

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

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msgrgray@stthomas-church.net
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frmarc@stthomas-church.net
Fr. John Twinomujuni.....In Residence

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(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

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Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735
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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).



December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent





From Our Pastor

This weekend is our traditional Open House to thank all our parishioners for your volunteerism and support of St. Thomas over the past year. Please join us for refreshments after all Masses this weekend.

Christmas is coming quickly, and I encourage everyone to make time for confession before the Nativity of Our Lord.

- Confessions will be heard during the Parish Holy Hour to take place this Thursday, December 21, at 7 PM.
- Confessions will also be heard on Saturday, December 23, beginning at 3 PM (one hour early).
- Confessions will also be heard after Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. This includes Saturday evening, December 23, and Sunday morning, December 24.

Please take note of the Mass schedule for both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas.

- Masses on Saturday evening and Sunday morning are for the Fourth Sunday of Advent.
- Masses on Sunday evening are Christmas Eve Masses: 5 PM, 7 PM, 10 PM.
- Masses on Monday are Christmas Day Masses: 8 AM, 10 AM.

Please plan to attend Mass both for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and for Christmas. Since January 1st is a Monday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Our Masses on January 1 will be at the regular times.

- Msgr. Gray



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.



Readings for the Week of December 17, 2023

Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday	Jeremiah 23: 5-8; Matthew 1: 18-25
Tuesday	Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1: 5-25
Wednesday	Isaiah 7: 10-14; Luke 1: 26-38
Thursday	St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church Song of Songs 2: 8-14 OR Zephaniah 3: 14-18a; Luke 1: 39-45
Friday	1 Samuel 1: 24-28; Luke 1: 46-56
Saturday	St. John of Kanty, Priest Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24; Luke 1: 57-66
Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Advent 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 18, 2023

7:00 a.m. Joe Casten/John & Amy Kelly
8:00 a.m. Lois Frasco/Linda Osika

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

7:00 a.m. Hafner & Smith Families
8:00 a.m. Jeffrey Greenhaugh/The Sarmiento Family & Greenhaugh Family

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

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

Thursday, December 21, 2023

7:00 a.m. Robert Gearien/Ronald & Roberta Duckworth
9:15 a.m. Maxine Keith/Betty Arnold

Friday, December 22, 2023

7:00 a.m. Joanne Shields/The Rick Jockisch Family
8:00 a.m. Intentions of Michael & Whitney Axelson

Saturday, December 23, 2023

8:00 a.m. Joseph & Genevieve Stickelmaier/Paul & Ann Horst
5:00 p.m. Glen Morton/Family

Sunday, December 24, 2023

8:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB
10:00 a.m. Fred Darche/The Phelan Family
5:00 p.m. For the People
7:00 p.m. Intentions of Tommy Axelson/Michael & Whitney Axelson
10:00 p.m. Sonia Gray/John & Sonia Nelson

Week of December 17

- PARISH OPEN HOUSE** Sat/Sun, December 16/17, after Masses
- CHOIR PRACTICE** Sunday, December 17, 9:00 a.m. Music Room
- MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, December 17, 7:00 p.m., School Gym
- ROSARY** Tuesday, December 19, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel
- SIMBANG GABI** Tuesday, December 19, 6:00 p.m., Church
- CCD** Wednesday, December 20, 6:00 p.m., School
- OCIA** Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR** Thursday, December 21, 7:00 p.m., Church
- CHRISTMAS PIANO CONCERT** Friday, December 22, 7:00 p.m., Church, Reception following, Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adoration January 5



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

Weekly Collection

December 10, 2023

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000	\$480,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$11,488	\$302,773
Electronic Collections.....	\$ 9,073	\$86,447
Total Collected.....	\$20,561	\$389,220
Over/(Short).....	\$561	\$(90,780)

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



PARISH HOLY HOUR

Thursday, December 21

7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

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.



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

There is no Penance Service

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.

Sponsor of the Week



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SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE PROGRESSIVE DINNER!

JANUARY 20TH, 2024

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

Genesis 1:3

Get excited for a bright night of friends, food, and festivities! Funds will be raised to replace the lighting in the classrooms at St. Thomas so let your light shine!!

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.

Tickets \$50 per person

Reservations due no later than January 3, 2024

Tickets may be purchased on our website:

stthomaspeoria.org or

send or drop off a check to the parish office:

904 East Lake Avenue 61616

Make checks out to St. Thomas and place in an envelope marked "Progressive Dinner"

You will receive an email letting you know your appetizer and dinner hosts and their addresses within the week of the event.

*****If you are unable to attend, please consider a donation to help fund new lighting for our classrooms. Be sure to note on your check or online that your donation goes toward The Progressive Dinner fund. Thank you in advance for your consideration! *****

*Contact Kim Kellock 630-880-9619 kimkellock@gmail.com or
Christine Wigginton 952-200-5188 christinewigginton@gmail.com with questions.*

Click on the QR code to register for the Progressive Dinner



ADA

As of 11/30/2023

Goal	\$153,016
Pledges to date	\$153,016
Paid	\$102,302.50



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 at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church - 904 E Lake Ave, Peoria Heights, IL 61616. 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*. Reception following in the Parish Hall.



OCIA/RCIA Schedule

DATE	TOPIC
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

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

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!



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.



Schedule Notes

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

There will be no meetings December 15, 22, & 29 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.

REGISTER TODAY!

Magnify

Growing in Holiness



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

January 13, 2024, Spalding Pastoral Center

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

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 _____

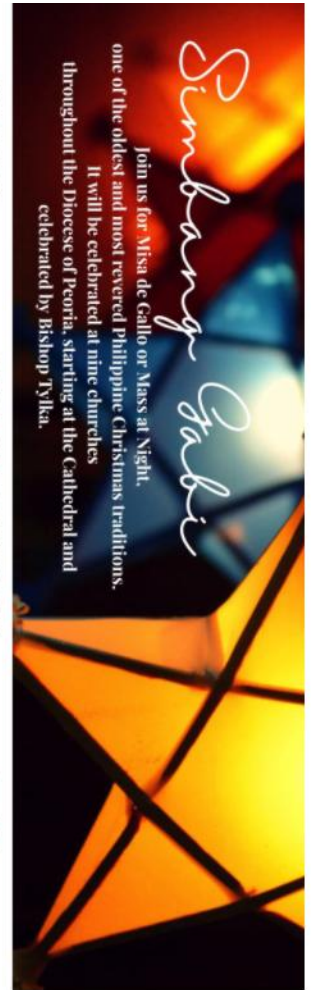
Phone _____

New Parishioner _____ Change of address/phone _____



Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

DECEMBER 14	CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY'S	6:00 PM
DECEMBER 15	ST. MARR	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



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.

Diocesan is proud to be printing
St. Thomas the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin
You are invited to help support our Parish!
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