower Illinois Scholarship*, please contact Pat at *patwombacher@stthomas-school.net*, or 688-3446, ext. 1341, by Monday, January 16th. We will make sure step one of your application is completed on January 18th.

Please remember: even if you received an *Empower Illinois Scholarship* for the 2022/2023 school year, you need to *reapply* for the next year.



Thank You & Invitation

On behalf of the St. Thomas School and Parish, we would like to invite everyone to pray for the precious children who have been recently baptized here in our church community. The School and Parish have come together to offer each newly baptized child a gift honoring their new membership in our family. We pray these families feel supported and guided as they continue their children's Catholic journey through religious education.



St. Thomas - Food Pantry

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!

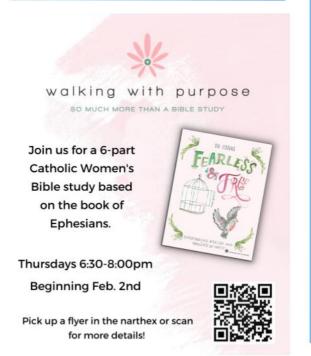


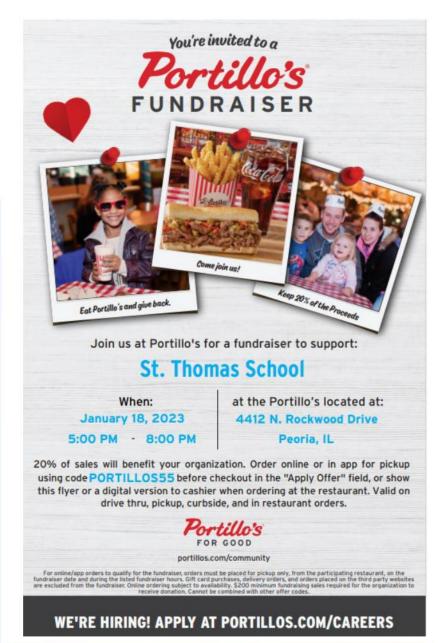
TMIY resumes January 20, 2023 In the Parish Hall Doors open at 6:00 a.m., The program begins 6:30 a.m.

Open to All Men of the Parish!

Join us for Coffee and Donuts after morning Mass this weekend







Dr. Adams has been working behind the scenes on so many projects here at St. Thomas. He keeps the floral beds outside the school and church always looking beautiful, he was a huge help with the new playground and he has been leading the new window project in the school. Every single student benefits tremendously from the work he does for us so each student in the school's fingerprint was used to decorate this special tree for Dr. Adams. The special star at the top was made by his sweet granddaughter in our Pre3. Thank you Dr. Adams for all your hard work and please know how much it means to the St. Thomas community!!

The Peoria Area Catholic Young Adults Group

A group for those in their 20s and 30s which has been revamped to meet at a different area location at least monthly for a faith-based activity followed by fellowship. Please don't feel nervous to come if you are new as we have many new attendees each month. This could be a great New Year's resolution! For more info or to be added to the email list, contact peoriacatholicadults@gmail.com.

Upcoming events:

Saturday, Feb. 4: 6:00 Fr. Derick Tryphon Mwesiga speaking on the Church in Tanzania at Jalapeños in the Metro Centre followed by a social hour **Thursday, Feb. 16**: 6:00 Adoration at St. Jude & 6:45 dinner at Avanti's (N. Knoxville)

Principal Needed

Peoria Notre Dame High School is seeking a Principal for the 2023-2024 academic year. The new principal must be enthusiastic about the Catholic mission of the school – developing students in spirit, mind, and body. The preferred candidate for the position will have experience in administration, enthusiasm for youth, and the desire to work in a faith-based environment. The principal will report directly to the Office of Catholic Schools superintendent and will supervise the assistant principal, dean of students, athletic director, campus ministry, counselors, student services, and teachers.

For a full job description, qualifications, and requirements, please review the description sheet at https://5il.co/1lxvy. Download a Principal Application Packet from the Catholic Diocese of Peoria at https://cdop.org/careers.

The students of Peoria Notre Dame would like to thank all of the community members and neighbors who donated non-perishable food items for our annual Christmas Basket Drive. Each year, our students collect more 20,000 food items to be distributed to 400 families in the Peoria area during the holidays. Thank you for helping bless the lives of others!

Peoria Notre Dame High School Blood Drive

Peoria Notre Dame High School

Commons 5105 N. Sheridan Peoria, IL 61614

Saturday, January 28, 2023 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org. You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass for more information. By donating at this blood drive, you are helping one or more graduating seniors earn a scholarship.

Come give Jan. 1-31 and automatically be entered for a chance to win an exciting trip for you and a guest to Super Bowl LVII in Phoenix! Includes travel, hotel, \$500 gift card, pre-game activities and more! Terms apply; visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.





Scan to schedu an appointmen

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 _____

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CITY______ ZIP____

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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.

ConfessionsSaturday 4:00-4:45pm

& 6:00 p.m.-until last

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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