St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

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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).



May 21, 2023 The Ascension of the Lord



JESUS WAS TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN



From Our Pastor

This weekend is a Confession Weekend. During Lent, many parishioners found it helpful to be able to go to confession after all of our weekend Masses. Since this was so beneficial, I will plan to offer confessions after each of our Masses one weekend each month. If you haven't been to confession since Lent, this weekend is available for you. Confessions will be heard after Saturday evening Mass as normal, and also after the three Sunday Masses this weekend.

Congratulations to our 8th grade students who will graduate this Sunday. Best wishes also to the PND students graduating in a week, especially out STS alumni. May St. Thomas watch over you in the years ahead.

Please remember the three deacons who are ordained this weekend, as well as the four priests to be ordained next weekend. You can encourage vocations to the priesthood by suggesting to the young men of the parish, 7th grade and up to attend Emmaus Days this Summer. The high school juniors and above have retreats in Champaign on June 9-11 or June 23-26. The high school sophomores and below have retreats at Eagle Crest Camp, Washburn, on the week of July 16th. Please inquire for more information.

In addition to graduations and ordinations, we will have a farewell for Fr. Achilleus on the weekend of June 3-4, with a reception for him after all Masses. If you would like to volunteer to help with this reception, please contact the parish office.

Finally, to help organize the narthex and keep things more tidy, I put in a rotating pamphlet rack in the back of the Church. Take a look to see what materials are available. Please help yourselves to anything of interest. In addition to parish information, our parish nurse and pro-life committee will also provide resources that are available to you in this display rack.

- - Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of May 21, 2023

Sunday The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1: 1-11; Ephesians 1: 17-23; Matthew 28: 16-20

Monday St. Rita of Cascia, Religious

Acts 19: 1-8; John 16: 29-33

Tuesday Acts 20: 17-27; John 17: 1-11a

Wednesday Acts 20: 28-38; John 17: 11b-19

Thursday St. Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Acts 22: 30; 23: 6-11; John 17: 20-26

Friday St. Philip Neri, Priest

Acts 25: 13b-21; John 21: 15-19

Saturday St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

Acts 28: 16-20, 30-31; John 21: 20-25

Sunday Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2: 1-11; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-7, 12-13;

John 20: 19-23

Mass Intentions

Monday, May 22, 2023

7:00 a.m. Dr. James N. Kenny, Sr./Family 8:00 a.m. John Griffin/Dave McCauley

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

7:00 a.m. Hafner & Smith Families

8:00 a.m. Susie Draher

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

7:00 a.m. Deacon Frank Eaton

8:00 a.m. Eugene Poignant/Dianna & Chris Russick

Thursday, May 25, 2023

7:00 a.m. Viola Horst/Paul & Ann Horst 8:00 a.m. Charlie Lavin/The Barkley Family

Friday, May 26, 2023

7:00 a.m. Lois & Nick Frasco/Linda Osika 9:15 a.m. Ava Malana/The Sixth Grade Class

Saturday, May 27, 2023

8:00 a.m. Judy Meisinger/Don & Amy Gries 5:00 p.m. Ralph Barnett/Tom & Bonnie Stroot

Sunday, May 28, 2023

8:00 a.m. Josh Wimmergran/Family 10:00 a.m. Jim Becker/Don & Ruth Stahl

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of May 21

WOMENS'S CARE CENTER Donation envelopes in the narthex

STS GRADUATION Sunday, May 21, 2:00 p.m., Church & Parish Hall

CONFESSION Immediately Following All Masses this Weekend

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, May 21, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, May 23, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CHOIR Tuesday, May 23, 6:30 p.m., Music Room

STS LAST DAY OF SCHOOL Friday, May 26

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adoration June 2
St. Thomas Holy Hour June 15
Father's Day Celebration June 16

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.

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 basket or at the Parish Office.

Weekly Collection

May 14, 2023

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$920,000
Sunday Collections	\$10,328	\$592,002
Electronic Collections	\$444	\$192,002
Total Collected	\$10,772	\$784,013
Over/(Short)	\$(9,228)	\$(135,987)

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

Thank You

These past two weeks we had the opportunity to hear presentations on the History of the Catholic Church. *Thank You Msgr. Gray* for the enlightening and entertaining hours.

History of the Catholic Church (Part 1) -YouTube History of the Catholic Church (Part 2) -YouTube

Prayer Request

Two members of St. Thomas have been chosen to serve on the team for the upcoming Women's Cursillo June 1st through June 4th. Connie Tonsor will be serving as a Board Advisor and Kathi Simmons will be an Assistant.

Please pray for these ladies, and all the women participating in the Cursillo weekend.

l would	be	happy	if St.	Thomas
Parish				

Sponsor of the Week



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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 Catholic Newman Center Champaign, IL

Session 2 June 23-26, 2023

High School Juniors & Seniors St. John Catholic Newman Center Champaian, 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 4

Session 3 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

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

Early identification and intervention for hearing loss is important. Many people live with unidentified hearing loss, often failing to realize that they are missing certain sounds and words. Checking one's hearing is the first step toward addressing the issue.

Protect your hearing! And if you already have hearing loss or are experiencing pain, discomfort, or ringing in the ears, take steps to keep it from getting worse.

Some people may not want to admit they have trouble hearing. Hearing problems that are ignored or untreated can get worse. If you have a hearing problem, see your doctor. Hearing aids, special training, certain medications, and surgery are some of the treatments that can help.

Health Effects of Hearing Loss

- Hearing loss can affect cognitive health. Studies have shown that older adults with hearing loss have a greater risk of developing dementia than older adults with normal hearing.
- Cognitive abilities (including memory and concentration) decline faster in older adults with hearing loss than in older adults with normal hearing.
- •Older people who can't hear well may become depressed or withdrawn from others because they feel frustrated or embarrassed about not understanding what is being said.
- •Sometimes, older people are mistakenly thought to be confused, unresponsive, or uncooperative because they don't hear well. These circumstances can lead to social isolation and loneliness.
- Hearing loss, even small amounts, is also linked to an increased risk for falls.
- Hearing loss can affect public as well as personal safety, such as the ability to drive safely, when warning sounds are harder to hear.

https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/better-hearing-and-speech-month/ index.html

https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/hearing-loss-common-problem-olderadults ~ Mary Clare Geraahty, Parish Nurse

Support the Women's Care Center

Please take home a baby bottle envelope to help support the Women's Care Center during the weekend of May 20-21.

After 10 years of loving and serving women, over 10,000 women have come for their vital services. **One in five** preanant women in Peoria begin their pregnancy with Women's Care Center. They are currently expecting 512 babies!

They need our prayers and financial support to continue their life saving mission. Thank you and God bless.

Student Summer Service Hours in the Food Pantry

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.

Contact: dianajanda1964@gmail.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



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!

Congratulations!

Ten of our STS athletes competed in the *IESA State Track Meet*. All our athletes have worked hard and many have set personal bests for time and distance.



Congratulations on your outstanding season!

Summer at Newman

The St. Joseph Newman Center (located next to St. Mark Church-Peoria) is hosting summer Small Groups for incoming college freshmen. The groups are open to any 2023 high school graduates, regardless of plans for next year. They do not need to be planning to attend Bradley or ICC in the fall! The idea is to build community among these students and encourage them to pursue a life of faith and virtue in college.

We will begin meeting in early June, but students can join at any time.

For more information or to register please contact: Sara Petty, Campus Minister at stjosephnewman@gmail.com or Conor Walsh, President at cwalsh@mail.bradley.edu.

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.





Musician(s) Needed

Beginning May 2023 St. Thomas will need one, or more, musicians for the 5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass. We would be happy to have several musicians share and play only 1 or 2 times/month. You will not need to cantor.

If you, or someone you know, plays organ, piano, or guitar and are interested in this important ministry for the Parish, please contact the Parish Office.







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

pnddanceteam@amail.com

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

Joshua Camp 2023

Saturday, June 10, 2023 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Redeemer Presbyterian Church 2025 N Kickapoo Creek Rd Peoria, Illinois

Pro-Life Education Day Free for High School Students Free T-shirt, food, and fun, too! Call 309-360-9687 to register Bonus: \$50 Camp T-shirt design

contest

Sponsored by Central Illinois Right to Life

LIFE & FREEDOM RALLY

Saturday, June 24, 2023

RALLY GATHERING 7:00 P.M.

Spalding Pastoral Center 419 NE Madison Avenue, Peoria, IL



FEATURING ELAINE RIDDICK

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	

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 summer sessions at https://www.ndjfl.com Tackle, Flag, and Cheer

Peoria Area Performing Arts School Presents Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

> Peoria Players Theater Friday, May 26—7:00 p.m. Saturday, May 27—1:30 & 7:00 p.m. Sunday, May 28—1:30 p.m.

Visit **performpeoria.com** for tickets

*** SAVE THE DATE *** ORDER YOUR TICKET TODAY! **CUBS** at **CARDINALS**

Thursday, July 27 - 6:45 pm

\$100 includes:

- BUSCH **EXPRESS** · Round trip bus transportation
- . Drop-off at Busch Stadium
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Contact Adolph Arnold ASAP! 309-264-7221

All proceeds to St. Patrick School in Uganda

Memorial Mass

You're invited to come and pray.

St. Joseph of Arimathea Chapel Resurrection Mausoleum 7519 N Allen Rd. Peoria, IL

Memorial Day - Sat, May 27 at 9:30 am with Color Guard and Salute

Salute at Veterans Memorials



American Legion Peoria Post #2

Sunday, May 28, 11 am St. Mary's Cemetery

Sunday, May 28, 12:15 pm St. Joseph's Cemetery

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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