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

Deacon: Dcn. John Nelson.......981-2716 Dcn. Ed Mallow......360-7735

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

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
- 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).



September 3, 2023 Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time





From Our Pastor

With the help of the Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist, the Anima Christi prayer has been added to the back inside cover of the Music Issue Books. This prayer, meaning Soul of Christ, is a great prayer in honor of the Eucharist.

Fr. Stark used to introduce different prayers or traditions to help us appreciate different dimensions of our Catholic Faith. I will begin reciting the Anima Christi after Communion as a way for us to enter into the Eucharistic Renewal called for by our Bishops.

Please remember that you are also encouraged to come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, even for five minutes at different times during the week. Since we are privileged to be able to have our church open frequently during the day, it is easy for us to make a visit for prayer before the Tabernacle.

Thanks to Deacon Mallow, our bookstand in the narthex has been renewed. In place of CDs, we have a greater variety of books for purchase, especially focused on the Eucharist. Check the titles to see if one of them is of interest to you.

OCIA class for new Catholics or those who want to learn more about the Catholic Faith begins this Wednesday, September 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. I have composed some questions to start class discussion. See if you are able to answer these questions and test your own knowledge of the Faith.

Have a happy Labor Day weekend. We will resume our monthly donut Sundays beginning next weekend.

- -Msgr. Gray

*Catechism Questions for OCIA Class can be found on pg 5



Readings for the Week of September 3, 2023

Sunday Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20: 7-9; Romans 12: 1-2; Matthew 16: 21-27

Monday Labor Day

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18; Luke 4: 16-30

Tuesday 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6, 9-11; Luke 4: 31-37

Wednesday Colossians 1: 1-8; Luke 4: 38-44

Thursday Colossians 1: 9-14; Luke 5: 1-11

Friday The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Micah 5: 1-4a OR Romans 8: 28-30; Matthew 1: 1-16, 18-23

OR Matthew 1: 18-23

Saturday St. Peter Claver, Priest

Colossians 1: 21-23; Luke 6: 1-5

Sunday Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 33: 7-9; Romans 13: 8-10; Matthew 18: 15-20

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 4, 2023

9:00 a.m. Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Ed & Cathy Mallow

8:00 a.m. Lois Smith/Family

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

7:00 a.m. Kevin McCauley/Dave & Pat McCauley

8:00 a.m. Michael Desyllas/The Sarmiento & Desyllas Families

Thursday, September 7, 2023

7:00 a.m. Lou Phelan/Anne Blackford

9:15 a.m. Bob and Eva Curry/Ed and Cathy Mallow

Friday, September 8, 2023

7:00 a.m. Mary Helen Runkle/John and Gina Wetzel

8:00 a.m. Dorothy Paesani/Ann Kenny

Saturday, September 9, 2023

8:00 a.m. Jack and Frances McGinn/Mary Eaton

5:00 p.m. Jim Becker/Carolyn Grebner

Sunday, September 10, 2023

8:00 a.m. Mariano Tolentino/The Sarmiento Family

10:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of September 3

SEPTOBERFEST TICKET SALES September 2 & 3, following all Masses

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL & PANTRY COLLECTIONS after all Masses this weekend

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, September 3, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

PARISH OFFICE & SCHOOL CLOSED Monday, September 4 for Labor Day

LABOR DAY MASS Monday, September 4, 9:00 a.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, September 5, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CCD Wednesday, September 6, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, September 6, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

TMIY Friday, September 8, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

SEPTOBERFEST Saturday, September 9, 5:30 p.m., Back Parking Lot

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADA Weekend St. Thomas Holy Hour Blessing of the Animals Adoration September 9/10 September 21 October 4 October 6

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. Next meeting **September 14**.

If you missed the sign-up you can still register - See parish website or contact **marycushing@stthomas-school.net** for more information

Weekly Collection

August 27, 2023

		riscai i i D
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$180,000
Sunday Collections	\$11,889	\$109,620
Electronic Collections	\$2,124	\$31,615
Total Collected	\$14,013	\$141,235
Over/(Short	\$(5,987)	\$(38,765)

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

John Pusey

John Backes

Baptism Congratulations

Sophia Rose Durbala, daughter of Aubry & Jonathan Durbala

Pray with the Pope

September 2023
For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

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

Sponsor of the Week



Eigeal VID

ACOUELLON CONSULTING, INC

Robert W. McQuellon, MBA President / CEO and Parishioner

Real Estate Tax Appeals

Commercial • Industrial • Residential 309-256-6700 Mobile • 309-693-2600 Office • 309-693-6200 Fax Email: bob@mcquellon.com • www.mcquellon.com

5901 N. Knoxville Avenue, Suite #101, Peoria, Illinois 61614

Why do we bring gifts up during the Offertory?

The parts of the Mass often have both a historical and a theological meaning. *Historically*, early Christians would bring bread and wine from home to be consecrated at mass. They were offering the work of human hands back to the Father. This symbolized cooperation between God and humans in the creation of the bread and wine.

Theologically, we are offering ourselves on the altar, united with the sacrifice of Jesus. Why? The short answer is sin. We've all damaged our relationship with God and the Mass is the process of Christ reuniting us with the Father. St. Paul tells us that, For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. (2 Corinthians 5:21) Jesus sacrificed himself, opening the gates of heaven to us by his death and resurrection. We remember this by offering ourselves and our prayers to God the Father at Mass.

We would like to invite our parishioners and school families to begin bringing the gifts at the 10:00 am Sunday Masses this month! Please scan the QR code to sign up or call the parish office.



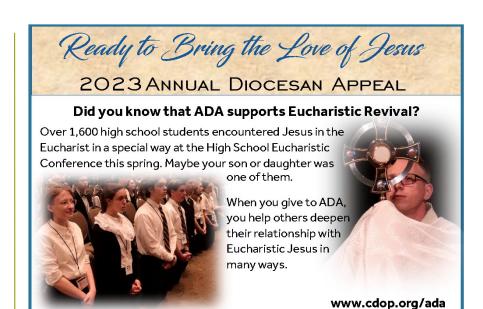
St. Thomas Progressive Dinner: Let There Be Light!

January 20th 2024
Details to coming soon!

Sheen Presentation

On August 16, Msgr. Gray presented a closing lecture to the reading of Treasure in Clay, the autobiography of Archbishop Fulton Sheen. If you want to listen to the recording of this presentation, you can find it here: https://youtu.be/9nxPtNHIp4E

The Fulton Sheen Foundation periodically sends out a newsletter to those who are interested in the Sheen Cause. If you would like to receive this newsletter, send your name and mailing address to info@celebratesheen.com or call the Sheen Foundation at 309-671-1550.



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. Hmmm, 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

EMMAUS KNIGHTS

SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 3RD | 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM | 2327 W. HEADING AVENUE. PEORIA IL.



Register for September 3: wesharegiving.org/App/Form/27248922-a2a6-4db2-9fd2-ee028de3eb84

Young men - from 7th grade to 12th grade - get together in Peoria on one Sunday afternoon per month to share in fun, food, and faith - just like we do at Emmaus Days! I invite you to Emmaus Knights from 4:30 to 6:30 PM at The Emmaus House!

Although your moms or siblings might be able to give you a ride, I encourage you to ask your fathers to bring you so that they can join in fraternity with other men from around the diocese!

You are coming from all parts of the diocese so I hope that you can share rides with people from your area and even invite some friends who have never been on Emmaus Days before to ride with you!

Catechism Questions for OCIA Class September 6 Topic: Belief in God

- Where do we find the deepest desire for God within us (CCC 27)?
- What does it mean to say that God is the first principle and the last end of all things (CCC 36)?
- What are some of the ways God has revealed Himself in the Old Testament (CCC 54-64)?
- What is God's perfect and unsurpassable Word found in the New Testament (CCC 65)?
- Will there be any further revelation (CCC 66-67)?

Answers are in the indicated paragraph numbers of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC).



Click here to sign up to help: https://signup.com/go/MpDXQON



Our shelves are once again full!



A BIG thank you to everyone for

responding so generously to our call for help in the pantry! Our shelves are back to our normal stocked status, and we are able to more effectively help our neighbors in need. Your continued support is MUCH appreciated! Thank you so much!

St. Thomas - Food Pantry

Items most needed at this time are: pasta sauce, hamburger helper, peanut butter, pancake mix, syrup, and canned vegetables.

Thank you for your generous support!

Catholic Women's League

Panera Box Luncheon and Spiritual Reflection **September 14, 2023**; St Thomas Parish Hall, Peoria Heights

11:30 Luncheon; 12:30 Reflection Program

Lunch \$15.00 Call Sandy Gasparovich 309-264-4847 to order lunch RSVP by September 6, 2023

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 9th 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!!

Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

St. Mark Church, 1113 Bradley Ave., Peoria September 4, 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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



Walk with Jesus in the Eucharist alongside hundreds of faithful in a beautiful procession just as on the first road to Emmaus.

- 6:30 7:30 Park at Our Lady of Lourdes, Bettendorf. Shuttles will be available to Moline.
- O 8am Mass at Sacred Heart Moline
- 9am Begin Eucharistic Procession with stops at St Mary, Moline and along the route. Cross the I-74 bridge and end at Our Lady of Lourdes. Route is about 3.75 miles.
- O 12pm (Estimated) Benediction



For more details and updates, go to EmmausQC.com or find us on Facebook and Instagram

NAMI Tri-County

National Alliance on Mental Illness

September focus:

Saving Lives with 988: Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Line

September Monthly Education Meeting:

Thursday, Sept. 7, 7:00 p.m. ICC Peoria, Poplar Hall, Rm 127

Eva Komar, presenter, will discuss the trained professionals who staff the Suicide Prevention Line

Monthly In-Person Support Groups meet 3rd Thursday of each month:

Sept. 21, 7:00 p.m., ICC Peoria, Poplar Hall

- Connection Recovery Support Group—for anyone living in recovery of any mental health condition, meets in Rm 127
- Family Support Group—for family members or significant others involved in the lives of anyone dealing with a mental health condition, meets in Rm 132

NAMI Tri-County Illinois is offering NAMI's Family to Family Class again this Fall. This is an 8-week class for family members of individuals 18 and over who have mental health conditions. It begins Thursday, September 21 at 6:30 p.m. at Illinois Central College East Peoria Campus and ends on November 16. There is no fee for this course. Registration is required. Please call instructor Gay at 309 360-6972 or our NAMI information line at 309 693-0541 for information or to be placed on a waiting list.

For more information: Website: www.namitricountyillinois.com

Facebook: Nami Tri-County IL;

Telephone information line: 309-693-0541

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.

catholicmatch[®] Illinois



CatholicMatch.com/golL



Green For Life

Your full-service waste and recycling services provider.

309.688.0760 | gflenv.com





EAST PEORIA 698-8404 www.tazwellcountyasphalt.com SPECIALIZING IN ASPHALT PAVING • ASPHALT SEALING

Buseybank

busey.com Member FDIC



- General Construction Design Build
- Commercial & Residential Construction Management Pre Engineered Structures
- **DESIGNERS & CONTRACTORS**

Dennis Bishop, Parishioner 243-5599







"Excellence in Removable Prosthodontics" Richard P. June, DDS richardjunedds.com

Parishioner

309-693-7200

Trumpeter



2400 S.W. Adams

www.kellyglass.com • (309) 676-3573



WWW.HEDIGERANDMEYERS.COM 309.691.5001
COLLINS VOORHEES JAKE VOORHEES WILLIAM VOORHEES

RASHID

804 W. Trailcreek Dr. Peoria, IL

Call: 309-670-0700

Text: 309-328-3248

www.rashidps.com



ADVERTISE HERE Get your business headed

in the right direction. **Contact Don Roe**

616.340.8580 or droe@diocesan.com



Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.

Simply go to www.DM.CHURCH/1208



DISCOVERMASS

G-COOLING-REFRIGERATION RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

(309)633-1313 www.dmiheatingandair.com 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
"FREE ESTIMATES ON NEW
EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION"



Commercial

-24 Hour Service - Industrial (309) 693-2400 Residential

www.laserelectricinc.com









REFINANCING • HOME EQUITY LOANS • PURCHASING • CONSULTING

PEORIA EAR, NOSE & THROAT GROUP 7301 N KNOXVILLE AVE. • 309-589-5900

- Parishioner -

JAMES A. GERAGHTY, M.D.

APBELL





309-495-0179 1209 W. Main Street Peoria, IL 61606

AainaCare anagement, LLC

48 Years Experience Working With The Aged Sandii Mistmer, MISW, G-aswen Assessment • Consultation • Care Management Assistance with Long Term Care Insurance Claims 2009-2351-03513 Partishioner 309-251-0518



campbellappraisals.com Lise: 309-645-0406 Parishioner

Family Owned & Operated for Over 40 Years

309-686-1870



Mcomm Group, Inc. **Channel Marketing** Alumnus/Parishioner







HEYL.... ROYSTER

GARY E. SCHMIDT Attorney at Law 309.322.8315

> **PARISHIONER**

OM SMITH PLUMBING CO. 7 ILLINOIS LICENSE 055-004303

Plumbing • Heating • Sewering • COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

Том Ѕмітн tsptom@mtco.com www.tomsmithplumbing.com

429 E. Sciota Peoria Heights, IL (309) 688-5114

Every Detail Remembered Davison-Fulton Woolsey-Wilton Funeral Home

2408 W Willow Knolls Dr. Peoria, IL (309) 691-3456

Davison-Fulton Woodland Chapel 2021 N. University St. Peoria, IL (309) 688-5700

DISCOVER SCHERER, YOU'LL LOVE IT HERE.

SCHERER MAZDA

Keri Thierer

Sales Consultant

SchererMazda.com 2300 W Pioneer Pkwy

Peoria, IL 61615





(309) 688-TREE (8733)





wyman-group.com | 309.685.8222 114 West Stratford Dr.

Suite E | Peoria



MCOUELLON CONSULTING, INC

Robert W. McQuellon, MBA President / CEO and Parishioner

Real Estate Tax Appeals

Commercial • Industrial • Residential 309-256-6700 Mobile • 309-693-2600 Office • 309-693-6200 Fax

Email: bob@mcquellon.com • www.mcquellon.com **HealthInsuranceExchange**



Focusing on the health insurance needs of small businesses & individuals Chase Bank Building • 411 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria IL 61602 www.HealthInsuranceExchangeCl.com 309-740-9850

JIM ROCHFORD ATTORNEY AT LAW

JIM ROCHFORD & ASSOCIATES 309.637.5322 PARISHIONER 101 South West Adams, #700 drochford@rochfordlaw.com

KEMP MFG. CO.

Precision Machining & Assembly of Casting, Forging & Steel Products





peoriatovota.com



lexusofpeoria.com



Minimally invasive spine surgery

Physical therapy on site

7620 N University St. Parishioner Office: 309-691-7774

www.prairiespine.com



KRUMHOLZ BROTHERS

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS
Landscape • Excavating • Erosion Control www.krumholzbros.com

DAVE & RICHARD KRUMHOLZ



Transferred to Digital

Preserve Your Family Memories Today! Contact Kevin West

309-264-3717 • www.media-house.bi

