

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)
msggray@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

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

CCD Coordinator: Liz Plaskon

(309)339-4775 ..ccd@stthomas-church.net

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

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

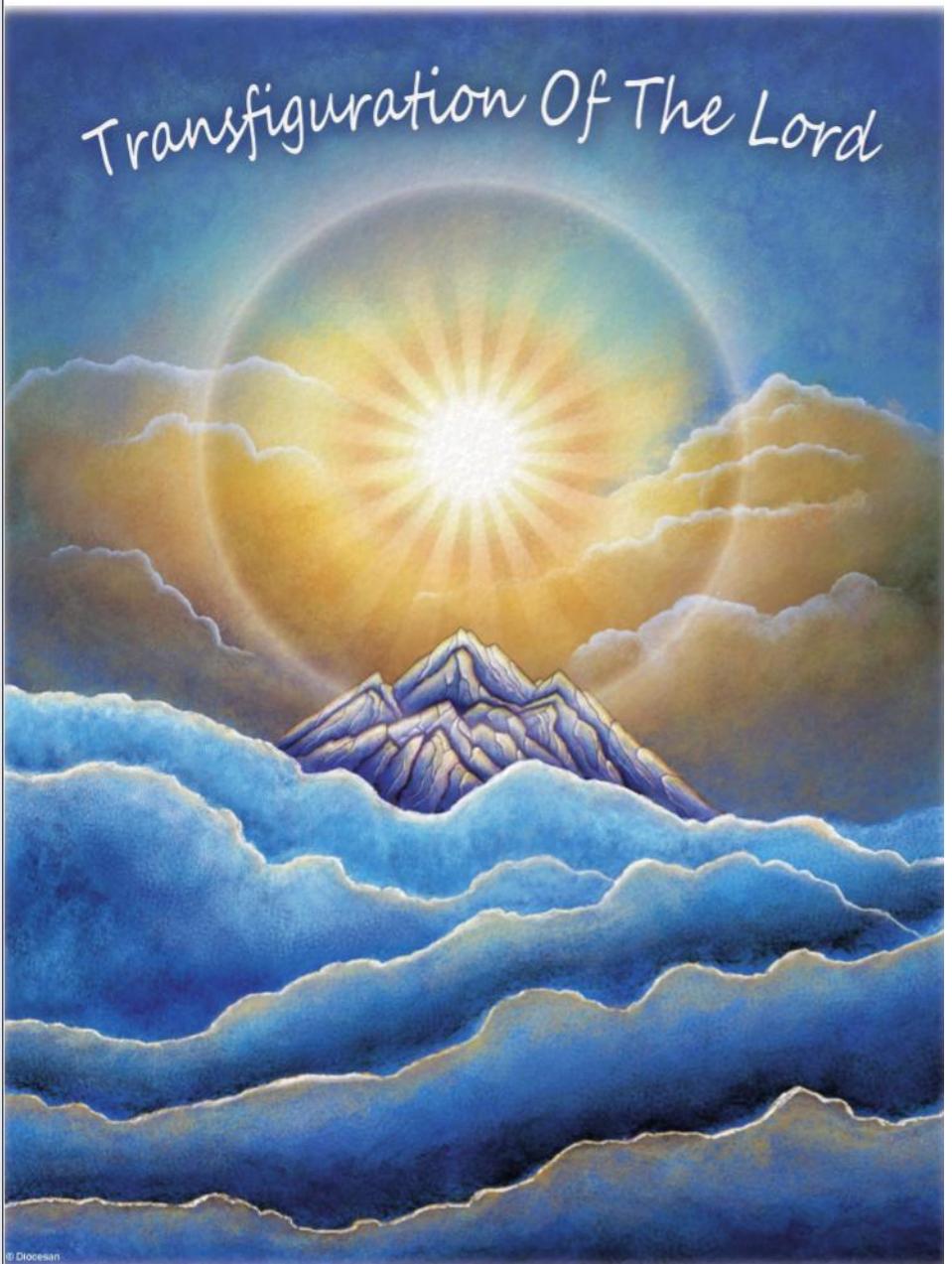
Music Coordinator: Ann Horst..... 682-5507
Annulment Consultant:
John Mackoway.....699-5213

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
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).



August 6, 2023



© Diocesan



From Our Pastor

We are preparing for a new school year and look forward to welcoming new students and welcoming back our returning students. Those in public school who participate in our grade school level CCD classes registered at the Ice Cream Social we had on August 5th. If your child needs religious instruction in our Wednesday evening CCD program, please call the parish office.

Adult catechism classes, OCIA, will begin on September 6th for those who want to learn more about the Catholic Church.

Students at St. Thomas School will begin class on August 14th. On Sunday, August 13th, our school and parish families are invited to a picnic after the 10 AM Mass. Please see the bulletin for details. Since our school and parish are all part of our St. Thomas family, I encourage everyone to join the picnic. Our primary parish apostolate is Catholic education, and it is exciting as a parish to see the vitality that comes from so many young families and children here at St. Thomas. For our school families, please know that our parishioners are so supportive. Their contributions subsidize the education at St. Thomas School and the great generosity of many of our parishioners provide tuition assistance to families in need.

For those taking part in our Book Club, we will be finishing Archbishop Sheen's autobiography, *Treasure in Clay*, this week. I will give a closing presentation on Sheen's legacy and his continuing message for the Church today. This presentation will be on Wednesday, August 16th, at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The presentation will be open to all who wish to attend. You do not need to have read the autobiography to benefit from this presentation.

Sheen made a Eucharistic Holy Hour daily since his priestly ordination. Taking to heart Sheen's call to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, I call on everyone at St. Thomas to make visits to the Church for quiet time with Jesus. Spend time with Our Lord as Jesus said to his disciples, *Watch and pray*.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of August 6, 2023

- Sunday** **The Transfiguration of the Lord**
Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1: 16-19; Matthew 17: 1-9
- Monday** **St. Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs**
Numbers 11: 4b-15; Matthew 14: 13-21
- Tuesday** **St. Dominic, Priest**
Numbers 12: 1-13; Matthew 14: 22-36 OR
Matthew 15: 1-2, 10-14
- Wednesday** **St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin & Martyr**
Numbers 13 1-2, 25—14: 1, 26a-29a, 34-35;
Matthew 15: 21-28
- Thursday** **St. Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr**
2 Corinthians 9: 6-10; John 12: 24-26
- Friday** **St. Clare, Virgin**
Deuteronomy 4: 32-40; Matthew 16: 24-28
- Saturday** **St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious**
Deuteronomy 6: 4-13; Matthew 17: 14-20
- Sunday** **Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
1 Kings 19: 9a, 11-13a; Romans 9: 1-5; Matthew 14: 22-33

Mass Intentions

Monday, August 7, 2023

- 7:00 a.m. Nancy Kelly/John & Amy Kelly
8:00 a.m. Pete Pasquel

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

- 7:00 a.m. Betty Pegg
8:00 a.m. Msgr. William Watson

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

- 7:00 a.m. Ray & Phyllis Noe/Mary Ann Noe
8:00 a.m. Matt Leali

Thursday, August 10, 2023

- 7:00 a.m. Anna Merkle/Mike & Theresa Haughney
8:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Stark, S.J.

Friday, August 11, 2023

- 7:00 a.m. Dick Whalen/Jeanne Whalen
8:00 a.m. Lillian McCadden

Saturday, August 12, 2023

- 8:00 a.m. Jim Becker & Karen Hallies
5:00 p.m. Harry Alexander/Dennis & Carol Doyle

Sunday, August 13, 2023

- 8:00 a.m. For the People
10:00 a.m. Dave Ryon/Family
5:00 p.m. John Muller/Family

Week of August 6

- ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND PANTRY COLLECTIONS** This Weekend
MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, August 6, 7:00 p.m., School Gym
ROSARY Tuesday, August 8, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel
PARISH COUNCIL Tuesday, August 8, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Tuesday, August 8, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall
MEN'S CLUB Thursday, August 10, 6:30 p.m., Rudy's Cantina
SHEEN BOOK CLUB PILGRIMAGE Friday, August 11, 5:00 p.m., Cathedral

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish/School Picnic	August 13
St. Thomas Holy Hour	August 17
St. Thomas Golf Outing	August 25

Sheen Museum Visit

We have reserved the Cathedral and Sheen Museum for a visit on **Friday evening, August 11th**. This date will be after each of our groups have completed the discussion of *Treasure in Clay* and will be a fitting time to sum up the insights into the life of Archbishop Sheen.

Anyone is welcome to attend, but an RSVP and a donation of \$10 is requested for a boxed dinner. Contact Rhonda Bachman to RSVP: rhondabachman1@gmail.com

During dinner, I will lead a group question and answer discussion of the book. The final lecture will take place the following week and will discuss the application of Sheen to the Church today.

The schedule is as follows:

Friday, August 11

- 5:00 p.m. - Mass in the Cathedral
- 5:30 p.m. - Cathedral Tour
- 6:00 p.m. - Box Dinner, Spalding Pastoral Center with Q&A and discussion led by Msgr. Gray
- 7:00 p.m. - Museum tours and gift shop open
- Depart by 7:30 p.m. or 8:00 p.m.

Please send in an RSVP if you plan to be present for dinner.

God love you!

~ Msgr. Gray

Weekly Collection

July 30, 2023

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000	\$100,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$16,777	\$58,979
Electronic Collections.....	\$1,360	\$12,274
Total Collected.....	\$18,137	\$71,253
Over/(Short).....	\$(1,836)	\$(28,747)

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

Save the Dates!



We will be hosting our very first
Light of the World Retreat
October 20-23, 2023.

This is an immersive weekend retreat experience where participants personally encounter Christ through the presentation of the *kerygma* - the basic gospel message. This retreat is meant for any adult who wishes to move ahead in their journey of faith.

Go to www.lotwem.org/retreat to learn more and watch the bulletin for registration information!

CCD Teachers Needed

Are you or someone you know interested in sharing Jesus with our school age students? Please contact Liz Plaskon CCD@StThomas-Church.net. Curriculum and supports are provided.



Pray with the Pope

August 2023
 For World Youth Day

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

Sponsor of the Week

VONACHEN
 GROUP

Diocesan 25th & 50th Anniversary Celebration

On **September 10, 2023 at 3:30** Bishop Tylka will celebrate a Mass at the Cathedral of St. Mary for couples who are celebrating either their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2023.

If you would like to receive an invitation to this event please email your names and wedding date to terrimoon@stthomas-church.net or call the parish office at **688-3446**.

Please **respond** by **August 10, 2023** to be included in this year's celebration.

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



I am a fairly new SVDP volunteer and I am frequently telling others how much I love the work. And I do! But, I was challenged to look at it a bit differently. I could spend a long time telling you the amazing stories of the many ways we have seen our efforts make a big difference in people's lives. We are able to provide financial and food assistance only because of your continued generosity. I often wish that each of you could experience what I do when I meet a neighbor in need.

But, the challenge was to tell you what this work means to me...how this program has impacted my life. I will try to convey feelings that are a bit hard to express. As I age, a few things seem more clear to me. So for me, Jesus' message in the gospels comes down to love one another.

First, we receive the request. And I am ALWAYS made aware of how blessed my life is even on what I think is a bad day. Then I get a chance to meet someone who might never otherwise come into my life. And I feel that is a privilege. I want to be part of something positive in that person's life. That makes me feel good, but more importantly, I feel as if I am doing what Jesus asks of us. There are so many problems in the world that I cannot change. But, when I can show respect and empathy to a neighbor in need and sense their relief...even when all I have to offer is listening...then I feel that I have had a spiritual encounter. I am a better person for it.

I often wish you all could come on visits with us so you can experience this special kind of joy. Now there's an idea...come and volunteer with us!

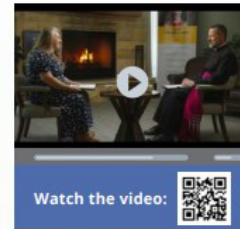
Grateful for the opportunity,
Colleen Matarelli

THE FIVE FOUNDATIONS

FOUNDATION 5: CONTINUE THE LEGACY OF VENERABLE ARCHBISHOP FULTON SHEEN



Msgr. Jason Gray, a priest of the Diocese of Peoria and Director of the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Foundation, and Katie Bogner, a teacher and creator of the "Teaching with Fulton Sheen" curriculum, discuss the legacy of Fulton Sheen in the latest Growing Disciples Five Foundations video.



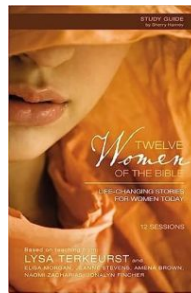
Watch the video:



Their conversation includes reflections on Sheen's teachings and devotions, such as his love for the Eucharist.



Women of the Word



Our Women's Ministry is back this fall with a new name!

Women of the Word welcomes all women, incorporates Scripture study, small group discussion, and video based talks on relevant study material. This year we will be reading **Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today** by Lysa Terkeurst.

We will meet **every other Thursday 6:30pm-8:00pm, beginning August 31st**. Childcare is provided.

Registration: **after all Masses August 19th and 20th**, or in the Parish Office.

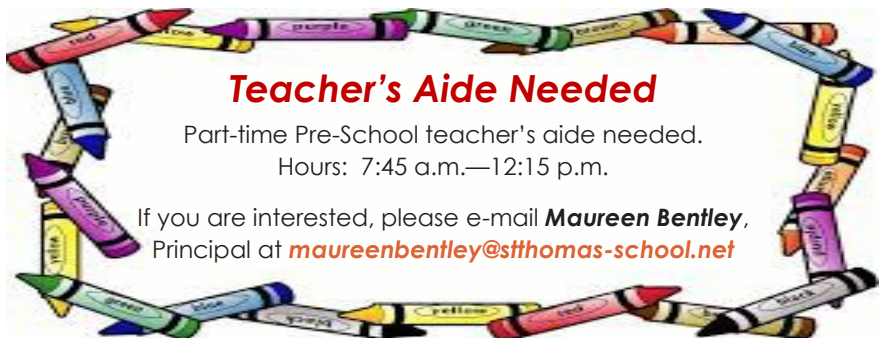


That Man Is You will begin again on **Friday, September 8th**. Registration will take place **after all Masses the weekend of August 26 & 27, 2023**.

Alternatively, you can register by sending an email to George Burek at georgeburek@yahoo.com

The new theme for TMIY Sessions this year is *The Light of Men*, featuring 9 dynamic speakers.

All men from the parish are invited to participate, and to invite others to join us. Wherever you are in your spiritual life, God wants to meet you right there, and take you farther, so add *That Man Is You* to your Friday mornings!



Teacher's Aide Needed

Part-time Pre-School teacher's aide needed.
Hours: 7:45 a.m.—12:15 p.m.

If you are interested, please e-mail **Maureen Bentley**, Principal at maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

Parents & Religious Education

The involvement of parents is always important in the religious instruction of their children. When students are learning about the faith, they naturally look to their families for an example of the faith that they are being taught. For this reason, we want to support our parents in living the faith more effectively, so our students learn to put into practice what they are taught in the classroom.

This year, we plan to involve parents and families more explicitly in the formation of our 2nd grade students preparing for First Communion and our 8th grade students preparing for Confirmation. St. Thomas will be providing our families with materials that they can use at home to supplement the instruction that they will receive in the grade school or CCD programs. I look forward to this new program that will help both our students and their families in the practice of the faith.

For our Confirmation students, we will adapt our service hour program. In the past, the students have had to meet an external requirement imposed on them to serve a certain number of hours. Sometimes, this leads to some students scrambling to fulfill a requirement at the last minute, without necessarily taking to heart the valuable lesson of serving our brothers and sisters. This year, we will ask the students to design their own service program and to monitor their own fidelity to their commitment. We will also ask the students to choose their own spiritual goals in preparation for Confirmation, based on their own commitment to pray, attend Mass, study, and serve others. I hope this will be a positive and fruitful experience for all our students preparing to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

~ Msgr. Gray

Please join us for our Annual St. Thomas Parish & School

Back to School Picnic

August 13th 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Back Parking Lot

904 E. Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights

Pack the Pews at 10:00 a.m. Mass—Proudly wear your COMET gear!

Calling all Comet Alumni and Parishioners Please stop by and say Hi!

We'd love to catch up!

Food • Outdoor Games • Music • Tropical Sno \$4

School Open for Tours



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 18th

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

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

TITLE SPONSORSHIP \$2,500 / Sponsorship

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

HOT SPOT SPONSOR

- Golf Beverage Sponsors: \$250 / Logo on Sign at beverage stations
- Reception Sponsor - \$250 / Logo on Reception Tables

TEE SPONSOR \$125 / 36 Sponsors

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

BE A PRIZE OR RAFFLE SPONSOR

Feature your business by donating a raffle or prize item. Please drop off prize or raffle item to Macro Wealth Management at 6915 N. Knoxville Ave, Peoria IL 61614 Include donor information and value (optional).

- 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

For more information please contact:

Terri Moon (309) 688-3446

Email: terrimoon@stthomas-church.net

Please Submit Payment with Registration

REGISTRATION FORM

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Golfers

Player 1: _____ Phone: _____ Amount \$ _____

Player 2: _____ Phone: _____ Amount \$ _____

Player 3: _____ Phone: _____ Amount \$ _____

Player 4: _____ Phone: _____ Amount \$ _____

Sponsorship

Sponsorship Category: _____ Amount \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: **St. Thomas Men's Club**

Mail registration along with payment to:

Terri Moon / Golf • 904 E. Lake Ave. • Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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!

As we continue to focus on the Eucharist and respond to the Bishops' call for a Eucharistic Revival

Pray

The Anima Christi

(meaning Soul of Christ)

*Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds, conceal me.
Do not permit me to be parted from you.
From the evil foe, protect me.
At the hour of my death, call me.
And bid me come to you,
to praise you with all your saints
for ever and ever. Amen.*

This is my
beloved
son with
whom
I am well
pleased.

Listen To Him.

MARK 9:7

Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

August 7, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

St. Mark Church, Peoria

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.

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italianamericansociety.com

Admission is \$3 per adult at the gate. Children under 12 are free.

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 _____



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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