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)

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

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

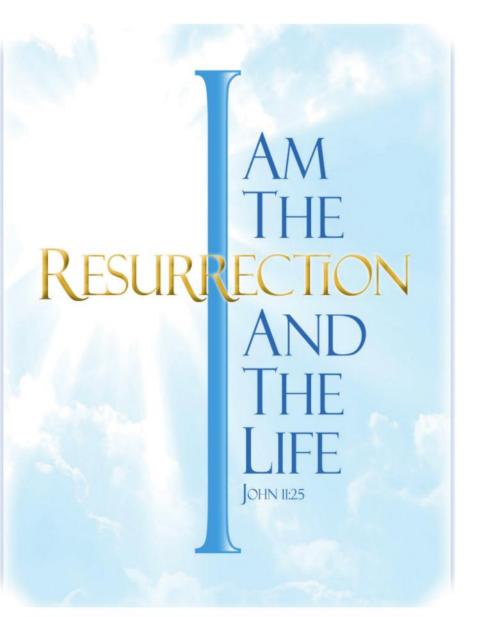
John Mackoway...........699-5213
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)
parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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).



April 9, 2023





From Our Pastor

Christus resurrexit! Christ is Risen! Surrexit vere, alleluia! He is truly risen, Alleluia!

Happy Easter to all our parish and school families. May the joy of the risen Christ be with you all.

Easter Sunday is celebrated for the octave, during the full week from Easter to the following Sunday. On Sunday, April 16, the Church celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday. For those who are familiar with the Divine Mercy Novena, April 16 brings to completion these nine days of prayer. As we did in previous years, we will have Divine Mercy devotions at 3 PM on that Sunday with an opportunity for confessions. Please join us next weekend.

There are posters in the narthex that show our progress toward renovating our carpet, pews, and kneelers. The gifts from our Progressive Dinner helped us move substantially toward our goal, but we still have a gap to close. In the coming weeks, I will invite all our parishioners to help reach our target.

You have all responded very generously to our special appeals as they have come up, and we have been able to undertake many physical improvements with your help. I also ask each of our parish families to consider your regular contributions to our ordinary collection. As costs rise every year, it is good to consider increasing our ordinary support from year to year. Many parishioners may have their regular contributions electronically scheduled on autopilot. I urge everyone to consider an increase to help us with our ordinary expenses.

We have very good news regarding Empower Illinois and the Invest in Kids Act. Your contributions to this fund not only produce a tax credit for you, but they also provide needed financial aid for many of our St. Thomas School families. This year, we have received an additional \$40,000 of corporate donations to add to this fund. Since this is tax time, I encourage you to consider making a donation to Empower Illinois that you can use as a tax credit for your 2023 State taxes.

At the end of April, we will remember the second anniversary of the death of Msgr. William Watson. Our Msgr. Watson Mass to remember all those who passed this year will take place on April 26.

- -Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of April 9, 2023

Sunday Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10: 34a, 37-43; Colossians 3: 1-4; John 20: 1-9

Monday Acts 2: 14, 22-33; Matthew 28: 8-15

Tuesday Acts 2: 36-41; John 20: 11-18

Wednesday Acts 3: 1-10; Luke 24: 13-35

Thursday Acts 3: 11-26; Luke 24: 35-48

Friday Acts 4: 1-12; John 21: 1-14

Saturday Acts 4: 13-21; Mark 16: 9-15

Sunday Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 2: 42-47; 1 Peter 1: 3-9; John 20: 19-31

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 10, 2023

7:00 a.m. Dr. James N. Kenny, Sr./Family 8:00 a.m. Betty Kane/Sandy Wedekind

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

7:00 a.m. Tho Dong/Tony Ghantous

8:00 a.m. Matt Leali/Steve, Dianna, Nolan, & Liam Janda

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

7:00 a.m. Nancy Gordon/Jeanne Whalen 8:00 a.m. Martha Long Tran/Cindy Pham

Thursday, April 13, 2023

7:00 a.m. Hafner & Smith Families

8:00 a.m. Judy Campbell/Lise Sanders Hallberg

Friday, April 14, 2023

7:00 a.m. Mary Cooper

8:00 a.m. Fred Darche/Jeanne Whalen

Saturday, April 15, 2023

8:00 a.m. Joseph Stickelmeier/Paul & Ann Horst

5:00 p.m. Deceased Members of the McCauley Family/Dave & Pat

McCauley

Sunday, April 16, 2023

8:00 a.m. Gerald & Mary Schwab/Family

10:00 a.m. Len Kuchan/Family 5:00 p.m. For the People

Thank You & Help Needed

Special thanks to *Kathy Kline* who has helped coordinate funeral luncheons and our *Martha Group* for many years. The leadership of this important ministry will now be assumed by Connie Tonsor and Mary Camp. If you are interested in helping or bringing food for funeral lunches, we can add you to our list of volunteers.

Week of April 9

PARISH OFFICE Closed Monday, April 10

STS Closed for Spring Break, M-F, April 10-14

ROSARY Tuesday, April 11, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CHOIR Tuesday, April 11, 6:30 p.m., Music Room

ST VINCENT DE PAUL Tuesday, April 11, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, April 13, 6:30 p.m., Rudy's Cantina

THAT MAN IS YOU Friday, April 14, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program begins at 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS Sunday, April 16, 3:00 p.m., Adoration & Confessions, Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



MEN'S RETREAT

The men from St. Thomas Parish are invited once again to participate in a three day Men's Retreat at White House Retreat in St. Louis. This year's retreat will begin on

Thursday evening, **September 14**th and end at 1:00 p.m. on **Sunday**, **September 17**th.

An **informational meeting** and opportunity to register for the retreat will be held on **Thursday**, **April 20**th, **at 6:30 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. More information about White House Retreat can be found at: https://whitehouseretreat.org/

If you would like to register or have questions, please contact George Burek via email at **georgeburek@yahoo.com**. These retreats offer an excellent opportunity to step away from your day to day workaday life, and deepen your spiritual life.

Weekly Collection

April 2, 2023

		FISCAL TID
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$800,000
Sunday Collections	\$15,179	\$522,358
Electronic Collections	\$8,134	\$155,029
Total Collected	•	·
Over/(Short)	\$3,313	\$(122,613)

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

Baptism Congratulations

Nico Anthony Capobianco, son of Nino & Joanna Capobianco

Emma Marie Martin, daughter of Mathew Martin & Brittney Knox



Pray with the Pope

April 2023

For a culture of peace and non-violence

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

l would	be	happy	if St.	Thomas
Parish				

Sponsor of the Week



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 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – June 1st through August $10^{\rm th}$

Monthly Food Delivery – 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Dates are June 15th, July 13th and August 17th

~ Diana Janda







HELP FR. JULIUS TO CONTINUE CREATING HIS SCHOOL AND ENJOY AN EVENING OF BASEBALL AT DOZER PARK IN PEORIA

SUNDAY MAY 28TH @ 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:
ADOLPH ARNOLD
111 REGENT CT.
EAST PEORIA IL.61611

YOU NEED TO BUY THE TICKETS THROUGH ADOLPH AND NOT THE CHIEFS TO GET THE DISCOUNT FROM THE CHIEFS

Any questions call: **309-264-7221** OR E-mail: **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 61.571

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



Congratulations National Honor Society St. Thomas Parish Inductees

Elly Bare
Katie Bruch
Niamh Hinderliter
Elsie King
Isabel Kiser
Katherine Kube
Richard Kube
Harper Lynch
Nathan Oliver
Brady Peterson

Well Done!



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!



Page 4

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently Msgr, Nolan and a number of our deacons went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Having been their myself, I know of the impact of experiencing the lands where Jesus walked. I have enjoyed listening to the excitement and deep encounters of faith form those who participated in this recent pilgrimage. Just as from the days when Jesus walked those lands, those who experience the Christian faith in these holy sites spread to the world the love and power of the Gospel by sharing of their experiences.

Each year, on Good Friday, the universal Church takes up a collection to support the Franciscans who have custody of the Holy Shrines in the Holy Land. There is a very small Christian community, and they rely on the support from Catholics around the world to maintain the sacred shrines as well as offer care and hope to the local population.

I ask you to contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection on April 7, 2023. Let us also pray for peace, especially peace in the Holy Land.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Most Reverend Louis Tylka Bishop of Peoria

You can still contribute. Please drop your designated check in the collection basket after Mass.

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.

Reservation forms will be available for Women's weekend #1219 which takes place Jun 1-4, 2023 at St. Anthony in Bartonville!

de ores

Please join Peoria Cursillo for our
April Ultreya
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
2023 Theme: "We are Companions
on the Journey"
Guests are Encouraged and Welcome!
Families are Welcome!
on Saturday, April 15;
begins at 7:00pm

Join us for a talk, Mass and social time!

Celebrant: Msgr. Jerry Ward

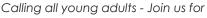
Speaker: Tim Duffy

Hosts: Kathy & Gene Brandt, Sue & Dennis Rapp

Social Time in the parish hall afterwards

You can contact the Cursillo Office at 309/676-5587; cursillopeoria@gmail.com for more information.

Blessed Sacrament, 1020 S. First Ave., Morton, 61550



Divine Mercy Saturday Young Adult Gathering

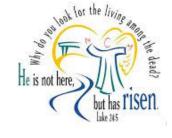
featuring a pilgrimage to Fulton Sheen's tomb along with food, games, & social time with the young adult groups from all around the Peoria Diocese. Meet many new friends without having to leave town!!

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**Hope to see you there!!



Garage Sale

Wednesday, April 19 8am to 7pm Thursday, April 20 * 8am to 5pm Friday, April 21 ** 8am to Noon * Thursday, 1/2 Off Day (Unless marked "Firm")

** Friday, Bag Day (excludes jewelry) and 1/2 Off Large Items

St. Anthony Catholic Church 2525 S Skyway Rd, Bartonville Access from Airport Rd or Smithville - Look for Signs!

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! onamissiontofundtuition Proceeds benefit the scholarship in his name at PND.

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 arounds 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/

Did you Know?

Your child <u>can</u> attend a Catholic School Financial Assistance Is Available

Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2023-2024 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are active members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed.

Information about the grants and application materials may be obtained from any Catholic elementary or secondary school in the Diocese of Peoria or on the Diocesan website www.cdop.org under Catholic Education and then under Financial Assistance. Consult the detailed protocols and procedures and checklist for all requirements necessary to be eligible for an award.

Parents must apply online at: online.factsmgt.com/aid. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for the 2023-2024 school year must reapply.

Deadline date for the completed application is April 28, 2023. Notification of grant awards will be made in June of 2023.

Another funding opportunity is also available due to the Invest in Kids Act legislation in Illinois. Students may be eligible for up to 100% of tuition and fees under a program for tax credit scholarships (TCS). Details on how to apply and who qualifies are available on the Empower Illinois website at www.empowerillinois.org. Students who receive a TCS are ineligible to receive a Spalding award.

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

New Parishioner	Change of address/phone
Phone	
City	ZIP
Address	
Phone	
Email	
First Name(s)	
Last Name	
TOTTI.	

PEORIA SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

doors open at 4:30PM Itoo Hall - Farmington Rd., Peoria









Germany

China

Lebanon

Ireland

food tastings | cultural entertainment | raffles entry fee - \$5 | \$1 food tickets available

sistercitiesofpeoria.org

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

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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