

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
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parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

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msgrgray@stthomas-church.net
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Marc Nkulu.....
frmarc@stthomas-church.net
Fr. John Twinomujuni.....In Residence

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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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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

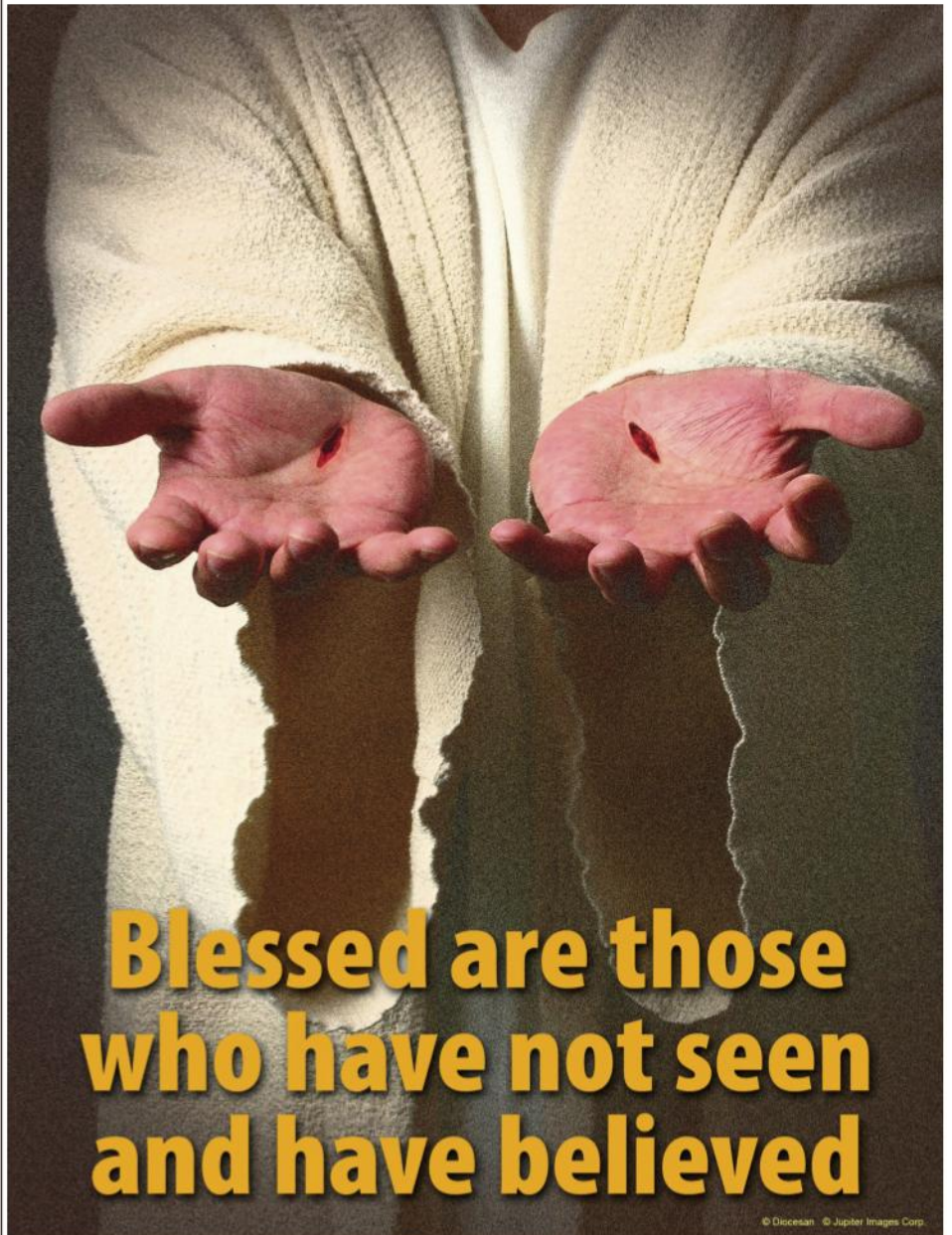
Annulment Consultant:
John Mackoway.....699-5213

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).



April 7, 2024
Sunday of Divine Mercy



**Blessed are those
who have not seen
and have believed**

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From Our Pastor

This Sunday after Easter is called the Octave of Easter and is the feast day of Divine Mercy Sunday. For those who are familiar with St. Faustina and the devotion to Divine Mercy, this is a wonderful celebration of the abiding love of Jesus who showers the world with his graces. Devotions will be Sunday afternoon at 3 PM.

Thanks to the hard work of the Progressive Dinner this year, we have also raised the funds needed to replace the lights in St. Thomas School with more contemporary and energy efficient lighting. I look forward to including some pictures of this work in upcoming bulletins. I also hope that every parishioner will have the chance to see the improvements for yourselves. We have an excellent Catholic school at St. Thomas. These upgrades testify to the same excellent quality in our facility.

We have the ordination of new priests each Spring around Memorial Day. This year, we will have four deacons to be ordained as priests for service in our diocese. I ask you to pray for the men to be ordained and to pray for the success of our vocation program. Our seminarians help with the summer Totus Tuus program grade school and high school children. The older boys are also invited to participate in Emmaus Days Retreat for those 7th grade and up.

We need to pray for and support our seminarians. We want to encourage vocations so we have the number of priests we need to serve this diocese. We also want to encourage holy vocations modeled after the image of Jesus Christ.

--Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of April 7, 2024

Sunday	Sunday of Divine Mercy Acts 4: 32-35; 1 John 5: 1-6; John 20: 19-31
Monday	The Annunciation of the Lord Isaiah 7: 10-14; 8: 10; Hebrews 10: 4-10; Luke 1: 26-38
Tuesday	Acts 4: 32-37; John 3: 7b-15
Wednesday	Acts 5: 17-26; John 3: 16-21
Thursday	St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr Acts 5: 27-33; John 3: 31-36
Friday	Acts 5: 34-42; John 6: 1-15
Saturday	St. Martin I, Pope & Martyr Acts 6: 1-7; John 6: 16-21
Sunday	Third Sunday of Easter Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2: 1-5a; Luke 24: 35-48

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 8, 2024

7:00 a.m. Sue McWhirter/Marie Zarley
8:00 a.m. Mary "Betty" Rochford/The Rochford Family

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

7:00 a.m. Dr. James N. Kenny, Sr./Family
8:00 a.m. The Portman Family/The McCormack Family

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

7:00 a.m. Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist
8:00 a.m. John Pusey/Bill & Ann Fulton

Thursday, April 11, 2024

7:00 a.m. Rosemary Bartley/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley
9:15 a.m. Jim Hagemann/Dave & Terri Schlicksup

Friday, April 12, 2024

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Andrew Williams
8:00 a.m. Robert Singleton/Chris & Dianna Russick

Saturday, April 13, 2024

8:00 a.m. Matt Leali/Theresa Hardesty & Family
5:00 p.m. Jim Becker/Karen Hollies

Sunday, April 14, 2024

8:00 a.m. Elaine Duffy/Mai Dang
10:00 a.m. Lucille Noe/Mary Ann Noe
5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of March 31

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

CHOIR PRACTICE Sunday, April 7, 9:00 a.m., Music Room

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

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

ROSARY Tuesday, April 9, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

LOTW FOLLOW UP Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

CCD Wednesday, April 10, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, April 10, 7:00 p.m., *Mystagogia*, Parish Hall

WOMEN OF THE WORD Thursday, April 11, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, April 11, 6:30 p.m., Rudy's Cantina

THAT MAN IS YOU Friday, April 12, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30, ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE Saturday, April 13, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>St. Thomas Holy Hour</i>	<i>April 18</i>
<i>Msgr. Watson Memorial Mass</i>	<i>May 1</i>



Pray with the Pope

**April 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.

Weekly Collection

March 31, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000	\$800,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$7656	\$524,649
Electronic Collections.....	\$375	\$163,713
Total Collected.....	\$8031	\$688,362
Over/(Short).....	\$(11,969)	\$(111,638)
Easter.....	\$6,710	

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

Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week

James Hagemann

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 7, 2024
Devotions at 3:00 p.m.
In the Church

All are welcome!



Thank You

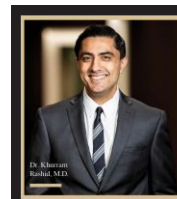
Special thanks to our Franciscan Sisters of John the Baptist for sharing their talents with all who came to St. Thomas the Apostle church during the Triduum and on Easter Sunday.

The Sisters spent countless hours enhancing the reverence and beauty of our church and chapel. We thank them for every detail of each day and for all that they do for us every day.

OCIA Schedule

DATE	TOPIC
Apr. 10:	Mystagogia

Sponsor of the Week



RASHID
Plastic Surgery
804 W. Trailcreek Dr. Peoria, IL
Call: 309-670-0700
Text: 309-328-3248
www.rashidps.com

Congratulations & Welcome
Catechumens & Candidates

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



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 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



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!

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



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.



Paper Shredding Media and Hard Drive Disposal

The Knights of Columbus Spalding Council #427 and Confidential Security Corporation will host a paper shredding and media and hard drive destruction on Saturday, April 20 from 9:00 am to noon in the KC parking lot at 7403 N. Rador Road. NO TV'S ACCEPTED

Donations accepted to help purchase Coats for Kids in the fall.

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)

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**.

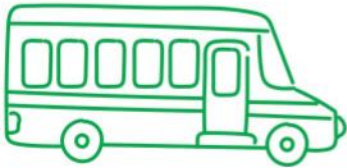
Come join us on an eight-day summer session full of fun, friendship, recreation, prayer, and study. Led by the Brothers and Sisters of St. John, we are dedicated to helping you grow closer to Christ and make this experience the best it can be! Spots are limited, so sign up now! More information and registration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

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



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

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!

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

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

 <p>Green For Life Your full-service waste and recycling services provider. 309.688.0760 gflenv.com</p>	 <p>Business Wealth Management Personal busey.com Member FDIC</p>	 <p>Illinois CatholicMatch.com/goIL</p>	 <p>EWTV.COM/RADIO Global Catholic Radio TUNE IN</p>
 <p>EAST PEORIA 698-8404 CARL KAUFMAN www.tazewellcountyasphalt.com SPECIALIZING IN ASPHALT PAVING • ASPHALT SEALING</p>	 <p>4208 PARTRIDGE WAY • P.O. BOX 3858 • PEORIA, IL 61612 — Parishioners — WWW.HEDIGERANDMEYERS.COM 309.691.5001 COLLINS VOORHEES JAKE VOORHEES WILLIAM VOORHEES</p>	 <p>* General Construction * Design Build * Commercial & Residential * Construction Management * Pre Engineered Structures DESIGNERS & CONTRACTORS Dennis Bishop, Parishioner 243-5599 2800 W Alta Rd.</p>	 <p>OSF HEALTHCARE OSFHealthCare.org</p>
<p>DENTURES PAR EXCELLENCE "Excellence in Removable Prosthodontics" Richard P. June, DDS richardjunedds.com Parishioner 309-693-7200 Trumpeter</p>	 <p>RASHID Plastic Surgery 804 W. Trailcreek Dr. Peoria, IL Call: 309-670-0700 Text: 309-328-3248 www.rashidps.com</p>	 <p>INSURANCE SERVICES, INC. REPRESENTING FCSLALife and FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION LIFE INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES WITH FRATERNAL BENEFITS DON'T MISS OUR QUARTERLY FRATERNAL MEETINGS WHERE YOU CAN TRACE YOUR FAMILY HERITAGE FREE OF CHARGE! 309-682-3314 4930 N. EXECUTIVE DR. PEORIA, IL 61614 WWW.THEISCOMPANIES.COM</p>	
 <p>2400 S.W. Adams www.kellyglass.com • (309) 676-3573</p>  <p>RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL (309) 633-1313 www.dmiheatingandair.com 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE "FREE ESTIMATES ON NEW EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION"</p>	 <p>VONACHEN GROUP</p>		 <p>MONICAL'S PIZZA RESTAURANT www.monicalspizza.com</p>
 <p>Commercial • Industrial • Residential —24 Hour Service— (309) 693-2400 www.laserelectricinc.com</p>		<p>MONICAL'S PIZZA RESTAURANT www.monicalspizza.com</p>	

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