

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

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frmarc@stthomas-church.net
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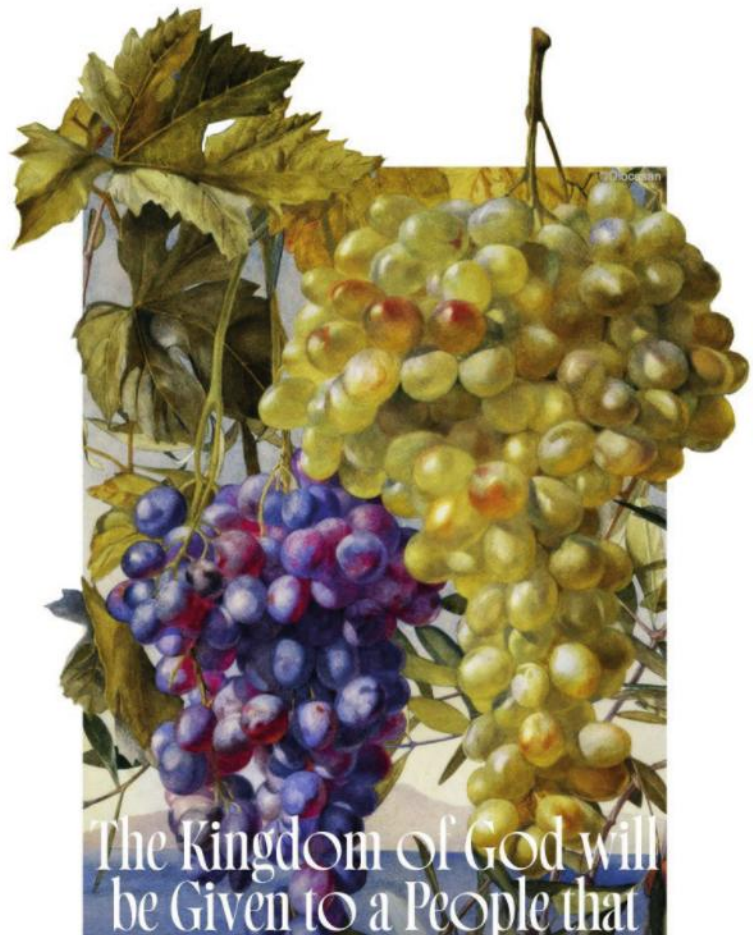
Stay in Touch

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 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).



October 8, 2023

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



The Kingdom of God will
be Given to a People that
will Produce its Fruit.
Matthew 21:43



From Our Pastor

On Sunday, we presented the Growing Disciples program of the Diocese. We are not anticipating any change in our parish status, some other parishes in the Diocese will experience a merger and some smaller churches may be taken out of service. However, the Diocese wants every parish to grow in discipleship to become more vibrant. I appreciated the discussion that followed the presentation in which we spoke about ways to enliven our parish.

The most significant measure of vibrancy is church attendance. Our parish, like all the other parishes in our region and throughout the Diocese, has seen a decline in the attendance in the years before COVID. Naturally, the drop during the pandemic was significant, and we have seen an increase in attendance, but not to the same levels that we had before 2020. The most important priority for every parish must be drawing more of the faithful to participate in Sunday Mass.

Our goal should not be to worry about which parish a person attends, whether they prefer Mass at one parish over another. Our goal should be to draw people who are not attending Mass to return. In particular, I encourage our younger generations, our young adults, and especially our school families to make Sunday Mass a part of your family routine. Jesus offered himself on the cross for our salvation, and he holds his arms open wide to receive us when we come to him.

Every fall, we invite new nominees to serve on our Parish Council. The discussions in the Parish Council will be an important part of our efforts to encourage a wider return to the practice of the faith among those who have been away. Please consider those who might be a good addition to our Parish Council at St. Thomas.

Last Sunday, we also discussed other ways to promote involvement, such as by helping as an usher or a greeter at Mass. We talked about resuming a more active role for our ushers in a more involved parish. The only obstacle: I need willing volunteers. Among those who come to Mass, not everyone feels comfortable or capable of volunteering, whether as an usher, a reader, a cantor, or a musician. I look forward to engaging with the Parish Council to encourage more volunteerism. For now, I ask you to consider how you might take on a more active role at St. Thomas.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of October 8, 2023

Sunday	Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 5: 1-7; Philippians 4: 6-9; Matthew 21: 33-43
Monday	St. John Leonardi, Priest Jonah 1: 1—2: 1-2, 11; Luke 10: 25-37
Tuesday	Jonah 3: 1-10; Luke 10: 38-42
Wednesday	St. John XXIII, Pope Jonah 4: 1-11; Luke 11: 1-4
Thursday	Malachi 3: 13-20b; Luke 11: 5-13
Friday	Joel 1: 13-15; 2: 1-2; Luke 11: 15-26
Saturday	St. Callistus I, Pope Joel 4: 12-21; Luke 11: 27-28
Sunday	Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 25: 6-10a; Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22: 1-14 OR Matthew 22: 1-10

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 9, 2023

7:00 a.m. Fred Darche/John & Kathy Louis
8:00 a.m. Fr. Bill Donnelly/Joe Whalen

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

7:00 a.m. Hop Nguyen/The Luong Family
8:00 a.m. Dorothy Paesani/Paul & Laura Kelley

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

7:00 a.m. J. Gordon & Jan Hannagan/Jeanne Whalen
8:00 a.m. Jerry McDonough/Eileen McDonough

Thursday, October 12, 2023

7:00 a.m. Hafner & Smith Families
9:15 a.m. James & Dorothy Reed/Jim & Sharon Zogby

Friday, October 13, 2023

7:00 a.m. Lillian McCadden/Ray & Ellen McRae
8:00 a.m. Tricia Austin/Knolhoff Family

Saturday, October 14, 2023

8:00 a.m. Patricia Powers/Steve & Nan Powers
5:00 p.m. Jim Konitzer/Bob & Mary Ann Knight

Sunday, October 15, 2023

8:00 a.m. Carmelite Community, Mary Mother of the Blessed Sacrament
10:00 a.m. Patty Resutko/Larry Resutko
5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of October 8

- CHOIR PRACTICE** Sunday, October 8, 9:00 a.m., Music Room
- MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, October 8, 7:00 p.m., School Gym
- PARISH OFFICE AND SCHOOL CLOSED** for Indigenous Peoples' Day
- ROSARY** Tuesday, October 10, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel
- ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** Tuesday, October 10, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- CCD** Wednesday, October 11, 6:00 p.m., School
- OCIA** Wednesday, October 11, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- WOMEN OF THE WORD** Thursday, October 12, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall
- MEN'S CLUB** Thursday, October 12, 6:30 p.m., Rudy's Cantina
- TMIY** Friday, October 13, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall
- EXTRA CONFESSION TIMES** Sunday, October 15, after all Masses

UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>St. Thomas Holy Hour</i>	<i>October 19</i>
<i>Light of the World Retreat</i>	<i>October 20-22</i>
<i>Trunk or Treat</i>	<i>October 27</i>
<i>All Saints Day</i>	<i>November 1</i>
<i>Adoration</i>	<i>November 3</i>

Our Sympathy

Maxine Keith, mother of Becky Campbell



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.

OCIA/RCIA Schedule

DATE	TOPIC
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
Nov. 29:	Eucharist
Dec. 6:	Blessed Virgin Mary, Rosary
Dec. 13:	Penance, Anointing, Funerals
Dec. 20:	Marriage
Dec. 27:	No Class
Jan. 3:	No Class

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Weekly Collection

October 1, 2023

	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000\$280,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$12,578\$161,600
Electronic Collections.....	\$270.....\$44,466
Total Collected.....	\$12,848.....\$206,066
Over/(Short).....	\$(7,152).....\$(73,934)

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.

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.



Prayer Request



Angela Salazar-Zupancic, a member of our Parish Family, has been chosen to serve on the team for the upcoming Women's Cursillo October 19-22. She will be serving as one of the speakers for the weekend.

Please pray for Angela, and the whole team, as they prepare for the weekend.

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.

Come to the Town Hall with Senator Koehler.

At this meeting we will be discussing the importance of KEEPING the **Empower Illinois (Invest in Kids)** school scholarship program for our Catholic schools. We need to impress upon our legislators why this is such a critically important program. Here at St. Thomas we have 40 students who receive this scholarship. Strength comes in numbers and we need a strong turn out! Senator Dave Koehler will be in attendance. As one of the most senior people in State government, it's important to get Sen. Koehler's support for continuing **Invest in Kids**.

Come to the meeting:
St. Mark's Gym, 6:30 p.m., Thursday, October 12th.
We'd like to pack the gymnasium and it would be great to see you there with us!



Why are we *Growing Disciples* as a Diocese, because 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.

No decision has been made – and Bishop Tylka will consider all of the data and your feedback as he discerns the future footprint of the Diocese of Peoria.

If you missed our parish meeting check out growingdisciples.cdop.org for information about how the second draft models were created and how to provide your feedback to them.

Please continue to pray that all our efforts today will bear fruit for a brighter tomorrow.



Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign

September 27th through November 5th
in front of *Planned Parenthood*,
2709 N. Knoxville Ave, Peoria

Contact **Anthony Berlinger**, for more information at anthonyberlinger@gmail.com or call **309 340-2002**.

Our St. Thomas Parish is signed up to participate in the prayer vigil on **Friday October 13th**. The vigil is from **7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**, with one-hour slots for individuals or groups to sign up.

There will be a sign-up poster in the gathering space for your convenience.

Healing Mass

at St. Philomena October 14

If you or someone you know needs healing, spiritually or physically, join us at St. Philomena Church for our Healing Mass on Saturday, **October 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.** Anointing of the Sick will be available for those who wish to receive the Sacrament. Anointing of the Sick is not only a Sacrament for those approaching death, but is also for the seriously ill, the sick or infirm, the aged, and those with severe emotional stress. If you are not in need of anointing, please come and pray with us for those who do need healing.

Catechism Questions for OCIA Class October 11

Topic: God the Son

- How did Peter profess his faith in Jesus Christ (Mt 16:16, CCC 424)?
- What does the name "Jesus" mean in Hebrew (CCC 430)?
- Coming from the Greek, what does the name "Christ" mean (CCC 436)?
- What does the title "Lord" or "Kyrios" in Greek refer to in Hebrew (CCC 446)?
- What mystery is referred to by the expression, "The Word became flesh" (CCC 461)?
- As we say in the Creed, how was Jesus conceived (CCC 484)?
- What title for Jesus was given to him by John the Baptist (CCC 608)?
- What was Jesus' most perfect act of obedience (CCC 615)?

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.



PEORIA NOTRE DAME

309-691-8741

pndhs.org

INFORMATION NIGHT

DATE & TIME

October 18, 2023
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

LIBRARY

Q&A for junior high students with PND Student Ambassadors

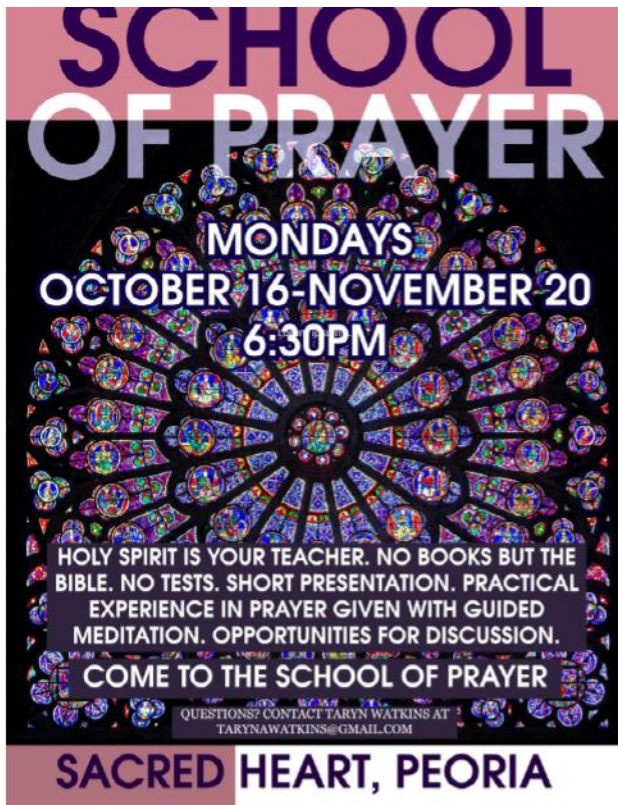
AUDITORIUM

Presentation and Q&A for parents/guardians with PND administration & students

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!



October: Month of the Rosary...

Join us as we commemorate the month of the Rosary. To do so we would like to invite everyone to gather **every Wednesday** evening in **October at 6 p.m.** to recite the rosary at the grotto at St. Mary of Lourdes in Germantown Hills, IL. If weather does not permit us to gather at the grotto we will gather in the church. **October 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th.** Everyone is invited. Bring your families, come by yourself, bring friends and neighbors. All are welcome to join us in praying the rosary at this very special grotto. If you have any questions, contact MaryJo Grebner at 309-360-4876.

Parish Registration

Complete this form and drop it in the collection basket, **or** mail to the Parish Office **or** Register on our website at sthomaspeoria.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 _____

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
&
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.

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