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

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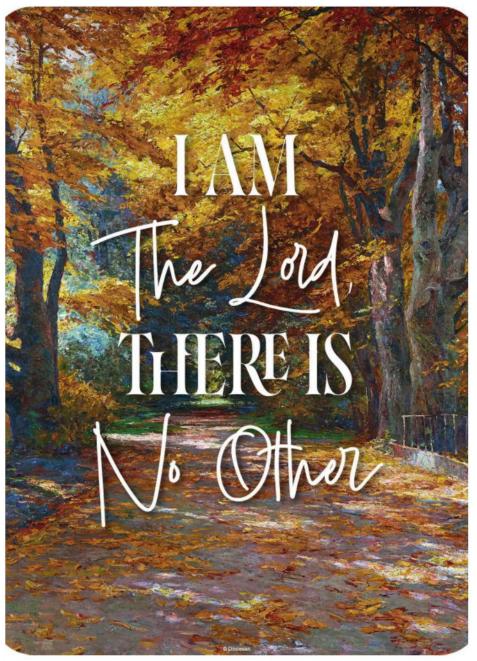
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350) parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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).
- Receive the Bulletin and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email parishoffice@ stthomas-church.net to sign up).
- Bookmark the parish webpage
- (stthomaspeoria.org).



October 22, 2023 Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time





From Our Pastor

We provide the diocese with a count of the number of people who attend Mass every year in October. Last weekend, I am happy to report that we have had a 10% increase in the number of people at Mass compared to a year ago. In fact, this is the third year in a row that we have had double digit percent increases in Mass attendance year-over-year.

While this is a good sign, it is still not enough. Please accept my invitation to encourage Catholics to come back to Mass and also the challenge to invite non-Catholics to meet our Lord in the Eucharist.

I especially invite our school families to make Sunday Mass a priority. It is not enough that students learn about the Faith on weekdays, or attend School Mass once a week. Sunday Mass is the centerpiece of our religious life and is at the heart of the Third Commandment, Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.

In fact, our personal prayer each day and our public prayer at Sunday Mass work together to form a solid spiritual life. Each reinforces the other. I am encouraged by the number of people attending Holy Hours, or simply coming into the Church to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament during the week. Keep it up!

May God renew our parish by drawing us together in Jesus Christ, our Messiah and our Savior!

- -Msgr. Gray



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.



Readings for the Week of October 22, 2023

Sunday	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5b; Matthew 22: 15-21
Monday	St. John of Capistrano, Priest Romans 4: 20-25; Luke 12: 13-21
Tuesday	St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop Romans 5: 12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Luke 12: 35-38
Wednesday	Romans 6: 12-18; Luke 12: 39-48
Thursday	Romans 6: 19-23; Luke 12: 49-53
Friday	Romans 7: 18-25a; Luke 12: 54-49
Saturday	Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles Ephesians 2: 19-22; Luke 6: 12-16
Sunday	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Exodus 22: 20-26; 1 Thessalonians 1: 5c-10; Matthew 22: 34-40

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 23, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Dorothy Paesani/Dorothy Bertschy
8:00 a.m.	Tricia Austin/Knolhoff Family

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Genevieve Stickelmaier/Paul & Ann Horst
8:00 a.m.	Ronald Shipp/Friends

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Fr. Bill Donnelly/Joe Whalen
8:00 a.m.	Dolores Oppe/Warren Oppe

Thursday, October 26, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Glenda Murray/Manolito & Marianita Cabucos
9:15 a.m.	Maxine Keith/Ed & Cathy Mallow

Friday, October 27, 2023

7:00 a.m. Jay & Lois Streid/Family 8:00 a.m. Pete Pasquel/Jeanne Donahue

Saturday, October 28, 2023

8:00 a.m.	Donna Abdnour/Mark & Theresa Debonis
5:00 p.m.	Jim Konitzer/Bob & Mary Ann Knight

Sunday, October 29, 2023

8:00 a.m.	For the People
10:00 a.m.	Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB
5:00 p.m.	Jackie McNamara/The Messmer Family

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

Week of October 22

LIGHT OF THE WORLD RETREAT Friday through Monday, October 20-23

CHOIR PRACTICE Sunday, October 22, 9:00 a.m., Music Room

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, October 22, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, October 24, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

PARISH COUNCIL Tuesday, October 24, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office

CCD Wednesday, October 25, 6:00 p.m., School

CONFIRMATION FAMILY MEETING Wednesday, October 25, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

OCIA Wednesday, October 25, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WOMEN OF THE WORD Thursday, October 26, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

TMIY Friday, October 27, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1

November 3

TRUNK OR TREAT Friday, October 27, 5:30 p.m., Back Parking Lot

All Saints Day

Adoration

Holy Hour	November 16	
Save th	e Vate	
St. Thomas Prog Let There I		
January 2 Details com		

Weekly Collection

October 15, 2023

		riscul IID
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$320,000
Sunday Collections	\$19,246	\$190,535
Electronic Collections	\$895	\$53,386
Total Collected	\$20,141	\$243,921
Over/(Short	\$141	\$(76,079)

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.

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Page 3

Our Sympathy

Joanne Shields

Wedding Congratulations

Laurel Finn Cramer & John David Donnelly

OCIA/RCIA Schedule

DATE TOPIC 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

Eiseal VTD

Jan. 10: Liturgical year, Church tour, Mass practice

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.

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!

GROWING DISCIPLES

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.

Catechism Questions for OCIA Class October 25 Topic: Holy Catholic Church

- What are the four adjectives used to describe the Church (CCC 749)?
- What are some of the images used by Jesus to describe the Church (CCC 754-757)?
- Before the Church was created by Christ, what Old Testament group of people prefigured the Church (CCC 762)?
- How can the Church be both human and divine (CCC 771)?
- How does a person become a member of the Church (CCC 782)?
- Who are the successors of the apostles today (CCC 857)?

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

Parish Nurse Notes

It's a Good Time to Get Your Flu Vaccine

Influenza (flu) viruses typically spread in fall and winter, with activity peaking between December and February. Getting vaccinated in the fall can lower your chances of getting the flu.

Flu is a serious disease, caused by influenza viruses, that can lead to hospitalization and even death. Every flu season is different, and the substantial health impacts can vary widely from season to season, with some flu seasons being worse than others. Your best defense against influenza disease is to get a flu vaccine every year.

Flu vaccines are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to prevent influenza, and they provide important benefits.

A Flu Vaccine Is the Best Prevention

The CDC recommends that people ages 6 months and older get a flu vaccine by the end of October. Even if you wait until after October, the vaccine will still be beneficial and provide protection. For more information on the CDC's flu vaccine recommendations, visit https://www.cdc.gov/flu/

If you have already been sick with the flu this season without getting vaccinated, getting a flu vaccine is still important because it helps prevent disease caused by four different strains of flu viruses. Presumably, you were infected with one type of flu virus strain, so the vaccine would offer protection against the strains that you haven't already had. Flu viruses are spread by droplets when people infected with the flu cough, sneeze or talk. Flu may also be spread when a person touches a surface or object that has flu viruses on it and then touches their own mouth, nose, or eyes. You also can reduce the spread of the flu and its effects by taking such practical measures as washing your hands, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home when you're sick.

Excerpted from https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/itsgood-time-get-your-flu-vaccine

Please visit the above named websites and/or speak to your healthcare provider for more information.

ST THOMAS SUMMARY REPORT OF OPERATING REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Α	D	A

Pledges to date Goal	\$90,435 \$153,016
Pledges received	d 127

Annual Motherhouse Bazaar

Friday, Nov. 17, 9 am-5 pm Saturday, Nov 18, 9 am-2 pm

> At the Motherhouse 1175 St. Francis Lane E. Peoria

Religious and gift items for sale along with fresh baked donuts, breads, and cookies

Catholic Women's League of Peoria, Illinois

Annual Membership Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 9:30 am

Buehler Home 3415 N. Sheridan Road Peoria, IL 61604

Meeting & Light Refreshments

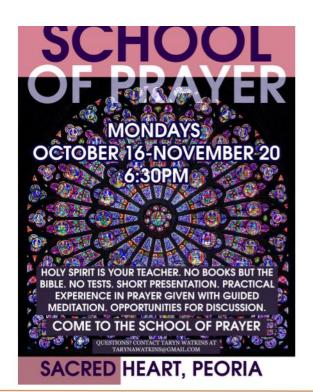
Quarter and Year Ending June 30, 2023				
	Quarter June 30	Ending	YTD June	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
CHURCH				
Operating Revenue				
Collections, Gifts and Bequests	231,400	305,000	1,260,400	1,248,200
Other: Parish Organizations, Etc	22,000	8,300	63,300	31,600
Total Operating Revenue	253,400	313,300	1,323,700	1,279,800
Operating Expenses				
Salary and Related	53,900	48,400	243,800	200,000
PND Tuition & Assessment	23,800	23,700	95,000	95,000
Other Operating Expenses	111,300	76,800	414,100	360,900
Total Church Expenditures	189,000	148,900	752,900	655,900
NET CHURCH OPERATING REVENUE				
OVER EXPENSES	64,400	164,400	570,800	623,900
SCHOOL				
Operating Revenue				
Tuition and Fees	195,900	197,600	987,300	1,026,000
Other: Café, Athletics, etc	224,800	90,800	947,900	430,100
Total Operating Revenue	420,700	288,400	1,935,200	1,456,100
Operating Expenses				
School Expenditures	482,800	507,100	2,368,800	1,952,600
Other: Café, Athletics, etc	83,800	59,500	410,500	313,400
Total School Expenditures	566,600	566,600	2,779,300	2,266,000
NET SCHOOL OPERATING EXPENSES				
OVER REVENUE	(145,900)	(278,200)	(844,100)	(809,900)
COMBINED OPERATING EXPENSES				
OVER REVENUE	(81,500)	(113,800)	(273,300)	(186,000)
NON OPERATING ACTUAL REVENUE/ EXPENSES				
Annual Giving	137,000	-	257,000	70,000
Depreciation	(21,200)	(42,000)	(42,400)	(84,000)
Investments	21,800	25,000	128,800	100,000
Total Non Operating Revenue	137,600	(17,000)	343,400	86,000
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET	56,100	(130,800)	70,100	(100,000)
ASSETS NOTE: The unrealized activity of our in	vestments is no	t included in t	he above nur	nbers.
Those numbers are stated below.				
Unrealized Depreciation	109,800	25,000	361,300	100,000

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.

From now through November 8th we are collecting new and "gently used" winter coats, hats, gloves, etc. to provide warm clothing this winter for those in need. Our coat collection will serve some of the clients from our Food Pantry and contribute to the Salvation Army Coat for Kids program. Donation barrels can be found at the top and bottom of the staircase in the church. There is a great need in our community to help those less fortunate, who cannot afford winter clothing. Please be as generous as possible. Thank You!







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.

The visible, public centerpiece of 40 Days for Life is a focused, 40-day, non -stop, round-the-clock prayer vigil outside a single Planned Parenthood center or other abortion facility in your community. It is a peaceful and educational presence. Those who are called to stand witness during this 24-hour-a-day presence send a powerful message to the community about the tragic reality of abortion.

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

ST. BERNARD CHICKEN **NOODLE QUART SALE**

Chicken Noodle carryout quart sale St. Bernard School building, 512 E. Kansas in Peoria.

You may order hot or cold quarts.

Pick up: Friday, Nov. 10th from 12 to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11th from 12 to 4:00 p.m. Price: \$14 per quart.

You may order by calling the parish office at (309) 676-0726, or you can place an order by sending an email to

stbernardschickennoodles2023@gmail.com.

Please pick up your order on the day you requested. The last day to place an order is November 1st at noon.

We will have apple crisp (as long as it lasts) and cannot be pre-ordered. The cost is \$2.

There are also raffle tickets for some great prizes on the pick-up dates. Thank you to everyone who has supported us in the past and we hope to see you again this year.

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. If you have any questions, contact MaryJo Grebner at 309-360-4876.



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.



