# 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

Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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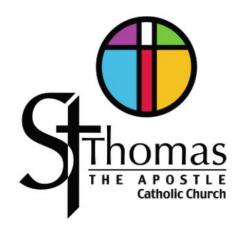
Music Coordinator: Ann Horst..(309)208-4862

Annulment Consultant:

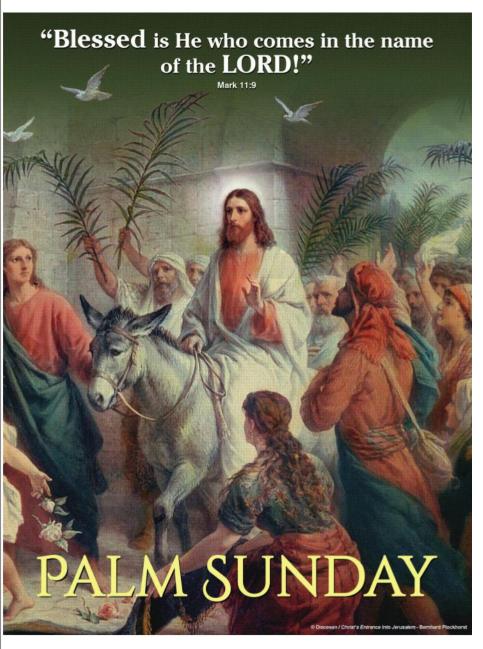
John Mackoway......699-5213

#### 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).
- 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 24, 2024





#### From Our Pastor

With Palm Sunday, we enter into Holy Week. This most sacred week of the year begins with the recollection of the Passion of Our Lord. Let us walk with Jesus as he enters Jerusalem with the celebration of palms and goes to his crucifixion on Friday, dying for our sins.

At the end of Holy Week is the Sacred Triduum, or three days, marking the Lord's Supper, his Crucifixion and Resurrection. Join us for the special liturgies this week.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper is Holy Thursday at 7:00 PM.

The Crucifixion is celebrated on Good Friday with the Liturgy of the Passion and Communion at 3:00 PM. We will also have Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM. The Lord rests in the tomb on Holy Saturday, but we anticipate the Resurrection with the Easter Vigil celebrated Saturday night at 8:00 PM. We have several adults and children being baptized and received into the Church that night.

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate our regular Sunday morning Masses at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM. There is no evening Mass on Easter Sunday.

In addition to the regular Saturday confessions, we continue to add confessions after all Sunday Masses on Palm Sunday. Confessions will also be heard on Good Friday before Stations and after the Liturgy of the Passion. Confessions will be heard beginning at 11:30 AM, 4:00 PM, and 6:30 PM. Confessions will continue as long as necessary.

At the beginning of last week, we replaced the flat portion of the roof over the narthex of the Church. This flat portion of the roof has carried a lot of water pouring down from the angled roofline for 20 years. There have been leaks in this part of the roof for the past many months. Drawing upon our savings, we have replaced this portion of the roof to avoid water damage in the future.

You are invited to support our school and PTO by joining in the pancake breakfast this weekend. Pancakes will be served in the school cafeteria after morning Masses.

- -Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of March 24, 2024

Sunday Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

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

**Monday** Isaiah 42; 1-7; John 12: 1-11

**Tuesday** Isaiah 49: 1-6; John 13: 21-33, 36-38

Wednesday Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Matthew 26: 14-25

Thursday Holy Thursday of the Lord's Supper

Exodus 12: 1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26; John 13: 1-15

Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Isaiah 52: 13—53: 12; Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9; The Passion

John 18: 1—19: 42

Saturday Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil

Genesis 1:1—2:2; Genesis 22: 1-18; Exodus 14: 15—15:1; Isaiah 54: 5-14; Isaiah 55: 1-11; Baruch 3: 9-15, 32—4:4; Ezekiel 36: 16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6: 3-11; Mark 16: 1-7

Sunday Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10: 34a, 37-43; Colossians 3: 1-4; John 20: 1-9

#### **Mass Intentions**

#### Monday, March 25, 2024

7:00 a.m. Joseph F. Bartley, Jr./Mike & Mary Lou Bartley

8:00 a.m. Tom Williams/Maureen Williams

#### Tuesday, March 26, 2024

7:00 a.m. Jordon Fifield/Mai Dong 8:00 a.m. Paul Hop Nguyen/Mai Dong

#### Wednesday, March 27, 2024

7:00 a.m. Joe Clyde & Joe Broussard/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley

**9:15 a.m.** Sue Ann McWhirter/Marie Zarley

#### Thursday, March 28, 2024

7:30 p.m. Betty Pegg/The Grawey Family

#### Friday, March 29, 2024

3:00 p.m. The Passion of the Lord

#### Saturday, March 30, 2024

8:00 p.m. For the People

#### Sunday, March 31, 2024

8:00 a.m. Dolores Oppe/Warren Oppe 10:00 a.m. Dan Slankard/Mike Hinchman

#### Week of March 24

**EXTRA CONFESSIONS** Sunday, March 24, following all Masses, Church

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST** Sunday, March 24, after morning Masses, School Cafeteria

CHOIR PRACTICE Sunday, March 24, 9:00, Music Room

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, March 24, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, March 26, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CCD Wednesday, March 27, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, March 27, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Thursday, March 28, 7:30 p.m., Church

**THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST film** Friday, March 29, Doors open 7:00 a.m., movie begins 7:15, Parish Hall

**PASSION OF THE LORD** Friday, March 29, 3:00 p.m., Church

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Friday, March 29, 12:00 noon & 7:00 p.m., Church

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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 17, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$760,000
Sunday Collections	\$9,212	\$503,558
Electronic Collections	\$535	\$152,225
Total Collected	\$9,747	\$655,783
Over/(Short)	\$(10,253)	\$(104,217)

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.

**Palm Sunday** 

## **Our Sympathy**

Marian Lien

James Schmitt

## Holy Week Schedule

No morning Masses Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday.

Thursday 7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday 11:30 am Confessions

12:00 pm Stations of the Cross 3:00 pm Liturgy of the Passion

00 pm Liturgy of the Passion and Communion

Confessions

4:00 pm Confessions 6:30 pm Confessions

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 8:00 pm Easter Vigil

Sunday 8:00 am Easter Sunday Mass

10:00 am Easter Sunday Mass

No evening Mass Easter Sunday

#### The Passion of the Christ

That Man Is You at St. Thomas will be showing the movie *The Passion of The Christ* on Good Friday morning, in the Parish Hall. Anyone who wishes to join us for viewing this extraordinary film, portraying Christ's Passion is welcome to join. We will open the doors and serve coffee and juice at 7:00 am, and start the movie between 7:15 and 7:30 am. Everyone is invited to join us.

## OCIA/RCIA Schedule

DATE TOPIC

Mar. 27: Penance Service, Practice

Mar. 30: Easter Vigil Apr. 10: Mystagogia

Sponsor of the Week

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Page 3 March 24, 2024



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 dianajanda1964@gmail.com.

#### Opportunities Available:

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

**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>

## **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 wonderful addition to your Lenten prayers.

#### **Confessions**

March 29 at 11:30, a.m., 4:00 p.m., & 6:30 p.m.

#### **Stations of the Cross**

March 29 at 12:00 noon & 7:00 p.m.

#### The Passion of the Lord

March 29th, Good Friday - at 3:00 p.m.

Additional confessions available following all weekend Masses



LIFE & FREEDOM RALLY MONDAY, MARCH 25 at 7 p.m. REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2025 N Kickapoo Creek Rd, Peoria

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER KAREN BLACK MERCER

## 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

#### You Are Invited!

Cursillo Community April Ultreya Theme: "God is with us and is working miracles" Speaker: Paul and Denise Henderson Families and Guests are welcome!

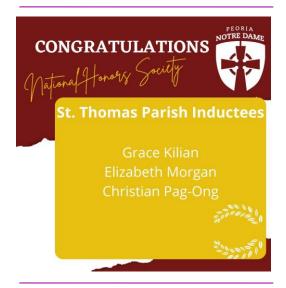
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Morton **Saturday**, **April 6** beginning with the parish Mass at 4:30pm Mass, Lay Talk, Social Time

Contact the Cursillo Office at 309-676-5587; cursillopeoria@gmail.com for more information.

## Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Monday, April 1st. 2024, 7:00 p.m. Saint Mark Church 1113 W. Bradley Avenue, Peoria

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





In vain will the world seek for equality until it has seen all men through the eyes of faith. Faith teaches that all men, however poor or ignorant, or crippled, however maimed, ugly, or

degraded they may be, all bear within themselves the image of God, and have been bought by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. As this truth is forgotten, men are valued only because of what they can do, not because of what they are.

~ Fulton J. Sheen

#### March is Autoimmune Awareness Month

Chances are, you know someone who is living with an autoimmune disease.

#### **Facts About Autoimmune Disease**

- An autoimmune disease is a condition in which the immune system mistakenly attacks and damages healthy body tissue and cells, rather than protecting the body as it was designed to do. The exact cause of autoimmune diseases is not fully understood, but they are thought to result from a combination of genetic and environmental factors.
- Approximately 50 million Americans are living with autoimmune disease.
- There are more than 100 known autoimmune diseases.
- 80% of people living with autoimmune disease are female.
- Autoimmune disease tends to cluster in families. If one person in your family has an autoimmune disease, it's likely that someone else does, too although they might not have the same disease.
- On average, it takes 4.5 years and 4 physicians to receive a diagnosis.
- Autoimmunity is now one of the most common disease categories, ahead of cancer and heart disease.
- 25% of people living with autoimmune disease have multiple diagnoses, and certain diseases tend to cluster with others.

Approximately 50 million Americans have been diagnosed with at least one autoimmune disease, not to mention those who are still searching for a diagnosis.

With over 100 autoimmune diseases and many occurring in clusters, familiarizing yourself with the various autoimmune diseases is a great way to increase your autoimmune understanding.

Some of the more common autoimmune diseases include type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and inflammatory bowel disease.

Other common conditions which are actually autoimmune diseases include

Endometriosis Raynaud's phenomenon Meniere's disease Restless legs syndrome Narcolepsy

Although the causes of many autoimmune diseases remain unknown, a person's genes in combination with infections and other environmental exposures are likely to play a significant role in disease development. Treatments are available for many autoimmune diseases, but cures have yet to be discovered.

The chronic and debilitating nature of these diseases, which can lead to high medical costs and reduced quality of life, is a burden on patients and also affects their families and communities. Although researchers have made considerable progress in understanding how the immune system causes organ, tissue, and cell injury in autoimmune diseases, much remains to be learned. By supporting a broad range of basic, preclinical, and clinical research in autoimmune diseases, NIAID enhances understanding of the causes of these diseases, the genetic factors that make people susceptible to them, and the regulatory mechanisms that control the production of self-destructive antibodies.

NIAID-supported research on autoimmune diseases focuses on the immunologic basis of disease, including developing a greater understanding of the fundamental immunologic principles underlying disease onset and progression, developing improved animal models of disease, developing improved diagnostic tools, and identifying and evaluating more effective immune-based treatment and prevention strategies.

Information excerpted from the following websites for educational purposes only. <a href="https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/autoimmune-diseases">https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/autoimmune-diseases</a> <a href="https://autoimmune.org/autoimmune-awareness-month/">https://autoimmune-org/autoimmune-awareness-month/</a>

## **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

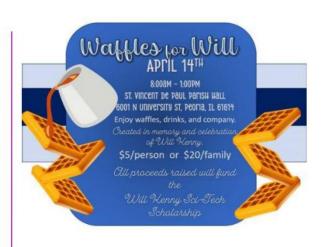


pndhs.ejoinme.org/pndgala2024

## **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

New Parishioner	Change of address/phone		
Phone			
City	ZIP		
Address			
Phone			
Email			
First Name(s)	Mr Mrs Ms		
Last Name			
101111.			





### **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-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.



# St. Thomas the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin



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