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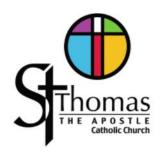
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350) parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

Music Coordinator: Ann Horst....... 682-5507 Annulment Consultant:

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
- 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).



November 19, 2023 Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



my good & faithful servant



From Our Pastor

We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving this week. Our only Mass on Thanksgiving Day will be at 9:00 a.m.. On the day after Thanksgiving, we will have Mass only at 8:00 a.m..

Last weekend, I mentioned the need of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. I also encourage you to remember our St. Thomas Food Pantry, which is also running low on supplies. The basic staples would be greatly appreciated to look after the clients of our pantry. If you want to donate money to the pantry, please donate to "St. Thomas Pantry" and we can use those donations to replenish supplies. Thanks for your generosity.

On Monday, November 20, I will begin the next book study for the Fulton Sheen Book Club. We will read his book St. Therese: A Treasured Love Story. The opening lecture will be at 6:00 p.m. and will be recorded. Discussion groups will be arranged based on the schedules of the participants. If you want to register, please follow the links at www.jgray.org/sheen and you can add your information. You can also sign up at the opening lecture on November 20.

I am grateful for donations received for additional candle stands in our chapel. These candle stands are on either side of St. Therese in front of the Divine Mercy image and Our Lady of Guadalupe. I am also very appreciative of donations that provided for the repair of part of our parking lot. Years of wear and tear had left potholes that have now been repaired. Thank you!

- -Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of November 19, 2023

Sunday Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6;

Matthew 25:14-30

Monday 1 Maccabees 1: 10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Luke 18: 35-43

Tuesday The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Maccabees 6: 18-31; Luke 19: 1-10

Wednesday St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr

2 Maccabees 7: 1, 20-31; Luke 19: 11-28

Thursday St. Columban, Abbot; Thanksgiving Day

Sirach 50: 22-24; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Luke 17: 11-19

Friday St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

1 Maccabees 4: 4: 36-37, 52-59; Luke 19: 45-48

Saturday St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr

1 Maccabees 6: 1-13; Luke 20: 27-40

Sunday Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28;

Matthew 25: 31-46

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 20, 2023

7:00 a.m. Dr. James N. Kenny, Sr./Family 8:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Stark, S.J./The Luong Family

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

7:00 a.m. Hafner & Smith Families

9:15 a.m. Maxine Keith/Corky & Peggy Sue Brown

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

7:00 a.m. Mary & Joe Basler/Mary Ann Noe 8:00 a.m. Patricia Powers/Joe Powers

Thursday, November 23, 2023

9:00 a.m. Dorothy Paesani/Angela Kenny

Friday, November 24, 2023

8:00 a.m. Vivienne Burek/George & Connie Burek

Saturday, November 25, 2023

8:00 a.m. Claire & Paul Oltman/Mary Camp 5:00 p.m. Joe & Mary Miller/The Spengler Family

Sunday, November 26, 2023

8:00 a.m. Gordon Jockisch/The Jockisch & Shields Families

10:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of November 19

CHOIR PRACTICE Sunday, November 19, 9:00 a.m., Music Room

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, November 19, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

SHEEN BOOK CLUB Monday, November 20, 6:00 p.m., Opening Lecture, Parish Hall

SCHOOL MASS Tuesday, November 21, 9:15 a.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, November 21, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS Thursday, November 23, 9:00 a.m., Church Friday, November 24, 8:00 a.m. Mass only, Church

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED Thursday & Friday for Thanksgiving; School closed Wed-Fri

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adoration December 1
Ornament Sale December 2/3
Immaculate Conception December 8

Sheen Book Club

The Sheen Book Club is resuming with a new book: *St. Therese*: A *Treasured Love Story*. The first meeting is Monday, November 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall for an opening lecture.

If you are interested in participating, sign up here: <u>Cause of Archbishop</u> <u>Fulton Sheen (igray.org)</u>

Participants will divide into small groups for discussion. Each group will decide meeting days/times for their group.

If you have any questions please call the Parish Office, 309-688-3446.

Pray with the Pope

November 2023 For the Pope

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.

Weekly Collection

November 12, 2023

Eigeal VID

	riscai fid
\$20,000	\$400,000
\$10,744	\$255,562
\$ 5,420	\$71,118
\$16,164	\$326,680
. \$(3,836)	\$(73,320)
	\$10,744 \$ 5,420 \$16,164

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



Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is an important tradition at St. Thomas. Pick a gift tag from one of the baskets. We ask you to take one or more of the tags and purchase the requested gift. Please give new gifts only.

RETURN YOUR GIFTS IN GIFT BAGS WITH THE ORIGINAL TAG ATTACHED. You may leave them under the Giving Tree in the Narthex, or deliver to the Parish Office. Your generosity providing gifts under the Giving Tree has been incredibly helpful in the past. Last year we were able to distribute gifts to almost 300 individuals. This includes St. Thomas Families, Foster Children, Catholic Charities, and neighbors in our community.

MONETARY DONATIONS This year a monetary donation might work best for many people. You can make your donation on our website: stthomaspeoria.org. Go to GIVING, then DONATE NOW. As you complete the form please Apply your Donation to The Giving Tree.

Please make your monetary donation as soon as possible so our elves have time to shop before the deadline.

If your requested gift is a **gift card** you may purchase through Comet Cash after Mass or email **Allison Buckardt** at

aebuckardt@gmail.com or call 309-231-0449.

PLEASE RETURN GIFTS BY DECEMBER 15TH. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

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.

ADA

Goal

\$153,016

Pledges to date

\$108,175

Paid

\$94,282

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

THAT MAN IS YOU!

TMIY Schedule Notes

During this holiday season TMIY has a few changes in the meeting schedule.

There will be no meeting on Friday following Thanksgiving, November 24.

Meetings will be held as usual on December 1 & December 8.

There will be no meetings the remainder of December or January 5 & 12.

The Spring Semester will resume on Friday, January 19 at 6:30 a.m.

If you have any questions please contact George Burek at **georgeburek@yahoo.com.**

Rosary for Peace

We are peace warriors and the Rosary is our weapon. The Rosary is the most secret of secret weapons.

Come on *Friday, December 8th, at Noon* in Church before Mass to join forces with each other to answer the challenge we face today finding world peace.

Venerable Fulton Sheen said, the power of the rosary is beyond description.

We will ask our Mother, Mary, for her intercession in these troubled times. Please join us.

REGISTER TODAY!

mAgnIfy

Growing in Holiness

Begin the New Year by joining us for a one-day retreat



9:30 Doors open with opportunities for adoration/confessions in the Chapel and tour the Fulton Sheen Museum and shop in the gift shop. 10:30 Keynote Speaker Kaylene Brown, Author of the book Magnify 90

1st Talk, "The Virtuous Mission of Women" 11115 Small Group Discussion

11:45 Lunch

12:30 Speaker Panel: Question & Answer Discipleship, Matt Faley, Chief of Mission, Diocese of Peoria

Evangelization, April Adams, Evangelization Chair PDCCW Eucharist, Fr.Daniel Dionesotes, St. Philomena Catholic Church

Vocations, Kaylene Brown, Creator & Author of the book Magnify 90 Continuing Legacy of Fulton Sheen, Katie Bogner, catholic teacher & author

2:00 Break

2:15 Kaylene Brown, 2nd talk, Growing in Holiness 3:00 Closing, Divine Mercy Chaplet 3:15 Book Signing

Cost \$30.00 (financial help available) lunch provided

Register by contacting April Adams 309-369-5110 or Karen Flaherty 309-657-2416
You may also register using the QR Code or url below.
https://forms.gle/AqHwWQaYQ38RvfEV7



Sponsored by: The Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Women Connect

OCIA/RCIA Schedule

DATE TOPIC

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

Jan. 17: Orders, Religious Life

Jan. 24: Individual aspects of the Moral Life Jan. 31: Prayer, Universal Call to Holiness

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!



Parish Christmas Open House

Thank you for your generous support all year long

Saturday, December 16 Sunday, December 17 After all Masses

Please join us in the Parish Hall

Volunteers are needed to assist with set-up and serving.

If you are able to help please call the Parish Office

or Denise Tascher @693-8633.

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.



retirement Fund

And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Genesis 1:3

SAVE JHE DAJE!

Get excited for a night of friends, food and festivities at

SAINI JHOMAS JHE APOSTLE

PROGRESSIVE DINNER!

JANUARY 20TH. 2024

The night will begin at 5:00 p.m. with cocktails and appetizers at the homes of Laurie and Dave Williams and Julia Adams and Robert Beach.

You will enjoy a small group dinner in a parish home at 6:45 p.M.

At 8:45 p.m., everyone will make their way to Santa Rosa Cafe for dessert, entertainment, and a short live auction. Funds will be raised to replace the lighting in the classrooms at St. Thomas.

Watch for more details in the coming weeks!



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.

Annual Motherhouse Bazaar

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

At the Motherhouse 1175 St. Francis Lane, East Peoria

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

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

form.	
Last Name	
First Name(s)	
Email	
Phone	
Address	
City	ZIP
Phone	

Change of address/phone _

Do You Wish to Make or Renew Your Consecration to Our Lady?

The Militia of the Immaculata will host a Day of Preparation for consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe on **Saturday**, **December 2nd** from **9:30 am to 3:00 pm** at the Little Garden of the Immaculata in West Peoria.

The program includes talks, video presentations, and Q&A periods.

Please bring your sack lunch. Drinks and printed materials will be provided.

Participants will have an opportunity to make or renew their consecration on December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Please call or text **Antonella Di Piazza**, **FKMI**, at **(331) 223-5564** or write to **MINational@MissionImmaculata.com**





Peoria Notre Dame High School is teaming up with Scherer Mazda of Peoria for the 6th annual 12 Days of Christmas Cash and Car Raffle! An Early Bird drawing of S500 will be held November 16. Cash prizes will be drawn daity, beginning Monday, December 4 through Thursday, December 14. The Grand Prize of a 2024 Mazda CX-5 (MSRP S31,00) will be drawn at 12:10 pm on Friday, December 15, 2023. Tickets may be purchased online at pndhs.org/12days, or from a staff member or student of PND.

Address:		
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CVC#	Exp/_	
Signature		

New Parishioner ___

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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JIM ROCHFORD ATTORNEY AT LAW

JIM ROCHFORD & ASSOCIATES 309.637.5322 PARISHIONER 101 South West Adams, #700 drochford@rochfordlaw.com

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