St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

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(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

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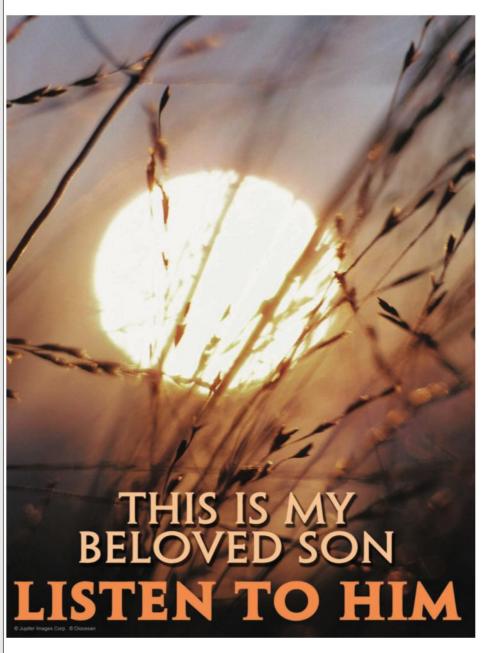
John Mackoway......699-5213

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).
- 3. 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).



February 25, 2024 Second Sunday of Lent





This week we will welcome Bishop Tylka as he celebrates confirmation for our eighth grade students. This sacrament completes our Christian initiation, along with baptism and Eucharist. The gift of the Holy Spirit guides us through life and strengthens us for our particular vocation. For example, confirmation is required before a man is ordained as a deacon and before a man or woman enters into religious life through the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Confirmation is also strongly encouraged for couples preparing for marriage, as the gifts of the Holy Spirit can help husbands and wives live out their marital commitment to each other.

We typically celebrate confirmation in eighth grade. If anyone is older than this and has not received this sacrament, please contact me so we can make arrangements for you to be confirmed.

Our students have been preparing throughout the year for this celebration with our bishop. Please remember to pray for them that they may always be guided by Our Lord according to his will. Perhaps among the students to be confirmed, we may have a future priest or future religious, which would be a great blessing for our parish.

Please also remember the members of our OCIA class preparing through the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults. As they approach the end of their journey, they look forward to the Easter sacraments, which will also include confirmation.

During the Light of the World retreat this weekend, the retreatants will spend time deepening their faith and contemplating the sacraments. One of the themes will include responding to the guidance of the Holy Spirit more devoutly in our lives. May the Holy Spirit guide us all.

-- Msgr. Gray

If you gave something up for the Lord, tough it out. Don't act like a Pharisee looking for a loophole.

~ Rev. William Saunders

Pastor of Our Lady of Hope parish in Potomac Falls, Virginia and
Dean of the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College



Readings for the Week of February 25, 2024

Sunday Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13,15-18; Romans 8: 31b-34;

Mark 9: 2-10

Monday Daniel 9: 4b-10; Luke 6: 36-38

Tuesday St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

Isaiah 1: 10, 16-20; Matthew 23: 1-12

Wednesday Jeremiah 18: 18-20; Matthew 20: 17-28

Thursday Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Luke 16: 19-31

Friday Genesis 37: 3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21: 33-43, 45-46

Saturday Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20; Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Sunday Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20: 1-17 OR Exodus 20: 1-3, 7-8, 12-17; 1 Corinthians

1: 22-25; John 2: 13-25

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 26, 2024

7:00 a.m. Dick Flores/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley

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

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

7:00 a.m. All Holy Souls in Purgatory/Cindy Pham

8:00 a.m. Bob Newtson/Family & Friends

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

7:00 a.m. Larry Zarley

8:00 a.m. David & Frieda Stahl/Nancy Becker

Thursday, February 29, 2024

7:00 a.m. Patrick Regan/Kathleen Ray **9:15 a.m.** Jordan Fifield/Maureen Kuchan

Friday, March 1, 2024

7:00 a.m. Betty Pegg/The Calabro Family

8:00 a.m. Helene Konecki/Michelle & Sarah Konecki

Saturday, March 2, 2024

8:00 a.m. Fred Darche/Mike Hinchman 5:00 p.m. Jim Becker/Don & Ruth Stahl

Sunday, March 3, 2024

8:00 a.m. Betty Kane/Norman Kane

10:00 a.m. Lucille Noe 25th Anniv./Mary Ann Noe

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of February 25

LIGHT OF THE WORLD RETREAT February 23-26, Parish Hall

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

FISH FRY TICKET SALES February 24/25, after all Masses

CHOIR PRACTICE Sunday, February 25, 9:00, Music Room

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, February 25, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, February 27, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CCD Wednesday, February 28, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, February 28, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

CONFIRMATION Thursday, February 29, 7:00 p.m., Church, followed by Reception in the Parish Hall

THAT MAN IS YOU Friday, March 1, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30, ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

ADORATION Friday, March 1, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at approx. 6:45 p.m.

HOLY HOUR, CONFESSIONS Friday, March 1, 6:00, Church

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Friday, March 1, 7:00, Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Club Fish Fry March 8 St. Thomas Holy Hour March 21

Pray with the Pope

February 2024 For The Terminally III

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.

Weekly Collection

February 18, 2023

		riscui i i D
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$680,000
Sunday Collections	\$11,369	\$453,810
Electronic Collections	\$ 531	\$130,353
Total Collected	\$11,900	\$584,163
Over/(Short)		

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

Please pray for those who have died this week



Once each month we pause to spend time before our Lord during the hours of Adoration. Please consider signing up to spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord.

Friday, March 1

Beginning after 8:00 a.m. Mass and continuing throughout the day, until Holy Hour at 6:00 p.m.

OCIA/RCIA Schedule

DATE TOPIC

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



Eige al VID



When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus

February is known as a month for love, mostly because of Valentine's Day. But I also think of it as a month of gratitude because for me the two are definitely intertwined.

So I want to take this opportunity to express the gratitude of all of us who work with the St. Vincent de Paul Society for all of you parishioners who donate so generously so that we have funding to help those in need. I only wish that you could hear the gratitude from those we are able to help. We explain to them where our funding comes from and that we work hard to be the very best stewards of that funding. Besides assisting with some financial aide, we also are able to refer them to a number of other agencies that may be helpful. And perhaps the most important thing we can offer is that their need has been heard, that we care even when we cannot assist financially, and that Jesus loves them as we pray with them. Those prayers often end with tears and hugs. In one recent case, several weeks after we met with her, a woman contacted us to update us on how well things were going for her and invited us to visit her in her new home.

Love and Gratitude! I am so grateful to all of you for the love you show with your donations. And I thank God for being able to share His love with others.

~ Colleen



EMMAUS KNIGHTS

SPRING DATES

MAR 24th | APR 21st

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM |

2327 W. HEADING AVENUE, PEORIA IL.

Click to register

wesharegiving.org/App/Form/27248922-a2a64db2-9fd2-ee028de3eb84



Young men - from 7th grade to 12th grade - get together in Peoria on one Sunday afternoon per month to share in fun, food, and faith - just like we do at Emmaus Days! I invite you to Emmaus Knights from 4:30 to 6:30 PM at The Emmaus House! Everyone must fill out a new registration in 2024. Click the link above!

Although your moms or siblings might be able to give you a ride, I encourage you to ask your fathers to bring you so that they can join in fraternity with other men from around the diocese!

You are coming from all parts of the diocese so I hope that you can share rides with people from your area and even invite some friends who have never been on Emmaus Days before to ride with you!

Eagle Eye Summer Institute

TEENS, 16-18+ years old and already strong in their Catholic Faith, are invited to a deepening of that faith during the 2024 Princeville Eagle Eye Summer Institute, July 6-14 at St. Joseph Priory, Princeville, IL.

Come join us on an eight-day summer session full of fun, friendship, recreation, prayer, and study. Led by the Brothers and Sisters of St. John, we are dedicated to helping you grow closer to Christ and make this experience the best it can be! Spots are limited, so sign up now! More information and registration available at:

2024 Princeville Teen Summer Institute - Eagle Eye Ministries | Brushfire



Catholic Women's League

Special Event -Guest Speaker - Sr. Subha Clare Ramesh From Corporate Executive to Heading Avenue Franciscan Sister

Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Time: 1 - 3 pm

Place: St. Philomena Parish Center

1000 W Albany Peoria, IL 61604

(Park on the North Side of Parish Center as School is in Session) Bring a friend and enjoy social time and light refreshments

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!



St. Vincent de Paul Helpline 309-264-5815



Prayer Request

A fellow Parishioner, Chad Rutschke, is serving on the team for the upcoming Men's Cursillo

weekend, February 22-25. Please pray for Chad and the entire team as they complete their preparation for the weekend. Pray especially during the retreat that they may truly embody Christ to others.



Truth must be sought at all costs, but separate isolated truths will not do. Truth is like life; it has to be taken on its entirety or not at all... We must welcome truth even it if reproaches and inconveniences

us—even if it appears in the place where we thought it could not be found.

~ Fulton J. Sheen

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 23, March 1, 15, & 22

Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m. on February 23, March 1, 15, & 22

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

Support Central Illinois Right to Life

Central Illinois Right to Life is having a "week" at Peoria Heights **Peoria Helping Hands Resale Shoppe**. Our week is **February 20-24, 2024**. That means that anything brought into the Shoppe and sold during that week, we will get a portion of their profits. A different charity or ministry is designated each week.

This ministry has been open since 2010. They have shops in Peoria Heights, Chillicothe, Canton and Pontiac.

The Peoria Heights store is located at 921 War Memorial Drive. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 to 5.

You can donate and/or volunteer during that week. And also come and purchase.

To volunteer to work at the store, call Toni, the store manager at 309-419-3366.

Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Saint Mark Church, 1113 W. Bradley Avenue, Peoria 7:00 p.m., on March 4th, 2024

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

You Are Invited!

Cursillo Community March Ultreya

Theme: "God is with us and is working miracles"

Speaker: Mike McIntyre

Families and Guests are welcome!

Holy Family Catholic Church, Peoria

Saturday, March 2 beginning with the parish Mass at 4:00pm Mass, followed by the Lay Talk, & Social Time Contact the Cursillo Office at 309-676-5587; cursillopeoria@gmail.com for more information.

Lenter Parish Mission

March 10-13, 2024 Talk begins at 7:00 PM each night

Why Be Catholic?

Sunday ~ What did Jesus Do ~ Church or Spirituality?

Adoration & Confession ~ 6:00 PM

Monday ~ Why Do we do that as Catholics? Adoration & Confession 5:00 PM Mass ~ 6:00 PM

> Tuesday ~ Two Obstacles to Healing! Eucharistic Healing Service Adoration & Confesson ~ 6:00 PM

Wednesday ~ How to Pray the Mass Adoration & Confession ~ 6:00 PM Solemn close of the Mission ~ Mass 7:00 PM

Fr. Ken Gerasi Fathers of Mercy

Fr. Ken joined the Fathers of Mercy in 2006 and was ordained in 2012. Having lived a secular existence, Fr. Ken has a great understanding of the personal and societal pressures that individuals face and knows what it is like to "hate coming to church." This mission is for people of all ages and levels of faith, from those who are madly in love with Jesus, to those who pretty much cannot stand church or religion. Regardless of your level of faith come and experience God's Divine Mercy!

St. Joseph Catholic Church 303 S. 7th St. Pekin, IL 61554 309-347-6108 stjosephpekin.org



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.

First Name(s)	Mr _	_ Mrs	Ms
Email			

Address

City_____ ZIP_____

Phone _____

New Parishioner _____ Change of address/phone _____

March Madness Squares

PND is once again selling squares for March Madness! There will be 100 squares on the board, and each square is \$100. Payments are due by Wednesday, March 12 at 3:30.

There are several ways to pay:

- Cash or check mailed or dropped off to the main office
- Online
- Or Venmo to @peorianotredame or use the QR code. YOU MUST PUT MARCH MADNESS SQUARES IN THE COMMENT FIFI D

For more information or to pay for squares online, visit https://

www.pndhs.org/march-madness/.





K of C 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

March 1, March 8, March 15, & March 22 Seafood Meal \$15; Seafood Sandwich \$12; Kids \$6; Family Deal \$37

Last Name

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.



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