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

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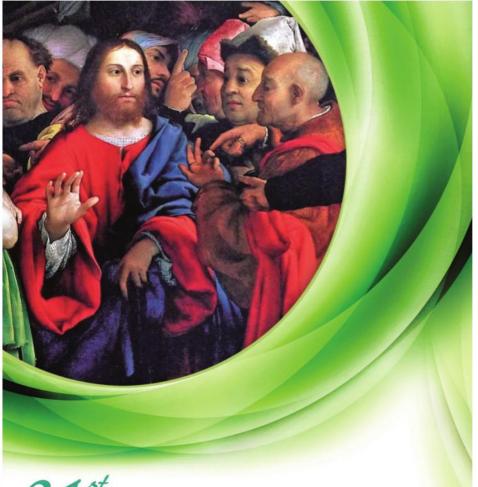
John Mackoway......699-5213

### 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
- 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).



## November 5, 2023



# 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Matthew 23:12

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### From Our Pastor

The men's *That Man Is You* group will be completing the coat drive this week. Please drop off any coats you may have as soon as possible. On behalf of the children and our food pantry clients, I thank you for your generosity.

The Parish Council will be filling three open positions on the Parish Council later this month. If you have any recommendations for new parish council members, please contact me or the parish office this week.

Now that we have raised the funds for new pews and they have been ordered, we will prepare for the installation of the pews when they are ready next year. In the meantime, we can continue to raise funds to extend the décor in the sanctuary through the nave of the church. If we raise sufficient funds, we can use the time when the pews are removed to bring the stenciling and other decorative elements into the main body of the church. Obviously, it will be less expensive to do this while the pews are removed. If we take up this work after the pews are installed, we would have to install a more complex scaffold system to add decoration at a later date. Thank you for considering this request.

We plan to offer extra confessions next weekend after Masses which is a great opportunity to be absolved of your sins. When Advent begins, I plan to increase the opportunities for confession.

- -Msgr. Gray



We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.



## Readings for the Week of November 5, 2023

Sunday Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Malachi 1: 14b—2: 2b, 8-10; 1 Thessalonians 2: 7b-9, 13;

Matthew 23: 1-12

**Monday** Romans 11: 29-36; Luke 14: 12-14

**Tuesday** Romans 12: 5-16b; Luke 14: 15-24

**Wednesday** Romans 13: 8-10; Luke 14: 25-33

Thursday The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3: 9c-11, 16-17;

John 2: 13-22

Friday St. Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church

Romans 15: 14-21; Luke 16: 1-8

Saturday St. Martin of Tours, Bishop

Romans 16: 3-9, 16, 22-27; Luke 16: 9-15

Sunday Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 6: 12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 OR 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-14; Matthew 25: 1-13

### **Mass Intentions**

### Monday, November 6, 2023

7:00 a.m. Betty Little/John & Amy Kelly 8:00 a.m. Tricia Austin/Knolhoff Family

### Tuesday, November 7, 2023

7:00 a.m. Thomas B. Rochford/The Rochford Family

8:00 a.m. Tom Mikulecky/Pat Mikulecky

### Wednesday, November 8, 2023

7:00 a.m. Henry Stickelmaier/Paul & Ann Horst 8:00 a.m. Bud & Mary Janke/Cindy & Susan

### Thursday, November 9, 2023

7:00 a.m. Lawrence Morton & Franz Hausner/Trudy Morton

9:15 a.m. Maxine Keith/Paul & Ann Horst

### Friday, November 10, 2023

7:00 a.m. Tessa Casten/John & Amy Kelly

8:00 a.m. Eugene Poignant/Mary Poignant & Family

### Saturday, November 11, 2023

8:00 a.m. Ron Richardson/Richardson Family 5:00 p.m. Dorothy Paesani/Angela Kenny

### Sunday, November 12, 2023

8:00 a.m. Betty Kane/Family
10:00 a.m. Hop Nguyen/Linh Luong

5:00 p.m. For the People

### **Week of November 5**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL & PANTRY COLLECTIONS** after all Masses this weekend

COFFEE & DONUTS Sunday, November 5, after morning Masses, Parish Hall

CHOIR PRACTICE Sunday, November 5, 9:00 a.m., Music Room

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, November 5, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, November 7, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CCD Wednesday, November 8, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, November 8, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

FIRST RECONCILIATION Thursday, November 9, 6:30 p.m., Church

WOMEN OF THE WORLD Thursday, November 9, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, November 9, 6:30 p.m., Rudy's Cantina

**TMIY** Friday, November 10, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**EXTRA CONFESSIONS** Sunday, November 12, after all Masses

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Holy Hour November 16
Adoration December 1
Ornament Sale December 2/3
Immaculate Conception December 8

## St. Anthony Camerata Chorale

Ecumenical Festival Choir

Presents

### Be Thou My Vision

Sunday—November 12, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. St. Mark Catholic Church—1113 W. Bradley Ave., Peoria

Admission: Non-perishable food & toiletry items for Sophia's Kitchen

## **Weekly Collection**

October 29, 2023

		riscai fib
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$360,000
Sunday Collections	\$12.623	\$225,649
Electronic Collections	\$12,349	\$68,138
Total Collected	\$24,972	\$293,787
Over/(Short	\$4,972	\$(66,213)

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**

Please pray for those who have died this week

### **Baptism Congratulations**

Olivia Ayers, daughter of Justin & Katie Ayers

### **OCIA/RCIA Schedule**

DATE TOPIC

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

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.



### 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

# Catechism Questions for OCIA Class November 8

# Topic: Forgiveness of sins, resurrection of body, judgment, eternal life, Liturgy, Sacraments

- Are there any sins that the Church cannot forgive using the power of the keys (CCC 982)?
- What does the phrase in the Creed the "resurrection of the body" mean (CCC 989)?
- When is our particular judgment and when is the general judgment (CCC 1021, 1038)?
- · What does the last word in the Creed mean (CCC 1064)?
- · What are the seven Sacraments (CCC 1113)?
- What does it mean to say the sacraments are efficacious ex opere operato (CCC 1128)?

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



Our first Light of the World retreat was a wonderful experience of growing in relationship with Jesus and one another. Mark your calendar for our next one, February 23-26, 2024!



# 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 or on the festival's Facebook page.

### 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

# Join us for Coffee and Donuts after morning Mass this Sunday



# 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 those in need.

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.

### Winter Coat Drive Wrapping Up

Our winter coat drive to help some of the clients of the St. Thomas Food Pantry and the Salvation Army Coats for kids, is coming to an end. *Please turn in your coats before November 8th*. Coats can be placed in either of the *Coats for Kids Barrels* at the top and bottom of the stairs in the back of the church. Thank you for your generosity in helping those less fortunate in our community.

Thank you for your support of this program.



# 

# Holy Family Parish Fish Fry Friday November 3rd Supporting the:

Time: 4 to 7pm

Location: Holy Family Parish School 2329 West Reservoir Blvd. Peoria, IL 61615



Dine in or carry out

Pre order online at: https://holy-family-peoria.square.site

You can also order in person

# PEORIA NOTRE DAME RANDY SIMMONS TUITION ASSISTANCE SCHOLARSHIP

Peoria Notre Dame and the Randy Simmons Family announce that the application process is now open for the Randy Simmons Tuition Assistance Scholarship. Created in memory of Randy Simmons, the scholarship provides tuition assistance to an incoming freshman at PND and continues for the four years at the school. The application deadline is Dec. 8 at 3:30 p.m. Any questions, contact Cindy Dermody, Director of Advancement at c.dermody@pndhs.org. The application can be found at: pndhs.org/financial-assistance.

## **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

New Parishioner	Change of address/phone	
Phone		
City	ZIP	
Address		
Phone		
Email		
First Name(s)		
Last Name		
form.	ioner Registration, complete and se	

# Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

7:00 p.m., the first Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### **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



place your preorders online by end of day on Friday, November 3

itoosociety.org

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 (3PM-6PM)

preorder/drive-thru only (all orders prepaid) orders due by end of day Friday, November 3 no orders taken on site Saturday

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 (11AM-6PM)

limited dine-in seating; buffet serving; shop the Itoo Marketplace all day for a la carte menu items to take home

ITOO HALL - FARMINGTON RD visit itoosociety.org for additional event info and to preorder for Saturday's drive-thru





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. Ticket orders can be credited to PND students or staff for incentives.

Only 3,000 tickets will be sold. The cost is S85 per ticket, 3 for S240, 5 for S375, 10 for S700, and 12 for S720. Official rules, details, and online purchasing can also be found at https://

www.pndhs.org/12days/

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-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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