St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

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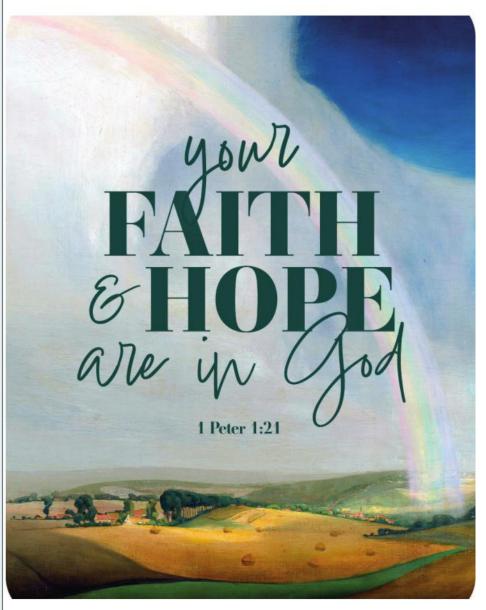
John Mackoway......699-5213

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
- Download My Parish App to receive push notifications (Visit myparishapp.com/download).
- 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 23, 2023 Third Sunday of Easter



From Our Pastor

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers (Acts 2:42).

Since our parish mission, I have asked some of our parish leaders for input regarding ways to help strengthen our parish family in the faith. Like the early Christians in the quote above, how can we be more devoted to the teachings of the Church, our parish community, the Eucharist, and to prayer?

I continue to welcome your input in the form of the open-ended sentence in the bulletin: "I would be happy if St. Thomas..." The responses I have received so far have been shared with our parish council. I encourage all of us to engage with this question so our parish may foster our spiritual and prayer life, devotion to the Mass and the Eucharist, the support of our parish family, and service in our parish and community. Please continue to reflect on this question and offer your feedback.

I plan to have a *Volunteer Fair* in the coming weeks as we have done on previous occasions. This Fair would give all our parishioners a chance to see the various activities and ministries in the parish in which you can take part.

One of those services is our funeral lunch committee, also called the Martha Group. I offer my deep thanks to Kathy Kline for her years of leadership in this mission and I thank Mary Camp and Connie Tonsor for stepping up to serve. St. Thomas offers a funeral luncheon for families following a funeral to help those grieving and their family and friends to gather after a funeral for a meal. This service is deeply appreciated by the families who have lost a loved one.

You can help by volunteering (1) to prepare a side dish for the buffet style lunch or (2) by volunteering to set up and serve the meal on the day of the funeral. When a funeral luncheon is requested, you will receive an email inviting your participation. Those who prepare a side dish can choose what you would like to bring and drop off the morning of the funeral. Those who volunteer to serve the lunch spend a couple of hours during the day helping to set up the buffet, serve drinks, set out the food, and clean up.

Are you interested in helping out? Please contact the parish office and ask to have your name or email address added to the list of volunteers. On behalf of families in need, thank you.

- - Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of April 23, 2023

Sunday Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 14, 22-33; 1 Peter 1: 17-21; Luke 24: 13-35

Monday St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest & Martyr

Acts 6: 8-15; John 6: 22-29

Tuesday St. Mark, Evangelist

1 Peter 5: 5b-14: Matthew 16: 15-20

Wednesday Acts 8: 1b-8; John 6: 35-40

Thursday Acts 8: 26-40; John 6: 44-51

Friday St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest

Acts 9: 1-20; John 6: 52-59

Saturday St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church

Acts 9: 31-42; John 6: 60-69

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 2: 20b-25; John 10: 1-10

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 24, 2023

7:00 a.m. Harry Alexander/John & Joan Varda

8:00 a.m. Matt Leali/Mark & Barb Ruff

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

7:00 a.m. Remedias Tolentino/The Sarmiento Family 8:00 a.m. Robert Brammier/Michael & Joy Tonsor

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

7:00 a.m. Ron Richardson/Patricia Waldschmidt

8:00 a.m. Katherine Oltman/Mary Camp

5:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 27, 2023

7:00 a.m. Msgr. William Watson

9:15 a.m. Rose & Gene Leihenseder/Dave & Rose Chase

Friday, April 28, 2023

7:00 a.m. Betty Pegg/The Calabro Family 8:00 a.m. Elaine & Paul Oltman/Mary Camp

Saturday, April 29, 2023

8:00 a.m. John McNally/Family

5:00 p.m. Ralph Barnett/Tom & Bonnie Stroot

Sunday, April 30, 2023

8:00 a.m. Josh Wimmergran/Family 10:00 a.m. Mike & Kathy Doran/Family

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of April 23

BAKE SALE Sunday, after all Masses

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, April 23, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, April 25, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CHOIR Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 p.m., Music Room

MSGR. WATSON MEMORIAL MASS Wednesday, April 26, 5:30 p.m., Church

CCD Wednesday, April 26, 6:00 p.m., School

OZANAM SUNDAY Sunday, April 30, Coffee & Donuts with St. Vincent de Paul Society, after morning Masses

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adoration May 5 St. Thomas Holy Hour May 18

Msgr. Watson Memorial Mass



Each year we gather as a community to pray for the faithful departed who have died in the past year. This Mass is also for all who have lost a loved one at any time. Everyone is invited to participate in this Mass.

Msgr. Watson Memorial Mass Wednesday, April 26th at 5:30 p.m. St. Thomas Church

Weekly Collection

April 16, 2023

		113Cai 11D
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$840,000
Sunday Collections	\$9,998	\$540,300
Electronic Collections	\$1,551	\$177,820
Total Collected	\$11,549	\$718,120
Over/(Short)	\$(8,451)	\$(121,880)

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

John O'Fallon

Karen Hollies, cousin of Nancy Becker

Baptism Congratulations

Madison Kathleen Bannon, daughter of Thomas & Emily Bannon



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.

I would be happy if St. Thomas Parish

Sponsor of the Week



Fiscal VTD

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 dianajanda 1964@gmail.com.

Opportunities Available:

Monday and Thursday mornings – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – June $1^{\rm st}$ through August $10^{\rm th}$

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

~ 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:
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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

Update for Masses & Confessions Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 p.m. (vigil) Sunday 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Weekday Masses

7:00 a.m. Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday (**moved to 9:15 am for school Masses**)

Confessions

Saturdays, 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. (until the last confession is heard)

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!

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.



WE'RE HIRING

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL 2023-24

QUALIFICATIONS:

- PRACTICING CATHOLIC COMMITTED TO CATHOLIC **FDUCATION**
- MASTER'S DEGREE OR HIGHER IN EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION
- OR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP;
 ILLINOIS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE CREDENTIAL (OR ELIGIBILITY);
 TEN+ YEARS TEACHING AND/OR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
- PASSION AND DEDICATION TO STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND PARENTS:
- **EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS;**
- DEMONSTRABLE COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP ABILITY.



Please join the

Martha Group

This is a group of dedicated parishioners who serve their fellow parishioners in time of grief and loss. They serve through the preparation and serving of the luncheon following a funeral.

There are no meetings. Your time commitment is as you are able to contribute.

Some contribute a side dish for the funeral luncheon, such as a potato or vegetable side. Others are here to set-up, help serve, and cleanup after.

If you think you can be as Martha was to Jesus please call or email the Parish Office and your name will be added to the volunteer list. Then, when there is a funeral you will receive an email asking for your help.



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

An *informational meeting* and opportunity to register for the retreat will be held on Thursday, April 20th, 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.

Ozanam Sunday

The members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul invite you to celebrate this special day with a donut Sunday. We will be available to share our mission with you and answer your questions.

The last Sunday in April, April 30th, this celebration is particular to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, commemorating the Society's founding on April 23, Ozanam's birthday, also on April 23, and Vincent's birth on April 24.

Bl. Frédéric Ozanam (1813 – 1853) a layman, husband, father, and college professor, was a widely known voice for the poor who founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul when he was 20 years

Two centuries after St. Vincent de Paul's time, a young man named Frédéric Ozanam arrived in Paris to study at the Sorbonne. He soon joined a discussion group, the Conference of History, where students debated a wide variety of issues. One week, during a heated debate, Frédéric and his Catholic friends were challenged by other students who believed the Church's time had come and gone, and that the problems in society were best dealt with by modern, scientific methods.

What is the good of the Church in the world today?

A brilliant debater, Frédéric Ozanam could no doubt have offered a withering reply, but he responded instead with humility, considering whether he really was doing enough to live his faith. On April 23, 1833, Frédéric's 20th birthday, he and five other students gathered in the newspaper office of Emmanuel Bailly. With Ozanam's words, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was born: "We must do what is agreeable to God. Therefore, we must do what our Lord Jesus Christ did when preaching the gospel. Let us go to the poor!"

In 1845 the first meeting of the Society in the United States was held in St. Louis at the Old Cathedral. The national council headquarters was established there in 1957. Presently there are over 100,000 members in the U.S.

For more information: https://members.ssvpusa.org/our-heritage/ history-of-the-society/

~ Tom Pilat

Principal Needed

St. Patrick Church in Washington, Illinois is seeking applicants for the **position of principal** of its parish elementary school for the **2023-24** school year. The school has grades Pre-K through 8 with an enrollment of 180. A principal application package outlining qualifications and procedures is available at https://cdop.org/careers/ or by calling the Office of Catholic Schools at **(309) 671-1550**. A review of applications will start in late April.



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 I form.

New Parishioner		
Phone		
City	ZIP	
Address		
Phone		
Email		
First Name(s)		
Last Name		
Lorent Nicros		

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FRIDAY, APRIL 28

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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

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.

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