

## 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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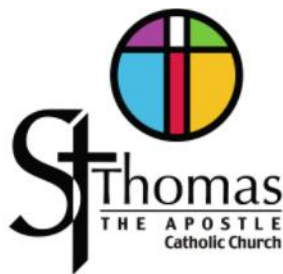
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John Mackoway.....699-5213

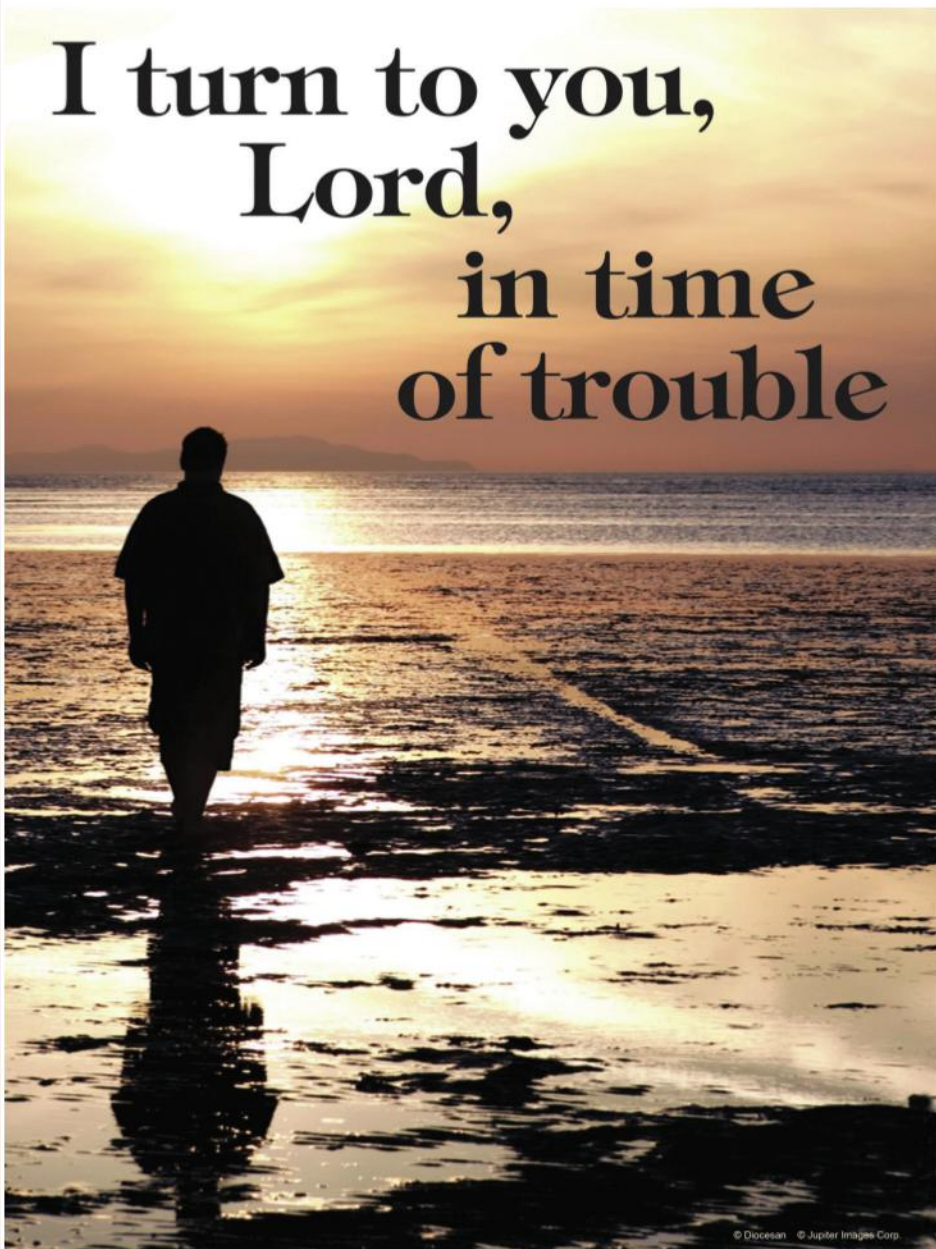
### Stay in Touch

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)).



*February 11, 2024*  
*Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

I turn to you,  
Lord,  
in time  
of trouble





## From Our Pastor

This year, Easter and the Season of Lent fall earlier than usual. Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on Wednesday, which happens to be Valentine's Day. (I suggest spouses may find it easier and even cheaper to celebrate on Tuesday or Thursday instead!)

As we begin Lent, be mindful of the law of fast and abstinence. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting for those between 18 and 59 years of age. Ash Wednesday and every Friday of Lent is a day of abstinence from meat for those 14 and older. In addition, we are all urged to take up our own personal penances and sacrifices during the season. This is a profitable time for us to grow in our spiritual life by walking with our Lord as he carried his own cross.

In addition to penance, Lent is also a season of increased prayer. Many people find daily Mass to be a helpful source of enrichment. Our daily Masses are offered during the week at 7 and 8 am, except on school Mass days when Masses are at 7 and 9:15 am. You are encouraged to join in the Rosary recited between the daily Mass times as well as on Tuesdays at 10 am.

We will continue our regular Friday devotions with adoration and confessions offered Friday evenings from 6 to 7 pm, followed by Stations of the Cross at 7 pm. Confessions will continue to be offered on Saturday afternoons both before and after the evening Mass. Additional confession times will also be added during the season.

Please pray for the candidates in OCIA who are preparing to enter the Church at the Easter Vigil. This is a special time in their formation as the day of their entrance into the Church grows nearer.

May this time of penance be a spiritual gift to us to strengthen our faith.

- Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of February 11, 2024

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10: 31—11:1; Mark 1: 40-45
<b>Monday</b>	James 1: 1-11; Mark 8: 11-13
<b>Tuesday</b>	James 1: 12-18; Mark 8: 14-21
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Joel 2: 12-18; 2 Corinthians 5: 20—6: 2; Mark 6: 1-6, 16-18
<b>Thursday</b>	Deuteronomy 30: 15-20; Luke 9: 22-25
<b>Friday</b>	Isaiah 58: 1-9a; Matthew 9: 14-15
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order</b> Isaiah 58: 9b-14; Luke 5: 27-32
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Genesis 9: 8-15; 1 Peter 3: 18-22; Mark 1: 12-15

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, February 12, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Ann & Michael McGuire/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley
8:00 a.m.	Tom Mikulecky/Pat Mikulecky

### Tuesday, February 13, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Dr. James N. Kenny, Sr./Family
8:00 a.m.	Judy Campbell/Tom and Phyllis Duncan

### Wednesday, February 14, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Jeri Callahan/John Callahan
<b>9:15 a.m.</b>	Donna Abdnour/Thomas and Margaret Lucas
12:15 p.m.	Fred Darche/Donna Patrick
7:00 p.m.	George Crawford/John & Sonia Nelson

### Thursday, February 15, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB
8:00 a.m.	Martha Lang Tran/Cindy Pham

### Friday, February 16, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Thomas J. Breese/Jack & Margaret Weinstein
8:00 a.m.	Lois Smith/Michelle Konecki

### Saturday, February 17, 2024

8:00 a.m.	Bob Newton/Family and Friends
5:00 p.m.	Bill Flanagan/Dave & Pat McCaulay

### Sunday, February 18, 2024

8:00 a.m.	For the People
10:00 a.m.	Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist
5:00 p.m.	Patrick Regan/Kathleen Ray

## Masses for Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2024. While Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation all Roman Catholics are encouraged to attend Mass on Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence, intended to prepare the church membership for Easter.

### Mass Schedule

7:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m. (school Mass),  
12:15 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.



## Week of February 11

**CHOIR PRACTICE** Sunday, February 11, 9:00, Music Room

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, February 11, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

**ROSARY** Tuesday, February 13, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** Tuesday, February 13, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES** Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 & 9:15 a.m. and 12:15 & 7:00 p.m., Church

**CCD** Wednesday, February 14, 6:00 p.m., School

**ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR** Thursday, February 15, 7:00 p.m., Church

**THAT MAN IS YOU** Friday, February 16, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30, ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**HOLY HOUR, CONFESSIONS** Friday, February 16, 6:00, Church

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Friday, February 16, 7:00, Church

### UPCOMING EVENTS

*Light of the World Retreat* February 23-25  
*Men's Club Fish Fry* March 8



**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.



## Weekly Collection

February 4, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000	\$640,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$17,773	\$432,286
Electronic Collections.....	\$ 3,660	\$123,527
Total Collected.....	\$21,433	\$555,813
Over/(Short).....	\$1,433	\$(84,187)

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

Jordan Fifield

John Myatt



## PARISH HOLY HOUR

Thursday, February 15

7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.



## Pray with the Pope

February 2024  
For The Terminally Ill

Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

## OCIA/RCIA Schedule

DATE	TOPIC
Feb. 14:	Ash Wednesday: NO Class
Feb. 21:	Community and Moral Law, grace
Feb. 28:	Ten & Great Commandments, #1-3; Divine/Natural Law
Mar. 6:	Commandments 4, 5, 7, 8
Mar. 13:	Commandments 6, 9, 10
Mar. 20:	History of the Church, Preparation for confession
Mar. 27:	Penance Service, Practice
Mar. 30:	Easter Vigil
Apr. 10:	Mystagogia

Sponsor of the Week



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February 1, 2024

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter into this Lenten season, the Church once again invites us to use this opportunity to share more fully in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. It is essential that we cultivate a deeper sense of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to better offer our lives to Our Lord.

As we make our way through the Triduum and to that glorious day of the Lord's Resurrection, I pray that all of us will be ever more attentive to our spiritual devotions and especially to the Word of God during these forty days. May the guidance of the Holy Spirit assist us in our Lenten journey.

#### REGULATIONS FOR LENT AND THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Lent is the principal season of penance in the Christian year. Priests, religious, and laity are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial, attentiveness to prayer, and especially to works of charity and mercy.

Everyone of 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, and all the Fridays of Lent.

Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, and Good Friday, March 29, 2024.

On these two days of fast and abstinence, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is a serious matter.

May our Lenten journey bring us closer to the cross and our Resurrected Savior.

Peace and Prayers,

  
✙ Most Reverend Louis Tylka  
Bishop of Peoria

#### 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*

#### 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 [fermoon@stthomas-church.net](mailto:fermoon@stthomas-church.net), so we can make arrangements to get it to you.

~ Msgr. Gray



CATHOLIC  
CEMETERY  
ASSOCIATION  
OF PEORIA

**Ash Wednesday Memorial Mass**  
Wed., Feb. 14, Noon  
Fr. Thomas Taylor, Presider

*St. Joseph of  
Arimathea Chapel*  
**Resurrection Mausoleum**  
7519 N Allen Rd, Peoria

[www.ccapeo.org](http://www.ccapeo.org)  
309.691.5889



Experience the sights and sounds of the places where Jesus walked, prayed, suffered, and died. This Lent, join us on Thursday evenings beginning February 22nd from 7:00-8:15pm in the St. Francis Room at Holy Family Parish in Peoria for this 5-week study from Ascension Press called "No Greater Love." Each session will include a 30-minute video during which we will walk with Christ from the Garden of Gethsemane to Calvary.

Filmed in the Holy Land with Dr. Edward Sri, this five-part study reveals how Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, historical realities and powerful symbolism come together to reveal God's unfathomable love for us. Dr. Edward Sri is an evangelist and has spent much time studying and reflecting on the full significance of Christ's Passion and Death.

The St. Francis Room is located in the Holy Family Parish Center, 2312 W. Wagner Lane, Peoria, IL 61615. Please use the south entrance (located off the parking lot).

The meeting dates are **February 22, February 29, March 7, March 14, and March 21**. Questions? Please call Jerry & Lisa Sanderson at **309-256-3398**.

## Friday Lenten Devotions

As we do each year we will pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent. In addition, each week we will have Holy Hour and Confessions prior to the Stations. All are in Church.

Everyone is invited to participate in this is wonderful addition to your Lenten prayers.

### **Holy Hour & Confessions**

Beginning at 6:00 p.m. on

February 16 & 23

March 1, 15, & 22

### **Stations of the Cross**

7:00 p.m. on

February 16 & 23

March 1, 15, & 22

March 29<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday - The Passion of the Lord at 3:00 p.m.



*Skeptics always want miracles such as stepping down from the Cross, but never the greater miracle of forgiveness*

~ Fulton J. Sheen

## Kelly Needham Memorial Blood Drive

The Kelly Needham Memorial Blood Drive will be **Saturday, February 24, 2024** from **8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the St. Philomena School Gym**. To make an appointment, go online to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and type *stphils* in the box at the top that says *Find a Blood Drive*.

Kelly was a Peoria native and graduate of both St. Philomena School and Peoria Notre Dame High School. In August 2012, at just 21 years old, Kelly was involved in a tragic car accident that took his life. Since the first drive in his memory in 2013, 573 pints have been collected - each pint helping three people. Please give blood in Kelly's memory to help keep his lifesaving spirit going.

The American Red Cross continues to experience critical blood shortages. Please make an appointment to donate if you are eligible.



Thank you to all our parishioners who completed surveys and provided feedback regarding the second draft models as part of our Growing Disciples initiative. Gathering information from you is a critical element in the ability to move forward in this important pastoral planning process.

Since the Parish Meetings in October, CLI has diligently compiled the thousands of electronic and paper surveys, along with the letters offering feedback regarding the second round of draft models. The Core Team has reviewed the data and met to propose the final draft models. In the coming month the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Commission will review their work. It will then be submitted to the Presbyteral Council to make recommendations for the Bishop to consider in the final decisions. Bishop Tylka is most grateful for all the work that has brought us to this point and asks for your continued prayers during this time of discernment.

The Diocese of Peoria is constantly updating the website ([growingdisciplescdop.org](http://growingdisciplescdop.org)) with additional information about the Growing Disciples initiative, so check back frequently.

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



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

February 2024


Throughout his pontificate, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has often spoken of the need for Christians to evangelize through accompaniment. Through listening patiently, and being mindful of others' dignity, we can help one another encounter Christ's merciful love. For Central and Eastern Europeans living in countries that experienced 70 years of communist oppression, the Church needs to accompany people to an encounter with Christ that is patient, understanding, and filled with hope instead of fear, anger, and anxiety.

In Slovakia, the Alexis Counseling Center has accompanied nearly 2,500 women and loved ones with devotion. In addition to promoting psychological healing, the center also helps vulnerable women who have experienced miscarriages and abortions to find housing, material and financial assistance, and support groups.

Ministries of accompaniment such as the Alexis Counseling Center are made possible with monies raised through Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. When you participate in the collection, you help the Church in more than 25 countries accompany people who still experience the hardships and wounds caused by communism. Your support for and promotion of the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe is crucial to the success of ministries that affirm the dignity of children, youth, and other vulnerable people and show them the love and mercy of Jesus.

Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
✠ Most Reverend Louis Tylka  
Bishop of Peoria

# 20s & 30s Lenten Bible Study

**Thursdays of Lent 7-8 P.M.**  
**Sorrowful Mystery Study by the**  
**Augustine Institute**  
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*small group · decade of the rosary*



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**Cursillo** is a Spanish word meaning "a short course." But Cursillo is more than just a short course. It's a three-day call to each of us to learn more about living a Christian life.

Have you had a longing to encounter God's grace? Cursillo may just be the place.

Each Cursillo experience is as unique and different as each individual's life journey.

For more information, call **(309) 676-5587** or visit [peoriacursillo.org](http://peoriacursillo.org).

**Next Men's weekend: Feb. 22-25, 2024**

**Next Women's Weekend: May 30 – June 2, 2024**

Weekends held at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Bartonville. You're welcomed to join us today, tomorrow, or whenever you feel inclined to answer the invitation.

## 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) \_\_\_\_\_ Mr \_\_\_ Mrs \_\_\_ Ms \_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**New Parishioner** \_\_\_\_\_ **Change of address/phone** \_\_\_\_\_



CDOP Office of the Tribunal &  
 Peoria Diocesan Council of  
 Catholic Women present

## A Morning of CLARITY & LOVE

Understanding the Church's response  
 to abuse, divorce, and annulments

featuring Dr. Emma Bucher, Psy.D.  
 Pat DeCapp, Office of the Tribunal  
 Msgr. Jason Gray, J.C.D., Judicial Vicar

Saturday, February 17, 2024

8:30-12:00

Spalding Pastoral Center

To register: email name and email  
 address to [afandel55@gmail.com](mailto:afandel55@gmail.com)

\$10 donation at door. Walk-ins welcome



TEC is an experience based on the Paschal Mystery of Christ. Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, and Christ lives in us and sends us forth with GOOD NEWS of God's Love for us. The weekend includes meditations on Faith, Prayer, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Discipleship and Love. There is time for reflection on serious questions of life. This encounter offers participants the opportunity of forming Christian Community. On TEC, the message of Christ reaches not only the intellect but also the heart.

### UPCOMING WEEKENDS

**FEBRUARY 17-19, 2024 (BOYS)**

**JUNE 15-17, 2024 (GIRLS)**

**AUGUST 3-5, 2024 (BOYS)**

**OCTOBER 12-14, 2024 (GIRLS)**



SCAN ME

## KofC St. Clement Council Lenten Fish Fries

St. Jude Catholic Church  
 Hettinger Hall 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

10811 N. Knoxville Ave

Dine-In or Carry-Out

February 16, March 1, March 8, March 15,  
 March 22

Seafood Meal \$15; Seafood Sandwich \$12; Kids  
 \$6; Family Deal \$37





#### 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*



**You are invited to help support our Parish!**  
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 <p>EAST PEORIA 698-8404 www.tazewellcountyasphalt.com SPECIALIZING IN ASPHALT PAVING • ASPHALT SEALING</p>	 <p>4208 PARTRIDGE WAY • P.O. BOX 3858 • PEORIA, IL 61612 — Parishioners — <b>WWW.HEDIGERANDMEYERS.COM 309.691.5001</b> COLLINS VOORHEES JAKE VOORHEES WILLIAM VOORHEES</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* General Construction</li> <li>* Design Build</li> <li>* Commercial &amp; Residential</li> <li>* Construction Management</li> <li>* Pre Engineered Structures</li> </ul> <p><b>DESIGNERS &amp; CONTRACTORS</b> Dennis Bishop, Parishioner <b>243-5599</b> 2800 W Alta Rd.</p>	 <p><b>OSFHealthCare.org</b></p>
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