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

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

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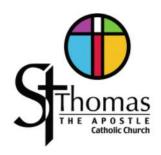
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350) parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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

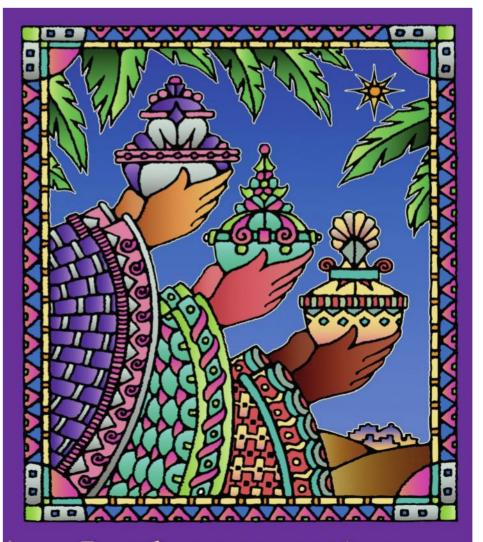
John Mackoway......699-5213

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).



January 7, 2024 The Epiphany of the Lord



Lord, every nation on earth will adore you



From Our Pastor

This weekend is the Epiphany, a word that means to "shine forth." We celebrate the light of Christ that shines forth on the world. This feast day commemorates three moments in the life of Christ. First and foremost, the revelation of the Christ to the three magi who bring their gifts to the newborn King of Israel, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This feast day also commemorates the baptism of Jesus in which the Father revealed Jesus as his beloved Son; listen to Him! Also, in the wedding feast at Cana, Jesus performs his first miracle in changing water into wine. The Baptism of the Lord will be celebrated on Monday, January 8, and marks the close of the Christmas Season.

I take this opportunity to review our baptism practice at St. Thomas. Parents who are presenting their first child for baptism at St. Thomas must participate in a baptism class. The class is a single session scheduled at a convenient time with one of the priests or a catechist. Parents who have participated in the class do not need to repeat the class to have additional children baptized.

The best time for baptisms is on Sunday, either with the community at the 10 a.m. Mass or in private afterwards at 11 a.m. When this is not convenient, baptisms can also be scheduled on a Saturday morning or afternoon, or even on a weekday. The office can help put you in contact with one of the priests or deacons to confirm the date.

By presenting your child for baptism, parents commit to raising their child in the Catholic Faith. A godparent must be chosen. If there are two godparents, they must be a godfather and a godmother. At least one godparent must be a baptized and confirmed practicing Catholic in good standing, generally over the age of 16.

Children may be presented for baptism up to the age of reason, around 7 years of age or second grade. Older children must go through some catechetical preparation before they are baptized. It is recommended that older children enter the Church at the Easter Vigil.

Finally, I draw your attention to the Progressive dinner to take place January 20th. This is a fun and enjoyable evening to gather with parish and school families and meet new people. There are a few days left, so please sign up soon to participate.

- -Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of January 7, 2024

Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2: 1-12

Monday The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7 OR Isaiah 55: 1-11 OR Acts 10: 34-38 OR 1

John 5: 1-9; John 5: 1-9; Mark 1: 7-11

Tuesday 1 Samuel 1: 1-8 AND 1 Samuel 1: 9-20; Mark 1: 14-20 AND

Mark 1: 21-28

Wednesday 1 Samuel 3: 1-10, 19-20; Mark 1: 29-39

Thursday 1 Samuel 4: 1-11; Mark 1: 40-45

Friday 1 Samuel 8: 4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2: 1-12

Saturday St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

1 Samuel 9: 1-4, 17-19; 10: 1; Mark 2: 13-17

Sunday Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 3: 3b-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20;

John 1: 35-42

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 8, 2024

7:00 a.m. E. A. Presley/Jack & Margaret Weinstein

8:00 a.m. Joanne Shields/Paul & Ann Horst

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

7:00 a.m. Mary Couri/Joe & Sandy Whalen

8:00 a.m. John Pusey/Diana Janda

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

7:00 a.m. Eugene Poignant/The Mary Poignant Family

8:00 a.m. Jeremy Snyder/Grandpa

Thursday, January 11, 2024

7:00 a.m. Tho Dang/The Nguyen Family 9:15 a.m. Intentions of Ed & Cathy Mallow

Friday, January 12, 2024

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

Saturday, January 13, 2024

8:00 a.m. Lillian McCadden/Roy & Ellen McCrae 5:00 p.m. Bernard & Margaret Sauer/Family

Sunday, January 14, 2024

8:00 a.m. Msgr. William Watson/The Harn Family 10:00 a.m. Jim Becker/Clarence & Sarah Grebner

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of January 7

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

CHOIR PRACTICE Sunday, January 7, 9:00 a.m. Music Room

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

ROSARY Tuesday, January 9, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Tuesday, January 9, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

CCD Wednesday, January 10, 6:00 p.m., School

FIRST COMMUNION FAMILY MEETING Wednesday, January 10, 6:00 Parish Hall

OCIA Wednesday, January 10, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WOMEN OF THE WORD Thursday, January 11, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, January 11, 6:30 p.m., Rudy's Cantina

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Thomas Holy Hour That Man is You Resumes Progressive Dinner Adoration

January 18 January 19 January 20

February 2



Pray with the Pope

January 2024
For The Gift Of Diversity
In The Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

Thank You for Your Generosity!

If you would like a statement of your 2023 giving for your records or for tax purposes, please contact the parish office,

terrimoon@stthomas-church.net, after January 15, so we can make arrangements. To get that to you.

~ Msgr. Gray

Fiscal VTD

Weekly Collection

December 31, 2023

		113Cai 11D
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$540,000
Sunday Collections	\$24,360	\$365,126
Electronic Collections	\$ 2,880	\$102,984
Total Collected	\$27,240	\$468,110
Over/(Short)	\$7,240	\$(71,890)

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

Joyce Whitney

Roger Tramel

Participate at 10:00 a.m. Mass

Would you like to bring the gifts up at 10 a.m. Sunday mass? Sign up using the QR code or call the parish office.



OCIA/RCIA Schedule

DATE TOPIC

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

Feb. 7: Our Father, Hail Mary, other prayers, prepare for Lent

Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday: NO Class

Feb. 21: Community and Moral Law, grace Feb. 28: Ten & Great Commandments, #1-3;

Divine/Natural Law

Missing Glasses

Several pairs of prescription glasses have been found in church. If you are missing yours please come to the Parish Office as we may have them.



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE PROGRESSIVE DINNER! IANUARY 20TH, 2024

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

Genesis I: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.

Registration open through 1/8

Click on the QR code to register for the Progressive Dinner



John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship Fund Grants

Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2024-2025 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are active members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed.

Information about the grants and application materials may be obtained from the Diocesan website www.cdop.org under the heading Catholic Education and then under Financial Assistance. Consult the detailed protocols and procedures and checklist for all requirements necessary to be eligible for an award. Parents must apply at: https://online.factsmgt.com/aid. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for the 2024-2025 school year must reapply. Deadline date for the completed application is April 26, 2024. Notification of grant awards will be made in June of 2024.



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.

The Living Scripture Retreat: A Spiritual Journey for Healing After Abortion

Formerly known as Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, it is offered for those struggling with the emotional and spiritual pain of an abortion experience. This weekend is for singles or married couples, mothers, fathers, grandparents, siblings, or friends.

The next retreat is Feb. 9-11, 2024 at the Spalding Pastoral Center. Call Colleen Harmon at **309-264-1489** or *rvpeoria@gmail.com* for more information. Brochures are in the kiosk in the narthex.

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Thomas the Apostle Church Annual Report

The St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference at St. Thomas Church is comprised of 41 members, Vincentians, who answer and respond to our clients/friends in need (FINs) calls for assistance. requests. There are also several volunteers who work in the food pantry. Within that group of volunteers, we have a spiritual advisor, a finance coordinator, a scheduling coordinator and four call assignment coordinators. Our group volunteers their time to keep this complex program running. We receive calls from the St. Vincent de Paul Helpline which serves several other Peoria Area conferences as well. The calls that we receive are from those in distress who need help with utility payments, bus passes, rent, and food. Many times, we receive these calls when evictions are imminent and utility disconnections are pending. Two Vincentians work in teams on each call. We continue to deliver food in emergencies. Each call takes 1-1.5 hours and each Vincentian takes 1-2 calls per week. There are times we are not able to help a FIN because they are too far in debt or when they have called for help too frequently. We try to assist as many people as possible while being prudent stewards of the monies provided by your donations.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023 we made 284 calls and helped 638 people.

The Coming Together to Get Ahead program is a 16-week program for our FINs within the Peoria Diocese. The program is being resurrected and will be held in 2024 or 2025. This program provides education to improve life skills and better decision making.

If you know someone in need, the St. Vincent de Paul helpline number is 309 677 7696.

The St. Vincent de Paul, St. Thomas financials for the year October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023 are:

Balance 10/01/2022	\$3,823
Income	
Church Collections	\$55, 956
Other Donations	\$14,627
Expenses	
Miscellaneous	\$7,928
For Those We Serve	\$84,535
Balance 9/30/2023	\$9,068

We are deeply grateful for your continued support. May God bless you. Please consider joining our group of Vincentians. For more information please call:

Don Smith at 309 693 8062; Deacon Mark Kelsch at 309 692 4908; or Nancy Medendorp at 309 688 5996.

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!





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

Eucharist, Fr.Daniel Dionesotes, St. Philomena Catholic Church Vocations, Kaylene Brown, Creator & Author of the book Magnify 90 Continuing Legacy of Fulton Sheen, Katle Bogner, catholic teacher & author 200 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

Great week for the 7th and 8th grade boys basketball teams at the Holiday Tournament! Both teams were consolation bracket champions! In addition, Pierce Lynch won the 3 point shooting contest and was named to the 8th grade All Tournament team. Shout out to Luke Bare as well who was named to the 7th grade All Tournament team. Good job boys!

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 ____







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-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.



Diocesan is proud to be printing St. Thomas the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin



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