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) msgrgray@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

Director of Faith Formation: Mary Cushing......(x1182) marycushing@stthomas-school.net

School Principal: Maureen Bentley....(x1210) maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

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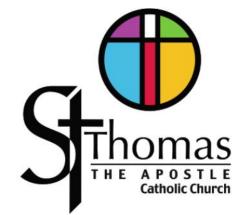
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350) parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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

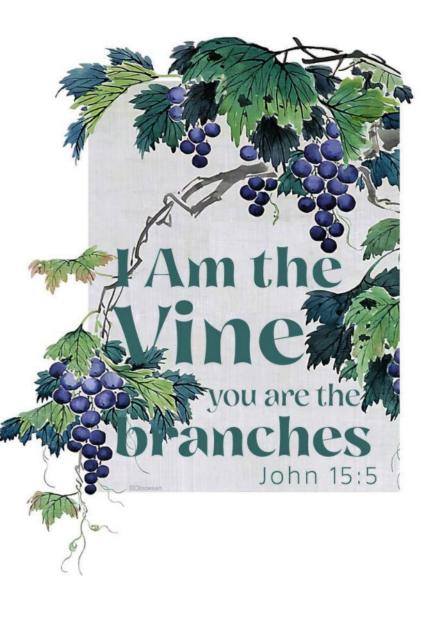
Annulment Consultant: John Mackoway......699-5213

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 mypari-shapp.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
- 4. Bookmark the parish webpag (stthomaspeoria.org).



April 21, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Easter





From Our Pastor

I am thankful for many volunteers who have done so much at St. Thomas:

- Thank you to Denise Tascher who was recognized by the Diocesan Council for Catholic Women for her help in coordinating OCIA, Music Ministry, and in decorating for many parish events.

- Thank you to the women who have completed this year's program, *Women of the Word*. This study of the women in Scripture was appreciated by many of the women of the parish.

- Thank you to the men who coordinate *That Man Is* You. Their dedication to coming so early on Friday mornings to run this program for the men of the parish is heroic.

- Thank you to the Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist for their care for the altar and the sanctuary. The floral decorations add to the joy and the solemnity of our Masses.

We pray for our second grade students preparing to make their First Communion on the last Saturday of April. We look forward to their initiation into receiving the Eucharist for the first time.

Our Msgr. Watson Memorial Mass will take place this year on Wednesday, May 8 at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend, but we extend a special invitation to those who have lost loved ones during the past year. We will read the list of parish members and their relatives who have passed.

We are happy to make sure our parishioners are able to receive Communion at Mass, especially those who find it difficult to come forward. Depending on the number of ministers, we will bring the Eucharist to you either during the normal Communion time or immediately afterwards. If you are not able to come forward, I recommend you alert one of our ushers. Also, at the end of Communion, I generally pause for a moment to see if anyone was missed. If you did not receive Communion, please get our attention by raising your hand. We will make sure that you are able to receive.

- -Msgr. Gray



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Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 4: 8-12; 1 John 3: 1-2; John 10: 11-18
Monday	Acts 11: 1-18; John 10: 1-10
Tuesday	St. Adalbert, Bishop & Martyr Acts 11: 19-26; John 10: 22-30
Wednesday	St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest & Martyr Acts 12: 24—13: 5a; John 12: 44-50
Thursday	St. Mark, Evangelist 1 Peter 5: 5b-14; Mark 16: 15-20
Friday	Acts 13: 26-33; John 14: 1-6
Saturday	Acts 13: 44-52; John 14: 7-14
Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 9: 26-31; 1 John 3: 18-24; John 15: 1-8

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 22, 2024

7:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Stark, S.J./Angela Kenny 8:00 a.m. Jim Hagemann/Ed & Cathy Mallow

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

7:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB8:00 a.m. Maushard & Cook Families/Kathy Maushard

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Bessie Parks/Denise McCormack
8:00 a.m.	Maybelle Heiser/Catholic Women's League

Thursday, April 25, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Souls in Purgatory
9:15 a.m.	Remedios Tolentino/The Sarmiento Family

Friday, April 26, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Ted & Marilyn Pilat/The Pilat Family
8:00 a.m.	Bob Newtson/Family & Friends

Saturday, April 27, 2024

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8:00 a.m.	Msgr. William Watson 3 rd Anniversary
10:00 a.m.	Mark Brewer/Mai Dang
5:00 p.m.	Mary & Gene Leihenseder/Dave & Rose Chase

Sunday, April 28, 2024

8:00 a.m.	Elaine Duffy/Mai Dang
10:00 a.m.	Jim & Penny Scherer/Barbara Turner
5:00 p.m.	For the People

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

Week of April 21

SCHOOL PLAY Saturday, April 20, 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 21, 2:00 p.m., Peoria Notre Dame

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, April 21, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, April 23, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

MILLIONS OF MONICAS Tuesday, April 23, 7:00, Daily Mass Chapel

CCD Wednesday, April 24, 6:00 p.m., School

FIRST COMMUNION Saturday, April 27, 10:00 a.m., Church

EXTRA CONFESSIONS following all Sunday Masses, April 28, Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

Msgr.	Watson Memorial Mass	May 8
	Adoration	May 3
	St. Thomas Holy Hour	May 16

Men's Retreat Registration After All Masses on April 27 and 28

Our annual parish men's retreat at *White House Retreat* in south Saint Louis County will take place from **September 19 to 22, 2024**. Join us at White House's beautiful 80-acre campus high on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River. This is a silent, guided retreat filled with good rest, good food and inspiring conferences to bring you closer to Christ. You'll come away with a new perspective on your life and a wonderful inner peace to face problems with new courage. Give it a chance and see what it can do for your life!

Registration will take place after all Masses on April 27 and 28, or you can email George Burek at **georgeburek@yahoo.com**. More information on White House Retreats can be found at: **https://whitehouseretreat.org**

Weekly Collection

April 14, 2024

	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed\$2	20,000\$840,000
Sunday Collections\$	11,301\$556,722
Electronic Collections\$	10,972\$177,367
Total Collected\$2	22,273\$734,089
Over/(Short).	\$2,273\$(105,911)

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.

Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week

Baptism Congratulations

Wallace Owen White, son of Megan & Brandon White

Alora Danielle Arnold and Joseph Michael Arnold, children of Danielle & Jason Arnold



Congratulations to Denise Tascher for receiving the Volunteer Appreciation Award from the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. Mass, awards, and a luncheon with Bishop Tylka were held on April 12th. Denise joined St. Thomas Parish in 1984 and started helping with RCIA, Music Ministry, Christmas Open House, and so many other parish events. She supports the clergy, staff, school, and parishioners in countless ways. Thank you, Denise, for 40 years of dedication and fun! This award is well deserved.

Sponsor of the Week





Millions of Monicas is a new ministry in the Diocese of Peoria for women to pray together for their children who have left the faith. This is not a support group or a self-help group. We simply meet once a month and pray together for each other's loved ones in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Join with other mothers, grandmothers, step-mothers, aunts, Godmothers, etc., as we pray to grow in holiness and humility, and for our children's faithful return to the Catholic Church.

1st Tuesdays 7:00pm

4th Tuesdays 7:00pm

St. Mark Parish 113 W. Bradley Ave. Peoria, IL 309-673-1263 St. Thomas the Apostle Parish 904 E. Lake Ave. Peoria Heights, IL 309-688-3446

For more information visit www.millionsofmonicas.com



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^{rd} through August 15^{th}

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



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.

Sponsor A Student Fund

We would like to thank our parishioners for your ongoing support of St. Thomas parish and school. We are blessed to have so many generous people who give of their time and talent as well as their financial support.

Our school families have been helped greatly by donations to our Sponsor A Student Fund. In recent years our families have also received significant financial support from Empower Illinois through the Invest in Kids Act. Unfortunately the Illinois State Legislature failed to renew the Invest in Kids program so our students will no longer have access to this source of financial support. Beginning with the 24/25 school year the need for financial assistance from our Sponsor A Student Fund will increase greatly as we will need to replace the assistance which had been provided through the Invest in Kids program.

Please support our school families by donating to our Sponsor A Student Fund. You may use the yellow envelope which is provided with your regular church envelope to direct your donation to our scholarship fund. Donations can also be made electronically and through our parish website. You will need to note that the donation is for the Sponsor A Student Fund if you do not use the yellow envelope. If you have any questions please contact the parish office.

We deeply appreciate your support of Catholic education at St. Thomas School.

You invited us to share with you the testimonies of our vocation, but what we experienced at your gathering was a much greater witness of love, faith, generosity and hospitality that radiated from each of you.

to all the wonderful

St. Thomas Church is truly blessed because of you all. Our prayers and gratitude are always with you.

Franciscan Sisters of John the Baptist

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

Taking Care of Yourself: Tips for Caregivers

Taking care of yourself is one of the most important things you can do as a caregiver. Caregiving is not easy — not for the caregiver and not for the person receiving care. It requires sacrifices and adjustments for everyone. Often, family caregivers must juggle work and family life to make time for these new responsibilities.

Caring for an older adult can also be rewarding. Many people find that caregiving provides a sense of fulfillment and that they like feeling useful and needed. But the ongoing demands of taking care of someone else can strain even the most resilient person. That's why it's so important for you to take care of yourself. This article can help you find ways to look out for your own well-being so you can be there for others.

How do you know if you need help? Caregivers do a lot for others. Because there is so much on their plate, many caregivers don't spend time taking care of themselves. For example, they are less likely than others to get preventive health services, like annual checkups, and to practice regular self-care. As a result, they tend to have a higher risk of physical and mental health issues, sleep problems, and chronic conditions such as high blood pressure. They are even at an increased risk of premature death.

Does this sound like you? Please pick up one of the packets in the kiosk for more care for the caregiver information or contact our Parish Nurse, Mary Clare Geraghty at parishnurse@stthomas-church.net.



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

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.

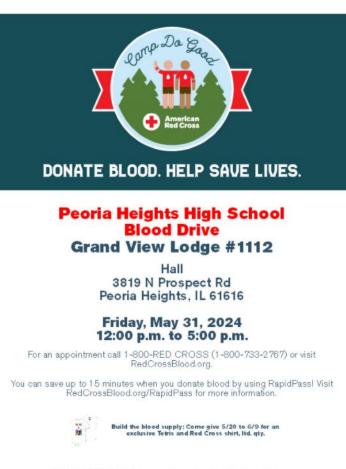
If interested, please send a resume to parishoffice@stthomas-church.net or call Terri at the parish office at 309-688-3446.

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!







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** 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. Under About open the New Parishioner Registration, complete and submit the form.

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



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 19th 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:

<u>WHITE HOUSE JESUIT RETREAT</u> (whitehouseretreat.org)

If you would like more information, or to register, please contact George Burek at georgeburek@yahoo.com

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 or contact Joyce Elger at 309-689-0200 for details.

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

View Our Parish Supporters at www.DiscoverMass.com

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.





► To

1-800-783-1623