

## 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  
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[frmarc@stthomas-church.net](mailto:frmarc@stthomas-church.net)  
Fr. John Twinomujuni.....In Residence

Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB  
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Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735  
Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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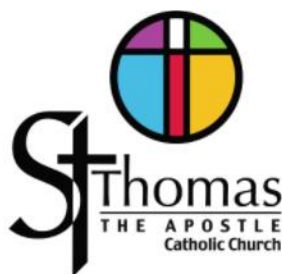
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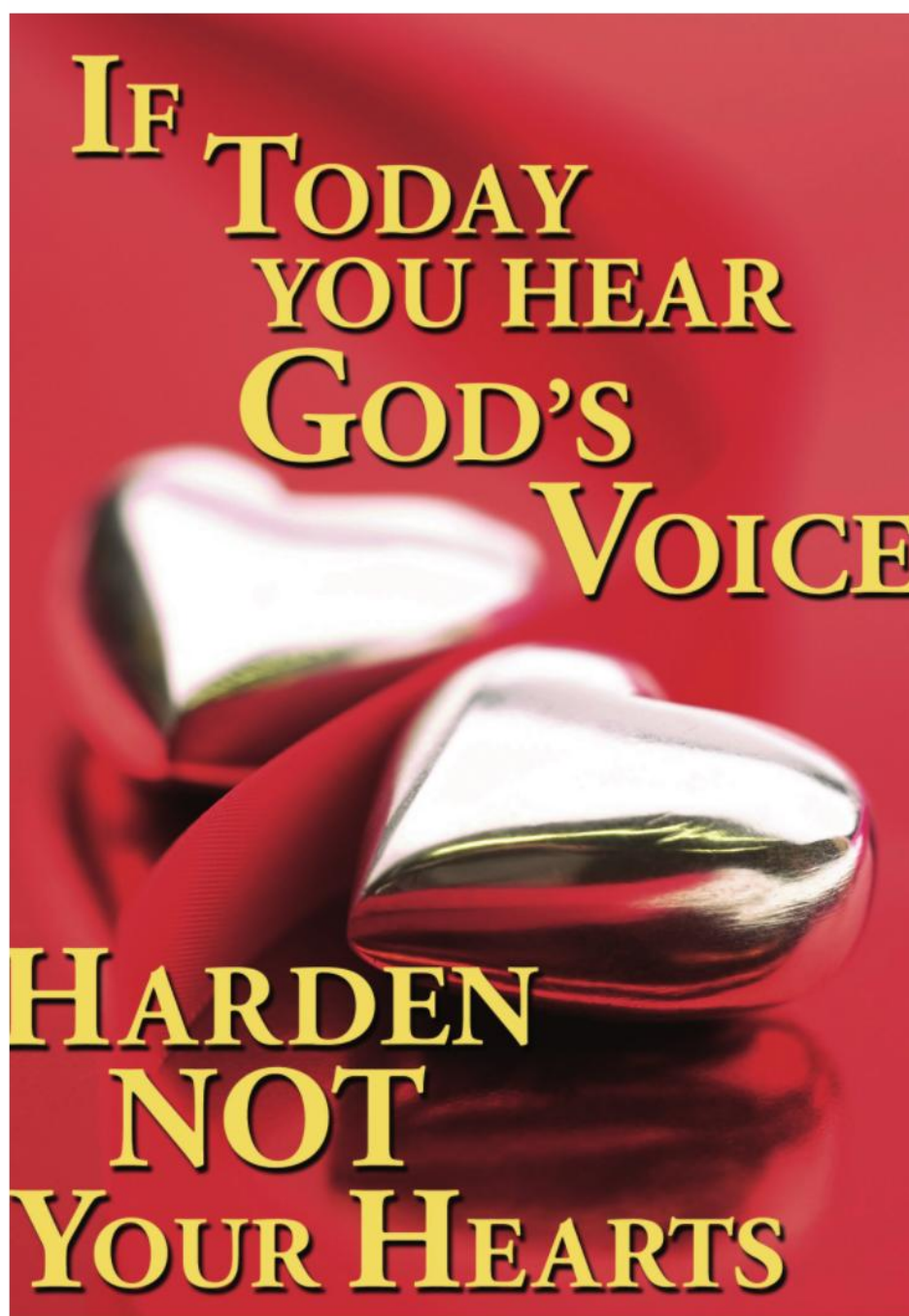
Music Coordinator: Ann Horst..... 682-5507  
Annulment Consultant:  
John Mackoway.....699-5213

### 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 28, 2024*  
*Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*





## From Our Pastor

Thank you to all who participated in our Progressive Dinner last weekend. We received donations of \$125,000 which will go toward replacing classroom lights in the school. These funds will help us replace the older classroom style fluorescent bulbs with modern lighting that is more effective, more efficient, and more attractive for our school. It is a joy to see the depth of our parish support for our school. On behalf of our students (and future students), thank you.

This weekend is the start of Catholic Schools' Week. I encourage everyone to come to the open house after Sunday morning Masses. St. Thomas Parish should be rightly proud of our school. Please stop by to see what our students are learning at St. Thomas School.

Friday is a First Friday with Eucharistic Adoration. Additionally, Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, is also the celebration of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. This is a traditional day to bless candles, which will take place as part of our morning Mass. As Our Lord brings the light of Christ into the Temple, we bless the candles that reflect the light of Christ in our Masses and liturgies. Please join us for this special tradition.

Finally, this Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, the closing lecture for Fulton Sheen's book on St. Therese will take place at 11:45 AM in the parish hall. You are invited to attend after making a visit to the school open house.

- 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 28, 2024

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Deuteronomy 18: 15-20; 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35; Mark 1: 21-28
<b>Monday</b>	2 Samuel 15: 13-14, 30; 16: 5-13; Mark 5: 1-20
<b>Tuesday</b>	2 Samuel 18: 9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19: 3; Mark 5: 21-43
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>St. John Bosco, Priest</b> 2 Samuel 24: 2, 9-17; Mark 6: 1-6
<b>Thursday</b>	1 Kings 2: 1-4, 10-12; Mark 6: 7-13
<b>Friday</b>	<b>The Presentation of the Lord</b> Malachi 3; 1-4; Hebrews 2: 14-18; Luke 2: 22-40
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Blaise, Bishop &amp; Martyr</b> 1 Kings 3: 4-13; Mark 6: 30-34
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Job 7: 1-4, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23; Mark 1: 29-39

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, January 29, 2024

7:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB  
8:00 a.m. Sue Scherer Connor/Barbara Turner

### Tuesday, January 30, 2024

7:00 a.m. Jeri Callahan/John Callahan  
8:00 a.m. All Souls in Purgatory

### Wednesday, January 31, 2024

7:00 a.m. Joseph Bartley, Jr./Mike & Mary Lou Bartley  
8:00 a.m. Mark Brewer/Family

### Thursday, February 1, 2024

7:00 a.m. Jay & Lois Streid/Family & Friends  
9:15 a.m. Fred Darche/Rick & Maureen Pantages

### Friday, February 2, 2024

7:00 a.m. Anita Burnett/The Barkley Family  
8:00 a.m. Leon Konecki/Michelle & Sarah Konecki

### Saturday, February 3, 2024

8:00 a.m. Robert Moushard/Robert J. Peters & Family  
5:00 p.m. Rita Clark/Family

### Sunday, February 4, 2024

8:00 a.m. Betty Kane/Norman Kane  
10:00 a.m. Jim & Penny Scherer/Barbara Turner  
5:00 p.m. For the People

## Week of January 28

**SIGN-UP FOR FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION** This Weekend after all Masses, narthex

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK OPEN HOUSE** Sunday, after 10:00 Mass, School

**CHOIR PRACTICE** Sunday, January 28, 9:00 a.m., Music Room

**SHEEN BOOK CLUB CLOSING LECTURE** Sunday, January 28, 11:45 a.m., Parish Hall

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, January 28, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

**ROSARY** Tuesday, January 30, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**CCD** Wednesday, January 31, 6:00 p.m., School

**OCIA** Wednesday, January 31, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**THAT MAN IS YOU** Friday, February 2, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30, ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**ADORATION** Friday, February 2, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

**LIGHT OF THE WORLD SIGN-UP** Sat/Sun, Feb 3/4, following all Masses

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** Sat/Sun, Feb 3/4, following all Masses, Parish Hall

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Ash Wednesday	February 14
St. Thomas Holy Hour	February 15
Light of the World Retreat	February 23-25
Men's Club Fish Fry	March 8

## SHEEN BOOK CLUB CLOSING LECTURE

Msgr. Gray will give a presentation to close out our most recent book club reading. All are welcome whether you read the book or not. **Sunday, January 28, 11:45** in the Parish Hall.

## Weekly Collection

January 21, 2023

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000	\$600,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$12,500	\$398,903
Electronic Collections.....	\$ 3,388	\$117,497
Total Collected.....	\$15,888	\$516,400
Over/(Short).....	\$(4,112)	\$(83,600)

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

Louis Kardos, cousin of Michelle Konecki

## Baptism Congratulations

Jameson Levi Parker, son of  
Bryton & Gavin Parker

## Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple

Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, the traditional end of the Christmas season. On this day we commemorate Mary's and Joseph's adherence to the Mosaic law as they entered the Temple for the ritual purification. Also, forty days was the time after which a firstborn male child was brought to the Temple to be dedicated to the Lord. The Presentation is a proclamation of Christ – Messiah and Priest, Lord and Savior. He is the light who came into this world to dispel sin and darkness. For this reason, at least since the seventh century, candles have been blessed at Mass this day, hence coining the term Candlemas.

Candles to be used throughout the liturgical year will be blessed at the 7:00 a.m. Mass which will include a procession with candles. If you attend this Mass, you will be able to take one of the blessed candles to use in your home. They are traditionally lit during storms or in the rooms of the sick. They can also be used during time of personal prayer or for other family celebrations.



Sponsor of the Week



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For beautiful, strong... natural looking nails  
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Tammy Vu  
Parishioner







**Come to:** North Peoria Avanti's  
8517 N. Knoxville Ave. (309) 691-2525

**On:** January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 10:30AM-9:00PM

Present this flyer to the cashier upon  
payment for tracking purposes  
and 15% of proceeds will go to support:

**St. Thomas Catholic School**

*On Dine-In or Carry Out orders*

*Tax, gratuity and alcohol sales are not  
included in donation*



## 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!

## 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



## When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus

Poverty and financial struggle weigh on so many in Peoria. Here in Peoria, people with an income below poverty level in 2021 (most recent State report available), was 22.5% of the total population vs 12.1% in the state as a whole. The largest demographic living in poverty are Females 25-34.

In November of 2022 our Food Pantry served a total of 300 persons. This past year, in November of 2023 our Pantry served 665 persons, a more than two fold increase.

As evidenced above, these are times of great stress, financial hardship, and worry for many of our neighbors. Monthly bills are a juggling act, especially for those on fixed income.

Pope Francis recently reminded us that it is the calling of every Christian to become personally involved in the plight of the poor. All the gifts that God has given us, be it little or great, are not to be used just for ourselves. They are to be used in the service of others, and in the service of God who gave them to us.

Will you help us? We cannot provide food and monetary assistance without YOUR help! You can make a difference to those in need in Peoria.

~ Cindy Hall

P.S. at our next St. Vincent de Paul collection consider this: God answers the prayers of the Poor through you!

Sources: <https://www.city-data.com/poverty/poverty-Peoria-Illinois.html>; <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/peoria-il/#housing>

### St. Thomas Moms & Mimosas

Saturday, February 3rd, 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Haven on the Farm

6221 US—150; Edwards, IL 61528

Please RSVP by Monday, January 29th <https://forms.gle/gPqQHfVQ4Ha1FN4U9>



Light of the World  
PARISH RETREAT

### 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!



## Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Saint Mark Church,  
1113 W. Bradley Avenue, Peoria.  
7:00 p.m., February 5, 2023.

Holy Hour consists of Benediction, the Rosary, and other prayers. Please join us in prayer for the protection of these innocent lives.

## 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**

## 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.

### 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**



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

ROBERT C. SCHMITT GYM



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



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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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