

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

Pastor: Msgr. Jason A. Gray.....(x3)
msggray@stthomas-church.net

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Marc Nkulu.....
frmarc@stthomas-church.net

Fr. John Twinomujuni.....In Residence

Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB
(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

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Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735
Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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marycushing@stthomas-school.net

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maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

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patwombacher@stthomas-school.net

CCD Coordinator: Liz Plaskon
(309)339-4775 ..ccd@stthomas-church.net

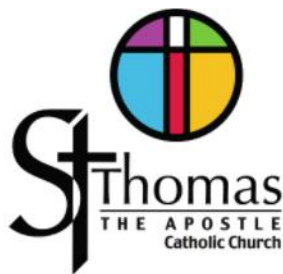
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)
parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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

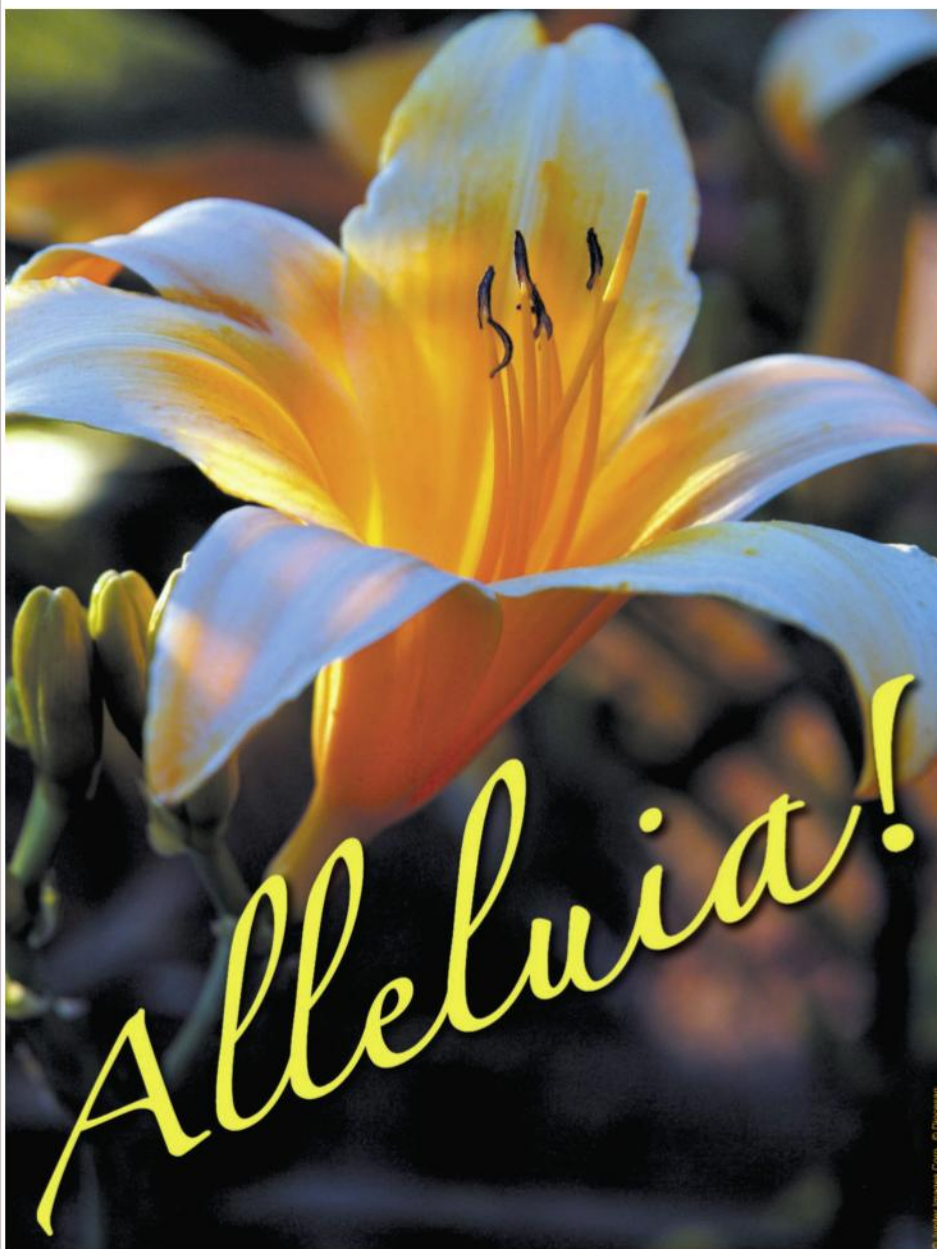
Annulment Consultant:
John Mackoway.....699-5213

Stay in Touch

1. Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org or the My Parish App
2. 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 31, 2024
Easter Sunday of the
Resurrection of the Lord





From Our Pastor

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen!

After a season of penance during Lent, and after immersing ourselves in the Lord's Passion during Holy Week, after accompanying Our Lord to the tomb, today we stand with the disciples at the empty tomb in fear and joy. *The Lord is not here; he has been raised.*

Please welcome the new members of our parish who entered the Church at the Easter Vigil. They have completed their study and preparations and now enter into the full sacramental life of the Church.

Easter week is a time of vacation for our students at St. Thomas School. During this week, the funds that you helped raise from our progressive dinner will be used to update the lighting in the school to make it energy efficient. I look forward to showing off these improvements after school resumes. Your generosity has helped with lighting and windows, as well as tuition assistance to make St. Thomas School an excellent and affordable school for our parishioners and those in our community.

The octave of Easter will be Divine Mercy Sunday. This devotion to the merciful love of Jesus and his Sacred Heart is dear to many Catholics. We will have Divine Mercy devotions on April 7 at 3 p.m. including adoration, the chaplet of Divine Mercy, and confessions.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of March 31, 2024

Sunday	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord Acts 10: 34a, 37-43; Colossians 3: 1-4; John 20: 1-9
Monday	Acts 2: 14, 22-33; Matthew 28: 8-15
Tuesday	Acts 2: 36-41; John 20: 11-18
Wednesday	Acts 3: 1-10; Luke 24: 13-35
Thursday	Acts 3: 11-26; Luke 24: 35-48
Friday	Acts 4: 1-12; John 21: 1-14
Saturday	Acts 4: 13-21; Mark 16: 9-15
Sunday	Sunday of Divine Mercy Acts 4: 32-35; 1 John 5: 1-6; John 20: 19-31

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 1, 2024

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

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

7:00 a.m. Msgr. William Watson/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley

8:00 a.m. Bill & Luella Schier/Mary Ann Noe

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

7:00 a.m. Charles Lavin/The Barkley Family

8:00 a.m. Jim & Penny Scherer/Barbara Turner

Thursday, April 4, 2024

7:00 a.m. Jim & Nellie Dunne/Joe & Sandy Whalen

8:00 a.m. Intentions of Cherie Fauth/Mary Ann Noe

Friday, April 5, 2024

7:00 a.m. Pius & Caroline Willi Family/Jack & Margaret Weinstein

8:00 a.m. Dave Nehl/Dennis & Pam Goett

Saturday, April 6, 2024

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

5:00 p.m. Lawrence & Eloise Cooling/Steve & Edie Brereton

Sunday, April 7, 2024

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

10:00 a.m. William B. Wombacher/Family

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of March 31

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

MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER April 1, Mass at 8:00 a.m. only

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED Monday, April 1

NO SCHOOL for Easter break, Mon. April 1 through Fri. April 5

ROSARY Tuesday, April 2, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

LOTW FOLLOW UP Tuesday, April 2, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

THAT MAN IS YOU Friday, April 5, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30, ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

ADORATION Friday, April 5, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

SPANISH CURSILLO MASS Saturday, April 6, 1:00 p.m., Church

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS Sunday, April 7, 3:00 p.m., Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Thomas Holy Hour	April 18
Msg. Watson Memorial Mass	May 1



Pray with the Pope

**March 2024
For The Role Of Women**

Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.

Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week

Easter Schedule



Saturday 8:00 pm Easter Vigil

Sunday 8:00 am Easter Sunday Mass
10:00 am Easter Sunday Mass

No evening Mass Easter Sunday

Congratulations and Welcome 2024 RCIA Catechumens & Candidates

Maxwell Vandiver
Samson Vandiver
Amia Trantham
Brett Brown
Daniel Shernak
Gerald Stahl
Jacob Vandiver
Kate Vandiver



Weekly Collection

March 24, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000	\$780,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$13,435	\$516,993
Electronic Collections.....	\$11,113	\$163,338
Total Collected.....	\$24,548	\$680,331
Over/(Short).....	\$4,548	\$(99,669)

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.

OCIA/RCIA Schedule

DATE	TOPIC
Mar. 30:	Easter Vigil
Apr. 10:	Mystagogy

Sponsor of the Week

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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, repack 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 3rd through August 15th

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

COME ON
Barbie
LET'S GO PARTY

Dance on over for the
**St Thomas
Father Daughter Dance**

SATURDAY APRIL 13th
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Parish Hall
Snacks and Drinks provided

\$20 per family

Please fill out and return form with
payment by April 5th
(cash or check to St Thomas PTO)

PEORIA SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

sistercitiesofpeoria.org



Friday, April 26 – doors open 5PM
Itoo Hall – Farmington Rd, Peoria



**Food Tastings
Entertainment
Raffles**

**\$5 Entry Fee
\$1, \$2, \$3 Food Items**



There are only two classes of people who heard the cry of Christmas night: shepherds and wise men. Shepherds: those who know they know nothing. Wise Men: those who know they do not know everything. Only the very simple and very learned discovered God—never the man with one book.

~ Fulton J. Sheen

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

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



At any point in your life, have you ever been in need?

If not, you are truly blessed.

The individuals and families whom we help through our SVdP Society have often exhausted their ability to get help from family or friends, and they are unaware of other resources. The goal of SVdP is to help these members of our community to bridge these challenges during some of the lowest points of their lives.

This happened with a young woman when she was expecting her second child. She had graduated from high school and has passed her program to be a certified medical assistant. "Kay" was working in a doctor's office at a local hospital when she began to have multiple complications with her pregnancy. Her physician did some tests, and he recommended that she go on complete bedrest in order to save her baby. Kay did not know how she would pay her rent and utilities, plus she had not been employed long enough to receive other benefits.

I had met Kay about a year ago, though I did not learn her story until she was checking my vitals at a December 2023 office visit. While chatting, she asked me what I was doing in retirement. I told her that I volunteered with a group which helped people with rent, utilities and other needs through the donations of parish members. Kay then asked me what the name of my group was, and I told her it was the St. Vincent de Paul group at St. Thomas Church. She broke into a big smile and got tears in her eyes as she explained that it was our group and parish which helped her when she was trying to save her baby's life. Kay told me that the people who had visited and worked with her also provided other information about resources. Her baby had been born healthy and was now 3 years old. Kay then asked me to thank our group and to let them know how much their help had meant to her family. This past Friday I returned to the office where she worked, and asked me if I was still doing volunteer work with people in need. She hugged me as I left the office. This young woman is a heroine to me.

Thank you, St. Thomas Parishioners, for your continued support for our group's work!

Nancy Higgins

Bookkeeper Needed

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is looking for a full or part time bookkeeper with accounting experience. This position will be responsible for managing receivables and payables, tuition, tracking donations, preparation of monthly financial statements and preparing the annual budget.

If interested, please send a resume to parishoffice@stthomas-church.net or call Terri at the parish office at 309-688-3446.

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.

St. Mary of Lourdes Presents:

SACRED HEART FAMILY DAY

Join us for a day of family fun and togetherness! There will be speakers, prayer, Mass, dinner and games!

June 15

Check-In 12:30pm

Welcome: 1:15pm

Mass: 4:30pm

Day officially ends at 8pm

This event is open to all Catholic families.

We look forward to seeing you there!

RSVP BY May 25

\$5/person or \$25/Family

SCAN HERE
TO
REGISTER



Nationwide Invitation to Prayer

The USCCB's president and the chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities announced a [Nationwide Invitation to Prayer | USCCB](#).

On March 26, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a case that could impact the widespread accessibility of chemical abortion (abortion pills). Chemical abortions are now the most common form of abortion in the United States.

When

Beginning Monday, March 25 and continuing through June, when a decision is expected.

How to Participate

Offer this [A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life | Respect Life](#) daily for the end of abortion and for the protection of women and pre-born children.

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:

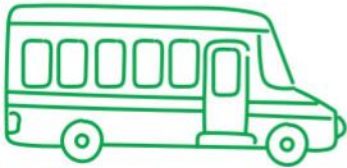
<https://brushfire.com/eagleeyeministries/eagle-eye-summer-institutes/563131>



PEORIA NOTRE DAME

Fund-A-Need

NEW WHITE BUS!



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.

Last Name _____

First Name(s) _____ Mr ___ Mrs ___ Ms ___

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

New Parishioner _____ Change of address/phone _____

EMMAUS DAYS 2024

"He took the bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them"
-Luke 24:30



[COMEANDFOLLOWME.ORG/EMMAUSDAYS](https://comeandfollowme.org/emmausdays)

ST. JOHN CATHOLIC
NEWMAN CENTER

SESSION I:
College and
Adult Men
June 7th-9th

SESSION II:
11th and 12th
Grade Men
June 21st-24th



PEORIA NOTRE DAME
HIGH SCHOOL

SESSION III:
9th and 10th
Grade Men
July 7th-10th

SESSION IV:
7th and 8th
Grade Men
July 10th-12th

Lord help me to want to be what you want me to be!

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.

Waffles for Will APRIL 14TH

8:00AM - 1:00PM

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH HALL
6001 N UNIVERSITY ST, PEORIA, IL 61614

Enjoy waffles, drinks, and company.
Created in memory and celebration
of Will Kenny.

\$5/person or \$20/family

All proceeds raised will fund
the

Will Kenny Sci-Tech
Scholarship



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.



Diocesan is proud to be printing *St. Thomas the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin*



You are invited to help support our Parish!
For opportunities to advertise, please call 800-783-1623

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Parishioner Steve Jackson, President
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