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) juliestreid@stthomas-church.net

dinator: Pat Wambacher (v1241)

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 12, 2023 Third Sunday of Lent

O Holy spirit of God;
Take me as Your disciple.
Guide me, illuminate me,
Sanctify me.

Lucas Behm Joseph Beyer Callaway Byrkit Augustus Callaway Noah Corrales **Audrey Edwards Daniel Flores Barrett Gangloff** Mitchell Goddard Patrick Graham Sean Graham Kailynn Hightower Matthew Kilian Colin Kohout Genevieve Koszuta Dominic Langholf Alexa Leon Elizabeth Leustek Lauren Leustek Carson Lott Molly McManus Liam McVay Kendra Mendez Avery Myszkowski Parker Sarff Lillian Schendl Maxwell Schmidt Cydney Simmons Aiden Tauke Noah Tockes Shaila Trujillo Taylor Ullrich Joseph Williams

Elleanor Zeck



© Diocesan



Congratulations to our eighth grade class who celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation last Tuesday. Thanks also to Bishop Tylka and our staff who helped prepare these young men and women for this sacrament.

Please note our additional Lenten devotions as we work our way through this brief season of Lent. In order to make the sacraments more available, we have an additional daily Mass and extra confessions. Daily Masses during the week are at 7 and 8 AM. Confessions are heard after all weekend Masses. On Friday evenings, we also have confessions and adoration at 6 PM and Stations of the Cross at 7 PM. If you haven't attended, these would be good resolutions to make as part of our preparation for Easter.

In particular, the Stations of the Cross are a timeless devotion especially during Lent. We hear every weekend about Our Lord's teaching, but we rarely hear about the details of his passion and crucifixion which are his supreme sacrifice of love for our redemption. Entering into the Passion and "walking" with Jesus by praying the Stations is a small way for us to appreciate this tremendous gift that Jesus has given us.

Thanks to our Men's Club, we look forward to our parish Fish Fry in a couple of weeks. Tickets are available in advance after Masses.

All Catholics in this diocese have been dispensed from abstinence from meat on Friday, March 17th in honor of St. Patrick.

Finally, if you or someone you know can plays a musical instrument, we will be looking for help with the music at our Sunday evening 5 PM Mass beginning in May. Please let me know if you are interested or have a recommendation.

- -Msgr. Gray

Sponsor of the Week



JIM ROCHFORD

ATTORNEY AT LAW
JIM ROCHFORD & ASSOCIATES
309.637.5322 PARISHIONER
1000 Orochford@rochford@w.com



Readings for the Week of March 12, 2023

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

Monday 2 Kings 5: 1-15ab; Luke 4: 24-30

Tuesday Daniel 3: 25, 34-43; Matthew 18: 21-35

Wednesday Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9; Matthew 5: 17-19

Thursday Jeremiah 7: 23-28; Luke 11: 14-23

Friday St. Patrick, Bishop

Hosea 14: 2-10; Mark 12: 28-34

Saturday St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Hosea 6: 1-6; Luke 18: 9-14

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5: 8-14; John 9: 1-41

OR John 9: 1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 13, 2023

7:00 a.m. Mary C. Hirschfield/Jeanne Whalen 8:00 a.m. Yolanda Vigilia/The Sarmiento Family

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

7:00 a.m. Gordon Jockisch/Jennifer & Jeff Shields 8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Mathers/The McGee Family

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

7:00 a.m. Sonia Gray/Jim & Liz Heatwole 8:00 a.m. Betty Pegg/The Calabro Family

Thursday, March 16, 2023

7:00 a.m. Joe Clyde & Joe Broussard/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley

8:00 a.m. Delores Oppe/Shirley Oppe

9:15 a.m. Pat Regan/Jeremy & Caroline Joplin

Friday, March 17, 2023

7:00 a.m. Msgr. William Watson

8:00 a.m. Hylee Kemp/Thomas & Phyllis Duncan

Saturday, March 18, 2023

8:00 a.m. Josh Wimmergran/Family

5:00 p.m. Rita Clark/Family

Sunday, March 19, 2023

8:00 a.m. For the People

10:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Stark, S.J./The Kuchan Family

5:00 p.m. James Spavale

Week of March 12

FISH FRY TICKETS available after all Masses

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, March 12, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, March 14, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CHOIR Tuesday, March 14, 6:30 p.m., Music Room

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Tuesday, March 14, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

CCD Wednesday, March 15, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, March 15, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, March 16, 6:30 p.m., Rudy's Cantina

ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR Thursday, March 16, 7:00 p.m., Church

THAT MAN IS YOU Friday, March 17, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program begins at 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

STS SCHOOL CLOSED Friday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day

CONFESSIONS Friday, March 17, 6:00 p.m., Church

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Friday, March 17, 7:00 p.m., Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Club Fish Fry
Parish Mission
Pancake Breakfast
Holy Hour
Adoration
March 24
March 25-27
April 2
April 20
May 5

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

March 5, 2023

		FISCAL YID
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$720,000
Sunday Collections	\$21,096	\$477,928
Electronic Collections	\$3,720	\$129,564
Total Collected	\$24,816	\$607,492
Over/(Short)	\$4,816	\$(112,508)

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

Baptism Congratulations

Mikolas James Larson son of Andrea and Brandan Larson

Beckham Crew Swank son of Jacob and Brooklyn Swank

Wedding Congratulations

Douglas Cicciarelli and Paige Webster



PARISH HOLY HOUR

Thursday, March 16 7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

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

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

Date

St Thomas Mission

Are you struggling with a loss or human suffering? Then this Mission is for you!



PARISH MISSION



2022-2023 Catechumens & Candidates

Catechumens

Dennis Merkley John Olson Paige Cicciarelli Nicholas Pitts Giselle Pitts Rush Pitts



Candidates

Anthony Birge
Douglas Juvinall
Beth Rohman
William Schisler
Ryan Tamburro
Samantha Sergott
Nick Suydam
Cheryl Sparks
Michael Sparks

Please pray for our Catechumens and Candidates as they near completion of their studies and prepare for the Easter Vigil ceremonies.



Help Needed at STS

St. Thomas School is seeking a full time resource/gifted teacher opening for the 23-24 school year. This individual works with our middle school students and oversees student accommodation plans. It would be beneficial for this teacher to hold a special education teaching license and have experience supporting students with a minor learning disability, autism, or ADHD. This teacher also works with our enrichment program.

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.

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.

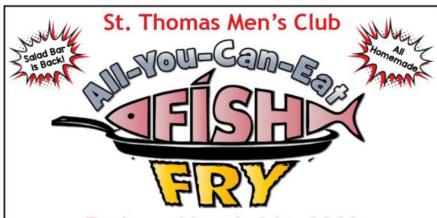
Thank you for your generous support!

Student Summer Service Hours Available

The St. Thomas Food Pantry offers an excellent opportunity for students who need service hours! Summers offer two days each week for five students to gain service hours. On Monday and Thursday mornings, federal holidays excepted, the pantry distributes groceries to neighbors in need. Packing groceries, registering pantry guests, restocking shelves, repackaging food and assisting guests to their vehicles are tasks that students will perform while under adult supervision. An additional service opportunity occurs one Thursday per month when we receive a truckload of food products from Midwest Food Bank. On these days, five students help adult volunteers unload the truck, repackage food, rotate stock and stock shelves. Students interested in earning service hours at the food pantry this summer should email Diana Janda at dianajanda1964@gmail.com.

Opportunities Available:

Monday and Thursday mornings – 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM – June 1st through August 10th Monthly Food Delivery – 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM – Dates are June 15th, July 13th and August 17th



Friday - March 24th, 2023

Serving from

5:00pm - 8:00pm

In the school cafeteria

Adults (13 & older) - \$15

Children (6 through 12) - \$10 (Fish dinner) \$5 (Grilled Cheese dinner)

Children five and under free with paid adult

Dine-In

Menu includes: Fried Fish, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Salad Bar, Bread and drink Children's Choice: Fish or Grilled Cheese

Drive-Thru (Enter the Back Parking Lot)

Adult Meal: 2 pieces of Fish, French Fries, Cole Slaw and Bread Children's Meal: 1 Fish or Grilled Cheese, French Fries, Cole Slaw and Bread

Cookies provided by the Women of St. Thomas

St. Thomas the Apostle 904 East Lake Avenue Peoria Heights, IL

...

Here is the sign up for volunteers for the fish fry. Sign up now: https://signup.com/go/fxnSMva

St. Patrick's Day Dispensation

For Catholics, the obligation to abstain from meat on Fridays of Lent is a significant element of the Church's observance of the penitential nature of this holy season. This year, however, Friday of the third week of Lent corresponds with Saint Patrick's Day (March 17) which, given the great number of Catholics of Irish descent in our diocese, has traditionally been an occasion for joy-filled celebrations. Having considered our past practices and the current circumstances, inasmuch as it would serve the spiritual good of the faithful, Bishop Louis Tylka has granted to the faithful of the Diocese of Peoria, as well as to any visitors or travelers who may be physically present within the territory of this diocese, a dispensation from the obligation of abstinence from meat on March 17, 2023.

Those taking advantage of the dispensation, however, are exhorted to undertake a work of charity, an exercise of piety, or an act of comparable penance on some other occasion during the third week of Lent.

Parish Nurse Notes

Hello to my St. Thomas Family. I met with some Parishioners for a Health & Wellness Group last month and several ideas were discussed to benefit the Parish and assist me in serving our community.

One idea was to have a regular Bulletin entry to share health tips, upcoming Health & Wellness services/programs/activities, as well as greater Peoria area opportunities concerning health and wellness. Watch for continued information on a monthly basis. Additionally, I will continue to share directly with the school through their newsletter. Lastly, I will also be creating a St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Nurse Facebook page where I can post health information on a more frequent basis. I will ask the Parish and School to share those posts for the most visibility.

We will plan to host some speakers in the upcoming months, covering topics of interest such as Alzheimer's Disease, Diabetes, Living Wills and Advanced Directives, Current Scams and Potential Vulnerable Victims. Additionally, I am trying to arrange CPR and AED instruction courses for the School and Parish. I have also had interest in a Caregiver Support Group. Please contact me if you would like to be included in such a group.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions. I am available in my office (in the lower level of the conventwing of the school) most Wednesday afternoons, 1-3 pm. I would be happy to meet with you then or can make other arrangements. On Donut Sundays, I, or a member of the Health & Wellness Group, will also be available to check blood pressures after Masses. Please stop by and let us know how we can better serve you.

Most respectfully,

Mary Clare Geraghty RN, BSN Faith Community/"Parish" Nurse



Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

The wound of abortion is real. So is healing. Rachel's Vineyard Retreat offers healing for those who struggle with the emotional and spiritual pain of a past abortion. This retreat is for singles or married couples, mothers, fathers, grandparents, siblings, or anyone impacted by an abortion experience. If you are searching for peace and inner healing from a past abortion, this retreat is for you.

Register for the *March 24-26, 2023* retreat by calling *309-264-1489* or emailing *rvrpeo-ria@gmail.com*. All communications are strictly confidential.

For more information please visit www.cdop.org/rachelsvineyard or www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Yard Clean-Up for Vets

The Illinois Valley Fuller Center for Housing is offering FREE spring yard cleanups for Veterans and widows of Veterans. Volunteers will provide a maximum of 2 hours of service *during the month of April*. To sign up for this service or to volunteer call 309-678-9552.

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.

_ast Name	 	 	
First Name(s) _			

Email _____

Phone_____

Address _____

City_____ ZIP____

New Parishioner _____ Change of address/phone _____

Fish Fry

THE ST. BERNARD MEN'S CLUB will have a fish fry on 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.

Magnify Lenten Retreat

Saturday, March 18, 2023
St. Mary Cathedral
607 NE Madison Ave.
9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Fr. Eric Bolek
Join the Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic
Women. We will gather for friendship, faith, and community as we share in 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.



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.



24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
"FREE ESTIMATES ON NEW
EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION"

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

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

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.



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

PRAIRIE HOME ALLIANCE

CUSTOM BATH

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

683-6968

Dignity

KAVANAGH KS

SUNROOMS

YEP, WE DO

THAT TOO

Attorneys at Law PARISHIONER: GARY E. SCHMIDT

676-1381 ksswf.com

WOOD FRONT





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.

the

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

MCOUELLON CONSULTING, INC

Robert W. McQuellon, MBA President / CEO and Parishioner

Real Estate Tax Appeals

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

203 EASTGATE DRIVE Washingtion, IL prairiehomealliance.com

Commercial • Industrial • Residential 309-256-6700 Mobile • 309-693-2600 Office • 309-693-6200 Fax Email: bob@mcquellon.com • www.mcquellon.com

HealthInsuranceExchange

Focusing on the health insurance needs of small businesses & individuals

ATTORNEY AT LAW

PARISHIONER drochford@rochfordlaw.com

Become a weekly business presence within your parish community

droe@diocesan.com





TOYOTA OF PEORIA

obrientoyotaofpeoria.com

O'BRIEN LEXUS OF PEORIA 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

KEMP MFG. CO.

Precision Machining & Assembly of Casting, Forging & Steel Products





JIM ROCHFORD & ASSOCIATES 309.637.5322 101 South West Adams, #700

Call **Don Roe** 616.340.8580