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:

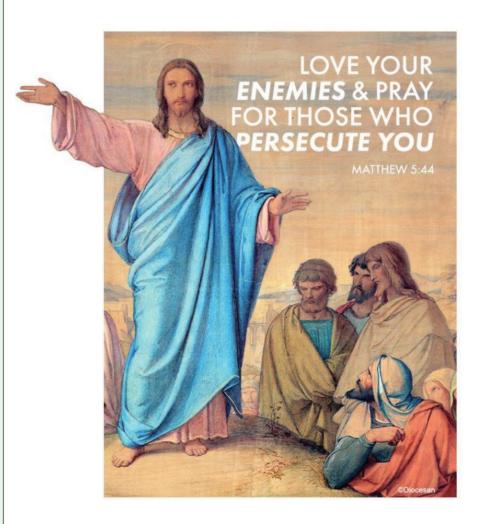
John Mackoway..........699-5213
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)
parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

Stay in Touch

- Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. 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).



February 19, 2023 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time





From Our Pastor

The Season of Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday. While Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation, it is traditional for Catholics to participate in Mass on that day and receive ashes as a sign of repentance.

Some might think of Lent in negative terms as a time to make sacrifices and to be sorrowful. It is also possible to see Lent as a time for us to be liberated from so many attachments that hold us back. Lent can be a time for us to approach Our Lord and grow closer to him, and that can make Lent a time of joy.

Consider your Lenten plans. We offer penance and sacrifice not to demonstrate how much suffering we can endure, but rather as a means of uniting ourselves to Jesus' suffering on the cross so we can grow in holiness. It is good to plan to give something up during Lent. First and foremost, let us give up sin. In addition, it is good to give up things that get in the way of our relationship with God.

During Lent, we make sacrifices such as giving up food (fasting) and giving to the poor (almsgiving). In addition, Lent can also be a time to embrace good spiritual works by spending time with God in prayer. Here are some suggestions:

We will add an 8 AM Mass on the weekdays of Lent. Consider making Mass and the Eucharist part of your Lenten plan, even if it is only one day a week.

We will add Stations on Friday evenings at 7 PM during Lent. This devotion allows us to walk with Christ as he carries his cross for our sins.

We will add confessions on Friday evenings at 6 PM and after all Sunday Masses during Lent. Plan to make a good confession during the Lenten season, especially if it has been a while since you've confessed.

- -Msgr. Gray

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Readings for the Week of February 19, 2022

Sunday Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 17-18; 1 Corinthians 3: 16-23;

Matthew 5: 38-48

Monday Sirach 1: 1-10; Mark 9: 14-29

Tuesday St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Sirach 2: 1-11; Mark 9: 30-37

Wednesday Ash Wednesday

Joel 2: 12-18; 2 Corinthians 5: 20—6:2;

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18

Thursday St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20; Luke 9: 22-25

Friday Isaiah 58: 1-9a; Matthew 9: 14-15

Saturday Isaiah 58: 9b-14; Luke 5: 27-32

Sunday First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7; Romans 5: 12-19 OR Romans 5: 12, 17-19; Matthew 4: 1-11

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 20, 2023

7:00 a.m. Mary Ellen Van Buskirk/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

7:00 a.m. Klem Osika/Linda Osika

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

7:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Stark, S.J./Michael & Whitney Axelson

9:15 a.m. Chuck Gavin/Brian Kemp

12:15 p.m. Matt Leali/Theresa Hardesty & Family

7:00 p.m. Larry Zarley/Michelle Konecki

Thursday, February 23, 2023

7:00 a.m. Jack & Frances McGinn/Mary Eaton

8:00 a.m. Deceased members of the Haughney Family

Friday, February 24, 2023

7:00 a.m. Lisa Bartley/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley 8:00 a.m. Betty Pegg/The Colabro Family

Saturday, February 25, 2023

8:00 a.m. Josh Wimmergran/Family

5:00 p.m. Raymundo Aguila/Juanita Corrales

Sunday, February 26, 2023

8:00 a.m. For the People

10:00 a.m. Judy Campbell/Paul & Ann Horst5:00 p.m. Ralph Barnett/Tom & Bonnie Stroot

Week of February 19

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL Closed Monday

HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUP Monday, February 20, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

ROSARY Tuesday, February 21, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CHOIR Tuesday, February 21, 6:30 p.m., Music Room

PARISH COUNCIL Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office

ASH WEDNESDAY February 22, Masses 7:00, 9:15 a.m., 12:15, 7:00 p.m.

CCD Wednesday, February 22, 6:00 p.m., School

HOLY HOUR Thursday, February 23, 7:00 p.m., Church

THAT MAN IS YOU Friday, February 24, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program beains at 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

CONFESSIONS Friday, February 24, 6:00 p.m., Church

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Friday, February 24, 7:00 p.m., Church

TRIVIA NIGHT Saturday, February 25, 6:00 p.m., School

UPCOMING EVENTS

STS Trivia Night Moms & Mimosas February 25 March 4



PARISH HOLY HOUR

Thursday, February 23 7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.



Pray with the Pope February 2023

ebidary 2025

For parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Weekly Collection

February 12, 2023

		115Cai 115
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$660,000
Sunday Collections	\$9,572	\$436,807
Electronic Collections	\$3,045	\$120,329
Total Collected	\$12,617	\$557,136
Over/(Short)	\$(7,383)	\$(102,864)

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

Elizabeth Kane

Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday Masses 7:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Daily Masses 7 am and 8 am Monday-Friday; 8 am Saturday

Stations of the Cross: Fridays at 7 pm

Confessions:

6 pm – 7 pm Fridays 4 pm – 4:45 pm and after the 5 pm Mass on Saturdays Immediately after the 8 am, 10 am and 5 pm Masses on Sunday

Rules for Fast and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. Catholics age 18 to 59 must fast. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. Catholics over the age of 14 must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent.

OCIA Topics

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

Date

.00.0

February 22: Ash Wednesday; No Class

March 1: Community and Moral Law, grace March 8: Ten & Great Commandments, #1-3; Divine/Natural Law

March 15: Commandments 4, 5, 7, 8

March 22: Commandments 6, 9, 10

March 29: History of the Church, Preparation for confession

April 5: Penance Service, Practice

April 8: Easter Vigil (Saturday)

April 19: Mystagogia

Fiscal YTD

St Thomas Mission

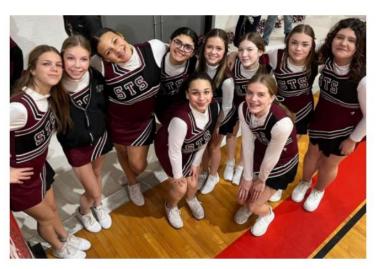
Do you struggle with temptations?
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PARISH MISSION



Congratulations to our Cheerleaders on their State Competition!



RESOLUTION CHECK-UP



It's been over six weeks since you made those resolutions.
How are you doing so far?

Consider a new resolution:

Make a difference in the health and wellness of

our Parish

Please join the St. Thomas Parish Health and Wellness Group

Monday, February 20, 6:30 PM Parish Hall

(Please enter from parking lot)

Bring your ideas for programs and services to provide our fellow parishioners or join us to see what types of things the group and Parish Nurse Mary Clare Geraghty RN BSN can offer.

Call or email if you are unable to attend but would like to be join us in providing care and education to our fellow parishioners.

ParishNurse@stthomas-church.net 309-688-0288 x1350

St. Thomas - Food Pantry

The pantry accepts any shelf-stable food items, but these items are needed most at the present time: pancake mix, syrup, jelly, crackers, spaghetti sauce, canned soup.

Thank you for your generous support!



Help St. Thomas School 'raise some dough' by eating out at Old Chicago!

FAT TUESDAY!

Tuesday, February 21st 11:00am – 10:00pm 7610 North Grand Prairie Drive, Peoria, IL 61615

St. Thomas School will receive 15% of total sales from dine in and carryout!







Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Church is alive in the Diocese in Peoria!

As I travel across the twenty-six counties which encompass our diocese, I see signs of life in the Church. Our Newman Centers welcome those attending the university and colleges and are joyfully witnessing faith in Christ. Through our parishes, many are coming to know of Jesus and His Church, with hundreds of people welcomed into a life within the Church at Easter. Our youth are having their minds and hearts shaped for Jesus in our Catholic Schools and Religious Education programs. The most basic of needs are being met in food pantries, soup kitchens, and from St. Vincent de Paul Societies and Catholic Charities. All of these are examples of encountering Jesus and sharing His love with others.

In its print edition, website, and social media outreach, **The Catholic Post** tells the stories of these encounters with Jesus and how missionary discipleship is fostered across the 16,933 square miles of our diocese. The theme for the 2023 *Delivering Unity Campaign* is *Media for the Mission*. Readers and social media followers are invited to support this mission through prayer, financial assistance, and by sharing the work of **The Catholic Post** with others. Furthering the outreach of our stories and photos demonstrates the life of the Church!

The Pastoral Planning Process, Growing Disciples, focuses our efforts to build a brighter future in a sustainable, mission driven Church. Concurrently, the National Eucharistic Revival centers us again on the great gift of Jesus in our lives as Catholics. I strongly encourage our support and readership of **The Catholic Post** as we seek to cover such important stories of our faith life. Details about how to subscribe and support our efforts are printed below.

Thank you in advance for for helping us to provide Media for the Mission.

Peace and Prayers.

◆Most Reverend Louis Tylka Bishop of Peoria



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Although Soviet communism ended in the early 1990s, its destructive effects linger in the societies where it once ruled. Under the communist system, cultural values of charity and volunteerism disappeared. Rapid, sometimes harsh transitions to market economies led to ongoing attitudes of materialism that have left poor and dependent people—such as children, seniors, and people with disabilities—particularly vulnerable.

The Diocese of Chisinau, founded in 2000, covers all of Moldova and the unrecognized breakaway state of Transnistria, currently occupied by Russian forces. Today the diocese contains 20 parishes and seven charity foundations that work to meet the spiritual and material needs of the people. This spirit of love for the most poor and needy is evident in Moldova's generous response not only to the needs of its own people, but also to refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine. Working in cooperation with Caritas Moldova, the diocese has expanded its outreach and ability to reveal Christ's mercy to Moldova's vulnerable children and youth by establishing a network of care and support centers, where children and youth benefit from informal education programs in a safe, caring environment. The centers also help strengthen the parenting skills of mothers and fathers. With funding from the Collection of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, the diocese and its local partners have established the centers according to standards for quality and child protection to make them safe and caring environments.

Your support and promotion of the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe is crucial to the success of ministries that affirm the dignity of children, youth, and other vulnerable people and show them the love and mercy of Jesus. Please be generous to the collection, because your support helps the Church bring Christ's mercy to the Ukrainian refugees, Moldovan children, and families most in need. For more information about the collection and whom it supports, visit www.usccb.org/ccee. Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

Peace and Prayers,

♣Most Reverend Louis Tylka Bishop of Peoria



MEN'S RETREAT

St. Thomas Parish will again have a Men's Retreat this year at

White House Retreat in St. Louis.

This year's retreat starts with check-in on *Thursday*, *September 14th* at 4:30 pm and concludes on *Sunday*, *September 17th* at 1:00 pm. An informational meeting about the retreat will be scheduled after Easter. More information about White House can be found at: https://whitehouseretreat.org/ If you are interested in learning more or would like to register, please email *George Burek* at *georgeburek@yahoo.com*





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(ejoinme.org) to find out more information and to purchase your ticket!

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.

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.

New Parishioner		
Phone		
City	ZIP	
Address		
Phone		
Email		
First Name(s)		
Last Name		

Fish Fry

THE ST. BERNARD MEN'S CLUB will have a fish fry on the following Fridays, February 24th, March 10th, March 24th and April 7th, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the school gym, 512 E. Kansas, Peoria.

You may dine in or carry out. The cost is \$15.00 for catfish or a baked cod dinner, and \$10.00 for shrimp or fried cod dinners, which includes cole slaw, choice of potato and bread. Children's meals of corndogs, fried cod, or shrimp are available for \$5.00.



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

ጲ 6:00 p.m.-until last confession heard.

Parish Office Hours

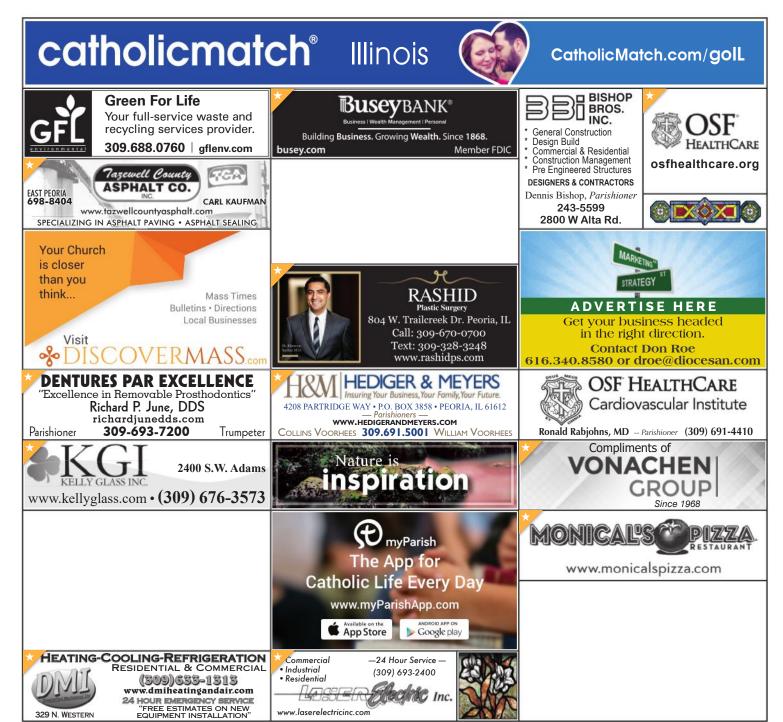
The Parish Office is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 **p.m.** Staff are also available by email or voicemail. To leave a message, call 309-688-3446, and at the prompt, press:

- 3 Msgr. Gray
- 0 Terri- Administrative Assist.

1340 - Julie-Accountina

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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