

## 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  
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Parochial Vicar: Fr. Marc Nkulu.....  
[frmarc@stthomas-church.net](mailto:frmarc@stthomas-church.net)  
Fr. John Twinomujuni.....In Residence

Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB  
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Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735  
Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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Annulment Consultant:  
John Mackoway.....699-5213

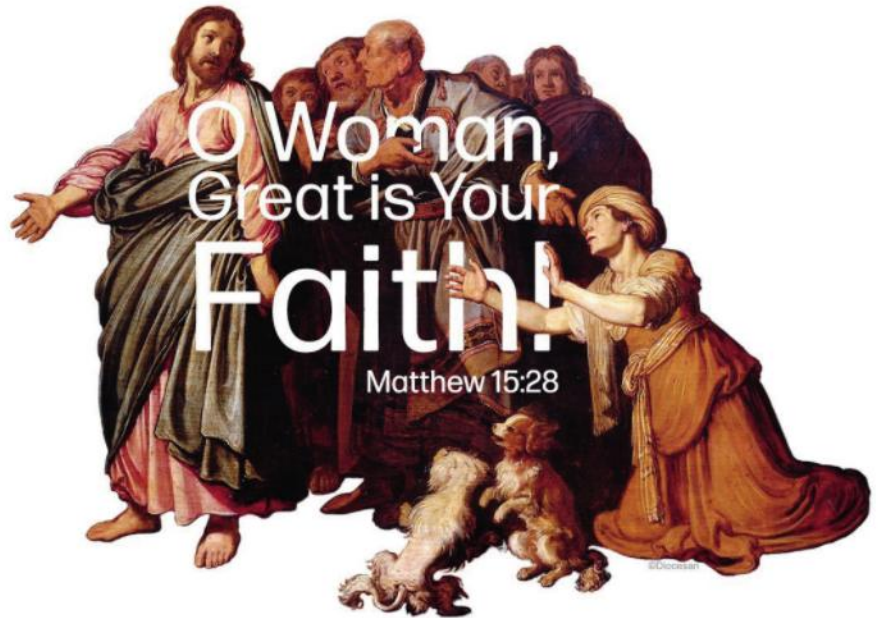
### Stay in Touch

1. Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, [stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org) or the My Parish App
2. Download My Parish App to receive push notifications (Visit [myparishapp.com/download](http://myparishapp.com/download)).
3. Receive the Bulletin and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net) to sign up).
4. Bookmark the parish webpage ([stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org)).



August 27, 2023

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time





## From Our Pastor

Thank you to the leaders of our women's group, *Women of the Word*, and our men's group, *That Man Is You*. I recommend these programs to our adult members for extra enrichment this fall.

I extend my gratitude to our Men's Club and to their successful Golf Outing. This is always an enjoyable event for the men and women of our parish.

As we return to our regular school schedule, note that our 8:00 a.m. Mass on Thursdays will be moved to our 9:15 a.m. school Mass. Please note the school schedule throughout the year, since most—but not all—of our school Masses are on Thursdays.

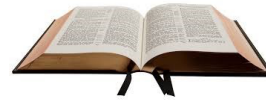
Please pray for our confirmation students who will begin their preparations this week with our first parent meeting. All parents of Confirmation students should plan to attend on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m..

Later in the fall, we will have a St. Thomas *Light of the World* retreat. Mark your calendars for October 20-23. More information will be available for those who would like to take part in this spiritual retreat offered to our St. Thomas Parish and School family.

As part of our Eucharistic Devotions, I encourage the recitation of the Anima Christi prayer. I plan to introduce this prayer after Communion as a way to reflect on the gift of the Eucharist. It offers a brief reminder of our Lord's love for us. As the prayer indicates, we enter in the Soul of Christ and receive the Body of Christ and Blood of Christ.

This fall, we will begin asking families to bring up the gifts on Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. While this custom was suspended during the pandemic, the presentation of the gifts by the faithful is an important part of the liturgy. We present our gifts to the Lord and receive Him in return. We encourage our school families as well as our parish families to take part. A sign up link will be available.

- Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of August 27, 2023

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Isaiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20
<b>Monday</b>	<b>St. Augustine, Bishop &amp; Doctor of the Church</b> 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5, 8b-10; Matthew 23: 13-22
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>The Passion of St. John the Baptist</b> 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8; Matthew 6: 17-29
<b>Wednesday</b>	1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13; Matthew 23: 27-32
<b>Thursday</b>	1 Thessalonians 3: 7-13; Matthew 24: 42-51
<b>Friday</b>	1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8; Matthew 25: 1-13
<b>Saturday</b>	1 Thessalonians 4: 9-11; Matthew 25: 14-30
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Jeremiah 20: 7-9; Romans 12: 1-2; Matthew 16: 21-27

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, August 28, 2023

7:00 a.m. Betty & Charles Ginoli/Keats Hunt  
8:00 a.m. Robert Brammeier/Connie Tonser

### Tuesday, August 29, 2023

7:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB  
8:00 a.m. Dorothy Paesani/The Catholic Women's League

### Wednesday, August 30, 2023

7:00 a.m. Msgr. William Watson/Joe & Sandy Whalen  
8:00 a.m. Bud & Mary Janke/Cindy & Susan

### Thursday, August 31, 2023

7:00 a.m. Hafner & Smith Families  
**9:15 a.m.** Jim Becker/Larry Resutko

### Friday, September 1, 2023

7:00 a.m. Intentions of the Zarley Family/Mary Ann Noe  
8:00 a.m. Betty Kane/Family

### Saturday, September 2, 2023

8:00 a.m. Mark Brewer  
5:00 p.m. Jim Konitzer/Bob & Mary Ann Knight

### Sunday, September 3, 2023

8:00 a.m. Karen Helton/John & Sonia Nelson  
10:00 a.m. Jackie McNamara/The Messmer Family  
5:00 p.m. For the People

## Week of August 27

**SIGN-UP FOR FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION** This Weekend after all Masses, narthex

**TMIY** Sign-up after all weekend Masses August 26 & 27

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, August 27, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

**ROSARY** Tuesday, August 29, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**CONFIRMATION MEETINGS** Wednesday, August 30, 6:00 p.m., Students meet in school, Parents meet in the Parish Hall

**SCHOOL MASS** Thursday, August 31, 9:15 a.m., Church, no 8:00 a.m. Mass

**WOMEN OF THE WORD** Thursday, August 31, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

**ADORATION** Friday, September 1, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

**SEPTEMBERFEST TICKET SALES** September 2 & 3, following all Masses

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Septemberfest	September 9
St. Thomas Holy Hour	September 21
Blessing of the Animals	October 4

## Women of the Word

All women of the Parish are invited to join **Women of the Word** which 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. Meetings are every other Thursday 6:30-8:00 p.m. and **begin August 31<sup>st</sup>**. Child care will be available.

If you miss the sign-up you can still register - See parish website or contact [marycushing@stthomas-school.net](mailto:marycushing@stthomas-school.net) for more information

## Our Sympathy

Katherine Sue Scherer Conner

Lois Smith

## Baptism Congratulations

Oliver Anthony & Evelyn Grace Ficociello,  
children of Kaitlyn & Roman Ficociello



## 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.

## OCIA/RCIA Schedule

DATE	TOPIC
Sept. 6:	Intro, Belief in God
Sept. 13:	Apostolic tradition, Sacred Scripture, Revelation, Faith
Sept. 20:	Biblical History, Bible Timeline
Sept. 27:	Trinity, God is Three, God is One
Oct. 4:	God the Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth
Oct. 11:	God the Son
Oct. 18:	God the Son; God the Holy Spirit; Saints
Oct. 25:	Holy Catholic Church
Nov. 1:	NO CLASS; All Saints

## Weekly Collection

August 20, 2023

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$160,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$8,010.....	\$97,731
Electronic Collections.....	\$2,250.....	\$29,491
Total Collected.....	\$10,260.....	\$127,222
Over/(Short).....	\$(9,740).....	\$(32,778)

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](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Thank you for your support.

Sponsor of the Week



**PEORIA**

**TOYOTA**

peoriatoyota.com

**LEXUS OF**

**PEORIA**

lexusofpeoria.com

## Religious Education

If you have a **1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade student not attending** a Catholic school we would be grateful to have her/him join us for CCD. Please scan to register.



To pay electronically please use link at the end of the registration form. Tuition can also be paid via check or cash. Make checks payable to *St. Thomas CCD* (may be dropped at church office or in marked envelope in collection basket at church).

### 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](mailto:CCD@StThomas-Church.net). **6<sup>th</sup> grade needed (men of the Parish are welcome to volunteer!)** Curriculum and supports are provided.

**WE ARE HIRING!**  
**Morning Lunchroom/  
Afternoon Teacher's Aide Position**  
**9:45 am-3:30 pm**  
If you are interested, please email  
Principal Maureen Bentley  
[maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net](mailto:maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net)

### Advocacy Training

St. Mark Grade School  
711 N. Underhill St. Peoria  
Advocacy training will take place in the school's gym. Please enter via the Underhill entrance.

**Wednesday, August 23, 2023  
6:00 -8:00 p.m.**

Tax Credit Scholarships have helped students across Illinois attend their best-fit school. With the *Invest in Kids Act* scheduled to sunset at the end of the year, let's raise our voices support of these life-changing scholarships.

## Ready to Bring the Love of Jesus

### 2023 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

#### Did you know that ADA supports Vocations?



Your son, grandson or nephew may have attended Emmaus Days this year. Or maybe you have a newly ordained priest or transitional deacon in your parish. Did you know that ADA helps with vocation discernment programs like Emmaus Days and with education of our future priests?

Please consider giving to ADA in gratitude for all the graces received through the hands of your parish priests throughout the years.

**Give online at [www.cdop.org/ada](http://www.cdop.org/ada).**

### When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



Recently, I was shopping at my local pharmacy. I stopped in to pick up a small toiletry item. As I wandered the aisles, I began noticing the price tags on the shelves looked different. Hmm, what had happened? Then it became clear. Where I was used to seeing 3 digits, a dollar and cents on the sign, now the signs were crowded because there were often 2 digits for the dollar amount. Something that a few months ago cost \$7.99 for instance, now may cost \$12.99. One of the least expensive men's deodorants costs about \$5 – and if you have teenage boys . . . ??

What became clear to this casual shopper is that inflation has really had an effect on routine household items. I got to thinking about the callers to our help line. How much of an effect is this having on their family budgets? How can they plan for increasing utility bills and rent payments with inflation at the pharmacy and food store slapping them in the pocketbook? The typical family we help has not seen an increase in their income that matches the higher costs. Often for these reasons they live even closer to the edge. It doesn't take much to create a big need. This time of year, many of our friends are preparing for their children to return to school. This often means new school supplies, new clothes and shoes. Surely today's prices are much higher than last year due to inflation. These pressures sometimes lead to sleepless nights and desperate choices. When they call St. Vincent de Paul Society they are often out of resources. Thank you again for sharing your resources with us so we can be of help to them. May God Bless you.

This month we are happy to welcome 3 new members to our group. Perhaps you have thought about joining us in the past. Maybe now is a good time to reconsider. If you are interested, call Nancy Medendorp, 309-678-4504. She would be happy to share our goal and mission, and answer any of your questions. Pray about it.

T. Pilat



## 2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As members of the Church, we form part of the Body of Christ. And as such, our heart beats with the Heart of Jesus. Sharing Jesus' love—right here in the *Heart of Illinois*—we can transform our families, communities, and our world. This is a great blessing; it is also a great responsibility. Our *Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)* is one of the ways that we all work together to serve our brothers and sisters out of love for Christ. The theme for the *Annual Diocesan Appeal* this year is *Ready to bring the love of Jesus*.

As our Holy Father, Pope Francis, stated, *Mission is at once a passion for Jesus and a passion for His people*. Knowing that there are so many who have yet to encounter Jesus' love for them should compel us all the more to put forth our best efforts to love as Jesus loves. I am grateful for all the ways that I see this happening across our diocese.

I ask for your generous support of the ADA to ensure our efforts of bringing the love of Jesus to others. The good that is accomplished is a direct result of our willingness to respond to the Holy Spirit's promptings to participate in the mission of Jesus. We see this in so many ways. This year, we are blessed to ordain four priests to serve in our parishes. Our Catholic Newman Centers on college campuses are reaching out to many hungry souls to encounter Christ in the Church. The promotion of the dignity of life is as important as ever and we are standing up for the rights of the unborn, the sick, and the elderly. Our Catholic Schools are not only educating our young people, they are also capturing their hearts and minds for Jesus. All these examples—and many more—are indicative of our passion for Jesus and for His people.

Once again, I ask you to join with me in supporting the ADA through prayer and by making a financial gift. Each day, I carry you in my prayers. My hope for the future is strengthened by knowing that together, we are *Ready to bring the love of Jesus*.

God love you and bless you!

  
†Most Reverend Louis Tylka  
Bishop of Peoria





# SeptoberFest

**09.09.23 5:30pm to 10:30pm on the Back Parking Lot**

**BEERS** German & American beers. Wine, soda and water will also be available.

**PULLED PORK / BUCKSHOT CORN / COLESLAW**  
From Blue Ribbon Catering.

**BAGS** Show us your stuff! There will be pickup games throughout the night.

**Will Spicher 7:30pm – 10:30pm**  
Solo Acoustic Musician

**FREE Admission!**  
Bring your chairs and blankets!

Children Welcome!

Late night **CHICKEN EGG ROLLS** compliments of **Thanh Linh** will be available

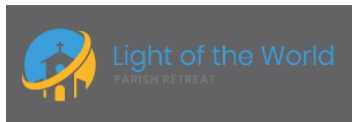
**If rain the Fest will move to the new gym.**



Sign-up for **TMIY** is THIS weekend, **August 26 & 27, after all Masses.**

All men of the Parish are invited to participate. The new theme for TMIY Sessions this year is The Light of Men, featuring 9 dynamic speakers. TMIY meets **Fridays at 6:00 a.m.**, with the first meeting **September 8<sup>th</sup>**.

### 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](http://www.lotwem.org/retreat) to learn more and watch the bulletin for registration information!

## 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!*

## Tolton: From Slave to Priest

PND High School is proud to offer a live production of *Tolton: From Slave to Priest*, the story of Venerable Augustus Tolton, American's first Black priest whose cause is progressing towards canonization. *Tolton* tells the dramatic story of Father Augustus Tolton, who escaped slavery and defied racial prejudice to become America's first Black priest, bringing a message of hope and healing for the wounds that plague our culture. The show will be held in the **PND auditorium on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** Seats will be available on a first-come first-serve basis, and the show is free of charge. We invite you and those you know to join us for this wonderful event!!

## Women's Care Center is Hiring

We are seeking counselors, nurses, and sonographers at this time. Training is provided. Full-time positions are available. Bilingual applicants desired. If you have a passion for helping pregnant women choose life, we would love to talk to you. Please send your resume to Joyce at [wccjoyce10@gmail.com](mailto:wccjoyce10@gmail.com).

## 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](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Under *About* open the *New Parishioner Registration*, complete and submit the form.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

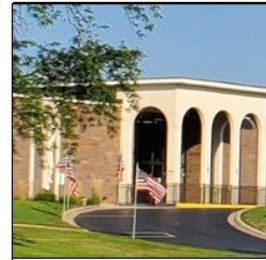
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

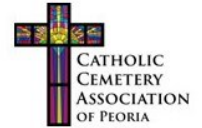
New Parishioner \_\_\_\_\_ Change of address/phone \_\_\_\_\_



**Memorial Mass**  
Labor Day Weekend  
Sat., Sept. 2, 9:30 am

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

Flags Flying at  
**St. Joseph Cemetery &  
St. Mary Cemetery in  
West Peoria  
Resurrection Cemetery  
in Peoria**



[www.ccapeo.org](http://www.ccapeo.org)  
309.691.5889

## Celebrate Irish Fest with the St. Mark Men's Club and enjoy Ireland on The Illinois River

Friday to Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>  
Peoria Riverfront

The Men's Club is assisting the Ancient Order of Hibernians with the Holy Mass on the CEFCU Stage on **Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am**. Bishop Lou Tylka will celebrate the Mass. St. Mark Men's Club is a sponsor of this year's Irish Fest - and Peoria Irish Fest will sponsor the St. Bridgid Fest at St. Mark on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

## SPOONFUL

A PAINT PARTY FUNDRAISER TO  
BENEFIT SOPHIA'S KITCHEN

**SEPTEMBER 14**

Choose one: 1 to 3 PM or 5 to 7 PM

Sophia's Kitchen | 105 N. Richard Pryor Place, Peoria

Join our guest artist Molly as you paint two bowls for \$30. Includes studio time, paint and blank bowls. Keep one for yourself and donate the other to Sophia's Kitchen to be sold at our Spoonful Fundraiser on October 29. Be a special angel and donate both bowls!

Painting will be done at Sophia's Kitchen.  
Paint and tour the kitchen!  
This event is sponsored by Fired Up Pottery.



Sign up for your shift at <http://bit.ly/spoonfulpaint>

**SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 29**

It's time for soup! Our volunteer cooks will create delicious soup for your home. Frozen soups, bakery goods, these creative bowls and more will be for sale. Watch for more information!



ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT YOUR  
NEIGHBORS IN NEED.

LEARN MORE AT:  
[FACEBOOK.COM/SOPHIAKITCHEN](https://facebook.com/sophiakitchen)



**How to Submit Bulletin Information**

Send information for the bulletin to [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto: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.

<p><b>catholicmatch®</b> Illinois </p>	
<p><b>GFL</b> environmental <b>Green For Life</b> Your full-service waste and recycling services provider. 309.688.0760   <a href="http://gflenv.com">gflenv.com</a></p>	<p><b>BuseyBANK®</b> Business   Wealth Management   Personal <a href="http://busey.com">busey.com</a> Member FDIC</p>
<p><b>Tazewell County ASPHALT CO. INC.</b> EAST PEORIA 698-8404 www.tazewellcountyasphalt.com CARL KAUFMAN SPECIALIZING IN ASPHALT PAVING • ASPHALT SEALING</p>	<p><b>BBI BISHOP BROS. INC.</b> * General Construction * Design Build * Commercial &amp; Residential Construction Management * Pre Engineered Structures DESIGNERS &amp; CONTRACTORS Dennis Bishop, Parishioner 243-5599 2800 W Alta Rd.</p>
<p><b>DENTURES PAR EXCELLENCE</b> "Excellence in Removable Prosthodontics" Richard P. June, DDS <a href="http://richardjunedds.com">richardjunedds.com</a> Parishioner 309-693-7200 Trumpeter</p>	<p><b>RASHID</b> Plastic Surgery 804 W. Trailcreek Dr. Peoria, IL Call: 309-670-0700 Text: 309-328-3248 <a href="http://www.rashidps.com">www.rashidps.com</a></p>
<p><b>KGI KELLY GLASS INC.</b> 2400 S.W. Adams www.kellyglass.com • (309) 676-3573</p>	<p><b>H&amp;M HEDIGER &amp; MEYERS</b> Insuring Your Business, Your Family, Your Future. 4208 PARTRIDGE WAY • P.O. BOX 3858 • PEORIA, IL 61612 Parishioners — WWW.HEDIGERANDMEYERS.COM 309.691.5001 COLLINS VOORHEES JAKE VOORHEES WILLIAM VOORHEES</p>
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<p><b>DISCOVERMASS</b></p>	<p><b>myParish</b> The App for Catholic Life Every Day <a href="http://www.myParishApp.com">www.myParishApp.com</a> Available on the App Store   ANDROID APP ON Google play</p>
<p><b>HEATING-COOLING-REFRIGERATION</b> RESIDENTIAL &amp; COMMERCIAL <b>DMI</b> www.dmiheatingandair.com 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE "FREE ESTIMATES ON NEW EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION" 329 N. WESTERN</p>	<p><b>Commercial</b> —24 Hour Service— • Industrial (309) 693-2400 • Residential <b>Laserelectric Inc.</b> <a href="http://www.laserelectricinc.com">www.laserelectricinc.com</a></p>
<p><b>ADVERTISE HERE</b> Get your business headed in the right direction. Contact Don Roe 616.340.8580 or <a href="mailto:droe@diocesan.com">droe@diocesan.com</a></p>	
<p><b>MONICAL'S PIZZA RESTAURANT</b> www.monicalspizza.com</p>	
<p><b>WPMJ 94.3 FM</b> <b>EWTN</b> Global Catholic Radio TUNE IN</p>	

**market place**  
SELECTIONS

**CAMPBELL**  
Real Estate Appraisals, LTD  
[cambellappraisals.com](http://cambellappraisals.com)  
Lise: 309-645-0406  
Parishioner  
REFINANCING • HOME EQUITY LOANS • PURCHASING • CONSULTING

**m comm group**  
**Mcomm Group, Inc.**  
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309-495-0179  
1209 W. Main Street  
Peoria, IL 61606

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- Parishioner -  
JAMES A. GERAGHTY, M.D.

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Order Online at [avantispeoria.com](http://avantispeoria.com)

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48 Years Experience Working With The Aged  
Sandi Kistner, MSW, C-ASWCM  
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