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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(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

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Dcn. Ed Mallow......360-7735 Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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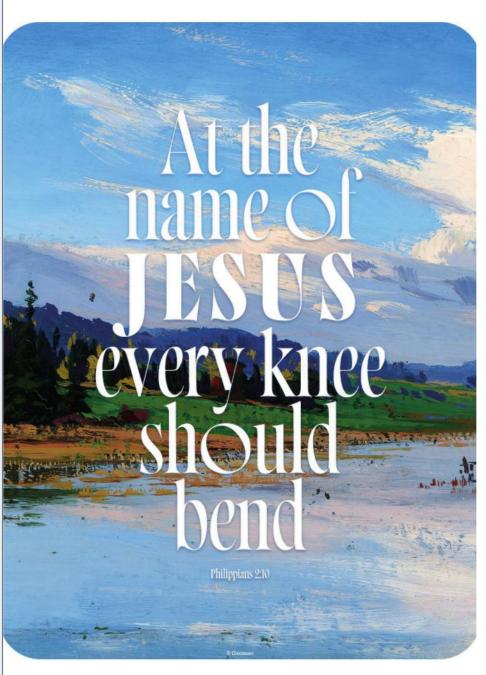
John Mackoway......699-5213

Stay in Touch

- Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org or the My Parish App
- 2. 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).



October 1, 2023 Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time





From Our Pastor

This is a *Donut Sunday*. Please join us for coffee and donuts after Sunday morning Masses. As a response to suggestions from parishioners, we have added other healthier options, including fruit. So, please come down for a *Donut and Fruit Sunday*.

Another suggestion that was put forward by parishioners was offering retreats or other education programs, including Light of the World. We were able to schedule a Light of the World retreat, which is coming up in three weeks. I encourage you to sign up if you are able to attend. The retreat takes up Friday evening, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday evening, September 20-23. I believe those who take part will find it rewarding. See the sheets in the narthex or call the parish office.

I have also shared your feedback about the mini-pew which we received as a sample before making the rest of the pews. I am grateful for your observations and they will be taken into account.

Finally, as was mentioned last weekend, we will present the results of the Growing Disciples study undertaken by the Diocese of Peoria after the 10:00 a.m. Mass, beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the parish hall. I encourage everyone to attend to learn what proposals are contemplated in our region of the Diocese. This information is shared so that Catholics can have an opportunity to give additional feedback before any decisions are made by our Bishop next spring.

I have been told that we are about half-way toward our goal for the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Since there are many parishioners who have not yet made a pledge, I encourage you to pick up a pledge card from the narthex or visit www.cdop.org/ada to make your pledge online. If we exceed our goal as we did last year, extra funds will be returned to the parish to support our local needs.

- -Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of October 1, 2023

Sunday Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Matthew 21: 28-32

Monday The Holy Guardian Angels

Zechariah 8: 1-8; Matthew 18: 1-5, 10

Tuesday Zechariah 8: 20-23; Luke 9: 51-56

Wednesday St. Francis of Assisi

Nehemiah 2: 1-8; Luke 9: 57-62

Thursday St. Faustina Kowalska, Virgin

Nehemiah 8: 1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Luke 10: 1-12

Friday Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin

Baruch 1: 15-22; Luke 10: 13-16

Saturday Our Lady of the Rosary

Baruch 4: 5-12, 27-29; Luke 10: 17-24

Sunday Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 5: 1-7; Philippians 4: 6-9; Matthew 21: 33-43

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 2, 2023

7:00 a.m. Raymond Little/John & Amy Kelly

8:00 a.m. Klem Osika/Linda Osika

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

7:00 a.m. Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist

8:00 a.m. Phillip Braet/Chris & Amy Braet & Family

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

7:00 a.m. John & Julie Chan & Family 8:00 a.m. Bud & Mary Janke/Cindy & Susan

Thursday, October 5, 2023

7:00 a.m. Charles Bode/Family

9:15 a.m. Kevin Brewer/The Luong Family

Friday, October 6, 2023

7:00 a.m. Sharon Jokhy/Jack & Margaret Weinstein 8:00 a.m. Jose Rosalem & Ires Esmeria/Pag-ong Family

Saturday, October 7, 2023

8:00 a.m. Thomas D. Rochford/The Rochford Family 5:00 p.m. Melvin & Lucille Noe/Mary Ann Noe

Sunday, October 8, 2023

8:00 a.m. Tony Gay/John & Sonia Nelson 10:00 a.m. Jim Becker/Karen Hollies

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of October 1

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

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

SCOUTS' POPCORN SALES after all Masses this weekend

TOOTSIE ROLL SALE after all Masses this weekend

COFFEE & DONUTS after Sunday morning Masses this weekend

CHOIR PRACTICE Sunday, October 1, 9:00 a.m., Music Room

GROWING DISCIPLES PRESENTATION Sunday, October 1, 11:30 a.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, October 1, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, October 3, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Wednesday, October 4, 8:40 a.m., Back Parking Lot

CCD Wednesday, October 4, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, October 4, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

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

ADORATION Friday, October 6, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Light of the World Retreat Oct

October 20-22

Pray with the Pope

October 2023 For the Synod

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

Weekly Collection

September 24, 2023

	riscul i i D
\$20,000	\$260,000
\$6,976	\$149,022
\$4,361	\$44,196
\$11,337	\$193,218
\$(8,663)	\$(66,782)
	\$6,976 \$4,361 \$11,337

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

Myree Burns

Baptism Congratulations

Juliana Louise & Charles Rockwell Hudson, children of Samuel & Hiral Hudson



Once each month we pause to spend time before our Lord during the hours of Adoration. Please consider signing up to spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord.

Friday, October 6

Beginning after 8:00 a.m. Mass and continuing throughout the day, until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

OCIA/RCIA Schedule

DATE

Fiscal VTD

TOPIC

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

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

Sacraments

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

Sponsor of the Week



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.



Come to the meeting with Senator Koehler.

As one of the most senior people in government, it's important to get his support for continuing *Invest in Kids*. We will be hosting a meeting at **St. Marks at 6:30pm on Thursday, October 12th.** We'd like to pack the gymnasium and it would be great to see you there with us!

Rosary

Public Square Rosary at St. Mark Saturday, October 14th Starts at 10am in the Parking Lot

Over 20,000 Rosaries will be said all over the world at the same time.

Please bring a chair, and a friend and join this special prayer gathering.

Winter Coat Drive

That Man Is You is sponsoring a **Winter Coat Drive** again, to meet the needs of our Food Pantry Clients and the Salvation Army Coats for Kids program.

During the month of October, through November 8th, we will collect new and "gently used" winter coats, gloves, hats, etc., to help those less fortunate in our community. Donation bins will be at the top and bottom of the stairs. We are in need of both children and some adult

sized coats this year.

Thank you for your support of this program.

Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Sale Today

Boxes of 50 Tootsie Rolls (great for Halloween treats) will be available after Masses this weekend as long as supplies last.

The \$10, or more, donation per box will assist Spalding Council #427, Knights of Columbus, raise funds for organizations who provide support to the Intellectually Disabled in our area.



Growing Disciples is a multiyear pastoral planning process for the Catholic Diocese of Peoria to renew discipleship and enhance relationships with Jesus Christ in every corner of our region. The Bishop will be examining the current structure of parishes in the diocese to evaluate how they can best meet the needs of the faithful and address challenges facing the Church today.

Why are we doing this as a Diocese? We are *Growing Disciples*. Bishop Tylka chose that title intentionally. The world is different and we have to find new ways of doing things. We have fewer priests. Fewer Catholics. Fewer children. People are moving. We have to reimagine the way we reach people with the Good News.

The Growing Disciples process is designed to provoke conversation, to gather data and receive feedback. Based on the feedback from recent priest meetings, the Diocese is changing the way they release the second draft models. You will be able to see your parish's second draft model with appropriate context and information, **online by October 1** at **cdop.org.** That way, all parishioners have access to all the information at the same time, and can come prepared to their parish meeting. Your input is needed and valued as Bishop Tylka discerns the future footprint of the Diocese of Peoria.

Please check out **cdop.org/pastoral-plan** for more frequently asked questions, and please continue to pray that all our efforts today will bear fruit for a brighter tomorrow.



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

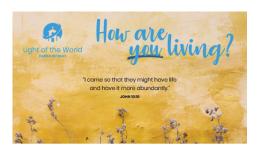
Thank You

We wish to extend a *thank you* to the members of St. Phil's parish who held a food drive for our Food Pantry. Several tubs and boxes of shelf stable food was donated. If you see someone from St. Phil's please say a thank you.

Catechism Questions for OCIA Class September 27 Topic: God the Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth

- Where is the story of creating found (CCC 289)
- What does it mean to say that God created everything ex nihilo (CCC 296)?
- What are angels (CCC 329)?
- On what day of creation was mankind made (CCC 345)?
- What does the eighth day represent (CCC 349)?
- Can fallen angels be forgiven and redeemed (CCC 393)?
- After sin, where in the Bible is the protoevangelium or First Gospel (CCC 410)?

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



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.

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

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.

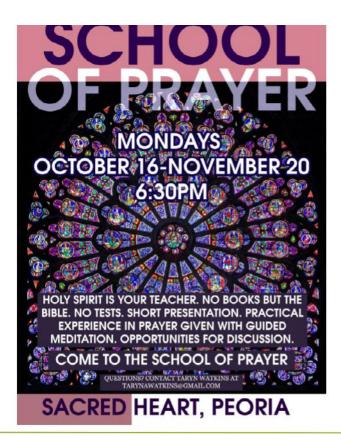
Please consider this opportunity. It would be a wonderful chance to grow spiritually while doing God's work right here on the ground. Just call Nanette at 309-648-2595 or Nancy at 309-678-4504 for more information.

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!



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)

Parish Registration

Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

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 _____

City_____ ZIP____

Address ______

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!

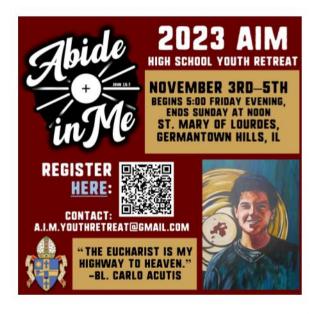
For more information or to submit your resume, contact **Beth Fleming** at **b.fleming@pndhs.org**.

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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