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

terrimoon@stthomas-church.net

Bulletin Editor: Peggy Sullivan.....(x1301) peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net

Accountant: Julie Streid.....(x1340)

juliestreid@stthomas-church.net

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

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

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

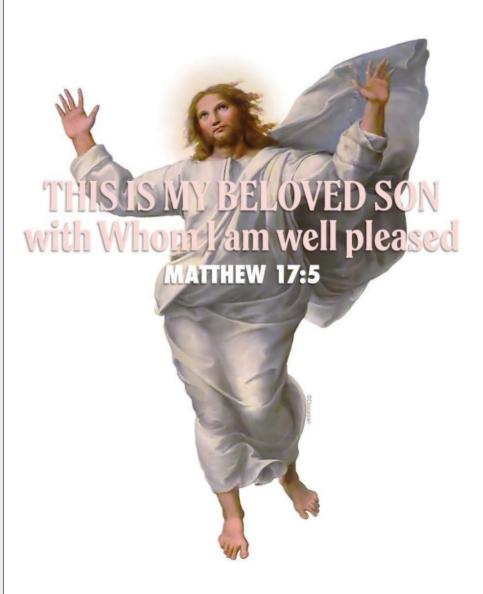
John Mackoway...........699-5213
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)
parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

Stay in Touch

- 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).



March 5, 2023 Second Sunday of Lent





Our eighth-grade students will be confirmed by Bishop Tylka this week on Tuesday. Please remember them in your prayers. For all those who have been confirmed, let us continue to call on the Holy Spirit to guide us. Confirmation is a sacrament that we receive once, but it remains efficacious throughout our entire lives and continually challenges us to respond to the invitation of discipleship to follow Jesus Christ.

As we continue through Lent, I encourage each of us to take advantage of this privileged time of Lent to grow in our spiritual life. Lent is not a suffering to be endured but an opportunity. Lent is not about what we lose, but what we gain through grace.

Oftentimes, we may speak about what we do during Lent (such as going to extra Masses, saying extra prayers, attending Stations, or making sacrifices). These common Lenten practices are valuable, but not primarily because we have "accomplished something" on the road to greater holiness. If we shift our mindset, we should look at our Lenten practices as instruments that bring us closer to Jesus, or that help us become more humble, or that challenge us to be lest enslaved by the passing things in the world. I encourage you to take advantage of our religious activities, not simply to have a large number of people present at an event, but because they are beneficial for our souls. May Lent be a time for you to love the Lord more, and in loving him, to love your neighbor.

I encourage you to mark your calendars for the Parish Mission we will have on Sunday evening, March 26 and Monday evening, March 27. In this mission, we will all be challenged to live our faith more courageously as a disciple called to evangelize those around us. If you know anyone who hasn't been to Mass in a while, please pass along word and encourage them to come.

- -Msgr. Gray

Sponsor of the Week



Focusing on the health insurance needs of small businesses & individuals Chase Bank Building • 411 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria IL 61602 www.HealthInsuranceExchangeCl.com 309-740-9850



Readings for the Week of March 5, 2023

Sunday Second Sunday of Lent

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

Monday Daniel 9: 4b-10; Luke 6: 36-38

Tuesday Sts. Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs

Isaiah 1: 10, 16-20; Matthew 23: 1-12

Wednesday St. John of God, Religious

Jeremiah 18: 18-20; Matthew 20: 17-28

Thursday St. Frances of Rome, Religious

Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Luke 16: 19-31

Friday Genesis 37: 3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21: 33-43, 45-46

Saturday Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20; Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Sunday Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17: 3-7; Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8; John 4: 5-42 OR

John 4: 5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 6, 2023

7:00 a.m. Dr. Gerald Schwab/Mike & Bernadette Shekleton

8:00 a.m. Richard Kube Sr./The Watts Family

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

7:00 a.m. Tho Dang/Jane & Mark Golowski 8:00 a.m. Lou Phelan/Anne Blackford 7:00 p.m. Kevin Myszkowski/Family

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

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

8:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Stark, SJ./Bernadette Shekleton

Thursday, March 9, 2023

7:00 a.m. Velma Stear/George & Connie Burek 8:00 a.m. Mary Helen Runkle/John & Gina Wetzel

9:15 a.m. Jarlath & Lucille Watson

Friday, March 10, 2023

7:00 a.m. Bette Grimm/Joe & Sandy Whalen 8:00 a.m. Jim Becker/Ron & Jackie Gilles

Saturday, March 11, 2023

8:00 a.m. Dr. James N. Kenny, Sr./Family 5:00 p.m. Dr. Jay Alameda/Family

Sunday, March 12, 2023

8:00 a.m. For the People

10:00 a.m. Intentions of the Zarley Family/Mary Ann Noe

5:00 p.m. Kevin Sipes

Week of March 5

ST VINCENT DE PAUL AND FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, March 5, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, March 7, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CONFIRMATION Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 p.m., Church

CCD Wednesday, March 8, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, March 8, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WALKING WITH PURPOSE Thursday, March 9, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

THAT MAN IS YOU Friday, March 10, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program begins at 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

STS SCHOOL CLOSED Friday, March 10 for Teachers' Inservice

CONFESSIONS Friday, March 10, 6:00 p.m., Church

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Friday, March 10, 7:00 p.m., Church

SCIENCE PALOOZA Saturday, March 11, 9:00 a.m., School Gym

CARMELITES Saturday, March 11, 11:00 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Mission

March 25-27

Pray with the Pope

March 2023

For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Weekly Collection

February 26, 2023

		FISCAL YID
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$700,000
Sunday Collections	\$11,886	\$456,832
Electronic Collections	\$2,984	\$125,844
Total Collected	\$14,870	\$582,676
Over/(Short)		\$(117,324)

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

Charlie Lavin father of Natalie Ray

Jackie McNamara mother of Kelley Messmer

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

Topic

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 Many of us know a lot about Jesus. But, do you actually Know Jesus and have a personal relationship with Him?

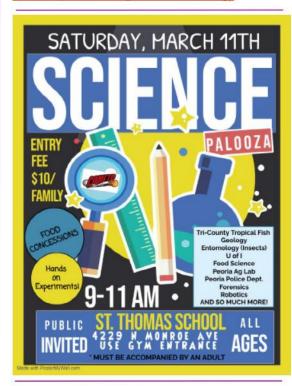


Prayer Request

The team for Men's Cursillo #1281 has begun preparation for the Cursillo that will take place the weekend of March 23-26.

Our fellow parishioner *Jim Matarelli*, has been asked to be a member of the team. Please pray for him, and all the team, as they prepare. Please pray each Monday evening as the team meets, on the weekend beginning Thursday evening, and continuing through Sunday evening.

All men of the parish, 21 and over, are invited to participate in the Men's Cursillo weekend. Sign up here: Candidate App - Online Cursillo | Peoria, IL (peoriacursillo.org)



When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus

904 E. LAKE AVE. PEORIA HEIGHTS, IL

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



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.

Rite of Election

This past weekend was the Rite of Election, one of the important steps in the process of becoming Catholic and being received into the Church. Please pray for the Candidates and Catechumens.



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.



SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023 ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL 607 NE MADISON AVE. PEORIA, IL 61603 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

GUEST SPEAKER: FATHER ERIC BOLEK

Join the Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Women Connect Ministry in magnifying the Lord this Lent. We will gather for friendship, faith and community as we share in the the rosary, a short talk presented by Fr. Eric Bolek "Magnify the Lord through the Eucharist", adoration, music and confessions. We will end the morning with mass and fellowship.

If you would like to help lead the rosary, provide music, greet, Eucharistic minister the day of the retreat, please contact April Adams 309-369-5110, Karen Flaherty 309-657-2416 or Julie Stedwill 309-369-7080

St. Thomas - Food Pantry

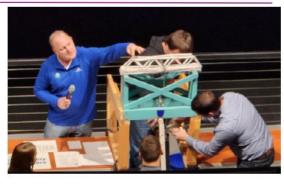
The pantry accepts any shelf-stable food items, but these items are needed most at the present time: pancake mix, syrup, jelly, crackers, spaghetti sauce, canned soup.

Thank you for your generous support!



Building Bridges

Hudson Potter, Liam Mohning, Ryan LaBarre, and Audrey Horst participated in the American Society of Civil Engineers Bridge Building Competition at Riverfront Museum. The team has been



working since January to research bridges, construct a bridge of 3x5 note cards, glue, and tape, and write a report about their process. The bridge was judged on the quality of construction, structural efficiency, aesthetics, and performance under loading.





SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023 ITOO HALL | FARMINGTON RD DOORS OPEN 6PM / TRIVIA BEGINS 7PM

> \$100/table (up to 8 team members) bring snacks for your own table cash bar (no outside drinks allowed) prizes for 1st & 2nd place teams prize for best theme-decorated table

REGISTER ONLINE & FIND MORE INFO AT ITOOSOCIETY.ORG/TRIVIA

Black London Fog overcoat left at church. If it is yours please contact the Parish Office.



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	
form.	

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.

ConfessionsSaturday 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.







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

429 E. Sciota Peoria Heights, IL (309) 688-5114



Parishioner REFINANCING • HOME EQUITY LOANS • PURCHASING • CONSULTING



- Parishioner JAMES A. GERAGHTY, M.D.

500 School St. Washington, IL

309-745-3300

storage@zosky.com ezstoragellc.com



group



Mcomm Group, Inc.

Channel Marketing

very Detail Remembered

Davison-Fulton Woolsey-Wilton Funeral Home 2408 W Willow Knolls Dr. Peoria, IL (309) 691-3456

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

KAVANAGH KS

Attorneys at Law PARISHIONER: GARY E. SCHMIDT

676-1381 ksswf.com



Dignity

Parishioner

For beautiful, strong . . . natural looking nails 683-6968 Junction City's New Building

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.

wyman-group.com | 309.685.8222

114 West Stratford Dr.

309-671-4543





Focusing on the health insurance needs of small businesses & individuals

Chase Bank Building • 411 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria IL 61602 www.HealthInsuranceExchangeCl.com 309-740-9850



presence within your



PRAIRIE HOME ALLIANCE

203 EASTGATE DRIVE Washingtion, IL prairiehomealliance.com

MCOUELLON CONSULTING, INC

Robert W. McQuellon, MBA President / CEO and Parishioner

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

HealthInsuranceExchange

ATTORNEY AT LAW

309.637.5322 PARISHIONER 101 South West Adams, #700 drochford@rochfordlaw.com

Become a weekly business





JIM ROCHFORD

JIM ROCHFORD & ASSOCIATES

parish community

Call **Don Roe** 616.340.8580 droe@diocesan.com





obrienlexusofpeoria.com



Minimally invasive spine surgery

Physical therapy on site

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

www.prairiespine.com



KRUMHOLZ BROTHERS

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS
Landscape • Excavating • Erosion Control

www.krumholzbros.com DAVE & RICHARD KRUMHOLZ



Precision Machining & Assembly of Casting, Forging & Steel Products





the