

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

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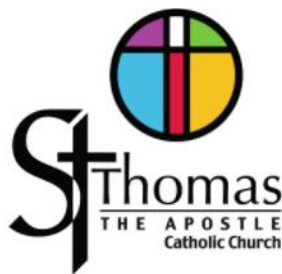
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Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)  
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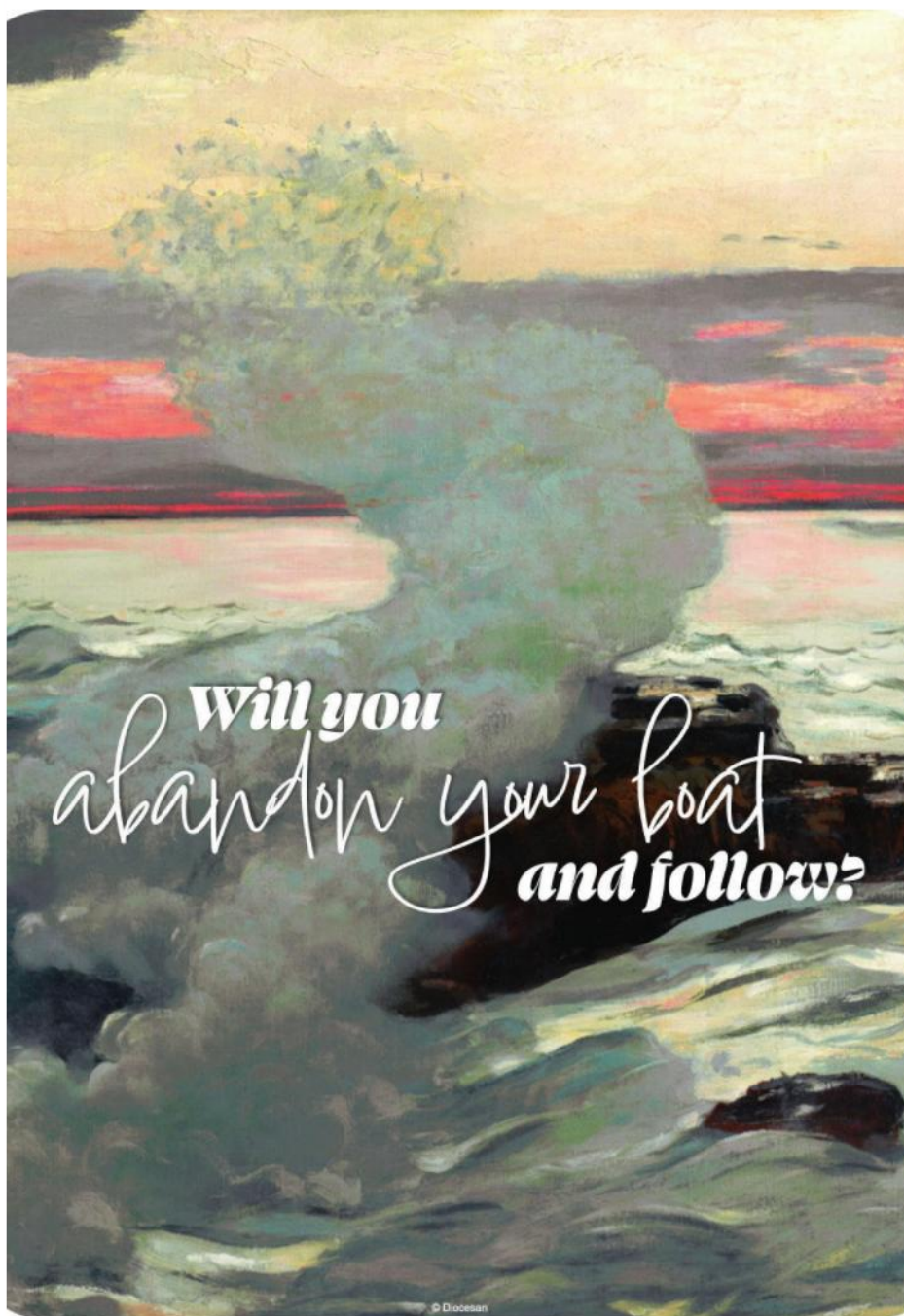
Music Coordinator: Ann Horst..... 682-5507  
Annulment Consultant:  
John Mackoway.....699-5213

### 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 21, 2024*  
*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*





## From Our Pastor

Thank you to all who made the Progressive Dinner this weekend successful. I am grateful to the families who volunteered to open their homes to host for a dinner. The proceeds will help provide improved classroom lighting in our school.

Monday is the traditional day of penance for the protection of the unborn. Even though *Roe v Wade* was overturned in the Supreme Court, the need to work for the right to life continues. You are asked to make a voluntary sacrifice for the dignity of human life on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Because of weather, our Kindergarten and preschool open house has been moved to Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage any families with your children to consider St. Thomas for their children's education. Catholic Schools' Week will begin on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to an open house in the school after Masses on Sunday morning.

Also on January 28<sup>th</sup>, I will give my concluding lecture on Archbishop Sheen's book on St. Therese. The lecture will begin around 11:45 in the parish hall after the St. Thomas School open house. You do not need to be a part of the book club to attend. All are welcome to hear a reflection on Sheen's insights into the life of the Little Flower and her Little Way.

- 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 21, 2024

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Jonah 3: 1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31; Mark 1: 14-20
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children</b> 2 Samuel 5: 1-7, 10; Mark 3: 22-30
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>St. Marianne Cope, Virgin</b> 2 Samuel 6: 12b-15, 17-19; Mark 3: 31-35
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>St. Francis de Sales, Bishop &amp; Doctor of the Church</b> 2 Samuel 7: 4-17; Mark 4: 1-20
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle</b> Acts 22: 3-16 OR Acts 9: 1-22; Mark 16: 15-18
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Sts. Timothy &amp; Titus, Bishops</b> 2 Timothy 1: 1-8 OR Titus 1: 1-5; Mark 4: 26-34
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Angela Merici, Virgin</b> 2 Samuel 12: 1-7a, 10-17; Mark 4: 35-41
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Deuteronomy 18: 15-20; 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35; Mark 1: 21-28

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, January 22, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist
8:00 a.m.	Glenda Murray/Manolito & Marianita Cabucas

### Tuesday, January 23, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Sonny King/Ben & Maxie Haynes
8:00 a.m.	Donna Abdnour/Steve & Linda Schrader

### Wednesday, January 24, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Bob Denton/Kathleen & Scott Crank
8:00 a.m.	Marita Merkle/Mike & Theresa Haughney

### Thursday, January 25, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Ann White/Jerry White & Laura Trimble
9:15 a.m.	Mary Parry/Jeanne & Dan Smith

### Friday, January 26, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Fr. Paul Stark, S.J./Ronald & Roberta Duckworth
8:00 a.m.	Joan Adler

### Saturday, January 27, 2024

8:00 a.m.	Fred Darche/Mark, Barb, & Joe Ruff
5:00 p.m.	Kevin Wood/Bill & Joan Krumholz

### Sunday, January 28, 2024

8:00 a.m.	Intentions of Richard & Colleen Lavin/Michael & Cosette Lavin
10:00 a.m.	Phillip Braet/Chris & Amy Braet & Family
5:00 p.m.	For the People

## Week of January 21

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, January 21, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

**DAY OF PENANCE FOR THE UNBORN** Monday, January 22

**ROSARY** Tuesday, January 23, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**CCD** Wednesday, January 24, 6:00 p.m., School

**CONFIRMATION PARENTS MEETING** Wednesday, January 24, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**OCIA** Wednesday, January 24, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**WOMEN OF THE WORD** Thursday, January 25, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

**THAT MAN IS YOU** Friday, January 26, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30, ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**OPEN HOUSE PRE-K & K** Saturday, January 27, 9:00 a.m., School

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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 14, 2023

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000	\$580,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$7,103	\$386,403
Electronic Collections.....	\$ 6,835	\$114,109
Total Collected.....	\$13,938	\$500,512
Over/(Short).....	\$(6,062)	\$(79,488)

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

## 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
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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





## Souper Bowl Against Hunger

Let's 'team up' for a Souper Bowl win against hunger! Please help us reach our goal of 1000 cans of soup donated to the St. Thomas Food Pantry **before the Super Bowl on February 11<sup>th</sup>**.



The food pantry dispenses an average of 350 cans of soup per month, so 1000 cans will get us through the cold winter months. Bringing just a few cans to each mass you attend from now until February 11<sup>th</sup> will go a long way towards our goal. Donations may be placed in the *Feed The Hungry* box in the church narthex.



Watch our team progress on the score board near the box.

Thank you so much for helping us 'score' in the fight against food insecurity!

## Pre-K and K Open House Rescheduled!

Join us for  
**MISSION  
STS COMETS**

**PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN**

**OPEN HOUSE**  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00-11:00 AM**

Face Painting, Bounce House,  
Obstacle Course, Cheerleaders,  
Peoria Ballet, Space Walk Around STS  
Meet our Teachers & Specialists:  
★ Art, Music, Spanish & Library Activities  
It's sure to be Out of this World!  
Hope to see you there! Bring a friend!

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## FESTIVAL CHOIR TOUR TO IRELAND AND SCOTLAND

The St Anthony Camerata Chorale Festival Choir is leading a tour to Ireland and Scotland with an optional 4-night extension to London, **July 29 through August 7, 2024.**

You don't have to be a choral person to join us, all travelers are most welcome! Anyone wishing to sing with the choir living out of the area to comfortably make rehearsals for the tour, we will gladly send you music so you can rehearse on your own.

Deadline has been extended another month... we would love to have you join our merry band as we enjoy the wondrous sights and sounds of our Gaelic adventure!

Text or email **Mary Ann Fahey-Darling** for a brochure. Text: **309-678-9166** or **[faheyirish19@gmail.com](mailto:faheyirish19@gmail.com)**

## 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.

## 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 is in good standing in the Catholic Church, 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

### St. Thomas - Food Pantry

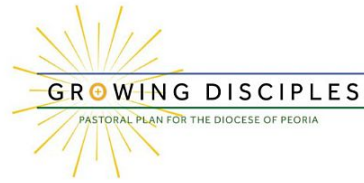
Items most needed at this time are: pasta sauce, hamburger helper, peanut butter, pancake mix, syrup, and canned vegetables.

*Thank you for your generous support!*

### 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!





## 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)



## 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)



## ST. MARY'S KICKAPOO MEN'S HAMBURGER FRY

ROBERT C. SCHMITT GYM



**SUNDAY, FEB. 4, 2024**  
**12:00 NOON - 5:00 PM**



**EXCELLENT BURGERS, POPCORN**  
**SODA, BEER**  
**HAM RAFFLE, 50/50**  
**DOOR PRIZES**

**RELAX!! ENJOY**  
**FRIENDS & CONVERSATION**





#### 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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