# 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 stthomaspeoria.org; 309-688-3446 parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

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(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

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Dcn. Ed Mallow......360-7735

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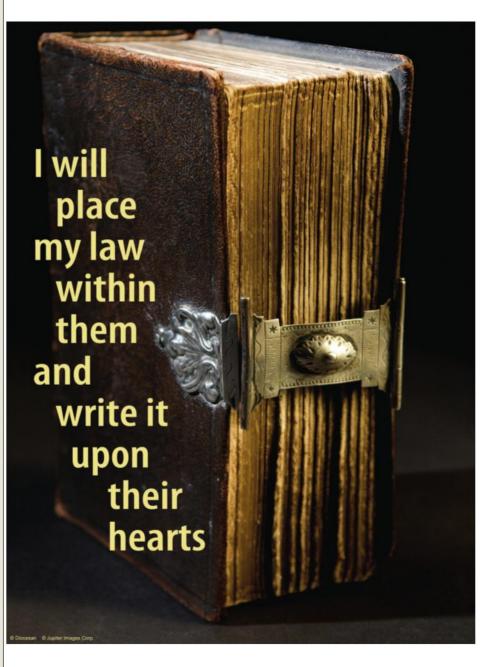
John Mackoway......699-5213

#### Stay in Touch

- 1. Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org 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).



## March 17, 2024 Fifth Sunday of Lent





With the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we enter into Passiontide. Covering statues is a traditional practice to increase our sense of austerity at Mass as a preparation for the Passion and to anticipate the coming joy of the Resurrection. The following Sunday will be Palm (Passion) Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week.

This Summer, the Eucharistic Congress will be celebrated in Indianapolis from July 17-21. I understand that the Diocese of Peoria still has some discounted tickets for the Eucharistic Congress and discounted hotel rooms. Please contact the parish office for more information.

Locally, we will celebrate Corpus Christi on June 2<sup>nd</sup> with a Eucharistic Procession after our 10 a.m. Mass. I also look forward to local devotions from July 17-21 for those who cannot attend the National Eucharistic Congress.

In addition to our capital campaign donations from last year, we have also received additional generous donations to extend the painting and stencil design throughout the rest of the church to connect it with the work that has been done on the sanctuary ceiling. We will wait to remove and replace our pews until after Graduation, after which we will begin the painting and then installation of new carpet, pews, and flooring in the narthex area. We will continue to have Sunday Mass in the church, relying on chairs as necessary during this renovation work.

When this work is done, I would like to renew and revitalize our ministries of usher and perhaps return to the passing of the collection basket in place of the baskets left in the narthex. A renewed church will also give us a good reason to encourage the generous service of our altar servers and other ministers.

Finally, the PTO will move Comet Cash to an all digital platform. We will have upcoming information about how to use digital Comet Cash. In the meantime, we have a limited number of physical gift cards that will be available through the PTO. Please help us sell off our remaining cards and support the PTO at the same time.

-- Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of March 17, 2024

Sunday Fifth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5: 8-14;

John 9: 1-41

Monday St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Daniel 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; John 8: 1-11

Tuesday St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Samuel 7: 4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Matthew 1: 16, 18-21, 24a

**Wednesday** Daniel 3: 14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8: 31-42

**Thursday** Genesis 17: 3-9; John 8: 51-59

**Friday** Jeremiah 20: 10-13; John 10: 31-42

Saturday St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

Ezekiel 37: 21-28; John 11: 45-56

Sunday Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Isaiah 50: 4-7; Philippians 2: 6-11; Mark 14: 1—15: 47

### **Mass Intentions**

#### Monday, March 18, 2024

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

8:00 a.m. Intentions of Maureen Williams

#### Tuesday, March 19, 2024

7:00 a.m. Adeline Snyder/Alan

8:00 a.m. Jim Becker/Tony & Jeanita Grebner

#### Wednesday, March 20, 2024

7:00 a.m. Jean Faulkner/Kathleen Spengler 8:00 a.m. Dave Nehl/Dennis & Pam Goett

#### Thursday, March 21, 2024

7:00 a.m. Tho Dang/Tony Ghantous **9:15 a.m.** Dorothy Paesani/Family

### Friday, March 22, 2024

7:00 a.m. Lillian McCadden/Ray & Ellen McRae

8:00 a.m. Hafner and Smith Families

#### Saturday, March 23, 2024

8:00 a.m. Poor Souls in Purgatory

5:00 p.m. Joanne Shields/The Phelan Family

#### Sunday, March 24, 2024

8:00 a.m. Mary Nelson/John & Sonia Nelson

10:00 a.m. Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist

5:00 p.m. For the People

### Week of March 17

CHOIR PRACTICE Sunday, March 17, 9:00, Music Room

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, March 17, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

CHOIR PRACTICE Monday, March 18, 5:30 p.m., Music Room

ROSARY Tuesday, March 19, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CCD Wednesday, March 20, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WOMEN OF THE WORD Thursday, March 21, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

ST.THOMAS HOLY HOUR Thursday, March 21, 7:00 p.m., Church

THAT MAN IS YOU Friday, March 22, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30, ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

HOLY HOUR, CONFESSIONS Friday, March 22, 6:00, Church

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Friday, March 22, 7:00, Church

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Pancake breakfast March 24 Adoration April 5 Divine Mercy Devotions April 7 St. Thomas Holy Hour April 18 Msgr. Watson Memorial Mass May 1

## Pray with the Pope

March 2024 For New Martyrs

Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

## **Weekly Collection**

March 10, 2024

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Collections needed	\$20,000	\$740,000
Sunday Collections	\$8,821	\$494,346
Electronic Collections	\$10,148	\$151,690
Total Collected	\$18,969	\$646,036
Over/(Short)	\$(1,031)	\$(93,964)

Your support of St. Thomas Parish is important to sustain our Please remember to contribute regularly 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

## Holy Week Schedule

# March 24 ~ Palm Sunday

Masses - Sat., Mar 23 5:00 p.m. Sun., Mar 24 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Extra Confessions following all Sunday Masses March 24

> March 28 ~ Holy Thursday Mass - 7:30 p.m.

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

March 30 ~ Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass - 8:00 p.m.

March 31 ~ Easter Sunday Mass - 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. No 5:00 p.m. Mass



### PARISH HOLY HOUR

Thursday, March 21 7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

## OCIA/RCIA Schedule

DATE

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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## **Comet Cash Program Information**

#### **UDATES AND CHANGES**

Comet Cash is going electronic! Beginning 6/1/2024, physical gift cards will no longer be available for purchase on a regular basis. We will be phasing out inventory as we get closer to that date, and some cards will no longer be available. The good news is that there are significantly more vendors available to you through the app and website than ever before. Please visit the website or download the app and start saving immediately! When you set up your account, you will be asked for our school code-please see below for the code to enter. Please also reach out if you have any trouble or need help setting your account up.

#### What is Comet Cash?

Comet Cash is a Scrip program where you buy gift cards to places you already shop and use them for everyday purchases. You purchase electronic gift cards that are held in your online 'wallet'. Electronic cards can be used in person and online when doing your shopping. St. Thomas PTO receives a rebate for each purchase- it can be as little as 2% or as much as 26%. These discounts, or rebates, are used to help fund supplies for our school. Half of the rebate is given back to YOUR family as a tuition credit at the end of each year.

#### **Rebates**

For each rebate percentage, half goes to PTO and half goes to YOU! The totals accumulate through the school year (June 1 - May 31) and are applied to the following school year in August. It is also applicable to tuition at Peoria Notre Dame.

#### How does it work?

We work with a company called RaiseRight, found at www.raiseright.com. I encourage you to take a look at their website to find out more about Scrip. You can create an account, see what vendors are available,

start shopping, and start SAVING. Even better, you can receive email updates directly from them about special bonus rebates and offers. Visit the website raiseright.com or search the App Store for the RaiseRight App and start saving on the go! Our school code is 7F89FB447759.

#### Payment options

Online orders and reloads are paid electronically via PrestoPay. The funds are debited from your checking account or charged to your credit card. Please see www.raiseright.com for more information. These transactions are handled by RaiseRight.

### Kroger

Kroger no longer utilizes a rebate program. Instead, they contribute to the PTO through their Community Rewards program. On Kroger's website, under your Plus Card, go to Account Summary - Community Rewards enter 10452 or search St. Thomas. Please register, every little bit helps!

### Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact Allison Buckardt at aebuckardt@gmail.com OR 309-231-0449

Available Gift Cards: Alwan's, Arby's, Bath & Body Works, Starbucks, Hy-Vee, and more!

Thank you for supporting PTO, St. Thomas, and your KIDS!

## **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 ent 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, 8, 15, & 22

#### Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m. on February 23, March 1, 8, 15, & 22

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

Additional confessions available following all weekend Masses

### Thank You!

With over 600 people coming to enjoy the Men's Club Fish Fry it was a great success! Without the efforts of over 75 volunteers it would not have been possible. Thank you to those dedicated volunteers!

## St. Thomas - Food Pantry

Items most needed at this time are: pasta sauce, Hamburger Helper, pancake mix, syrup, jelly and peanut butter.

Thank you for your generous support!



St. Thomas School presents Disney-Pixar Finding Nemo Jr.

Performances are **April 19 & 20** at 7:00 p.m. and a matinee on April 21 at 2:00 p.m.

More information about tickets as soon as it is available





If you are would like to volunteer for the breakfast, please contact Jaclyn Merkley at jaclynmerkley@gmail.com



Here is the Google form link to to RSVP: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1uy2EK3LfBQT1BYpa-oS\_rLsNY8S3QD9HFQE7XQGAt5M/edit?ts=65e4ba07

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. – Matthew 25: 35

The **St. Thomas Food Pantry** offers an excellent opportunity for students needing service hours! On Monday and Thursday mornings, federal holidays excepted, the pantry distributes groceries to our neighbors in need. Packing groceries, registering pantry guests, restocking shelves, repackaging food and assisting guests to their vehicles are tasks that students will perform while under adult supervision. An additional service opportunity occurs one Thursday per month when we receive a truckload of food products from Midwest Food Bank. On these days, students help adult volunteers unload the truck, repackage food, rotate stock and stock shelves. Students interested in earning service hours at the food pantry this summer should contact Diana Janda at dianajanda 1964@amail.com.

#### **Opportunities Available:**

Monday and Thursday mornings – 8:30~a.m. to 11:30~a.m. June  $3^{\text{rd}}$  through August  $15^{\text{th}}$ 

**Monthly Food Delivery** – 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dates are Thursdays June 13<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup>

## **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:

https://brushfire.com/eagleeyeministries/eagle-eye-summer-institutes/563131



The bus will replace one of our malfunctioning buses which provides transportation for the following:

- · Students needing rides to and from school
- Athletes
- Campus Ministry
- Extracurricular activity groups





## **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

Now Deviction or	Change of address /phone	
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form.		



So it is when we measure ourselves by God, we fall infinitely short; and when we compare ourselves with many who have given us inspiration, we feel a deep sense of unworthiness. But behind it all, and

despite all of this, there is the tremendous consciousness of the mercy of God. He did not call angels to be priests, He called men. He did not make gold the vessel for His treasures; He madeclay. The motley group of Apostles that He gathered about Him became more worthy through His mercy and compassion.

~ Fulton J. Sheen



## **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!



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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