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

- 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 mypari-shapp.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
- 4. Bookmark the parish webpage (stthomaspeoria.org).



September 17, 2023 Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time





From Our Pastor

This week will mark the anniversary of the ordination of Archbishop Fulton Sheen as a priest. On September 20, 1919, he was ordained a priest at St. Mary Cathedral, in Peoria. Let us remember the impact that his example of holiness has had on the Church especially in our Diocese.

Our monthly Holy Hour will be this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and is another opportunity to follow Sheen's good example of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

At the end of this week, we will begin the novena to St. Therese for our vocation program. Please pray for Vocations and ask the Little Flower to guide those with vocations to the Church.

Later this fall we will have a Light of the World retreat hosted here at St. Thomas. More information will be forthcoming. For now, I suggest you mark your calendars for October 20-23 to make time for this parish retreat and renewal.

Finally, if you have not turned in your pledge card for the Annual Diocesan Appeal, I encourage you to do so. Cards can be mailed directly to the Diocese of Peoria, though you are also welcome to drop them off at the parish or in the collection and we will send them in for you. Contributions can also be made online by visiting the diocesan website.

- -Msgr. Gray



PARISH HOLY HOUR

Thursday, September 21 7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.



Readings for the Week of September 17, 2023

Sunday	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sirach 27: 30—28: 7; Romans 14: 7-9; Matthew 18: 21-35
Monday	1 Timothy 2: 1-8; Luke 7: 1-10
Tuesday	St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr 1 Timothy 3: 1-13; Luke 7: 11-17
Wednesday	Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-Gon, Priest & Paul Chong Ha-Sang, & Companions, Martyrs 1 Timothy 3: 14-16; Luke 7: 31-35
Thursday	St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist Ephesians 4: 1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9: 9-13
Friday	1 Timothy 6: 2c-12; Luke 8: 1-3
Saturday	St. Pius Pietrelcina, Priest 1 Timothy 6: 13-16; Luke 8: 4-15
Sunday	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 55: 6-9; Philippians 1: 20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20: 1-16a

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 18, 2023

7:00 a.m.Klem Osika/Linda Osika8:00 a.m.Jack & Frances McGinn/Mary Eaton

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Thomas C. Burek/George & Connie Burek
8:00 a.m.	Pete Pasquel/Steve & Dodie Gomer

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

7:00 a.m. Carol Ostrander/Kathy Clary8:00 a.m. Jose Rosalem & Ires Esmeria/The Pagong Family

Thursday, September 21, 2023

7:00 a.m. Hafner & Smith Families9:15 a.m. Dorothy Paesani/Lisa, Pat, & Michael Paesani

Friday, September 22, 2023

7:00 a.m. Suzette Little Kennedy/John & Amy Kelly 8:00 a.m. Marianne Hunt/Keats Hunt

Saturday, September 23, 2023

8:00 a.m. Richard Flores/Angela Kenny 5:00 p.m. Sarah Salmon/Family

Sunday, September 24, 2023

8:00 a.m.	Dr. Jay Alameda/Family
10:00 a.m.	Bernice Galbreath/The Streid Family
5:00 p.m.	For the People

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

Week of September 17

EXTRA CONFESSIONS Sunday, September 17, after all Masses

CHOIR PRACTICE Sunday, September 17, 9:00 a.m., Music Room

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, September 17, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, September 19, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

PARISH COUNCIL Tuesday, September 19, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office

CCD Wednesday, September 20, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, September 20, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR Thursday, September 21, 7:00 p.m., Church

TMIY Friday, September 22, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blessing of the Animals Adoration Light of the World Retreat October 4 October 6 October 20-22



Light of the World

Registration is open for our Parish *Light of the World Retreat* October 20th-23rd! 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.

See this week's bulletin insert or the parish website, **stthomaspeoria.org**, for more details.

Weekly Collection

September 10, 2023

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$220,000
Sunday Collections	\$13,133	\$134,285
Electronic Collections	\$4,490	\$39,765
Total Collected	\$17,623	\$174,050
Over/(Short	\$(2,377)	\$(45,950)

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.

Baptism Congratulations

Our Sympathy

Kathleen Ray

Ailani Pimentel, daughter of Ana & Francisco Pimentel

Novena to St. Theresa

The Novena to St. Theresa, Patroness of Vocations, begins September 22nd. Please pray for vocations in our diocese.

The Novena can be found here: https:// comeandfollowme.org/howtohelp/prayer/

OCIA/RCIA Schedule

DATE	TOPIC
	Biblical History, Bible Timeline Trinity, God is Three, God is One
Oct. 4:	God the Father, Creator of Heave

- 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 Day



September 17, 2023

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 coming soon!



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.

Ready to Bring the Love of Jesus 2023 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Did you know that ADA supports Discipleship?

Do you worry about our young people losing their faith in college? Newman Centers are places where they can get to know Jesus on a deeper level and accept His invitation to become His disciples. Among our priests and religious are many who found their vocation while at



a Newman Center. Other students experience Catholic Faith for the first time in one of our five Newman Centers and decide to become Catholic. Your ADA gift has no small impact – it helps shape our future generations.

Give online at www.cdop.org/ada.

Anima Christi

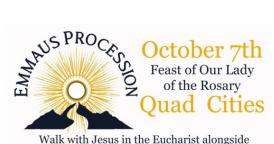
Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within your wounds, hide me. Let me never be separated from you. From the evil enemy, defend me. In the hour of my death, call me, And bid me come to you, That with your saints I may praise you Forever and ever. Amen.

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

St. Thomas the Apostle Church



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

- Q 6:30 7:30 Park at Our Lady of Lourdes, Bettendorf. Shuttles will be available to Moline.
- 📿 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

Catechism Questions for OCIA Class September 20 Topic: Biblical History, Bible Timeline

- What is the name for the first five books of the Bible?
- Who are the Patriarchs in the Old Testament?
- Who led the people into the Promised Land after Moses died?
- Who are the first three Kings to be anointed over the Israelites?
- Who are the four major prophets in the Old Testament?
- How many minor prophets are there in the Old Testament?
- How can it be said that there are four Gospels and only one Gospel (Gal 1:6-8)?
- Who wrote the book of Acts?
- Other than St. Paul, who else wrote epistles in the New Testament?
- Who is the traditional author of Revelation?

Parish Nurse Notes

The end of summer vacations and beginning of a new school year brings along with it the opportunity to consider learning something new or new volunteer options. I have had some parishioners express interest in adult/ pediatric CPR training/review, and others in forming a Caregiver Support Group. Please let me know if you are interested in either of these, I will be sharing more information as soon as it's available. Additionally, I'm looking for RN's, or other qualified healthcare providers, to assist in monthly Blood Pressure checks on Donut Sundays (generally, first weekend of months in the school year).

Please email <u>parishnurse@stthomas-church.net</u> or call (309) 688-3446 x1350

SEPTEMBER IS HEALTHY AGING MONTH:

A time to celebrate life and the positive aspects of growing older.

Healthy Aging Month is observed during the month of September. This observance raises awareness on the physical and mental health of older adults and serves as a reminder that as we age, our minds and bodies change. It is important to maintain a healthy lifestyle to help deal with those changes and to help prevent some common age-related health problems.

You can take a proactive approach to aging by adopting healthy habits and behaviors, managing existing health conditions, and staying connected to your community. Consider practicing the tips below to help you stay active and independent as you age:

- Eat and Drink Healthy. Dietary needs may change as you age. A healthy eating plan includes nutritious foods that are low in cholesterol, fat, and artificial ingredients. You should also drink plenty of liquids, especially water, to stay hydrated. Eat nutrient dense foods like fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean meats, and low-fat dairy products.
- <u>Move More, Sit Less.</u> Staying active can help you prevent, delay, and manage chronic diseases, improve balance and stamina, reduce the risk of falling, and improve brain health. Aim for moderate physical activity, like walking, at least 150 minutes a week (22-30 minutes a day) and muscle strengthening activities, like carrying groceries, at least 2 days a week. Always consult with your doctor before starting a new exercise regimen.
- <u>Get Regular Checkups.</u> It is vital to go to the doctor for regular health screenings for healthy aging. Regular checkups help doctors catch chronic diseases early and can help patients reduce risk factors for disease, such as high blood pressure and cholesterol levels. In some cases, regular checkups have been linked to improved quality of life and feelings of wellness.
- <u>Be Aware of Changes in Brain Health.</u> Everyone's brain changes as they age, but <u>dementia</u> is not a normal part of aging. There are a variety of <u>healthy behaviors</u> that can be done to reduce agerelated cognitive decline or manage dementia. Engaging in social and intellectually stimulating activities, getting enough sleep, and not smoking are a few actions you can take. See your doctor if you have questions about memory or brain health.
- For additional resources and information on healthy aging, visit: <u>Healthy aging | National Institute on Aging (nih.gov)</u>

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!

September 17, 2023

NAMI Tri-County

National Alliance on Mental Illness

September focus:

Saving Lives with 988: Crisis Intervention and 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 <u>Family to Family Class</u> 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: <u>www.namitri-countyillinois.com</u> Facebook: Nami Tri-County IL; Telephone information line: 309-693-0541

Season of Creation Reflection –Week Three

With the help of God's grace, let us adopt lifestyles marked by less waste and unnecessary consumption, especially where the processes of production are toxic and unsustainable. Let us be as mindful as we can about our habits and economic decisions so that all can thrive – our fellow men and women wherever they may be, and future generations as well. Let us cooperate in God's ongoing creation through positive choices; using resources with moderation and a joyful sobriety, disposing and recycling waste, and making greater use of available products and services that are environmentally and socially responsible. --Pope Francis, Message of the Holy Father Francis for the celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (1September 2023)

Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

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 Last Name (s) First Name(s) Phone Address City ZIP Phone Phone Phone City ZIP

Help Wanted

PND has an immediate opening for a cafeteria employee. Pay will be minimum wage and hours will be from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. You will not work holidays, weekends, or summers. Parents/guardians of current PND students will receive 50% off tuition!

For more information or to submit your resume, contact **Beth Fleming** at **b.fleming@pndhs.org**.

Pilgrimage to the National Shrine & Museum of St. Therese of Lisieux, Society of the Little Flower 805 Bailey Rd. Darien, IL Monday, September 25th, 2023 Hosted by the Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

You will see the largest collection of Little Flower relics and memorabilia outside of Lisieux, France. During the time of our visit, the Reliquaries of St. Therese and her parents will be at the National Shrine.

As part of this pilgrimage, we would like to ask everyone to join us in praying a novena to St. Therese, the patroness of vocations, for an increase in vocations in our diocese, and offer prayers of thanksgiving for the priest who have served, and are now serving the church in our diocese.

We will offer two departure points;

- 1. Spalding Pastoral Center, Peoria, IL at
- 7:00am, arrive home 5:00 pm 2. Home Depot, Champaign, IL at 7:00am, arrive home approx. 5:00pm

Your reservation will include bus transportation by Peoria Charter Coach, breakfast snack on the bus, all Shrine exhibits, Mass and amenities on the campus. The cost of your lunch, which you will order at the restaurant, is not included. Everyone is invited to join us on the pilgrimage.

Cost per person \$90.00. Please make checks payable to the PDCCW and mail to Spalding Pastoral Center, 419 NE Madison Ave., Peoria, II 61603 and call **MaryAnn Hughes 217-597-1021**. Deadline to sign up is now **September 15th**. Limited seating, sign up now!

Name	Phone
Email	Emergency Contact
	Phone

Please indicate which departure point you will leave and return to: Spalding Pastoral Center, or Home Depot, Champaign, II 61820 off I-74

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

View Our Parish Supporters at www.DiscoverMass.com

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.



