

## 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  
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Parochial Vicar: Fr. Achilleus Tegamaisho..  
[frachilleus@stthomas-church.net](mailto:frachilleus@stthomas-church.net)  
Fr. John Twinomujuni.....In Residence

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

John Mackoway.....699-5213

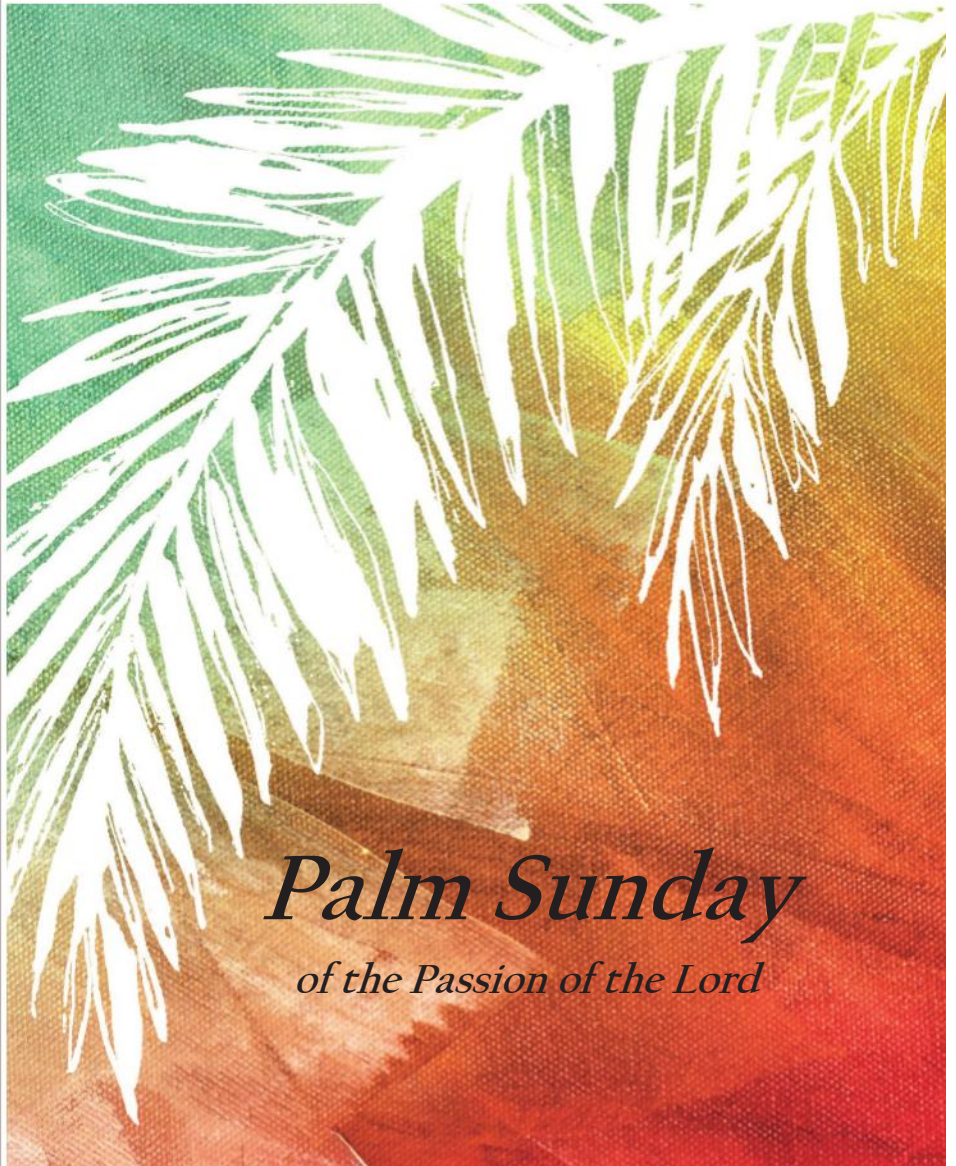
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)  
[parishnurse@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishnurse@stthomas-church.net)

### Stay in Touch

1. Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, [stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org) or the My Parish App
2. Download My Parish App to receive push notifications (Visit [myparishapp.com/download](http://myparishapp.com/download)).
3. Receive the Bulletin and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net) to sign up).
4. Bookmark the parish webpage ([stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org)).



*April 2, 2023*



*Palm Sunday*  
*of the Passion of the Lord*



## From Our Pastor

We have now entered into Holy Week as we walk these last days of Lent with Jesus to his death on the cross. On Palm Sunday we will celebrate the more solemn entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem, with the blessing of palms in the narthex at 10:00 a.m. Mass. Please note the special times for Masses on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday as well as confessions on Palm Sunday and Good Friday.

On Sunday morning you are warmly welcomed by the PTO to join in our pancake breakfast. St. Thomas School is our parish school and a part of the St. Thomas family. We are proud to support all our teachers, faculty, students, and parents. Please come to celebrate the great work of STS.

Last week we had a fantastic two day parish mission with Michael Gormley. I am pleased that so many people came out to attend. The challenge now is to put into practice the good intentions from this mission, especially the challenge to be a stronger Christian and a better disciple. I believe this is a challenge to our entire parish and that we all have a responsibility to respond to the Gospel call.

In the coming weeks, I will meet with some of the leaders of the parish to consider how we can rise to meet this challenge as a parish. I would be happy to have parishioner feedback to help. I ask you to complete the sentence: "I would be happy if St. Thomas Parish ..." Please use this open ended sentence to describe what you would hope to see at our parish. Your anonymous comments can be returned to the parish or dropped in the baskets at church. I look forward to this feedback.

- Msgr. Gray

Sponsor of the Week



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**Tammy Vu**  
Parishioner





## Readings for the Week of April 2, 2023

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b> Isaiah 50: 4-7; Philippians 2: 6-11; Matthew 26: 14—27: 66
<b>Monday</b>	Isaiah 42: 1-7; John 12: 1-11
<b>Tuesday</b>	Isaiah 49: 1-6; John 13: 21-33, 36-38
<b>Wednesday</b>	Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Matthew 26: 14-25
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Holy Thursday</b> Exodus 12: 1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26; John 13: 1-15
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Friday of the Passion of the Lord</b> Isaiah 52: 13—53: 12; Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9 John 18: 1—19: 42
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Holy Saturday ~ Easter Vigil</b> Genesis 22: 1-18; Exodus 14: 15—15:1; Ezekiel 36: 16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6: 3-11; Matthew 28: 1-10
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord</b> Acts 10: 34a, 37-43; Colossians 3: 1-4; John 20: 1-9

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, April 3, 2023

7:00 a.m. Lou Phelan/Roger & Joyce Best  
8:00 a.m. Betty Pegg/The Grawey Family

### Tuesday, April 4, 2023

7:00 a.m. Hylee Kemp/Marty & Judy Maher  
8:00 a.m. Jim Becker/Jordan Stahl

### Wednesday, April 5, 2023

7:00 a.m. Gordon Jockisch/Jeff & Jennifer Shields  
8:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB  
9:15 a.m. Lynn Goble/Family

### Thursday, April 6, 2023

7:30 p.m. Jackie McNamara/The Messmer Family

### Friday, April 7, 2023

3:00 p.m. Passion of the Lord

### Saturday, April 8, 2023

8:00 p.m. OCIA Candidates & Catechumens

### Sunday, April 9, 2023

8:00 a.m. For the People  
10:00 a.m. William B. Wombacher/Family

## Week of April 2

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST** Sunday, April 2, 8:30 a.m.,

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, April 2, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

**ROSARY** Tuesday, April 4, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**CHOIR** Tuesday, April 4, 6:30 p.m., Music Room

**CCD** Wednesday, April 5, 6:00 p.m., School

**OCIA** Wednesday, April 5, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Holy Hour	April 20
Msgr. Watson Memorial Mass	April 26
Adoration	May 5



## Holy Week Schedule

**Mon-Wed** Masses 7:00 & 8:00 a.m.

**Holy Thursday** Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 p.m.

Adoration following 8:30—11:00 p.m.

**Good Friday** Passion of the Lord 3:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross 12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Confessions 6:00—7:00 p.m.

**Holy Saturday** Easter Vigil Mass 8:00 p.m.

**Easter Sunday** Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. (no 5:00 p.m.)

## Weekly Collection

March 26, 2023

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$780,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$7,892.....	\$507,179
Electronic Collections.....	\$3,199.....	\$146,895
Total Collected.....	\$11,091.....	\$654,074
Over/(Short).....	\$(8,909).....	\$(125,962)

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](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Thank you for your support.

## Our Sympathy

Kevin O'Connell

## Lenten Devotions

**Daily Masses** 7:00 a.m. & 8:00 a.m. Monday-Friday; 8:00 a.m. Saturday

### Confessions:

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

### Fridays during Lent

6:00 p.m. Adoration and Confession  
7:00 p.m. Benediction, Stations of the Cross



## Pray with the Pope

April 2023

**For a culture of peace and non-violence**

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

## Musician(s) Needed

Beginning May 2023 St. Thomas will need one, or more, musicians for the 5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass. If you, or someone you know, play an instrument and are interested in this important ministry for the Parish, please contact the Parish Office.

**I would be happy if St. Thomas Parish**





**HELP FR. JULIUS TO CONTINUE CREATING HIS SCHOOL AND ENJOY AN EVENING OF BASEBALL AT DOZER PARK IN PEORIA SUNDAY MAY 28<sup>TH</sup> @ 6:30PM**

Great Lakes Loons VS Peoria Chiefs  
There will be a fireworks show after the game

Tickets: \$15.00 each  
\$7.00 of each ticket will go to the  
St. Patrick Boarding Primary School

After the game, before the fireworks, there will be a tennis ball toss onto the field for prizes  
We will be selling tennis balls **inside the gate** and throughout the game when you come to the ballpark.

The Chiefs will donate 50% of all money earned from the tennis ball toss to

FR. JULIUS' ST. PATRICK BOARDING PRIMARY SCHOOL

Please make checks for the game out to:  
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Any questions call: **309-264-7221** OR  
E-mail: [adolph.arnold@comcast.net](mailto:adolph.arnold@comcast.net)  
PLEASE HELP US MAKE THIS A SUCCESFULL EVENING

If you can't go to the game, you can still make a donation to:  
BUILDING HOPE IN KIDS-UGANDA  
PO BOX 612  
WASHINGTON 61571

ALL MONEY EARNED WILL GO TO: **BUILDING HOPE IN KIDS-UGANDA**  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**



## Thank You

Thank you to all the volunteers and attendees who made the 2023 Fish Fry a HUGE success! We were able to serve close to 700!

Profits from this event will help upgrade and repair the school's cafeteria kitchen which is in need of some TLC. Thanks to supporters: Schooners, Marketplace Distributors and Friar Tuck's for giving generously to our event.

Based on comments we've received, the homemade fixin's were delicious! We'll be working hard to improve our processes for next year, but always appreciate your input. Again, thanks to all volunteers! The Men's Club meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Watch the bulletin for the location. We have a great time serving God and the parish while connecting with great guys.

~ 2023 Men's Club Fish Fry Team

## 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](mailto:dianajanda1964@gmail.com).

### Opportunities Available:

Monday and Thursday mornings – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – June 1<sup>st</sup> through August 10<sup>th</sup>  
Monthly Food Delivery – 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. –  
Dates are June 15<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup> and August 17<sup>th</sup>

~ Diana Janda

Calling all young adults - Join us for  
**Divine Mercy Saturday Young Adult Gathering**

featuring a pilgrimage to Fulton Sheen's tomb along with food, games, & social time with the young adult groups from all around the Peoria Diocese. Meet many new friends without having to leave town!!

**Saturday, April 15, 2023, 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.**  
(stay for the day, arrive late, or leave early)

**Schedule:**

- 10:00am - 11:00 a.m.: View St. Mary Cathedral & Thomas More Chapel - 607 NE Madison Ave.
- 11:00am - 12:00 p.m.: Check In @ Spalding Pastoral Center - 419 NE Madison Ave. 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Sheen Museum open
- 12:00pm - 12:30 p.m.: Icebreaker Activity
- 12:30pm - 1:30 p.m.: Lunch
- 1:30pm - 4:00 p.m.: Games, Social
- 4:00pm - 5:00 p.m.: Vigil Mass @ St. Joseph - 107 North Richard Pryor Pl.
- 5:00pm - 7:00 p.m.: Dinner @ the Fieldhouse Bar & Grill - 1200 W Main St. #24

Participants are encouraged to  
**submit registration form by April 12: <https://t.ly/f8kM>**  
Questions? Contact [peoriayoungadults@gmail.com](mailto:peoriayoungadults@gmail.com)  
Hope to see you there!!

## When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



*Fifth Station of the Cross: Simon Helps Jesus carry His cross.*

*Simon didn't know just who it was he helped that day, but his act of kindness was echoed through the centuries. God is calling you to do the same. National Council of St. Vincent de Paul.*

I am writing you to emphasize the virtue of kindness (alms giving) a truly powerful virtue. I'm encouraging you on your journey of almsgiving. It is truly a powerful discipline. Giving transforms us, and brings us closest to God, enabling to give the best of oneself. The power of kindness is undeniable.

We all have encountered difficult times, especially in this day and age. St. Vincent de Paul members have helped people living in poverty and on the edge of poverty. Your donation brings hope and dignity to those in need. Your offering is a part of your own spiritual formation. It's about ministry to the poor, enabling them to maintain some hope & dignity in their lives. (It must be terrifying to be evicted from your home in five days).

Many of these people are trapped in poverty and need help, but your gift will help support them and give hope. Like Simon, you may never know who you have helped, but they will know someone cared. Thank you for answering the call like Simon and so deepen your faith.

~ Cindy Hall

P.S. Let the 5<sup>th</sup> Station of the Cross transform you to do what God has asked us to do, and change the way you see God and love Him. Let us remember a cross is lighter when two carry it. Give a great love for our neighbor so that we can help him carry his crosses by our kindness in word and action.

Enjoy a meal and support your  
St. Thomas School PTO with



Culver's of Peoria  
4612 N. University  
Peoria IL 61614

10% of Sales brought in for the week of  
**April 2nd-8th**  
will be donated to the  
**St. Thomas School PTO**

\*You are welcome to come as many times as you'd like throughout the week. Please present this flier, or digital copy, when you order\*

**ANNUAL ST. THOMAS PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
Sunday, April 2nd 8:30-1:00

Served with all you can eat Pancakes & Sausage, Coffee, Juice & Milk

**EASTER EGG HUNT @ 11:00 AM**  
**DIRECTLY FOLLOWING 10:00 AM MASS**

**RAFFLE!**

**\$5/Adults**  
**\$3/Kids**  
**\$20/Family**



## 5th Annual Randy Simmons Memorial Event

Be on the lookout! Signs are going up around town!! Registration is now open for the 5th Annual Randy Simmons Memorial Event. Cheers to another great year celebrating the best man in the best community! **ona mission of fund tuition** Proceeds benefit the scholarship in his name at PND.



SCAN ME

## Eagle Eye Summer Institutes

We invite teens, ages 16-18, to embark on an 8 day **Summer Institute** full of fun, friendship, recreation, prayer, and study July 15 - July 23.

Our retreat will be on the monastery grounds of the Community of St. John in Princeville, IL, led by Brothers and Sisters of St. John. The classes, along with Mass, the Divine Office, and a Holy Hour each day, give teens the opportunity to grow closer to Christ and be formed in the truths of the faith. Campfires, sports, and recreation offer a chance to form deep friendships with other teens dedicated to growing in holiness.

Delicious meals, lodging, recreation fees, and study materials, as well as travel and expenses for the team of religious are included in the registration fee of \$405\* (Checks to be made out to **Eagle Eye Ministries**).

Details and registration at <https://www.eagleeyeministries.org/summer-institutes/>

## 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](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Under **About** open the *New Parishioner Registration*, complete and submit the form.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**New Parishioner** \_\_\_\_\_ **Change of address/phone** \_\_\_\_\_



## PND DANCE TEAM tryouts 2023-2024

TUESDAY MARCH 28 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM *PARENT MEETING @ 5:30 PM	WEDNESDAY MARCH 29 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM	THURSDAY MARCH 30 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM	FRIDAY MARCH 31 4:15 PM - 6:30 PM
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Where: Peoria Notre Dame Gym

Mandatory Parent Meeting: Tuesday, March 28 @ 5:30 PM in the PND Commons (cafeteria).

What to Bring/Wear: jazz shoes or tennis shoes, t-shirt, leggings, water, hair pulled back in a ponytail, and your registration information from our website.

The tryout dance and requirements will be taught on March 28, March 29, and March 30. March 31 will be the judged tryout.

Please download and fill out the tryout form on our team website under Tryouts 2023-2024: <https://pnddanceteam.weebly.com/tryouts-2023-2024.html>

Results will be posted by 9:00 PM on Friday, March 31st on our team website under Team Roster 2023-2024.

If you have any questions, please contact the team at [pnddanceteam@gmail.com](mailto:pnddanceteam@gmail.com).



Sophia's Kitchen serves 300 hungry souls each day. You can help this mission with an outward expression of our Catholic beliefs. Let's brighten someone's day! This Easter egg is waiting for you to color it and attach an uplifting message. Return it to Sophia's Kitchen with your donation, and we'll enclose these notes of encouragement in lunch sacks until Pentecost. Your donation will fund daily meals, a weekly food pantry, and a pet food pantry. Let's show our neighbors that we care, not just with food, but with love. Use your favorite Bible verse, write a poem or just say "I care!" Be creative!

105 N Richard Pryor Place, Peoria, IL 61605, or online donations can be made at [www.CatholicPeoria.com](http://www.CatholicPeoria.com)



## Holy Hour for the Unborn

7:00 p.m., April 3  
Saint Mark Church,  
1113 W. Bradley Avenue, Peoria



**How to Submit Bulletin Information**  
Send information for the bulletin to [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto: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  
&  
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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