

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

904 East Lake Avenue,
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frmarc@stthomas-church.net
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(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

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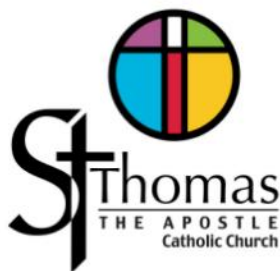
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Music Coordinator: Ann Horst..... 682-5507
Annulment Consultant:
John Mackoway.....699-5213

Stay in Touch

1. Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org 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).



November 26, 2023





From Our Pastor

We bring this liturgical year to a close with the celebration of Christ the King of the Universe. We are reminded that Jesus Christ will come again, and this gives us hope. Even in a world filled with signs of original sin, we nevertheless remain confident in the final victory of our Savior. Be renewed in your own commitment to follow Jesus Christ with courage!

Advent will begin next week. Although this season is short, I encourage you to make the most of this time of spiritual preparation for the birth of Our Lord. It is easy to be caught up in many end-of-year activities, celebrations, and gatherings. Don't let the worldly get in the way of the spiritual. We are preparing to celebrate the incarnation of Jesus who is God made man and born for us.

One way to focus on Jesus is to attend First Friday adoration which will take place on December 1st from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm. We will also have an additional extra confession weekend in December. In addition to our regular times, confessions will be heard after all Masses on December 9-10 and 23-24.

I am happy to see that our discussion of Fulton Sheen's *St. Therese: A Treasured Love Story* is off to a good start. All materials related to this book study are posted at www.jgray.org/sheen.

With our Thursday Women's Bible study, I reflect on the Blessed Virgin Mary at their meeting this week. I will record the presentation, so even if you are not a participant, you can still hear the talk.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of November 26, 2023

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
Monday	Daniel 1: 1-6, 8-20; Luke 21: 1-4
Tuesday	Daniel 2: 31-45; Luke 21: 5-11
Wednesday	Daniel 5: 1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21: 12-19
Thursday	St. Andrew, Apostle Romans 10: 9-18; Matthew 4: 18-22
Friday	Daniel 7: 2-14; Luke 21: 29-33
Saturday	Daniel 7: 15-27; Luke 21: 34-36
Sunday	First Sunday of Advent Isaiah 63: 16b-17, 19b; 64: 2-7; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 33-37

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 27, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Thomas C. Burek/George & Connie Burek
8:00 a.m.	Patricia Powers/Marty & Jamie Powers

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Sharon Jokhy/Jack & Margaret Weinstein
8:00 a.m.	Sue Connor/Steve & Nan Powers

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Harry Alexander/The Alexander Family
8:00 a.m.	Steve Sprenger/Barb & Mike Chance

Thursday, November 30, 2023

9:00 a.m.	Janice Kennedy/John & Amy Kelly
9:15 a.m.	Gloria Palkovic & Paul Streitmatter

Friday, December 1, 2023

7:00 a.m.	Ward, Nyla, & Needra Bell/Jack & Margaret Weinstein
8:00 a.m.	Albert & Josephine Zogby/Jim & Sharon Zogby

Saturday, December 2, 2023

8:00 a.m.	Lillian McCadden/Ray & Ellen McRae
5:00 p.m.	Kevin Myszkowski/Family

Sunday, December 3, 2023

8:00 a.m.	Betty Kane/Family
10:00 a.m.	Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist
5:00 p.m.	For the People

Week of November 26

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

CHOIR PRACTICE Sunday, November 26, 9:00 a.m., Music Room

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, November 26, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, November 28, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

FIRST COMMUNION FAMILY MEETING Wednesday, November 29, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

CCD Wednesday, November 29, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, November 29, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

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

TMIY Friday, December 1, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

ADORATION Friday, December 1, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

ROLAN JOHNSON ORNAMENT SALE December 2 & 3, after all Masses

UPCOMING EVENTS

Immaculate Conception

December 8

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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– **Parishioner** –
JAMES A. GERAGHTY, M.D.

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.



Pray with the Pope

December 2023
For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

61 Minutes to a Miracle

Fulton Sheen and the true story of the impossible. Guest speaker Bonnie Engstrom will be here at St. Thomas on Thursday, Dec. 7th at 9:15 a.m. All are invited to attend in Church.



Our next **Light of the World Retreat** will take place at **St. Thomas February 23-26th, 2024**.

This is an immersive weekend 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.

Due to the holiday early submission of the bulletin is needed and we are not able to have the weekly collection numbers. We will resume this after Thanksgiving.

Catechism Questions for OCIA Class November 29 Topic: Eucharist

- When was the Eucharist instituted by Jesus Christ (CCC 1323)?
- What does the Mass have in common with the offering of the king-priest Melchizedek (CCC 1333, Gen 14:18)?
- What does the Mass have in common with the offering at Passover (CCC 1334, Ex 12:15)?
- What does the Mass have in common with the multiplication of the loaves and with the wedding feast at Cana (CCC 1335, Mt 14:13-21, Jn 2:1-11)?
- What word describes the transformation of the substance of the bread and wine into the substance of the body and blood of Christ (CCC 1376)?
- Where is the Blessed Sacrament retained outside of Mass (CCC 1379)?

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

Matching Gifts

Caterpillar Foundation is providing a 2:1 match for qualifying gifts up to \$500 from **Nov. 27-Dec 1**. If you work at, or are retired from Cat, please consider taking advantage of this opportunity when you give to our school or scholarship funds during this week.

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

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.

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



Our December bulletin article is dedicated to you, our St. Thomas parishioners. We thank you so much for your prayers and your generous contributions to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Your prayers and financial support are what enable us to help the poor. You are the foundation of our mission. We couldn't do this without you. The St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Thomas helps approximately 35 to 40 families per month. Most of the requests that we receive are from people who have had an illness, a hospitalization, a work place accident, or a temporary physical disability which prevents them from working for a minimal period of time. When those we serve miss work, they normally don't get paid, thus putting them in a position of getting behind on their bills. Your contributions prevent evictions, water and Ameren shut-offs, help buy furniture for the homeless who are finally able to get a place to live, and the list goes on.

Those of us involved in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul say the following prayer at the end of every meeting. We want to share this prayer with you, as it reflects the spirit of our Vincentian Family.

Lord Jesus, you who willed to become poor, give us eyes and a heart directed toward the poor; help us recognize you in them, in their thirst, their hunger, their loneliness, and their misfortune.

Enkindle within our Vincentian Family, unity, simplicity, humility, and the fire of love that burned in St. Vincent de Paul.

Strengthen us, so that faithful to the practice of these virtues, we may contemplate you and serve you in the person of the poor, and may one day be united with you in your Kingdom.

Amen

Again, we thank you. God bless you.

Al Barhorst, Bettsey Barhorst, Brian Barkley, Edie Brereton, Cissy Carlson, Chris Clemons, John Galbreath, Cynthia Hall, Mike Hallar, Loretta Hardgrove, Mary Heller, Nancy Higgins, Mike Hinchman, Kim Jaegle, Diana Janda, Mark Kelsch, Marlynn Kelsch, Brian Kemp, Colleen Matarelli, Jim Matarelli, Brian Medendorp, Nancy Medendorp, Mary Jennifer Meister, Mark Milford, Rosemary Muchow, Mike Phelan, Mary Kay Pilat, Tom Pilat, Pat Pusey, Clarissa Rhode, Dave Schlicksup, Cindy Smith, Dan Smith, Don Smith, Jan Smith, Joan Utley, Linda Waible, Nanette Westerhold, and Walter Wilkins.

If you are interested in joining the St. Vincent de Paul Society, please call the church office at 688-3446, and a member who can answer your questions will contact you. Those of us who serve the needy through the Society know that we receive much more than we give.

~ Edie Brereton

OCIA/RCIA Schedule

DATE	TOPIC
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!

Position Opening

A full-time teacher's aide is needed. Hours are 9:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Please send interest and resumé to Mrs. Maureen Bentley, Principal, at maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net.

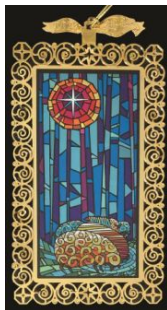
2023 Rolan Johnson Christmas Ornament

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



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.

The Fulton J. Sheen Foundation

December 9, 2023

SHEEN DAY RETREAT

8:30 am Mass with Bishop Louis Tylka at the Sheen Tomb * Sheen Talks * Special Guided Museum Tour * Lunch * Gift Shop * Sheen Movie * Guided Cathedral Tour with Sheen Points * Holy Hour * 5 pm Conclusion

Limited to the first 65 people!

Reserve your spot with a donation of \$25 at celebratesheen.com/retreats/

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

Genesis 1:3

SAVE THE DATE!

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

SAINT THOMAS THE 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!

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 or on the festival's Facebook page.



What if you were following a plan for your money that you KNEW worked? With Dave Ramsey's class, *Financial Peace University*, you CAN take control of your money, get out of debt, and create a plan for your future.

St. Philomena Parish invites you to join us for this Dave Ramsey study led by our parishioner, Brian Winschel. This nine-week series will meet **January 22 – March 18, 2024 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** in the St. Philomena Parish Center Banquet Room, 1000 W Albany, Peoria. To register, go to financialpeace.com/app/classes/B5B03B.

PND Dance Team Christmas Camp 2023

The annual dance camp for girls 4 yrs old to 6th grade is on Dec. 2, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The performance is at 11:30 a.m. \$40 per dancer. To register: [2023 Peoria Notre Dame Kids' Christmas Camp - Dance | ArbiterSports](http://2023.PeoriaNotreDameKidsChristmasCamp-DanceArbiterSports)

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 _____

**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's
12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS
 CASH AND CAR RAFFLE

Tickets: \$85 each,
 3 for \$240
 5 for \$375
 10 for \$700
 12 for \$720

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 \$500 will be held November 16. Cash prizes will be drawn daily, beginning Monday, December 4 through Thursday, December 14. The Grand Prize of a 2024 Mazda CX-5 (MSRP \$31,100) 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.

Yes, please send _____ (# of tickets) to:
 My Name: _____ Ticket Seller: _____
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 OR check payable to
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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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