

## St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

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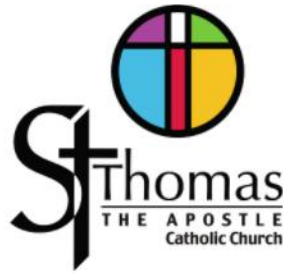
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Music Coordinator: Ann Horst..... 682-5507  
Annulment Consultant:  
John Mackoway.....699-5213

### Stay in Touch

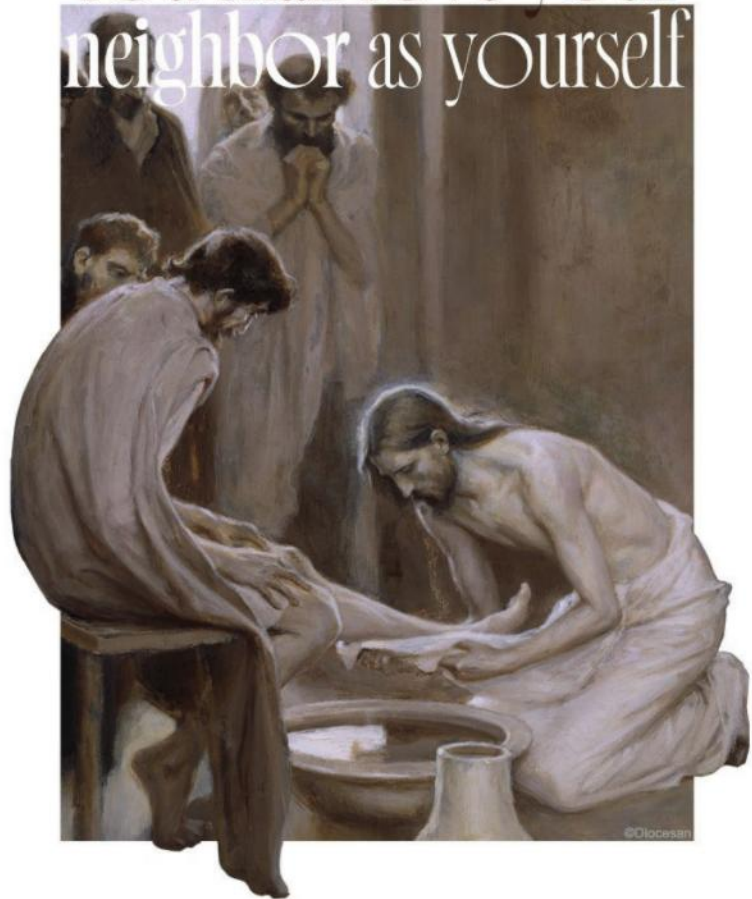
1. Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, [stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org) or the My Parish App
2. Download My Parish App to receive push notifications (Visit [myparishapp.com/download](http://myparishapp.com/download)).
3. Receive the Bulletin and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net) to sign up).
4. Bookmark the parish webpage ([stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org)).



*October 29, 2023*

*Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

You shall love your  
neighbor as yourself





## From Our Pastor

This past weekend we held the Light of the World retreat at St. Thomas. The retreat was intensive as it began Friday evening and continued throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday, finishing on Monday evening. The parishioners who took part had a very positive experience and I know they will recommend this same experience to others in the parish as well. We anticipate holding a second retreat during Lent.

Please continue to consider parishioners who would be good candidates for our Parish Council. I will be looking for some new parish council members to take the place of those members completing their terms.

We have a Holy Day of Obligation this week. All Saints Day will be Wednesday, November 1. Masses will be offered on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 7:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 7 p.m. following CCD. Please note that there will not be 8 a.m. Mass on the Holy Day. Let us honor the Saints in Heaven as we ask them to pray for us here below.

I am thankful for the participation of more parishioners at Sunday Mass. I mentioned that we had an increase of 10% in attendance over last year. However, I am very encouraged by the growth in attendance at daily Mass and our times of adoration. When we give the Lord more than the minimum, we receive from Him more than we give.

Join us for daily Mass. Come to adoration on First Friday. Make a visit during the day for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Jesus invites you to *come and you will see* (Jn 1:39).

- Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of October 29, 2023

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Exodus 22: 20-26; 1 Thessalonians 1: 5c-10; Matthew 22: 34-40
<b>Monday</b>	Romans 8: 12-17; Luke 13: 10-17
<b>Tuesday</b>	Romans 8: 18-25; Luke 13: 18-21
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>All Saints Day</b> Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3: 1-3; Matthew 5: 1-12a
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed</b> Wisdom 3: 1-9; Romans 5: 5-11 OR Romans 6: 3-9; John 6: 37-40
<b>Friday</b>	<b>St. Martin de Porres, Religious</b> Romans 9: 1-5; Luke 14: 1-6
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop</b> Romans 11: 1-2a, 11-12, 25-29; Luke 14: 1, 7-11
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Malachi 1: 14b—2: 2b, 8-10; 1 Thessalonians 2: 7b-9, 13; Matthew 23: 1-12

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, October 30, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Donna J. Weinstein/Jack & Margaret Weinstein
8:00 a.m.	Tricia Austin/Knolhoff Family

### Tuesday, October 31, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Thomas B. Rochford/The Rochford Family
8:00 a.m.	Sonny King/Steve Cramer & Karen Woolley
5:30 p.m.	For the People

### Wednesday, November 1, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist
<b>9:15 a.m.</b>	Jim Becker/Chuck & Vickie Eawes
12:15 p.m.	Blanche Sherman/Laura Sherman
7:00 p.m.	Ralph Bennett/Tom & Bonnie Stroot

### Thursday, November 2, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Joe Broussard/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley
8:00 a.m.	Marianne Hunt/Keats Hunt

### Friday, November 3, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Buddy Hannagan/Jeanne Hannagan
8:00 a.m.	Dorothy Paesani/Lisa Paesani

### Saturday, November 4, 2023

8:00 a.m.	Bob Denton/Catherine Eilers
5:00 p.m.	Kevin Myszkowski/Family

### Sunday, November 5, 2023

8:00 a.m.	For the People
10:00 a.m.	Patty Resutko/Larry Resutko
5:00 p.m.	Betty Pegg/The Calabro Family

## Week of October 29

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

**CHOIR PRACTICE** Sunday, October 29, 9:00 a.m., Music Room

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, October 29, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

**ROSARY** Tuesday, October 31, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**ALL SAINTS DAY MASSES** Tuesday, October 31, 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, November 1, 7:00 & 9:15 a.m., 12:15 & 7:00 p.m., Church

**CCD** Wednesday, November 1, 6:00 p.m., School

**TMIY** Friday, November 3, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**ADORATION** Friday, November 3, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

*Holy Hour      November 16*

## Our Sympathy

Joanne Shields

Rosemarie Maloney, sister of Ron Maloney

## Wedding Congratulations

Laurel Finn Cramer & John David Donnelly

Katrina Beebe & Mark Streid

## All Saints Day

All Saints Day, a Holy day of Obligation is Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mass Times: Tuesday, October 31, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 1, 7:00 & 9:15 a.m., and 12:15 & 7:00 p.m.

## OCIA/RCIA Schedule

**DATE                      TOPIC**

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

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



## 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

October 15, 2023

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000	\$340,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$22,491	\$213,026
Electronic Collections.....	\$2,403	\$55,789
Total Collected.....	\$24,894	\$268,815
Over/(Short).....	\$4,894	\$(71,185)

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](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Thank you for your support.

Sponsor of the Week



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## 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.



## 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](http://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.

## 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!*

## 2023 Rolan Johnson Christmas Ornament

The 29th annual limited edition Christmas ornament is inspired by Rolan Johnson's 1977 Christmas card

*And the Love was for All*

Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception will be selling the ornaments after Masses Dec. 2-3.

Ornaments are \$38 each and benefits the Sisters' retirement Fund

## Catholic Women's League of Peoria, Illinois

You Are Invited to a *Christmas Tea Fundraiser*

Grandmothers, Mothers, Daughters, Granddaughters, & Friends  
All Are Welcome

Date: **Sunday, December 10, 2023** Time: 2:00 PM -- 4:15 PM  
Place: St. Philomena Parish Hall  
1000 W. Albany Avenue, Peoria IL 61604

### AGENDA

2:00 PM Welcome & Prayer; 2:15 PM Tea-Time Menu ~ Scones and Clotted Cream, Finger Sandwiches, Dessert  
3:45 PM Entertainment; 4:15 PM Closing Prayer

### RSVP BY December 1, 2023

to Ann Gerardo, 3415 N. Sheridan Road, Peoria IL 61604.  
If you have questions, call Ann Gerardo at 630-464-8474.  
Adult \$30/Teen \$20/Child \$10

## THE PEORIA AREA Community Festival of NATIVITIES

### Community Festival of Nativities Features Live Nativity to Celebrate 800th Anniversary

The 8th Annual Peoria Area Community Festival of Nativities, *O Holy Night*, will be held Thursday through Sunday, **November 30 to December 3, 2023**, at 3700 West Reservoir Blvd., in Peoria. In celebration of the 800th anniversary of the first nativity held in Greccio, Italy, the festival will feature a live nativity outside on Thursday, November 30, from 4:30-6:30 PM, along with the 4-day indoor display of hundreds of nativities from around the world.

The complete schedule for the event is as follows:

Thursday, November 30, 3pm-9pm  
Live Nativity 4:30pm-6:30pm;  
Fri. & Sat., December 1-2, 10am-9pm

Admission is free, and everyone is welcome to this multi-denominational event. Further details can be found at [communityfestivalofnativities.com](http://communityfestivalofnativities.com) or on the festival's Facebook page.





Be sure to set your clocks back **Saturday, November 4** before you go to bed. You don't want miss Sunday Mass!

## Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

7:00 P.M., the first Monday, November 6th, Saint Mark Church, 1113 W. Bradley Avenue, Peoria.

Holy Hour consists of Benediction, the Rosary, and other prayers. Please join us in prayer for the protection of these innocent lives and the restoration of their Constitutional rights.



Peoria Notre Dame's  
*12 Days of Christmas*  
CASH & CAR RAFFLE

Early Bird winner of \$500 will be drawn November 16. Daily cash prizes will be awarded from December 4 through December 14 with the Grand Prize drawing for a 2024 Mazda CX-5 on December 15. Tickets can be purchased from PND students, by calling 309-691-8741, or online at [www.pndhs.com/12days](http://www.pndhs.com/12days). Ticket orders can be credited to PND students or staff for incentives.

Only 3,000 tickets will be sold. The cost is \$85 per ticket, 3 for \$240, 5 for \$375, 10 for \$700, and 12 for \$720. Official rules, details, and online purchasing can also be found at [www.pndhs.com/12days](http://www.pndhs.com/12days).

## 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

## When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



*God give us the grace to soften our hearts toward the poor and to consider that in helping them, we do justice and not mercy. – St. Vincent de Paul*

St. Vincent de Paul spent his life providing relief to the poor, sick, and imprisoned. He helped change the clergy's education to include a focus on helping the poor, hoping that they would inspire all Christians to help the poor. Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society pray that Jesus will give us eyes and a heart directed toward the poor.

Our Mission: To serve those in need with respect and love in defense of social justice

To promote the integral dignity of those in need through personal contact

To find joy in serving others with humility and empathy

We challenge you to join us in our mission!

- Donate to the St. Vincent de Paul collections after Masses on the first weekend of every month. No donation is too small, and every donation is gratefully received.
- Donate to our parish food pantry by leaving food and/or personal hygiene items in the 'Feed the Hungry' box in the church gathering space.
- Volunteer in the food pantry and/or join the St. Vincent de Paul Society here at St. Thomas.
- Pray that God will grant our St. Vincent de Paul Society members the strength, wisdom, and means to continue helping the poor.

God's blessings!  
Diana Janda

## 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!



Thank you for your support of this program.



# SCHOOL OF PRAYER

MONDAYS  
OCTOBER 16-NOVEMBER 20  
6:30PM

HOLY SPIRIT IS YOUR TEACHER. NO BOOKS BUT THE BIBLE. NO TESTS. SHORT PRESENTATION. PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN PRAYER GIVEN WITH GUIDED MEDITATION. OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCUSSION.

COME TO THE SCHOOL OF PRAYER

QUESTIONS? CONTACT TARYN WATKINS AT TARYN.WATKINS@GMAIL.COM

SACRED HEART, PEORIA



**Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign**  
September 27<sup>th</sup> through November 5<sup>th</sup>  
in front of Planned Parenthood,  
2709 N. Knoxville Ave, Peoria

Contact **Anthony Berlinger**, for more information  
at [anthonyberlinger@gmail.com](mailto: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 [sthomaspeoria.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

## 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. 10<sup>th</sup>** from 12 to 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday, **Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>** 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 [sbernardschickennoodles2023@gmail.com](mailto:sbernardschickennoodles2023@gmail.com).

Please pick up your order on the day you requested. The **last day to place an order is November 1<sup>st</sup>** 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.** If you have any questions, contact MaryJo Grebner at 309-360-4876.

**Abide in Me** 2023 AIM  
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH RETREAT  
NOVEMBER 3RD-5TH  
BEGINS 5:00 FRIDAY EVENING,  
ENDS SUNDAY AT NOON  
ST. MARY OF LOURDES,  
GERMANTOWN HILLS, IL

REGISTER HERE: [QR Code]

CONTACT: A.I.M.YOUTHRETREAT@GMAIL.COM

"THE EUCHARIST IS MY HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN."  
-BL. CARLO ACUTIS





**How to Submit Bulletin Information**

Send information for the bulletin to [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto: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.

<p><b>catholicmatch<sup>®</sup> Illinois</b>  </p>			
<p><b>GFL Environmental</b> Green For Life Your full-service waste and recycling services provider. 309.688.0760   <a href="http://gflenv.com">gflenv.com</a></p>	<p><b>BuseyBANK</b> Business   Wealth Management   Personal <a href="http://busey.com">busey.com</a> Member FDIC</p>	<p><b>BISHOP BROS. INC.</b> * General Construction * Design Build * Commercial &amp; Residential Construction Management * Pre Engineered Structures DESIGNERS &amp; CONTRACTORS Dennis Bishop, Parishioner 243-5599 2800 W Alta Rd.</p>	<p><b>OSF HEALTHCARE</b> <a href="http://OSFHealthCare.org">OSFHealthCare.org</a></p>
<p><b>Tazewell County ASPHALT CO. INC.</b> EAST PEORIA 698-8404 www.tazewellcountyasphalt.com CARL KAUFMAN SPECIALIZING IN ASPHALT PAVING • ASPHALT SEALING</p>	<p><b>RASHID Plastic Surgery</b> 804 W. Trailcreek Dr. Peoria, IL Call: 309-670-0700 Text: 309-328-3248 www.rashidps.com</p>		<p>Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will For further information, please call the parish office.</p>
<p><b>DENTURES PAR EXCELLENCE</b> "Excellence in Removable Prosthodontics" Richard P. June, DDS <a href="http://richardjunedds.com">richardjunedds.com</a> Parishioner 309-693-7200 Trumpeter</p>	<p><b>H&amp;M HEDIGER &amp; MEYERS</b> Insuring Your Business, Your Family, Your Future. 4208 PARTRIDGE WAY • P.O. BOX 3858 • PEORIA, IL 61612 Parishioners — WWW.HEDIGERANDMEYERS.COM 309.691.5001 COLLINS VOORHEES JAKE VOORHEES WILLIAM VOORHEES</p>		<p><b>ADVERTISE HERE</b> Promote your Business AND Support your Parish. Don Roe ~ 616-340-8580 <a href="mailto:droe@diocesan.com">droe@diocesan.com</a></p>
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