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

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

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

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

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

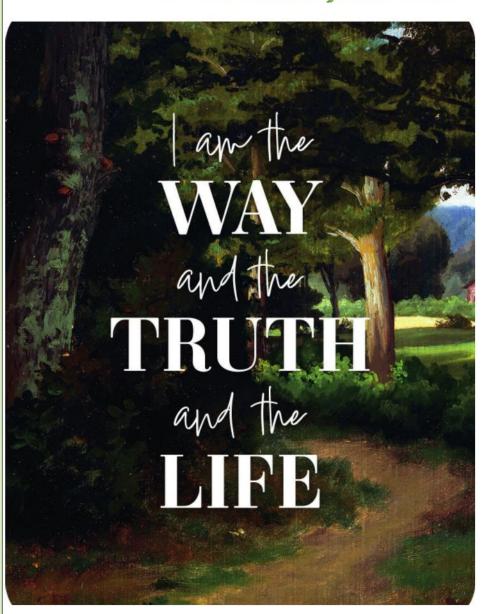
John Mackoway......699-5213

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).



May 7, 2023 Fifth Sunday of Easter





From Our Pastor

After the penitential season of Lent, we have our first Donut Sunday following Easter. Join us after Sunday morning Masses for coffee and donuts. We also welcome our third grade students and those who participate in spring sports at our 10 AM Mass.

Please remember the students preparing for First Communion. They will receive the Eucharist for the first time this coming Saturday. We look forward to seeing the faith of the little children as they approach the Body and Blood of Christ. This should be an encouragement to us all as we recommit ourselves to regularly joining in the celebration of the Eucharist.

This weekend, at the suggestion of the parish council, we have selected a handful of activities to highlight in the parish.

- 1) Our Martha Group provides funeral luncheons for families after the death of a loved one. If you are interested in learning more, please inquire and we can add you to the list of those who prepare a dish or who help to serve the meal on the day of a funeral.
- 2) We have individual activities throughout the year that depend on volunteers. Whether it is our backpack giveaway, Thanksgiving dinner, the Advent Giving Tree, or other events, we can use your help. If you are interested in being added to a list of volunteers, we can notify you when one of these events is coming up. Those who are available can help out.
- 3) Some may be interested in small group bible studies or other discussion groups. If you are interested in Scripture groups, a book club, or another opportunity to join a discussion group with others in the parish, I invite you to add your name to our list. As we organize some adult education presentations later in the year, I look forward to facilitating the interest of those who would like to deepen their knowledge of the Bible and of the faith.

-- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of May 7, 2023

Sunday Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6: 1-7; 1 Peter 2: 4-9; John 14: 1-12

Monday Acts 14: 5-18; John 14: 21-26

Tuesday Acts 14: 19-28; John 14: 27-31a

Wednesday St. Damien de Veuster, Priest

Acts 15: 1-6; John 15-: 1-8

Thursday Acts 15: 7-21; John 15: 9-11

Friday St. Pancras, Martyr

Acts 15: 22-31; John 15: 12-17

Saturday Our Lady of Fatima

Acts 16: 1-10; John 15: 18-21

Sunday Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3: 15-18; John 14: 15-21

Mass Intentions

Monday, May 8, 2023

7:00 a.m. Bob Nelson/The Nelson Famiy 8:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Stark, S.J./Cherie Fauth

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

7:00 a.m. Hafner & Smith Families 8:00 a.m. Chuck Gavin/Brian Kemp

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

7:00 a.m. Lois Frasco/Linda Osika

8:00 a.m. Glen Morton/Dan & Bonnie Brown

Thursday, May 11, 2023

7:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB

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

Friday, May 12, 2023

7:00 a.m. Cyril & Mary McNamara/Jeanne Whalen

8:00 a.m. Dr. Bill & Nancy Marshall

Saturday, May 13, 2023

8:00 a.m. Judy Meisinger/Don & Amy Gries 11:00 a.m. Vito Martinez/The Wayne Family 5:00 p.m. Msgr. William Watson/Paul Sauer

Sunday, May 14, 2023

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

10:00 a.m. Eloise Crank/St. Vincent de Paul Society

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of May 7

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

COFFEE AND DONUTS after morning Masses, Parish Hall

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

ROSARY Tuesday, May 9, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CHOIR Tuesday, May 9, 6:30 p.m., Music Room

ST VINCENT DE PAUL Tuesday, May 9, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

CCD Wednesday, May 10, 6:00 p.m., School

CHURCH HISTORY PRESENTATION Wednesday, May 10, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

FIRST COMMUNION Saturday, May 13, 10:00 a.m., Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Thomas Holy Hour May 18
Adoration June 2

April 26th, **Diana Janda**, a member of our Parish, and Director of the Food Pantry, received the Rose Award.

The Rose Award is given to women of faith whose lifestyle exemplifies the mission statement of the National Council of Catholic Women – Spirituality, Leadership and Service.



Dcn, Ed Mallow & Diana Janda

Weekly Collection

April 30, 2023

		riscui i i D
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$880,000
Sunday Collections	\$9,528	\$567,090
Electronic Collections	\$2,280	\$182,834
Total Collected	\$11,808	\$749,933
Over/(Short)	\$(8,192)	\$(130,067)

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

Mike Powers, son of Dennis & Patricia Powers

Teresa Walker, mother of Pennie Schachtrup

Michael Sullivan

Pray with the Pope

For church movements and groups

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

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

Sponsor of the Week



Eigeal VID

Emmaus Days 2023

Sessions 1 and 2 will be held at St. John's Catholic Newman Center in Champaign, Illinois. Participants deepen their faith and focus on discerning God's will through prayer and the sacraments. By listening to and spending time with priests and seminarians, participants get a glimpse into their lives. Session 1 is for those who are in college, as well as single men in their 20s and 30s who are discerning their vocation.

REGISTRATION FOR 2023 IS ONLINE AT WWW.COMEANDFOLLOWME.ORG

Session 1 June 9-11, 2023

College Age & Young Adult St. John's Catholic Newman Center Champaign, IL

Session 2 June 23-26, 2023

High School Juniors & Seniors St. John's Catholic Newman Center Champaign, IL

Sessions 3 and 4 will be held at Peoria Notre Dame High School (this is an update as of April 2023). Led by seminarians, participants hear God's call to become real Christian men. The experience includes prayer, talks and activities like basketball, soccer, ultimate frisbee and card games.

Session 3 July 16-19, 2023 Session 4 July 19-21, 2023

High School Freshmen & Sophomores; Seventh & Eighth Graders
Peoria Notre Dame High School
Peoria Notre Dame High School



Women and Girls of All Ages In the month of our Mother Mary Join us Saturday, May 13 9:00-11:30 am for a Morning of

Prayer, Honor, and Blessings Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Peoria

As we immerse ourselves in beautiful music, song, and liturgy, surrounded by the beauty of the Mother Church of our diocese, we will honor Mary and **all** women of our diocese. "Blessed are you among women; blessed in turn all women, too."

We will recognize mothers of priests and seminarians with special seating in pews with ribbons.

The morning will include:

Recitation of the Most Holy Rosary with prayer and song
Procession bringing flowers to Mary's altar
Holy Mass- Fr. Chase Hilgenbrinck officiating
Honoring of all Graduates and Rose Award Scholarships presented

*The Rose Award Scholarships encourage young women who actively live their Catholic faith to continue their participation and grow in leadership, spirituality, and service throughout their lives. For, in the words of Saint John Paul II, "the liberating message of the Gospel of Life has been put into your hands, and the mission of proclaiming it to the ends of the earth is now passing to your generation."

We invite you to bring flowers from your yard to be placed on Mary's altar during the procession.

No registration is required.

Sponsored by the Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (PDCCW)
and Women Connect Ministry

*If you have not heard of the PDCCW Rose Award, ask your parish priest about it. Nomination and essay information was sent in an email to all parishes of the diocese in March. Questions: contact April Adams at 309-369-5110

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 quests, restocking shelves, repackaging food and assisting quests 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 dianaianda 1964@amail.com.

Opportunities Available:

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

~ Diana Janda



Empower Illinois

The Invest in Kids Scholarship Program is scheduled to sunset in 2023 unless the State Legislature extends the program. Empower Illinois has officially launched a big push in Springfield to remove the sunset and they need our help! Please email or call your legislators to remove the sunset on this important program.

Phone2Action- Three options to use/sign up:

- Text the number **52886** the message RTS and click on the link that
- is texted back to you.

 2. Click on this link: https://p2a.co/gmqrehi and
- 3. Use the QR Code below.

enter zip code



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, spaghetti sauce, canned corn, Hamburger Helper.

Thank you for your generous support!

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 clean-up 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.



St. Thomas Parish Council

Ann Kube, President, and the full list of Council members can be found on our Parish website: **stthomaspeoria.org** under the About tab, then Directory.

History of the Catholic Church

During the classes for new Catholics (OCIA), we weren't able to have the last class on The 2000 Year History of the Catholic Church. However, this presentation has been rescheduled in two presentations. Everyone is invited to come.

Trace the history of the Church from Pentecost and the first preaching of the Apostles down to Pope Francis. The two one-hour presentations will be offered in the Parish Hall on **Wednesday**, **May 3 and May 10**, at **7:00 p.m.**. Please join us.

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. Registration for the retreat will be made on May 20th for the parish group. If you register at this time, with the group, the \$50 deposit is waived. 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 life, and deepen your spiritual life.

Fr. Marc Nkulu Joining us in June

Fr. Marc, who is coming to St. Thomas in June, was ordained in Kinshasa, D. R. Congo May 10, 2015. He has served parishes in Nigeria and D. R. Congo and as Vice-Superior and Bursar of the Society of African Missions (SMA) in D. R. Congo before coming to the US. In the US he served in the SMA Summer program in Hudson, MA and as Chaplain at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, NJ. He has been in the Peoria Diocese since April of this year. *Please give him a warm welcome when you see him.*



Bishop Tylka will ordain Deacon Ignacio Cardenas, Deacon Daniel Dionesotes, Deacon Nathan Hopper and Deacon Patrick Wille to the Order of the Priesthood at the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception. Please keep them in your prayers.



Bishop Tylka will ordain Nick Conner, Jacob Martini, and Jack Swoik to the transitional diaconate at the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception. Please keep them in your prayers.





The Peoria Notre Dame Dance Team will be having a dance camp for girls 4 years old through 8th grade. It will be held from 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM June 12 - 15, 2023. The cost is \$60 per dancer. Visit the link below to sign up:

Please email us at

if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

PND Junior Football League Registration

Join us for the Summer Football Camp June 12-15 from 9:00 -11:00a.m. at Mark Bills -Cost is \$50 Signup is open for all fall seasons at https:// www.ndjfl.com. Tackle, Flag, and Cheer



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

New Parishioner	Change of address/phone
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Email	
First Name(s)	
Last Name	
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Mr. Mike Domico mdomico@sainted.org

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Do You Wish to Make or Renew Your Consecration to Our Lady?

The Militia of the Immaculata will host a fourpart preparation for consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

> Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17 and 24 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Little Garden of the Immaculata 2106 W. Heading Avenue, West Peoria.

The program includes talks, video presentations, Q&A periods. Printed materials will be provided. Participants will have an opportunity to make or renew their consecration on Wednesday, May 31, the Feast of the Visitation.

There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Please call or text Antonella Di Piazza, FKMI, at (331) 223-5564 or email

MINational@MissionImmaculata.com

P.S. Watch the film about the MI! click MI Movie - Militia of the Immaculata and please tell others about it! Now also on the MI YouTube channel (click here). Please subscribe to the MI YouTube channel and "like" our film and videos!

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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