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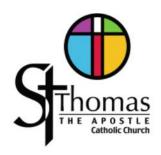
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350) parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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).



December 10, 2023 Second Sunday of Advent





From Our Pastor

As part of our preparation for Christmas, it is good to make an Advent confession and to prepare ourselves for Our Lord's birth. Extra confessions will be offered after all Masses this weekend, December 9-10. Extra confessions will be offered again after all Masses on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23, and the morning of December 24. Please note that Masses on the evening of December 24 will be Christmas Eve Masses.

Next weekend, we have our open house, with refreshments served after Masses. Please join us and the Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist as we give thanks for all our parishioners and your support of St. Thomas.

With the new Advent Season, the missalettes and hymnals have changed. You will now find the Anima Christi prayer printed on the cover of the missalettes rather than in the back of the hymnals.

May God help us to consecrate this Advent Season.

- - Msgr. Gray

Sponsor of the Week





lexusofpeoria.com



Readings for the Week of December 10, 2023

Sunday Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3: 8-14; Mark 1: 1-8

Monday St. Damasus I, Pope

Isaiah 35: 1-10; Luke 5: 17-26

Tuesday Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zechariah 2: 14-17; Luke 1: 26-38

Wednesday St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

Isaiah 40: 25-31; Matthew 11: 28-30

Thursday St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Isaiah 41: 13-20; Matthew 11: 11-15

Friday Isaiah 48: 17-19; Matthew 11: 16-19

Saturday Sirach 48: 1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17: 9a, 10-13

Sunday Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24:

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 11, 2023

7:00 a.m. Tom Burek/George & Connie Burek 8:00 a.m. Tom Mikulecky/Pat Mikulecky

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

7:00 a.m. Charlie Axelson/Michael & Whitney Axelson

8:00 a.m. Sonny King/Mike Phelan

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

7:00 a.m. Mary Ann Lassuy/Jeanne Whalen 8:00 a.m. Ralph Barnett/John, Kay and Rick Rossi

Thursday, December 14, 2023

7:00 a.m. Remedias Tolentino/The Sarmiento Family

9:15 a.m. Joann Shields/Marie Zarley

Friday, December 15, 2023

7:00 a.m. Erma Harris/Sam Joseph

8:00 a.m. Robert Maushard/Robert J Peters and Family

Saturday, December 16, 2023

8:00 a.m. Grace Cafaro/Denise Noell

5:00 p.m. Bob Sullivan/Family

Sunday, December 17, 2023

8:00 a.m. Betty Kane/Family
10:00 a.m. Marge McNally/Family

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of December 10

CHOIR PRACTICE Sunday, December 10, 9:00 a.m. Music Room

EXTRA CONFESSIONS Sunday, December 10, after Masses

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, December 10, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, December 12, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

CCD Wednesday, December 13, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, December 13, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, December 14, 6:30 p.m., Rudy's Cantina

CHRISTMAS SING Thursday, December 14, 6:30 p.m., School

PARISH OPEN HOUSE Sat/Sun, December 16/17, after Masses

UPCOMING EVENTS

St Thomas Holy Hour Adoration December 21 January 5

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.

Christmas Craft Sale

The Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist will be here once again with their lovely crafts for sale. Stop by and check it out during the Open House—you might find that last-minute gift you have been missing.

Weekly Collection

December 3, 2023

		riscui i ib
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$460,000
Sunday Collections	\$16,697	\$291,285
Electronic Collections	\$ 947	\$86,447
Total Collected	\$17,644	\$377,732
Over/(Short)	\$(2,356)	\$(82,268)

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

Robert Newtson

Larry Alt

Norma Vineyard, mother of Laura Machetti

Baptism Congratulations

Aberdeen Rasch daughter of Keri Thierer

Ameera Renea Garibay and Nyeli Elena Garibay children of Seraio Garibay and Jessica DelRio

Aaron Maverick Rabanuz Son of Romulo and Bea Mariz Rabanuz

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 \$t. 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!

Fiscal VTD



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.



Masses and Confessions for Christmas

Advent Confessions

Before Christmas confession times include:

Saturday, Dec, 9, 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. & Dec. 23, 3:00—4:45 and 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 10 & 24, 9:00 & 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 pm

Christmas Masses will be offered Dec. 24, Christmas Eve at 5:00, 7:00, and 10:00 p.m. and Dec 25, Christmas Day at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Seating is available in the church and in the narthex and chapel.

IMM Schedule Notes

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

Meetings will be held on Dec. 1 & Dec. 8.

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

TMIY will resume on Friday, January 19 at 6:30 a.m.

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

Parish Nurse Notes

November was **National Diabetes Month**, a time when communities across the country seek to bring attention to diabetes. This year's focus is on taking action to prevent diabetes health problems.

Know your diabetes ABCs

A for the A1C test

The A1C is a blood test that measures your average blood sugar level over the past three months. It is different from the blood sugar checks you do each day.

You need to know your blood sugar levels over time. You don't want those numbers to get too high. High levels of blood sugar can harm your heart, blood vessels, kidneys, feet, and eyes.

The A1C goal for many people with diabetes is below 7. It may be different for you. Ask what your goal should be.

B for Blood pressure

Blood pressure is the force of your blood against the wall of your blood vessels.

If your blood pressure gets too high, it makes your heart work too hard. It can cause a heart attack, stroke, and damage your kidneys and eyes. The blood pressure goal for most people with diabetes is below 140/90. It may be different for you. Ask what your goal should be.

C for Cholesterol

There are two kinds of cholesterol in your blood: LDL and HDL. LDL or "bad" cholesterol can build up and clog your blood vessels. It can cause a heart attack or stroke. HDL or "good" cholesterol helps remove the "bad" cholesterol from your blood vessels.

Ask what your cholesterol numbers should be. Your goals may be different from other people. If you are over 40 years of age, you may need to take a statin drug for heart health.

✓ Actions you can take

- Ask your health care team:
 - * what your A1C, blood pressure, and cholesterol numbers are and what they should be. Your ABC goals will depend on how long you have had diabetes, other health problems, and how hard your diabetes is to manage.
 - * what you can do to reach your ABC goals
- Write down your numbers on the record at the back of this booklet to track your progress (found on the NIH website or make your own)
 4 Steps to Manage Your Diabetes for Life - NIDDK (nih.gov)

Living Well With Diabetes

Being active most days is a pro move for managing diabetes. You don't get really good at dealing with diabetes overnight. But over time, you'll figure out how to go from getting it done to taking it in stride. See if any of these tips are familiar (or worth trying!).

- Make and eat healthy food.
- Be active most days.
- Test your blood sugar often.
- Take medicines as prescribed, even if you feel good.
- Learn ways to manage stress.
- Cope with the emotional side of diabetes.
- Go to checkups.

Living Well With Diabetes (cdc.gov)

OCIA/RCIA Schedule

DATE TOPIC

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!



Simbang Gabi

One of the oldest and most revered Philippine Christmas traditions is Misa de Gallo or Mass at Night

Masses are each night from December 14th to December 22nd

Mass will be celebrated here at St. Thomas on December 19th at 6:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to join for this special Mass



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.



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"

11:15 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

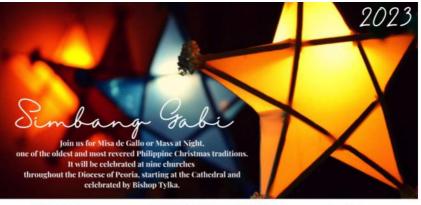
2:15 Kaylene Brown, 2nd talk, Growing in Holiness 3:00 Closing, Divine Mercy Chaplet 3:15 Book Signing

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



DECEMBER 14	CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY'S	6:00 PM
DECEMBER 15	ST. MARK	6:00 PM
DECEMBER 16	ST. JOSEPH-PEORIA	5:30 PM
DECEMBER 17	ST. VINCENT DE PAUL	5:00 PM
DECEMBER 18	ST. MONICA	6:00 PM
DECEMBER 19	ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE	6:00 PM
DECEMBER 20	BLESSED SACRAMENT	6:00 PM
DECEMBER 21	ST. PHILOMENA	6:00 PM
DECEMBER 22	HOLY FAMILY	5:00 PM

Cocoa & Carols - A Family Christmas Concert

Joshua & Anna Russell will be performing a Christmas concert for two pianos on Friday, **December 22**, **at 7:00 p.m.** The concert will be here at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church. The concert will feature favorite Christmas hymns for two pianos and will also contain arrangements that include their three oldest children. The concert is free and all ages are encouraged to attend! A freewill offering will be taken to benefit Destiny for Women Health Clinic.

Parish Registration

Complete this form and drop it in the collection basket, or mai Parish Office or Register on our website at stthomaspeoria.org. About open the New Parishioner Registration, complete and strorm.	Under
Last Name	
First Name(s)	
Email	
Phone	
Address	
City ZIP	_

Change of address/phone _

PND Christmas Basket Drive

Peoria Notre Dame is currently hosting their annual Christmas Basket Drives! Non-perishable food items and canned goods are being collected at the school and later transported to local organizations and pantries to support those affected from food instability Donations of goods or money are greatly appreciated to help those in our community and may be dropped off at Peoria Notre Dame High School during school hours until December 14th! Feel free to contact Katie Hausauer at k.hausauer@pndhs.org or Julie Santen at j.santen@pndhs.org with any questions. Happy holidays to you and your families!







Peoria Notre Dame High School is teaming up with Scherer Mazda of Peoria for the 6th annual I2 Days of Christmas Cash and Car Raffle! An Early Bird drawing of S500 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 SSI,000) 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.

My Name:			Ticket Seller:		
- 121 (155 C)					
Address:					
City:			State:	Zip:	
Phone:	Em	nail:			
Visa MasterCard					
		CVC#	Exp		
Signature					
all into c					

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 &

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.



St. Thomas the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin





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