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

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Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB

(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

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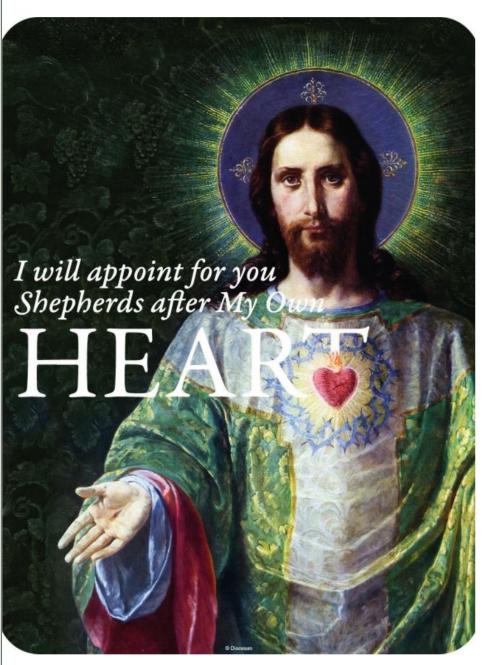
John Mackoway......699-5213

Stay in Touch

- 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).
- 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 24, 2023 Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Priesthood Sunday





From Our Pastor

The Diocese of Peoria has been undertaking a Growing Disciples program to study our parishes and their viability. This study has progressed to the point of sharing the initial results with each parish. I would like to present these findings to the parish on Sunday, October 1, at 11:30 a.m. in the parish hall. This is a Donut Sunday, so we will be able to offer refreshments at 11:00 a.m. after Mass and then make the presentation a half-hour later.

The study will examine which parishes in our region may need to merge in order to create a sustainable model. While this proposal may most affect smaller parishes, each of our parishes will be challenged to work together more cooperatively. I encourage you to mark your calendar for next weekend and plan to attend this presentation in the parish hall.

Last weekend information was shared about the Light of the World Retreat. This retreat will run from Friday evening, through the day on Saturday, Sunday, and then to Monday evening. I encourage everyone to consider taking time out of your schedule to attend this retreat. There is no cost, as the expenses have been underwritten by a grant. If you are interested, please see the forms in the narthex or call the parish office. Please mark your calendars for October 20-23.

Thank you to those who have already made a pledge to the *Annual Diocesan Appeal*. We exceeded our goal by \$10,000 last year which came back to us as a rebate. We are well on our way this year. Please return your pledge card to the parish or the Diocese, or visit the Diocesan Website and look for ADA.

This week, our sanctuary committee was able to look at a sample pew as we look forward to the replacement of carpet, pews, and kneelers. While it will take some time to manufacture the new pews, we can already sense the improvement that this will be for our parish. Your patience will be generously rewarded!

Finally, please mark your calendars for our Progressive Dinner which will take place this year on Saturday, January 20 (the weekend after Martin Luther King, Jr.).

- -Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of September 24, 2023

Sunday Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55: 6-9; Philippians 1: 20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20: 1-16a

Monday Ezra 1: 1-6; Luke 8: 16-18

Tuesday Sts. Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs

Ezra 6: 7-8, 12b, 14-20; Luke 8: 19-21

Wednesday St. Vincent de Paul, Priest

Ezra 9: 5-9; Luke 9: 1-6

Thursday St. Wenceslaus, Martyr

Haggai 1: 1-8; Luke 9: 7-9

Friday Sts. Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael, Archangels

Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14 OR Revelation 12: 7-12ab;

John 1: 47-51

Saturday St. Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Zechariah 2: 5-9, 14-15a; Luke 9: 43b-45

Sunday Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 18: 25-28; Philippians 2: 1-11 OR Philippians 2: 1-5;

Matthew 21: 28-32

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 25, 2023

7:00 a.m. Ginny Stanard/Jeanne Whalen 8:00 a.m. Dorothy Paesani/Dorothy Bertschy

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

7:00 a.m. Dolores Oppe/Warren Oppe 8:00 a.m. Tho Darg/The Luong Family

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

7:00 a.m. Jeanne Broussard/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley

8:00 a.m. Mildred Farhan/Ann & Paul Horst

Thursday, September 28, 2023

7:00 a.m. Betty Pegg/The Calabro Family **9:15 a.m**. Rita Willems/The Willems Family

Friday, September 29, 2023

7:00 a.m. Jim Konitzer/John & Sonia Nelson 8:00 a.m. Bonnie Wellman/Jim & Sharon Zogby

Saturday, September 30, 2023

8:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Stark, S.J./The Luong Family 5:00 p.m. Dr. James N. Kenny, Sr./Family

Sunday, October 1, 2023

8:00 a.m. Dave Ryon/Family

10:00 a.m. Fred Darche/Jeanette & Donald Timmons

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of September 24

CHOIR PRACTICE Sunday, September 24, 9:00 a.m., Music Room

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, September 24, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, September 26, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CCD Wednesday, September 27, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, September 27, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WOMEN OF THE WORD Thursday, September 28, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

TMIY Friday, September 29, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

SCOUTS' POPCORN SALES after all Masses Sept 30/Oct 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

Growing Disciples Presentation October 1 Blessing of the Animals October 4 Adoration October 6 Light of the World Retreat October 20-22



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 keryama - the basic gospel message. This retreat is meant for any adult who wishes to move ahead in their journey of faith.

For more information or to register, see the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org, or pick up a brochure in the narthex.

Weekly Collection

September 17, 2023

		riscai fib
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$240,000
Sunday Collections	\$7,761	\$142,046
Electronic Collections	\$70	\$39,835
Total Collected	\$7,831	\$181,881
Over/(Short	\$(12,169)	\$(58,119)

Your support of St. Thomas Parish is important to sustain our Please remember to contribute regularly 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

Stephen Sprenger

Deacon Dick Zimmerman

Frank Curtis

Priesthood Sunday

September 24 is Priesthood Sunday. Please pray for all priests, especially ours here at St. Thomas—Msgr. Gray, Pastor, Fr. Marc, Parochial Vicar, Fr. John, in residence, and all those who served so faithfully in the past.

Please pray for vocations that we may always have the priests we need to lead us, the Faithful.

OCIA/RCIA Schedule

TOPIC

Sept. 27: Trinity, God is Three, God is One

God the Father, Creator of Heaven Oct. 4: and Earth

Oct. 11: God the Son

Oct. 18: God the Son; God the Holy Spirit;

Oct. 25: Holy Catholic Church

Nov. 1: NO CLASS; All Saints Day

Nov. 8: Forgiveness of sins, resurrection of body, judgment, eternal life, Liturgy,

Sacraments

Nov. 15: Baptism, Confirmation Nov. 22: NO CLASS: Thanksgiving



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Pray with the Pope

September 2023 For people living on the margins

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

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.



Sponsor of the Week



Empower Illinois (Invest in Kids) needs our help

The Invest in Kids Program, which has provided scholarships for many of our St. Thomas students', is due to be eliminated if the State Legislature does not add it back into the budget during the upcoming Fall Veto Session.

Through Empower Illinois, the Invest in Kids program has enabled many students throughout the State of Illinois to attend a private school instead of their local public school. Without this support many of these students would have to attend their local public school which is often less than ideal for the students and their families.

Empower Illinois is working very hard to convince our State Legislators of the importance of this program for Illinois students. As part of these efforts St. Thomas School will be given yard signs to hand out to our families in an effort to bring this program to the attention of our local community and our local legislators.

We would ask all of our families to pick up a yard sign and put it in your yard. Peoria is considered a priority district in this effort so the more signs and support we can show the better our chances of convincing our local legislators to support the Invest in Kids Program. Pick up yard signs from our School.

Even if you or your family is not directly affected by this program we would ask that you still show your support with a yard sign. This program is so essential to many of our students and families.

There is also still time to contact your legislator in Springfield. Please let them know how important this program is for our students and families.

Please fill out form here

(Signs will be coming next week!)

Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Sale

Tootsie Rolls make a great Halloween treat! Spalding Council #427, Knights of Columbus, will be selling boxes of Tootsie Rolls after all Masses the weekend of September 30-October 1, as long as supplies last. Each box contains 50 Tootsie Rolls and is available for your donation of \$10, or more, which will go to support the Intellectually Disabled in our area.



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



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

Catechism Questions for OCIA Class September 27 Topic: Trinity, God is Three, God is One

- In what years were the two councils held that produced the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed we say each Sunday (CCC 195)?
- Where in the Bible is the fundamental Old Testament teaching, Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is One (CCC 201, footnote)?
- What is the name of God revealed to Moses (CCC 206)?
- Who reveals God the Father (CCC 240)?
- Who does Jesus promise to send to the Apostles (CCC 243)?
- The Trinity is not 3 separate gods. How is the dogma of the Trinity formulated (CCC 253)?

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

Ancient Order of Hibernians

Three men from St. Thomas Parish, Nick Suydam, Dennis Merkley, and Brian Barkley, were recently inducted into the *Ancient Order of Hibernians*, Peoria Division. These men exemplify the pillars of the Hibernian foundation—Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. We are proud to have committed and dedicated Catholic men such as Nick, Dennis, and Brian as part of our organization.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is a Catholic men's organization that celebrates our Irish heritage. To be a member one must be at least 16 years old, and either born in Ireland or be of Irish descent. This year alone the Peoria Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians contributed over \$5000.00 to Catholic schools, hospitals, food banks, and families in need.

If you would like more information about the Ancient Order of Hibernians, please contact Greg at 309-361-3389. Again, congratulations to Nick, Dennis, and Brian—We are Proud of You!

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



Does any of this sound like you?

- interested in the work of SVdP here at St. Thomas
- sympathetic to the SVdP cause and goals
- wishing to play a part but have limited time
- wishing to contribute more but have limited resources
- love the work but just don't see yourself making home visits

If so, we offer this for you to consider. Our SVdP conference is strong and active. We usually have 8-10 teams of two people available each week for home visits.

We have several "coordinators" who do not make home visits. They are critical members of our group and participate in our group's spiritual, friendship and service activities. We are currently in need of two more coordinators to take turns with several others monitoring emails from the Helpline. Each coordinator serves about 4 days per month. On those days, they check their email every hour or so for 4-6 hours and are responsible for forwarding the caller info to the next team in line. They also send a summary email of the day's activity to the entire group. The schedule is flexible and can be changed to suit the coordinators.

Please consider this opportunity. It would be a wonderful chance to grow spiritually while doing God's work right here on the ground. Just call Nanette at 309-648-2595 or Nancy at 309-678-4504 for more information.

Thank you, as always, for your prayers and continued financial support!

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!



<u>Weekly Aging with Vitality Programs start Sept. 27</u> <u>Graceland Center for Purposeful Aging</u>

The Central Illinois Agency on Aging has come alongside to help **Graceland Center** kick off its efforts with a grant to start weekly programming on Wednesdays! Weekly Aging with Vitality gatherings, socializing, and programming will start <u>September 27th from 10 am to 1 pm</u> at the **Life Together Center**, <u>3625 N Sheridan Rd</u>, on the corner of War Memorial and Sheridan by the First Federated Church and the Community Foundation of Central Illinois offices.

We welcome all persons to come and explore what Graceland Center can offer to enhance the lives of older adults in Peoria! We are excited to be moving forward and are eager to learn what Peoria's wise adults want to create for themselves in Peoria!!! The possibilities of good times are endless!

Peggy Jacques, MS, RN, Founder and Executive Director

Season of Creation Reflection –Week Four

In this Season of Creation, as followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, let us live, work, and pray that our common home will teem with life once again. May the Holy Spirit once more hover over the waters and guide our efforts to "renew the face of the earth. --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		
		
First Namo(s)		

F. . . 1

DI. - . - -

Address _____

City_____ ZIP____

Phone

New Parishioner _____ Change of address/phone _____

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**.

JOB POSTING – Associate Director of Parish and School Finances, Diocese of Peoria

The Catholic Diocese of Peoria is seeking an Associate Director of Parish and School Finances. The position involves auditing parishes and schools, assisting the parishes, schools and institutions across 26 counties in Central Illinois with accounting questions, managing the Spalding Scholarship Fund and other duties as assigned. The ideal candidate will have 3+ years of accounting or finance related experience. This full-time position is located at the Spalding Pastoral Center in Peoria and does require limited day trips within the Diocese.

Salary will be commensurate with experience. Health insurance, vacation, life insurance and 403(b) Plan benefits are available.

Forward resume to: humanresources@cdop.org



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.

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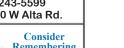
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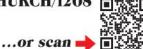
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