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. Marc Nkulu..... frmarc@stthomas-church.net Fr. John Twinomujuni......In Residence

Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB

(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

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Dcn. Ed Mallow......360-7735 Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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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
- 2. 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).



June 25, 2023 Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time





From Our Pastor

This weekend there will be extra confessions heard after Masses. In addition to our regular confessions before and after the Saturday evening Mass, confessions will also be heard after each of the Masses on Sunday as well. This is offered to make us overcome sin and reconcile ourselves to God. The month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus that presents us with this sign of God's merciful love. Take advantage of this opportunity.

A guide to confessions with an examination of conscience is available outside the confessionals in the chapel area. You can also find the examination of conscience on our website under Liturgy and then Mass and Confession schedules.

You can also find information about confession on My Parish App. Tap the confession icon and you will see a guide, an examination of conscience, and the Act of Contrition on the next screen.

Next week we celebrate the feast of our patron, \$t. Thomas the Apostle, on Monday, July 3rd. We will have our regular daily Masses at 7 and 8 AM. I encourage you to make a special commitment to attend daily Mass on this day which has special importance to us at \$t. Thomas Parish. Let us honor this apostle who recognized the risen Lord before him. \$t. Thomas has seen the risen Christ and believed, but blest are those who have not seen, but have believed.

We will follow the holiday schedule on July 4th with Mass at 9 a.m.

I have explored the possibility of distributing the Precious Blood at the 10 a.m. Mass on Sundays. This was suspended during the pandemic, and not everyone is comfortable or interested in receiving the Precious Blood from a common cup. I will continue to evaluate this practice in the coming weeks.

For those with celiac disease, it is worth noting our regular practice for those who cannot tolerate gluten. It has been our custom to offer low gluten hosts by approaching the priest celebrant of each Mass. The priest who is the main celebrant will have a small container of low gluten hosts for those in need.

Please pray for those who will participate in Emmaus Days this summer and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. The Lord is the Good Shepherd, and we ask Him to call young people to this precious vocation.

- -Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of June 25, 2023

Sunday Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20: 10-13; Romans 5: 12-15; Matthew 10: 26-33

Monday Genesis 12: 1-9; Matthew 7: 1-5

Tuesday St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Genesis 13: 2, 5-18; Matthew 7: 6, 12-14

Wednesday St. Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr

Genesis 15: 1-2, 17-18; Matthew 7: 15-20

Thursday Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles

Acts 12: 1-11; 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16: 13-19

Friday The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

Genesis 17: 1, 9-10, 15-22; Matthew 8: 1-4

Saturday St. Junipero Serra, Priest

Genesis 18: 1-15: Matthew 8: 5-17

Sunday Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16a; Romans 6: 3-4, 8-11;

Matthew 10: 37-42

Mass Intentions

Monday, June 26, 2023

7:00 a.m. Richard Lemoine/Kitty Bienemann

8:00 a.m. Virginia Wurthmann

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

7:00 a.m. Hafner & Smith Families

8:00 a.m. Mary Kay Barkley/The Barkley Family

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

7:00 a.m. Frances Farraher 1st Anniv./Larry Tadie

8:00 a.m. Martha Long Tran/Cindy Pham

Thursday, June 29, 2023

7:00 a.m. Melvin & Lucille Noe/Mary Ann Noe

8:00 a.m. Patrick Regan/Kathleen Ray

Friday, June 30, 2023

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Mike & Veronica Axelson/Michael & Whitney

Axelsor

8:00 a.m. Robert Maushard/Robert J. Peters Family

Saturday, July 1, 2023

8:00 a.m. Kevin Wood/Bill & Joan Krumholz 5:00 p.m. Melissa Chase/Dave & Rose Chase

Sunday, July 2, 2023

8:00 a.m. For the People

10:00 a.m. Jim Becker/Tony & Jeanita Grebner5:00 p.m. Harry Alexander/The Alexander Family

Week of June 25

EXTRA CONFESSIONS WEEKEND June 25, After all Masses

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, June 25, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, June 27, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

PARISH COUNCIL Tuesday, June 27, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Thomas Solemnity

Adoration

July 7

Extra Confessions Weekend

St. Thomas Holy Hour

St. Thomas Golf Outing

July 20

August 25



Confessions

Every **Saturday 4:00—4:45 p.m.** & **6:00 p.m.** until last confession heard

One weekend per month we have **additional opportunities** for Confession **following each of the Sunday Masses**Please watch the bulletin for these dates.

Solemnity of St. Thomas

Monday, July 3rd is the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle. Please join us at either the 7:00 or 8:00 a.m. Mass to help us celebrate our Parish Solemnity.

Weekly Collection

June 18, 2023

		TISCUI TID
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$1,020,000
Sunday Collections	\$6,169	\$660,682
Electronic Collections	\$881	\$206,892
Total Collected	\$7,050	\$867,574
Over/(Short)	\$12,950)	\$(152,426)

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

Jerremiah Piad, son of Jimmy and Jespher Piad

Baptism Congratulations

Olivia Jae Donarski, daughter of Alyxandra & Kyle Donarski



Pray with the Pope

June 2023

For the abolition of torture

We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

Sponsor of the Week

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St. Thomas Monsignor Watson Memorial Golf Outing In support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Assistance Fund

Friday, August 25, 2023 • Weaver Ridge Country Club

All golf outing proceeds will be used in the support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Tuition Assistance program. The net proceeds from the outing will again fund scholarships for students at St. Thomas. The goal of the Men's Club is to fund 20 scholarships for St. Thomas families. Your support of the golf outing is greatly appreciated!

GOLF REGISTRATION \$125/Person

Golf Registration includes: Green fees, Cart, Range Balls, and Food + Drinks in the Club House after the event.

Registration Deadline Friday, August 18 th Late registration after August 18th, \$135 Per Person

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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Placement of company logo at all sponsorship levels. Logo as title sponsor on welcoming banner. Logo on all printed materials.

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- Reception Sponsor \$250 / Logo on Reception Tables
- Registration/Check-in 11:00am-11:45am
- Shotgun Starts at Noon (Be at your hole by Noon)
- · Followed by Food & Drinks in the Club House
- · Registration Deadline Friday, August 18th
- Late Registration \$135 Per Person

TEE SPONSOR \$125 / 36 Sponsors

Placement of company logo sign at the Tee Box or at the

BE A PRIZE OR RAFFLE SPONSOR

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For more information please contact:

Terri Moon (309) 688-3446 Email: terrimoon@stthomas-church.net

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Player 2:	Phone:	Amount \$
Player 3:	Phone:	Amount \$
Player 4:	Phone:	Amount \$
Sponsorship		
Sponsorship Category :		Amount \$
Ma	ke Checks Payable to: St. Thomas Men's Club	Total Enclosed \$

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Santo Niño de Cebu 25th Anniversary of **Enthronement at** St. Joseph Church



Come and join the celebration! Saturday, July 15th, 5:30 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church 103 S. Richard Prvor Place

All Santo Niño statues will be blessed during the Mass.

A potluck reception at Spalding Pastoral Center 419 NE Madison Avenue will follow immediately after Mass. Please come and join the prayerful celebration.

Novena Prayers in preparation for the 25th Anniversary Celebration will be held at St. Mark Church

1113 W. Bradlev Avenue on Thursday, July 6th through Friday, July 14th. The Novena starts at 6:00 p.m.

For more information, please call Lucy Bender at 309-258-6501 or Fannie Black at 309-453-6032

Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Saint Mark Church 1113 W. Bradley Avenue 7:00 p.m. June 5th, 2023 Holy Hour consists of Benediction, the Rosary, and other prayers. Please join us in prayer for the protection of these innocent lives and the restoration of their Constitutional rights.

St. Thomas - Food Pantry



Help
Desperately
Needed!
The food
pantry is
seeing an
increase in
the number
of families
seeking
food

assistance over the past few months. As a result, we are critically low on shelf-stable items that we routinely offer our visitors on a monthly basis. Items needed are: macaroni and cheese, rice, cereal, crackers, boxed potato/pasta sides, pasta sauce and dried pasta, canned meats, peanut butter and jelly, canned fruits and vegetables, canned soups, Hamburger Helper, pancake mix and syrup and canned beans. Please consider providing some of these items for our neighbors in need. If you are unable to shop just give a donation and we will do the shopping.

Any help you can give is greatly appreciated...thank you so much!

Thank you for your generous support!



Catholic Women's League

Rosary, Social, and Mass

Sacred Heart Church 504 Fulton St. Peoria, IL 61602



Tuesday, **July 11th 10:00 a.m.** Rosary with
Social following
12:05 pm Mass

All are welcome to attend the three events

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus

While writing this Vincentian monthly bulletin message to our St. Thomas Parish Family I am reminded of a verse from: Matthew 25: 37-40

Then the righteous will answer him saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

When we see the world and all its problems today many contemplate, "How can I really make a difference?" You can and it starts here within our Parish Community. Over the course of just a few months your St. Thomas SVDP team has encountered an unprecedented amount of need from our call center and food pantry. The situation is serious and unfortunately I believe not trending in a positive direction. All of us, regardless of our personal state of affairs, is financially and spiritually much better off than our brethren requesting a helping hand. Sometimes, that can be a hard notion to swallow, but deep down in our hearts where Christ comes to say hello, we know it's the truth. Our Federal, State, County, & Local governments are offering assistance, but we as Christians have to pick up the deficit. The need is real. The reward is great!

This is not a plea for one time assistance, but rather an ongoing pledge. Most of our neighbors asking for assistance are looking for a hand up, not a hand out. Many circumstances, some in their control and many not, have put them at a crossroads in life. We have all been there, in some shape or form, during our journey through life. We were given that hands up assistance. Christ taught us to not judge, lest we be judged. If your intention and heart are true to His teachings then we will all be better and wiser.

Christ said Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God. We are all asked to give a lot in today's world. Taxes, expenses, tuition, food, and shelter for our families, etc. Where do we draw the line? Only individually or collectively in a family setting do we know the answer. The answer is found in our hearts and conscience. When you pray ask Him for that assistance. He will answer. He just wants you to ask!

In summary, give what you can each month and for as long as you can. That can be in the form of monetary funds, food, clothing, personal hygiene items, etc... We have neighbors who need a good bed (mattress, box springs, frame—which is in good used shape) to sleep on. If you have extra food please see that it finds its way to our food pantry. There are many options. If you have the assistance we promise to get that assistance to the proper avenue.

From all of us at SVDP St. Thomas, including the neighbors we serve, our deepest appreciation for what you and yours have done in the past and going forward. Those in need we serve are most grateful for the help you generously give to them and they constantly ask us to please say thanks. As Christians, we cannot cut ourselves off from the affairs of the world, but we should never compromise our beliefs and values. Our decisions and loyalties must be decided by what furthers the common good, the basis for our Christian faith.

Humbly, Brian Barkley



56th Annual Itoo Shish-Ka-Bob ~ Saturday, June 24 (3pm-7pm) Sunday, June 25 (12pm-5pm)

The Itoo Society invites all to join us for our 56th Annual Shish-Ka-Bob at the Itoo Hall on Farmington Road.

Our traditional menu of beef or chicken kabobs, cabbage rolls, pita bread, and Lebanese salad will be served each day. Meals are \$18 each. Preorder your meals for convenient drive-thru pickup, or enjoy your meal outdoors, limited indoor seating. Live music until 10 pm Saturday, late night food options, and full-service bar.

Visit our event website at itoosociety.org/shish-ka-bob.html

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Last Name	
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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 2 June 23-26,2023

High School Juniors & Seniors St. John 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

High School Freshmen & Sophomores Peoria Notre Dame High School

Session 4 July 19-21, 2023 Seventh & Eighth Graders Peoria Notre Dame High School

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-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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