

## 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](http://stthomaspeoria.org); 309-688-3446  
[parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net)

Pastor: Msgr. Jason A. Gray.....(x3)  
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Parochial Vicar: Fr. Marc Nkulu.....  
[frmarc@stthomas-church.net](mailto:frmarc@stthomas-church.net)  
Fr. John Twinomujuni.....In Residence

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

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

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Mary Cushing.....(x1182)  
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[patwombacher@stthomas-school.net](mailto:patwombacher@stthomas-school.net)

CCD Coordinator: Liz Plaskon .....

(309)339-4775 ..[ccd@stthomas-church.net](mailto:ccd@stthomas-church.net)

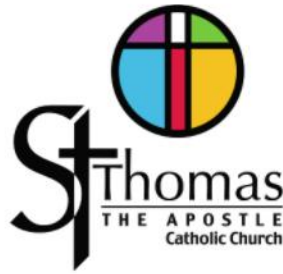
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)  
[parishnurse@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishnurse@stthomas-church.net)

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

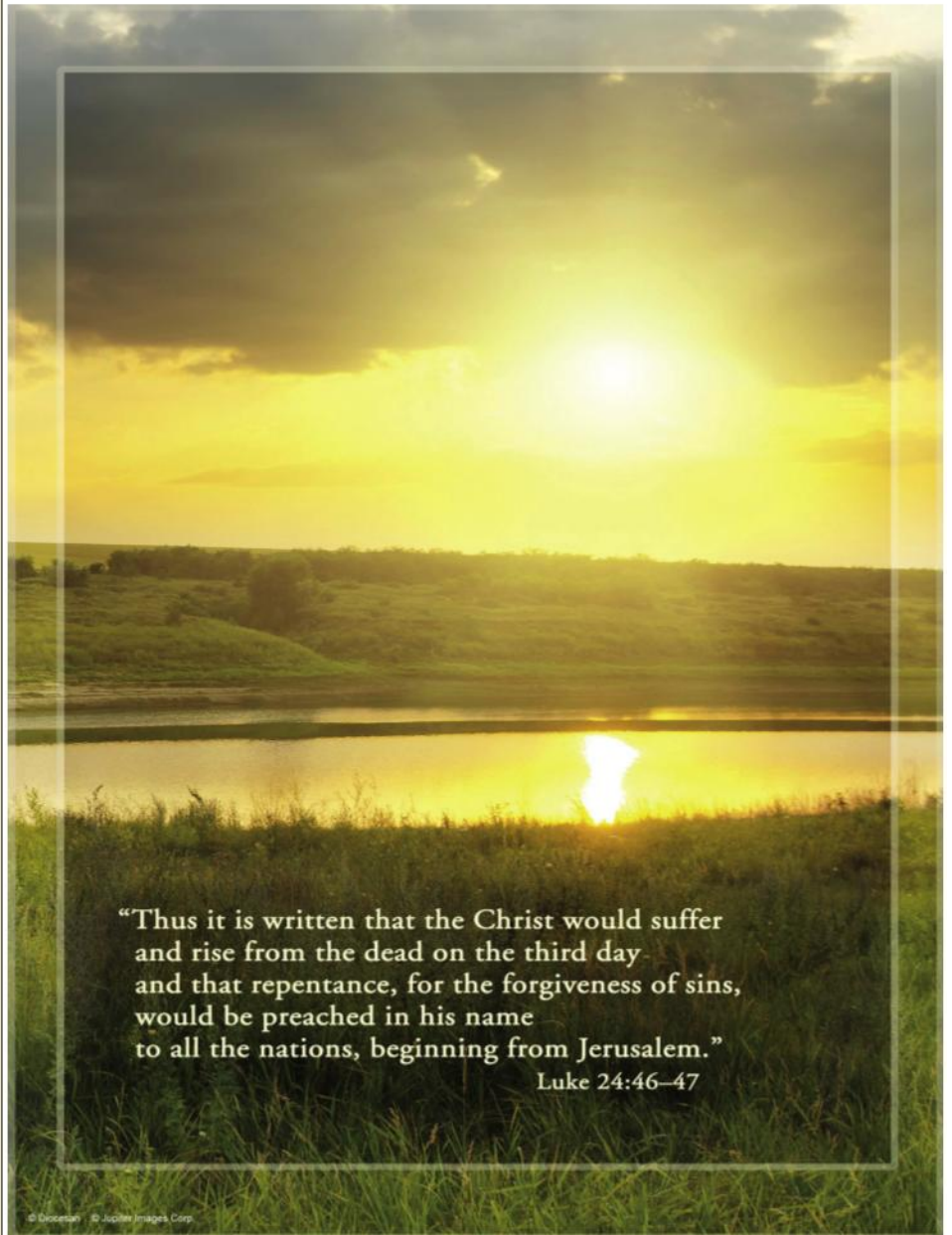
Annulment Consultant:  
John Mackoway.....699-5213

### Stay in Touch

1. Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, [stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org) or the My Parish App
2. Download My Parish App to receive push notifications (Visit [myparishapp.com/download](http://myparishapp.com/download)).
3. Receive the Bulletin and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net) to sign up).
4. Bookmark the parish webpage ([stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org)).



*April 14, 2024*  
*Third Sunday of Easter*





## From Our Pastor

We look forward to the progress we will make this summer on replacing pews, kneelers, and carpet in the church and in the narthex. We will also extend the stencil design in the sanctuary throughout the body of the church. Thank you to all those who donated to make this a possibility.

The work will begin after Pentecost and the day of graduation, May 19 and will continue through July. During this time, we will set up chairs and continue to have weekend Masses in the church. Daily Masses will move to the chapel. Thank you for your accommodation while we undertake this work.

For our students, I bring three events to your attention. The youth of the parish are invited to attend the Steubenville Youth Conference which will take place in Joliet on Saturday, June 1st. We have had young people participate in this conference in the past. This year is even more advantageous because the event is closer to Peoria. Those who take part will return to Peoria on the same day. Please see the bulletin for more information.

We will also have a Totus Tuus summer camp this year at St. Thomas from June 9-14. We will have registration information soon for the grade school children who can attend morning sessions during the week and junior high and high school students who can attend evenings sessions from Sunday through Thursday. Mark your calendar for this week!

For our young men, I invite you to attend Emmaus Days. This vocation retreat allows young men to spend time with boys their age and with our seminarians as they learn about the spiritual life and their relationship with God. Sessions will take place at St. John Newman Center, Champaign for adult men (June 7-9) and high school juniors and seniors (June 21-24); and at Peoria Notre Dame for high school freshmen and sophomores (July 7-10) and junior high boys (July 10-12). You can learn more or sign up at <https://comeandfollowme.org/emmausdays/>.

Finally, with the help of our parish finance council, I invite all our parishioners to consider your ordinary giving to our regular Sunday offertory. In order to help us meet our regular budget, I ask you to consider increasing your regular contributions. I will share more information in the coming weeks about our budget for next year.

- Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of April 14, 2024

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b> Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2: 1-5a; Luke 24: 35-48
<b>Monday</b>	Acts 6: 8-15; John 6: 22-29
<b>Tuesday</b>	Acts 7: 51—8: 1a; John 6: 30-35
<b>Wednesday</b>	Acts 8: 1b-8; John 6: 35-40
<b>Thursday</b>	Acts 8: 26-40; John 6: 44-51
<b>Friday</b>	Acts 9: 1-20; John 6: 52-59
<b>Saturday</b>	Acts 9: 31-42; John 6: 60-69
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b> Acts 4: 8-12; 1 John 3: 1-2; John 10: 11-18

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, April 15, 2024

7:00 a.m. Thomas J. Breese/Jack & Margaret Weinstein  
8:00 a.m. Joyce Whitney/Lucy Schreiber

### Tuesday, April 16, 2024

7:00 a.m. Tho M. Dang/Beth & Matt Salmon  
8:00 a.m. Dolores Oppe/Warren Oppe

### Wednesday, April 17, 2024

7:00 a.m. Donna Abdnour/Carl & Kathryn Williams  
8:00 a.m. Blanche Sherman/Laura Sherman

### Thursday, April 18, 2024

7:00 a.m. Jeri Callahan/John Callahan  
**9:15 a.m.** Intentions of Cherie Fauth/Mary Ann Noe

### Friday, April 19, 2024

7:00 a.m. David Nehl/A Classmate  
8:00 a.m. Sue McWhirter/Chad & Jennifer Vonachen

### Saturday, April 20, 2024

8:00 a.m. Sonny King/Ben & Maxie Hughes  
5:00 p.m. Deceased Members of the McCauley Family/Dave & Pat McCauley

### Sunday, April 21, 2024

8:00 a.m. Msgr. William Watson/The Retired STS Teachers  
10:00 a.m. Phillip Braet/Chris & Amy Braet & Family  
5:00 p.m. For the People

## Week of April 14

**DONUT SUNDAY** Coffee & donuts following Sunday morning Masses

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, April 14, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

**ROSARY** Tuesday, April 16, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**LOTW FOLLOW UP** Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**PARISH COUNCIL** Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office

**CCD** Wednesday, April 17, 6:00 p.m., School

**ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR** Thursday, April 18, 7:00 p.m., Church

**THAT MAN IS YOU** Friday, April 19, doors open at 6:00 a.m., program at 6:30, ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**SCHOOL PLAY** Friday & Saturday, April 19 & 20, 7:00 p.m., Notre Dame

**CARMELITES** Saturday, April 20, 8:00 a.m., Parish Hall

**SCHOOL PLAY** Sunday, April 21, 2:00 p.m., Peoria Notre Dame

### UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>Millions of Monicas</i>	<i>April 23</i>
<i>Msgr. Watson Memorial Mass</i>	<i>May 1</i>
<i>Adoration</i>	<i>May 3</i>



## PARISH HOLY HOUR

Thursday, April 18  
7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

## Weekly Collection

April 7, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000	\$820,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$20,772	\$545,421
Electronic Collections.....	\$2,682	\$163,713
Total Collected.....	\$23,454	\$709,134
Over/(Short).....	\$3,454	\$(110,866)

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](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Thank you for your support.

## Our Sympathy

Bessie Parks

## Baptism Congratulations

Courtney Jade loerger, daughter of  
Kelsie & Lucas loerger



## 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.

Join us for Coffee  
and Donuts after  
morning Mass this  
weekend



Sponsor of the Week

# VONACHEN GROUP





*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](mailto:dianajanda1964@gmail.com).

**Opportunities Available:**

**Monday and Thursday mornings** – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
June 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 15<sup>th</sup>

**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>



**Millions of Monicas – Praying With Confidence For Our Children**

There is a new ministry in the Diocese of Peoria to assist women who have loved ones who are struggling to embrace their Catholic faith, or have left the church entirely. Like St. Monica, as women, we persevere in prayer for their joyful return to full unity with the Catholic Church. This is not a support group or a self-help group. No sensitive information is shared. We are a group that simply prays for each other's loved ones. We believe that by coming together monthly, uniting our hearts and voices praying together, we can bring strength and joy to each other.

Join with other mothers, grandmothers, step-mothers, Godmothers, etc., as we pray to grow in holiness and humility, and for our children's faithful return to the Catholic Church. We meet each **Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. beginning April 23<sup>rd</sup>**, in the Daily Mass Chapel here at St Thomas. For more information please visit [www.millionsofmonicas.com](http://www.millionsofmonicas.com) and/or feel free to email [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net).

LORD, show us the  
light of your face!

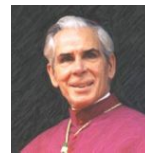
Psalm 4:7

**White House Retreat**

The men of St. Thomas Parish will again participate in a weekend retreat at White House Retreat Center in St. Louis. The 3 day retreat starts on the evening of Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> and ends just after Mass and lunch on Sunday afternoon. The three day retreat provides time for reflection, prayer, sacraments and growing your relationship with God. More information on White House can be found at:

[WHITE HOUSE JESUIT RETREAT  
\(whitehouseretreat.org\)](http://whitehouseretreat.org)

If you would like more information, or to register, please contact George Burek at [georgeburek@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeburek@yahoo.com)



*Let those souls who think their work has no value recognize that by fulfilling their insignificant tasks out of a love of God, those tasks assume a supernatural worth. The aged who bear the taunts of the young, the sick crucified in their beds, the ignorant immigrant in the steel mill, the street cleaner and the garbage collector, the wardrobe mistress in the theater and the chorus girl who never had a line, the unemployed carpenter, and the ash collector—all these will be enthroned above dictators, presidents, kings, and cardinals if a greater love of God inspires their humbler tasks than inspires those who play nobler roles with less love.*

~ 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.

All performances are held at Peoria  
Notre Dame High School

## Tuition Assistance for the 2024/2025 School Year

Families who are interested in being considered for financial assistance for the 2024/2025 school year must complete the online FACTS Grant & Aid Application at [online.factsmgt.com/aid](https://online.factsmgt.com/). The application and required supporting tax documents (your 2023 tax return and W-2's) must be received online by FACTS by the **application deadline date of April 26, 2024**. There is a \$40.00 fee required in order to complete the FACTS application.

Completion of the FACTS application by the April 26, 2024 deadline makes you eligible to receive financial aid from the John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship Fund through the Diocese of Peoria and the St. Thomas Parish Sponsor a Student Fund.

If you have any questions about the financial aid process or would like assistance in completing your application please contact Pat in the parish office at 688-3446.



### Totus Tuus

June 9—14  
St. Thomas, Peoria Heights

Summer Catechetical experience for students in grades 1—12.

Dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith, through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship.

Day program (incoming grades 1-6) Mon-Fri; 9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

Teen program (incoming grades 7-12) Sun-Thurs; 6:30 p.m.-8:15p.m.

Registration: details coming soon

### Counselor & Volunteers Needed

**Women's Care Center** is in need of extra support staff with a heart for our mission of serving women and building healthy families!

We are looking for a **Full Time Counselor**. Paid training is provided. We are also in need of volunteers to sort donations, parenting class instructors and daytime childcare helpers. **Please email resumes to: [wcc-joyce10@gmail.com](mailto:wcc-joyce10@gmail.com)** or contact Joyce Elger at **309-689-0200** for details.

## 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](mailto: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. Radnor Road. NO TV'S ACCEPTED

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

**ILLUMINATE**  
**JOLIET YOUTH DAY**  
Saturday June 1, 2024 Lewis University Romeoville, IL  
LEARN MORE AT [PARTNERSHIPFOR YOUTH.ORG/JOLIET-YOUTH-DAY/](https://PARTNERSHIPFOR YOUTH.ORG/JOLIET-YOUTH-DAY/)

**MINISTRY TEAM**  
sonar, katie prejean mcgrady, oscar rivera, bishop ronald hicks

Current 8th-12th graders from any parish are invited to join Mary Cushing and Fr. Marc Nkulu for this first event of our new High School Youth Ministry!

Cost: \$125  
Depart: 6:00am  
Return: 7:30pm  
Contact: [marycushing@stthomas-school.net](mailto:marycushing@stthomas-school.net)

REGISTER BY APRIL 26TH!





**DONATE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.**

**Peoria Heights High School  
Blood Drive  
Grand View Lodge #1112**

Hall  
3819 N Prospect Rd  
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

**Friday, May 31, 2024  
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org.

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass for more information.



Build the blood supply: Come give 5/20 to 6/9 for an exclusive Tetris and Red Cross shirt, Ltd. qty.

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

E013 100418 102040 100 0077232 09 104 1 00700 001-002-001-0010-2022

Want to have the most fun at **Sophia's Kitchen**? Monday afternoon is looking for a volunteer dishwasher from 11:30 to 3:30pm. You'll love working with this silly crew!



To apply, visit [www.catholicpeoria.com](http://www.catholicpeoria.com) to fill out an application. There's a bit of training to complete before starting, but well worth the joy you'll gain as you support our cooks as they feed 400 hungry souls each day.

**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](http://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



PEORIA NOTRE DAME  
HIGH SCHOOL

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

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



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](http://sistercitiesofpeoria.org)



**Friday, April 26 - doors open 5PM**  
Itooo 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](mailto: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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 <p>EAST PEORIA 698-8404 CARL KAUFMAN <a href="http://www.tazewellcountyasphalt.com">www.tazewellcountyasphalt.com</a> 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 &amp; Residential * Construction Management * Pre Engineered Structures DESIGNERS &amp; CONTRACTORS Dennis Bishop, Parishioner 243-5599 2800 W Alta Rd.</p>	 <p>OSF HealthCare.org</p>
<p><b>DENTURES PAR EXCELLENCE</b> "Excellence in Removable Prosthodontics" Richard P. June, DDS <a href="http://richardjunedds.com">richardjunedds.com</a> Parishioner 309-693-7200 Trumpeter</p>	 <p><b>RASHID</b> Plastic Surgery 804 W. Trailcreek Dr. Peoria, IL Call: 309-670-0700 Text: 309-328-3248 <a href="http://www.rashidps.com">www.rashidps.com</a></p>		
 <p>2400 S.W. Adams <a href="http://www.kellyglass.com">www.kellyglass.com</a> • (309) 676-3573</p>	 <p>VONACHEN GROUP</p>	 <p>INSURANCE SERVICES, INC. REPRESENTING FCSLA Life and FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION</p>	<p>LIFE INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES WITH FRATERNAL BENEFITS</p>
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**market place**  
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[droe@diocesan.com](mailto:droe@diocesan.com)

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