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) msgrgray@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)

iuliestreid@stthomas-church.net

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

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

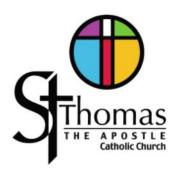
Director of Faith Formation: Mary Cushing.... marycushing@stthomas-school.net

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

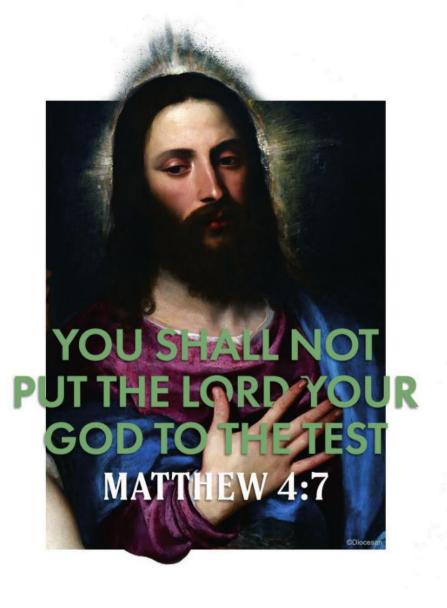
John Mackoway......699-5213 Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350) parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

Stay in Touch

- 1. Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. 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).



February 26, 2023 First Sunday of Lent





Thanks to everyone who volunteered or attended our Progressive Dinner. We raised \$85,000 that evening for our pews, kneelers, and carpet. This is added to the \$30,000 raised around my 25th anniversary last summer and the \$120,000 raised through Annual Giving at the end of 2022. In addition to our pews, kneelers, and carpeting in the church and narthex, it would be nice to extend some of the elements in our sanctuary throughout the church. The extent of these improvements will depend on the total amount raised. We will need \$300,000 as a minimum, but additional donations would allow us to replace more carpeting, improve church lighting, and bring more of the décor in the sanctuary throughout the church.

As Lent begins, I encourage us to deepen our spiritual lives and our devotion to the Eucharist. Our Diocese and the entire United States Bishops' Conference is focused on a Eucharistic revival beginning this year.

There are additional times for Mass, including daily Mass, and Eucharistic Adoration. We are encouraged to make more room for silence in our prayer. Whether you spend 30 minutes in adoration, or a couple minutes after receiving Communion at Mass, this silent prayer is a powerful time to spend with the Lord.

In silence, you can take a line from Scripture or the readings from the Mass and use the Word of God for contemplation.

In silence, you might use some of the prayers in the back of the missalette. When we don't know what to say, the traditional prayers of the Church are a good resource to focus our attention.

In silence, we can also listen to God by calming ourselves and placing ourselves in a receptive state ready to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit.

- -Msgr. Gray

Sponsor of the Week





Readings for the Week of February 26, 2022

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

Monday St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

Leviticus19: 1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25: 31-46

Tuesday Isaiah 55: 10-11; Matthew 6: 7-15

Wednesday Jonah 3: 1-10; Luke 11: 29-32

Thursday Esther C: 12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7: 7-12

Friday St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin

Ezekiel 18: 21-28; Matthew 5: 20-26

Saturday St. Casimir

Deuteronomy 26: 16-19; Matthew 5: 43-48

Sunday Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12: 1-4a; 2 Timothy 1: 8b-10; Matthew 17: 1-9

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 27, 2023

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Colette Axelson/Michael & Whitney Axelson

8:00 a.m. Mary Dunne/Michael Doyle

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

7:00 a.m. Ron Richardson/Lisa Flier 8:00 a.m. Lynn Goble/Family

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

7:00 a.m. Mark Brewer/Linh Luong

8:00 a.m. Peter Pasquel/Bernadette Shekleton

Thursday, March 2, 2023

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Randy & Kim Hunzeker/Michael & Whitney

Axelson

8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Mathers/The McGee Family9:15 a.m. Gordon Jockisch/Rose Seghetti

Friday, March 3, 2023

7:00 a.m. Lucille Noe 24th Anniv./Mary Ann Noe 8:00 a.m. Hylee Kemp/Thomas & Phyllis Duncan

Saturday, March 4, 2023

8:00 a.m. Dang Mai Tho/Linh Luong 5:00 p.m. The Francis Curtis Family

Sunday, March 5, 2023

8:00 a.m. Kevin Myszkowski/A Friend

10:00 a.m. Norma Johnson/The Kuchan Family

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of February 26

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

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, February 26, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, February 28, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CHOIR Tuesday, February 28, 6:30 p.m., Music Room

CCD Wednesday, March 1, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, March 1, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WALKING WITH PURPOSE Thursday, March 2, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

THAT MAN IS YOU Friday, March 3, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program begins at 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

ADORATION Friday, March 3, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until Stations at 7:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS Friday, March 3, 6:00 p.m., Church

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Friday, March 3, 7:00 p.m., Church

MOMS AND MIMOSAS Saturday, March 4, 9:00 a.m., Haven on the Farm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Mission March 25-27

Pray with the Pope February 2023

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 19, 2023

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$680,000
Sunday Collections	\$8,139	\$444,946
Electronic Collections	\$2,531	\$122,860
Total Collected	\$10,670	\$567,806
Over/(Short)	\$(9,330)	\$(112,194)

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

Lenten Devotions

Daily Masses 7:00 am & 8:00 am Monday-Friday; 8:00 am Saturday

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

Fridays during Lent

6:00 pm Adoration and Confession 7:00 pm Benediction, Stations of the Cross



OCIA Topics

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

Date

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)

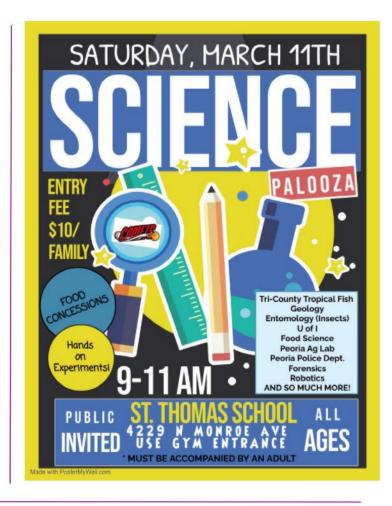
April 19: Mystagogia

St Thomas Mission

We often hear, "Life is short, better enjoy it!" How about rather, "Eternity is long, better prepare for it!"



904 E. LAKE AVE. PEORIA HEIGHTS, IL





Escape60 Lou & Tracy Schendl Anonymous

Rolling out the Red Carpet was a great success!

Thank you to all of our guests & donors!!
We would like to thank our sponsors for their generous support which made the event such a success:

JT & Kim Kellock Steve & Maggie Jackson Market Place Solutions Cyd's in the Park Jones Bros. Jewelers

John Goddard & Karoline Seitz-Goddard The Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist Matt & Leslie Vonachen
The Students of St. Thomas School
St. Thomas Church

Thank you to all of our host homes; you opened your homes and made this a very special event!

Phil Adams, Tim & Julie Streid and Terri Moon

Marty & Terry Best Sally Owens
Charlie & Jen Callaway Rich & Jessica Guingrich

Msgr. Jason Gray Greg & Liz Whitten

Ryan & Sarah Tamburro

Steve & Maria Tsoraides

Joe & Nancy Krakowiecki and John & Sonia Nelson

Mitchell Hedrick & Jennifer Bonesteel

You cannot have a successful event without volunteers and we had a wonderful team assisting us...thank you to:

Greg Batton for his amazing master of ceremony and auctioneering skills

Terri Moon & Julie Streid for assisting us with all of the details

Allison Buckardt & Jenny Sturm for assisting with the raffle, beverages and tear down

Bear Gangloff & Mitchell Goddard for taking care of guest check in

Trina Schmidt, Jennifer Lynch and Beth Lees for assisting in organizing our guest lists for the host homes.

And many other volunteers. We could not have done it without all of you!

There is still time to participate! We are close to reaching our goal. If you did not have a chance to make a donation towards the replacement of the pews, kneelers and carpet, you can certainly still participate. Simply contact the parish office. You will make a difference in the future of St. Thomas Parish.

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!

Thank You!

It's a big WIN for the St. Thomas Souper Bowl team! Over the past few weeks, the food pantry counted 495 cans of soup donated by our parishioners and 181 cans of soup collected by our school. In addition, 203 packages of Ramen noodle soup was donated, bringing our grand total to 879 soup items, far surpassing our goal of 500!

A BIG thank you to our parishioners and our school for helping to feed our neighbors this winter and always!

Help Needed

Help needed in the STS lunchroom. The hours are M-F: 11:00 a.m.-1:15 p.m. This could be a job-share position.

If interested, please contact Maureen Bentley, Principal at maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net.

Growing Disciples

A new video message from Bishop Tylka, outlining the Growing Disciples planning process from now through May 2024, is available.

This video includes information about the parish draft modeling milestones, timeline and key consultative bodies involved in providing feedback. This is the fourth "update" in a series of short videos aimed at providing all of the faithful with important information about Growing Disciples.

The video can be found at: https://cdop.org/pastoral-plan/latest-news/

As a reminder, all Growing Disciples videos can be found at: Growing Disciples, Pastoral Plan for the Catholic Diocese of Peoria - YouTube, as well as on the Growing Disciples website under the Five Foundations and Latest News tabs.

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



Spring is just ahead! A breath of fresh air! More sunshine! A Lifted spirit!

This is also what your SVdP teams try to offer our neighbors in need. Because of your continued generosity, we are able to bring a fresh perspective to them and a bit of renewed hope. THANK YOU for your trust in us and for your ongoing, abiding love of God's people.

We are happy to offer you the opportunity to have a beautiful image of the Blessed Virgin Mary for your home. This piece was reproduced from the mosaic in our church and hand screen printed by SVdP member and parishioner Mike Hallar.

This unframed image will be available for a minimum \$25 donation on March 4th and 5th. It will also be available April 29th and 30th downstairs in our Parish Hall.

100% of the proceeds will go directly to the SVdP treasury.

Happy Spring!



- Tom & Mary Kay Pilat

Subscribe to The Catholic Post

Did you know you can place a message at the top of a page of **The Catholic Post**, our diocesan newspaper? Your special message will be seen in 10,000 Catholic households! Give thanks for blessings, such as a new grandchild or a marriage anniversary; recognize a favorite pastor or teacher; or remember a deceased loved one. A page sponsorship of \$100 is one suggested level of giving in **The Catholic Post's** subscription drive, which is underway. Subscribe instantly via credit or debit card online at **thecatholicpost.com**; call **(309) 671-1550** during business hours; or send a check to **The Catholic Post**, P.O. Box 1722, Peoria, IL 61656. The regular subscription rate remains at \$30.



Please join Peoria Cursillo for our

cursillopeoria@gmail.com for more information.

Holy Family, 3720 N. Sterling Ave., Peoria, 61615

Reservation forms for Cursillo weekends in 2023 will be available. Men's weekend #1218 takes place Mar 23-26 and

Women's weekend #1219 takes place Jun 1-4 Both at St. Anthony in Bartonville!



First Sunday of Lent Page 5 February 26, 2023

PND Seniors Awarded Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish

- Performed above national average on the AAPPL language proficiency exam
- Will receive the Seal of Biliteracy, or the Seal of Commendation, upon graduation
- Helps earn college credit, scholarships, and/or acceptance into abroad programs.





Please join us for the...
40th Annual
PND Blue &
Green Gala:
A Ticket to Ride

Click PND Gala |

2022/2023 (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.

Diocese of Peoria — Office of Tribunal

The Catholic Diocese of Peoria – Office of Tribunal located in the Spalding Pastoral Center is recruiting a *Full-time Administrative Assistant/Notary*. This individual provides administrative support to ensure efficient operation of the office and carries out administrative duties such as drafting correspondence, filing, copying, organizing documents and communicating with written and verbal skills.

Proven knowledge and experience of Microsoft Office, excellent organization, attention to details, problem solving, time management, and ability to multi-task and prioritize work are required skills.

Bi-lingual (Spanish) speech and knowledge of annulment process are advantages.

Competitive wages with a benefits package that includes medical, dental, vision and 403(b) plan.

Forward your resume with references to humanresources@cdop.org.

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	Change of address/phone
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, 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.

Holy Hour for the Unborn

Saint Mark Church
1113 W. Bradley Avenue, Peoria
7:00 P.M., March 6th, 2023
Holy Hour consists Benediction, the Rosary,
and other prayers.

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.



www.laserelectricinc.com





309-495-0179 1209 W. Main Street Peoria, IL 61606

Aging Care Management, LLC

48 Years Experience Working With The Aged

Sandi Kistner, MSW, c-ASWSM nt • Consultation • Recommendation • Direct Care e in Filing Long Term Care Insurance Claims 309-231-0318

OM SMITH PLUMBING CO. §

ILLINOIS LICENSE 055-004303

Plumbing • Heating • Sewering • COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

Том Ѕмітн tsptom@mtco.com www.tomsmithplumbing.com

Peoria Heights, IL (309) 688-5114

429 E. Sciota



campbellappraisals.com Lise: 309-645-0406 Parishioner

REFINANCING • HOME EQUITY LOANS • PURCHASING • CONSULTING



PEORIA EAR, NOSE & THROAT GROUP

7301 N KNOXVILLE AVE. • 309-589-5900

- Parishioner JAMES A. GERAGHTY, M.D.



Davison-Fulton Woolsey-Wilton Funeral Home

2408 W Willow Knolls Dr. Peoria, IL (309) 691-3456

PRAIRIE HOME ALLIANCE

CUSTOM BATH

Parishioner Steve Jackson, President Showroom Hours: M-F 9-5; Sat. 10-3 309-699-9517

203 EASTGATE DRIVE Washingtion, IL prairiehomealliance.com

Real Estate Tax Appeals

Commercial • Industrial • Residential

309-256-6700 Mobile • 309-693-2600 Office • 309-693-6200 Fax

Email: bob@mcquellon.com • www.mcquellon.com

MCOUELLON CONSULTING, INC

President / CEO and Parishioner

Robert W. McQuellon, MBA

500 School St. Washington, IL

309-745-3300

storage@zosky.com ezstoragellc.com

very Detail Remembered



Dignity

group

Davison-Fulton Woodland Chapel 2021 N. University St. Peoria, IL (309) 688-5700

Mcomm Group, Inc.

Channel Marketing

Alumnus/Parishioner



SUNROOMS

YEP, WE DO

THAT TOO

Attorneys at Law PARISHIONER: GARY E. SCHMIDT

> 676-1381 ksswf.com

> > WOOD FRONT



Tammy Vu Parishioner



DISCOVER SCHERER, YOU'LL LOVE IT HERE.

SCHERER MAZDA

Keri Thierer

Sales Consultant

2300 W Pioneer Pkwy 309.691.0300 SchererAuto.com

Proud mother of Aberdeen (St. Thomas class of 2026)





Scherer Lincoln Volvo

2200 W Pioneer Pkwy 309.691.9880

LINCOLN

SchererAuto.com

DISCOVER SCHERER, YOU'LL LOVE IT HERE.



HealthInsuranceExchange

Focusing on the health insurance needs of small businesses & individuals

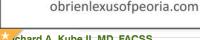


309.637.5322 PARISHIONER

101 South West Adams, #700 drochford@rochfordlaw.com

Become a weekly business presence within your

droe@diocesan.com



nchard A. Kube II, MD, FACSS



TOYOTA OF PEORIA

obrientoyotaofpeoria.com

O'BRIEN LEXUS OF PEORIA

Minimally invasive spine surgery Physical therapy on site

Parishioner

7620 N University St. Office: 309-691-7774

www.prairiespine.com

KRUMHOLZ BROTHERS

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS
Landscape • Excavating • Erosion Control

www.krumholzbros.com DAVE & RICHARD KRUMHOLZ

KEMP MFG. CO.

Precision Machining & Assembly of Casting, Forging & Steel Products





wyman-group.com | 309.685.8222 114 West Stratford Dr. Suite E | Peoria

"We've Got You Covered Since 1910" 1025 N Sheridan Road

Your New Home for School Uniforms! 309-671-4543 www.sharrisuniforms.com



JIM ROCHFORD & ASSOCIATES

parish community

Call **Don Roe** 616.340.8580