## 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

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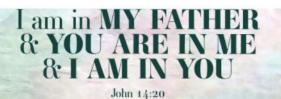
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350) parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

#### 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
- 2. Download My Parish App to receive push notifications (Visit mypari-shapp.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).



## May 14, 2023 Sixth Sunday of Easter



Congratulations First Communicants

> Eliana Arriaga James Barnes Francesco Capobianco Knox Cowan Taylor Dennhardt William Gardner **Riley Hackett** Cassidy Kepple Thomas Knecht Andrew Le BraeLvnne Mansfield Emma Martin Diana Mendez Vivian Ortiz Beatrice Pearsall **Colson Peitzmeier** Jaxon Pennell Camden Ray Stella Scrivner Lincoln Shields **Carter Simmons** Quincey Sparks Lily Tamburro Lincoln Wayne



Congratulations to all of our second-grade students who have made their first Holy Communion. Let us all be reminded of the importance of the Eucharist in our Catholic Faith. Also note that Adoration is this Thursday at 7 PM.

Part of Fr. Achilleus' responsibilities in the United States is raising funds for the missions in his Diocese of Bukoba, Tanzania. This weekend, he will explain the work that takes place in his diocese and how we can help support them. Before he takes his next assignment, we thank Fr. Achilleus for being with us and this appeal is a way we can express our encouragement.

Next weekend, we will have the ordination of three new deacons for the Diocese of Peoria, followed by the ordination of four new priests on Memorial Day weekend. Please keep these men in your prayers as they begin their service of our Lord.

During Lent, many people found it helpful to have confessions after each of the Masses on the weekend. I thought this would be a nice practice to continue periodically. Therefore, next weekend we will offer confessions after all Masses for those who would like to take advantage of this opportunity.

Thank you for your contributions to Saint Thomas parish, and especially to the Annual Diocesan Appeal last year. You should know that we have exceeded our goal and the parish is now receiving rebates from the ADA that come back to our parish.

Thank you also for your support of the *Invest in Kids Act* and the tax credit contributions that many of you have made for our school children. The bulletin has information about how to contact your State legislators to express your support of this program. I encourage you to stand up for this program that has brought over \$100,000 in tuition assistance to our St. Thomas School families.

- -Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of May 14, 2023

Sunday	<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3: 15-18; John 14: 15-21
Monday	<b>St. Isidore</b> Acts 16: 11-15; John 15: 26—16: 4a
Tuesday	Acts 16: 22-34; John 16: 5-11
Wednesday	Acts 17: 15, 22—18: 1; John 16: 12-15
Thursday	<b>St. John I, Pope &amp; Martyr</b> Acts 18: 1-8; John 16: 16-20
Friday	Acts 18: 9-18; John 16: 20-23
Friday Saturday	Acts 18: 9-18; John 16: 20-23 <b>St. Bernardine Siena, Priest</b> Acts 18: 23-28; John 16: 23b-28

## **Mass Intentions**

#### Monday, May 15, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist
8:00 a.m.	Betty Kane/Sandy Wedekind

#### Tuesday, May 16, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Intentions of Ed & Cathy Mallow
8:00 a.m.	Martha Lang Tran/Cindy Pham

#### Wednesday, May 17, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Grace Cafaro/Denise Noell
8:00 a.m.	Fred Darche/Dave & Lynn Wargo

#### Thursday, May 18, 2023

7:00 a.m. Robert Moushard/Robert J. Peters Family 9:15 a.m. Charlie Lavin/St. Thomas School

#### Friday, May 19, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Dick Flores/Joe & Sandy Whalen
8:00 a.m.	Jim Barkley/Eileen McDonough

#### Saturday, May 20, 2023

8:00 a.m.	Steve Roth/Kitty Bienemann
5:00 p.m.	Betty Pegg/The Grawey Family

#### Sunday, May 21, 2023

8:00 a.m.	For the People
10:00 a.m.	Jane Doran & Ann Wombacher/Family
2:00 p.m.	Kevin Myszkowski/Family
5:00 p.m.	Patricia Messmer/Family

### St. Thomas the Apostle Church

## Week of May 14

FR. ACHILLEUS Mission Appeal at all Masses this weekend

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, May 14, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, May 16, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CHOIR Tuesday, May 16, 6:30 p.m., Music Room

PARISH COUNCIL Tuesday, May 16, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office

ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR Thursday, May 18, 7:00 p.m., Church

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Adoration



**PARISH HOLY** HOUR

Thursday, May 18 7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.



June 2

## Pray with the Pope May 2023

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.

## Are You Interested?

Are you interested in volunteering for our funeral luncheons or for our other annual activities? Are you interested in bible studies or other study groups? If you didn't fill out an interest slip last weekend, please pick one up on the tables in the narthex and drop it in the collection or at the Parish Office.

## Weekly Collection

May 7, 2023

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$900,000
Sunday Collections	\$14,593	\$581,683
Electronic Collections	\$8,715	\$191,558
Total Collected	\$23,308	\$773,241
Over/(Short)	\$3,308	\$(126,759)

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**

Athalia Marie Matule, daughter of Senia & Edmund Matule

Oaklynn Rayne Hines, daughter of Madelyn Bell & Jesse Hines

> Michael Xander Bell, son of Sarah Lawrey & Skyler Bell



l would be happy if St. Thomas Parish



## **BUKOBA CATHOLIC DIOCESE:** 2023 MISSION APPEAL

Bukoba Catholic Diocese is one of the 34 dioceses found in Tanzania, East Africa. It is located in the northwestern part of the country, on the shores of Lake Victoria. The Diocese has a population of 1.1 million and out of these, 58% are Catholics. The Diocese is made of 40 Parishes and more than 300 outstations. Almost all of the parishes and mission stations in Bukoba are in underdeveloped areas. Small scale farming is the main occupation of these poor and needy people.

Meeting the expenses of running the Diocese with its institutions is a big challenge to the diocesan authorities. Because of this, the diocesan Bishop of Bukoba, requested for participation in 2023 Missionary Appeal Plan in some of the Dioceses in America. Apart from sharing pastoral activities in the mission lands with American dioceses, through this programme, the Bishop requests for donations to support pastoral and social activities in the diocese. In 2023 Missionary Appeal, Bukoba Diocese requests donations/funds for three main programmes: Meeting Costs for Priestly training (future priests training costs), Support to Diocesan Catholic Schools (especially as far as safe and clean water is concerned) and costs for mission church construction/building.

Thanks to Peoria Catholic Diocesan authorities, but above all to Msgr. Jason Gray and St Thomas community who have allowed Bukoba Catholic Diocese to have an appeal requesting financial help in supporting construction of one of the outstation churches in the Diocese. The amount needed for the whole work is about USD \$65,500.00, (foundation, wall structures, roofing, shutters and finishing). Locally the people have started collecting building materials, site clearing and raising some funds for this project. Still it is too high for them. So, a gift of any size from you will makes a huge difference. Each one of us is invited to participate in the Diocesan efforts to bring God's love and concern to the less fortunate brothers and sisters through support of this year's Mission Appeal. Please consider making your generous gift today. Whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward (Mt. 10:42).

## **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 St. John's Catholic Newman Center Champaign, IL

#### Session 2 June 23-26, 2023

High School Juniors & Seniors 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 Session 4 July 16-19, 2023 July 19-21, 2023 High School Freshmen & Sophomores; Seventh & Eighth Graders Peoria Notre Dame High School Peoria Notre Dame High School

## 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 dianaianda1964@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 15<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup> and August 17<sup>th</sup>

~ Diana Janda



## St. Thomas the Apostle Church

## 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!

## Thank You

Thank you to the St. Thomas Men's Club for your generous donation toward the charter bus for our trip to the Steubenville Youth Conference this summer! -Your St. Thomas Teens !

## **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:

- 1. Text the number **52886** the message RTS and click on the link that is texted back to you.
- Click on this link: https:// p2a.co/gmqrehi and enter zip code



3. Use the QR Code below.

## Celebrating Motherhood ~ Respect Life

The month of May is truly a celebration of motherhood. Traditionally, May has been dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is also the time in which we honor and thank our earthly mothers for their sacrificial love. And the Feast of the Visitation on May 31 celebrates the meeting of two mothers—Mary and Elizabeth—both with a child hidden within their wombs.

To find prayers and learn more about how we can support mothers-to-be please visit: **Pro-Life Resources** | **Respect Life** 



#### Parish Nurse Notes May is Stroke Awareness Month: Know the Facts About Stroke

Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in the United States and the leading cause of serious long-term disability.

Anyone, including children, can have a stroke at any time. Every year, about 800,000 people in the United States have a stroke—and about 1 out of 4 of those strokes are recurrent strokes. Having one stroke means you have a greater risk of having another (or recurrent) stroke.

Several factors that are beyond your control can increase your risk for stroke. These include your age, sex, and ethnicity. But there are many unhealthy habits, such as smoking, drinking too much alcohol, and not getting enough exercise, that you can change to lower your stroke risk. Using tobacco products and having high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, or obesity can also increase your risk for stroke. However, treating these conditions can reduce your risk. Ask your doctor about preventing or treating these medical conditions.

#### If Stroke Happens, Act F.A.S.T.

#### **F**—Face drooping

- Ask the person to smile. Does one side droop?
- A—Arm weakness
- Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward? **S**—Speech difficulty
- Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Are the words slurred? T---Time to call 9-1-1
- If the person shows any of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately.

#### https://www.cdc.gov/stroke/docs/Know\_the\_Facts\_About\_Stroke.pdf

~ Mary Clare Geraghty



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, 2025. The cost is \$60 per dancer. Visit the link below to sign up: tps://pnddonceteam.weebly.com/2023-sum mer-kids-camp.html Please email us at pnddonceteam@gmail.com 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

PEORL NOTRE DAME 2023 Senior Art Show Join us! Friday, May 19th 6:00-8:30 PM PND Commons

## **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.

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

# JOIN US IN THE PND COMMONS

Come check out the capstone projects presented by our AP Research seniors from 6-8 PM on Wednesday, May 17th! Students explored a wide range of topics from mozzarella cheese to sustainable jewelry to Taylor Swift!



## 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!

## St. Thomas the Apostle Church

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 & 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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