

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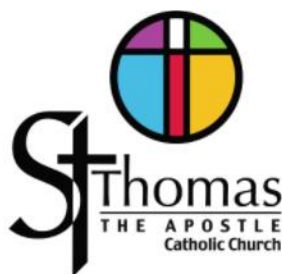
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Music Coordinator: Ann Horst..... 682-5507  
Annulment Consultant:  
John Mackoway.....699-5213

### Stay in Touch

1. Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, [stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org) or the My Parish App
2. Download My Parish App to receive push notifications (Visit [myparishapp.com/download](http://myparishapp.com/download)).
3. Receive the Bulletin and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net) to sign up).
4. Bookmark the parish webpage ([stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org)).



*January 14, 2024*  
*Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

# We have found the Messiah

JOHN 1:41





## From Our Pastor

It is good to be back after traveling in the first part of January. I am thankful for a time of renewal. After celebrating the Epiphany, we return for a short Ordinary Time before Lent begins.

St. Thomas School holds an open house during Catholic Schools' Week which is coming up in two weeks. However, this weekend, we are hosting an open house specifically for Kindergarten and Preschool students. Please encourage any families with young children to visit St. Thomas to learn more about these programs for our youngest students. The open house is held on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

I also welcome you to a Donut Sunday this weekend with refreshments after Sunday morning Masses this weekend. Our regular Donut Sunday was moved to the second week in January since our school was still on Christmas break through the first week in January.

Our parish Holy Hour is this Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. Please join us as we honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus during Adoration.

- Msgr. Gray



## 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.



## Readings for the Week of January 14, 2024

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b><br>1 Samuel 3: 3b-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20;<br>John 1: 35-42 |
| <b>Monday</b>    | 1 Samuel 15: 16-23; Mark 2: 18-22   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 1 Samuel 16: 1-13; Mark 2: 23-28  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>St. Anthony, Abbot</b><br>1 Samuel 17: 32-33, 37, 40-51; Mark 3: 1-6   |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 1 Samuel 18: 6-9; 19: 1-7; Mark 3: 7-12   |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 1 Samuel 24: 3-21; Mark 3: 7-12   |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>St. Sebastian, Martyr</b><br>1 Samuel 24: 3-21; Mark 3: 13-19  |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b><br>Jonah 3: 1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31; Mark 1: 14-20                   |

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, January 15, 2024

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 7:00 a.m. | Mary Cooper   |
| 8:00 a.m. | Jeffrey Greenbaugh & Mariano Tolentino/The Sarmiento Family |

### Tuesday, January 16, 2024

|           |                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 7:00 a.m. | Tom Burek/George & Connie Burek |
| 8:00 a.m. | Tho Dang/Tam & Phan Vu          |

### Wednesday, January 17, 2024

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 7:00 a.m. | Fr. Paul Stark, S.J./The Barkley Family |
| 8:00 a.m. | Joyce Whitney/Susan Almasi              |

### Thursday, January 18, 2024

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 7:00 a.m.        | Betty Shepherd                                     |
| <b>9:15 a.m.</b> | Intentions of Bishop Louis Tylka/Ed & Cathy Mallow |

### Friday, January 19, 2024

|           |                                     |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 7:00 a.m. | Richard Penn/Family                 |
| 8:00 a.m. | Joanne Shields/Gene and Joanne Gill |

### Saturday, January 20, 2024

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 8:00 a.m. | Augusta and Richard Gamperl/Family              |
| 5:00 p.m. | Sue Ann McWhirter/Gerald and Julie Kirchgessner |

### Sunday, January 21, 2024

|            |                                     |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m.  | For the People                      |
| 10:00 a.m. | Jim Becker/Nancy Becker             |
| 5:00 p.m.  | Raymundo Aguila/The Carrales Family |

## Week of January 14

**COFFEE AND DONUTS** after morning Masses this weekend

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, January 14, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

**ROSARY** Tuesday, January 16, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**PARISH COUNCIL** Tuesday, January 16, 7:00 p.m., Conference Room

**CCD** Wednesday, January 17, 6:00 p.m., School

**OCIA** Wednesday, January 17, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR** Thursday, January 18, 7:00 p.m., Church

**THAT MAN IS YOU** Friday, January 19, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30, ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

### UPCOMING EVENTS

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Progressive Dinner                | January 20  |
| Catholic Schools' Week Open House | January 28  |
| Adoration                         | February 2  |
| Ash Wednesday                     | February 14 |



That Man Is You returns for our Spring Semester on **Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**. Doors open at 6:00 am, and the program begins at 6:30 and ends by 7:30. Please invite others to join us.

If you are new to TMiy, you can register in person or send an email to George Burek at [georgeburek@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeburek@yahoo.com).

## Weekly Collection

January 7, 2024

|                             |           | Fiscal YTD |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Collections needed.....     | \$20,000  | \$560,000  |
| Sunday Collections.....     | \$14,174  | \$379,300  |
| Electronic Collections..... | \$ 4,290  | \$107,274  |
| Total Collected.....        | \$18,464  | \$486,574  |
| Over/(Short).....           | \$(1,536) | \$(73,426) |

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](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Thank you for your support.

## Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week

## Baptism Congratulations

Ford Francis Merta, son of Jean & Kevin Merta

Everly Rose O'Russa, daughter of  
Ashley & Neal O'Russa



## PARISH HOLY HOUR

Thursday, January 18

7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

## 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. 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     |

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](mailto:kimkellock@gmail.com) or Christine Wigginton 952-200-5188 [christinewigginton@gmail.com](mailto:christinewigginton@gmail.com) with questions.*

Click on the QR code to register for the Progressive Dinner



## 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!

## Have You Ever Wondered about the Knights of Columbus?

The Spalding Council of the Knights of Columbus serves our parish, St. Thomas the Apostle, as well as greater Peoria. Many of you might be surprised to know how much they do across our community. During an upcoming evangelization, or recruitment drive, you will learn more about the mission of the Knights of empowering Catholic men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work, and in their community.

An *Exemplification Ceremony*, the ceremony when men join the Knights or are elevated another degree, will be held in conjunction with the drive. All are welcome to bear witness.

If you are, or know of a Catholic gentleman, 18 years of age, or older, who might be interested in becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus or if you are just curious to see what the Knights of Columbus is all about, come to St. Thomas' Parish Hall after the 5:00 p.m. Mass on **Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>** or after the 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., or 5:00 p.m. Mass on **Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>** to find out.



Knights of  
Columbus

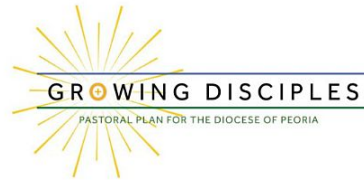
Join us for Coffee  
and Donuts after  
morning Mass this  
weekend



### 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 after **January 15**, to [terrimoon@stthomas-church.net](mailto:terrimoon@stthomas-church.net), so we can make arrangements to get it to you.

~ Msgr. Gray



Thank you to all our priests and Key Parish Leaders from across the Diocese of Peoria for hosting Growing Disciples parish meetings to explain the second set of draft models and how parishioners could provide feedback. Gathering information from those parish meetings is a critical element in the ability to move forward in this important pastoral planning process.

The Growing Disciples Core Team received over 2600 electronic and paper surveys. Bishop Tylka received several hundred personal letters from parishioners and community members, sharing their feelings about the process and what our possibilities could be as we look to the future. The feedback has come from all over the diocese and all parishes. Not everyone in every parish, or even every family, agreed on the steps we should take moving forward.

What is clear is that this process is awakening within all of us that desire for us to continue to be the Church and to grow the Church. We are passionate about our parishes. We are passionate about our mission that Jesus has given to us to share the Good News.

We also know we are living in very different times. The generations that preceded us has had their own challenges and opportunities to live out our faith. Ours is a very different time and we must discern a way forward to build a more sustainable, mission driven, vibrant church for tomorrow.

In the coming months, our Growing Disciples Core Team, our Diocesan Commission, and ultimately the Presbyteral Council will be discerning recommendations, based on the feedback, to be given to the Bishop, who will make the final decision.

Let us remain a people of prayer: praying for each other and supporting one another as we go through this process.

The Diocese of Peoria is constantly updating the website ([growingdisciplescdop.org](http://growingdisciplescdop.org)), so check back frequently. Please continue to pray that all our efforts today will bear fruit for a brighter tomorrow.



**Registration is open for our second  
Light of the World Retreat on February 23-26<sup>th</sup>, 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.

The retreat takes place at St. Thomas and participants go home to sleep each night. For more details and to register, see the parish website or pick up a flyer in the narthex!





## 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](http://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.

## 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](mailto:rvpeoria@gmail.com) for more information. Brochures are in the kiosk in the narthex.

### 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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Emmaus Knights

Emmaus Knights is a monthly event bringing the fun, faith, and fraternity of Emmaus Days to 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade men year round.

**Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Emmaus House.**

Contact Fr. Chase ([chilgenbrinck@cdop.org](mailto:chilgenbrinck@cdop.org)) for more information about how you can get your young man plugged in.



**Benefit Dinner**

HOSTED BY THE  
**ST. JOSEPH NEWMAN CENTER  
AT BRADLEY UNIVERSITY**

**February 8th, 2024**  
Spalding Pastoral Center

For more details and to RSVP,  
scan below or email  
[office@ncbu.org](mailto:office@ncbu.org)



## Reflections on the New Year

"The beginning of a new year is an opportunity for improvement. It makes little difference what the past has been, for we are not to look back to see if the furrow be crooked. What matters most is the sanctification of the now moment. Time is so precious that God doles it out second by second. If life in the past has been evil, the new year is an opportunity for penance. In such a way is time redeemed. If life, however, has been virtuous, the new year is an opportunity for greater self-perfection."

— Archbishop Fulton Sheen (On Being Human)



#### How to Submit Bulletin Information

Send information for the bulletin to [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto: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*



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