

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

Deacon: Dcn. John Nelson.....981-2716
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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peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net

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juliestreid@stthomas-church.net

Tuition Coordinator: Pat Wombacher..(x1341)
patwombacher@stthomas-school.net

CCD Coordinator: Liz Plaskon

(309)339-4775 ..ccd@stthomas-church.net

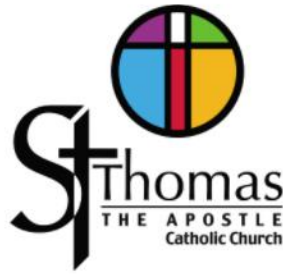
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)
parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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

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

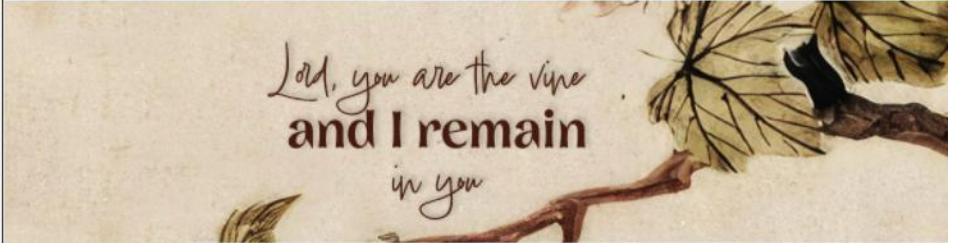
Stay in Touch

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 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter



Congratulations on Your First Communion

Madeline Bousek
Kevin Brewer
Peter Coad
Claire Dobereiner
Lily Eggena
Arabella Garcia Alksnis
Ellie Herring
Olivier Hounwanou
Charles Hudson
Kyle Kazlauskis
Marion Klesath
William Merkley
Molly Monk
Tatum Parkinson
Romeo Rodriguez
Colby Scott
Alice Singleton
Donald Suydam
Collin Taylor
Max Torres-Ravelo
Sebastian Trujillo
Dimitrios Tsoraides
Claire Whitten
Cecily Wigginton
Austin Williams





From Our Pastor

The month of May is dedicated especially to the Blessed Virgin Mary. St. Thomas School will hold a May Crowning on May 1st.

We focus much of our attention on Jesus who became flesh to share in our humanity. His human body was crucified and through the cross, Jesus died for our sins. That same human body truly rose on Easter and ascended into Heaven. However, we should also remember that Jesus received his human body in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Jesus entered the world through Mary. Mary remained devoted to Our Lord, faithfully standing at the foot of the cross. Mary became our mother and by God's grace was assumed into Heaven where she is also our Queen.

We can express our devotion to Mary through prayers, especially the rosary, which I commend to you during this month. Even more, we grow closer to Mary when we learn the practice of the virtues from her. Consider her obedience, her humility, her purity, or any of her other virtues, and let this be a point of meditation in your prayer. Mary loved Our Lord more perfectly than any other creature on earth, so to follow Mary in the way of love is to grow in love of Jesus Himself.

We also find ourselves in need of God's grace and we are encouraged to turn to Mary to ask for her help. In whatever troubles we find ourselves, may Mary be a refuge for you and a source of strength. Mary is also called the mother of priests, so in a special way I encourage you to ask for Mary's intercession for the three deacons and four priests to be ordained for this Diocese at the end of May. May God make their ordained ministry fruitful.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of April 28, 2024

Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 9: 26-31; 1 John 3: 18-24; John 15: 1-8
Monday	St. Catherine of Sienna, Virgin & Doctor of the Church Acts 14: 5-18; John 14: 21-26
Tuesday	St. Pius V, Pope Acts 14: 19-28; John 14: 27-31a
Wednesday	St. Joseph the Worker Acts 15: 1-6; John 15: 1-8
Thursday	St. Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church Acts 15: 7-21; John 15: 9-11
Friday	Sts. Philip & James, Apostles 1 Corinthians 15: 1-8; John 14: 6-14
Saturday	Acts 16: 1-10; John 15: 18-21
Sunday	Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4: 7-10; John 15: 9-17

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 29, 2024

7:00 a.m. John R. Pusey/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley
8:00 a.m. Vivencio E. Corrales/The Corrales Family

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

7:00 a.m. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen/The Barkley Family
8:00 a.m. Jim Hagemann/Kathy Maushard

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

7:00 a.m. Betty Pegg/The Grawey Family
8:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the Mallow/Hessling Family/Ed & Cathy Mallow

Thursday, May 2, 2024

7:00 a.m. Oscar & Gwen James/Jenny Williams
9:15 a.m. Jim Hagemann/The Hagemann Family

Friday, May 3, 2024

7:00 a.m. Adam & Elizabeth Weinstein Family/Jack & Margaret Weinstein
8:00 a.m. Bob Newton/Family & Friends

Saturday, May 4, 2024

8:00 a.m. Jeanne Broussard/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley
5:00 p.m. Fred Darce/The Calabro Family

Sunday, May 5, 2024

8:00 a.m. Melvin Noe 7th Anniv./Mary Ann Noe
10:00 a.m. Mike & Kathy Doran/The Wombacher Family
5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of April 28

- MEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION** this Weekend after all Masses
- SIGN-UP FOR FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION** this Weekend after all Masses, narthex
- EXTRA CONFESSIONS** following all Sunday Masses, April 28, Church
- MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, April 28, 7:00 p.m., School Gym
- ROSARY** Tuesday, April 30, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel
- MAY CROWNING** Wednesday, May 1, 8:45 a.m., Church
- CCD** Wednesday, May 1, 6:00 p.m., School
- ADORATION** Friday, May 3, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Msgr. Watson Memorial Mass	May 8
St. Thomas Holy Hour	May 16
Totus Tuus	June 9-14

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 21, 2024

	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000\$860,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$6,605\$563,327
Electronic Collections.....	\$0.....\$177,367
Total Collected.....	\$6,605\$740,694
Over/(Short).....	\$(13,395)\$(119,306)

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

John Lankton

Baptism Congratulations

Maximo Alejandro Leyva
Son of Paulino Leyva and Gabriela Padillo

Jovanni Paulino Leyva
Son of Javier and Alise Leyva

Msgr. Watson Memorial Mass

Each year we set aside a special time to pray for deceased members of our families and our friends. The annual *Msgr. Watson Memorial Mass* is especially for those who have lost a loved one in this last year, but anyone whose loved ones have passed is invited to participate.

May 8, 2024
5:30 p.m.
St. Thomas Church



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.



Pray with the Pope

May 2024
For The Formation Of Men And Women Religious And Seminarians

Let us pray that men and women religious and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.

Sponsor of the Week



www.monicalspizza.com



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

St. Mark Parish
113 W. Bradley Ave. Peoria, IL
309-673-1263

4th Tuesdays 7:00pm

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 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

Chess Club Coach Needed

The STS Chess Club is in immediate need of a new coach! If you have a passion for the game and can meet with students on Tuesday mornings before school starts, 7:45-8:15 a.m., you could be that coach!

If interested please contact Principal Maureen Bentley at maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net or call 309-688-3446, Ex. 1210.



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.

It is not too late to join this study group!

You are invited to dig deeper. Join us for a group study of the encyclical

“On the Eucharist in its Relationship to the Church”



Group Zoom Sessions every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. from April 9th - July 2nd.

We will be using a study guide from the National Council of Catholic Women. All parishioners from the Diocese of Peoria are welcome to participate.



For more information and to receive the Zoom link and free study guide, please contact Peoria DCCW Spirituality Commission Chair Kim Padan at (217)898-5256 or kim@gabrielsmom.com

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



The work of the St. Vincent DePaul Society has value far beyond meeting the physical needs of the poor. I routinely hear our members say they receive more than they give.

Being poor does not always, or necessarily, consist of being short of material goods. Being poor can also mean being physically and mentally handicapped, sick, crippled, old, ugly, or illiterate. There are poor who are or are made to feel alone...immigrants, transients, orphans, the abandoned or rejected, and all those who find themselves among others who are indifferent or hostile. Being poor may mean wanting to cry when others are laughing; being physically or morally chained, as prisoners, shut-ins, alcoholics, drug addicts; being defenseless against attacks, insults or accusations; being an innocent victim of crime or quarrels.
(McCullen, Deep Down Things)

My work with the Society of St. Vincent DePaul continually challenges and changes me. The importance of the process of being available, and then assigned to minister to individual human beings who reach out in need is priceless. The value of being part of a team who collectively works at opening their hearts to the poor is beyond measure. We are stretched to provide financial help, but perhaps more importantly sometimes, to place intangible assistance of our personal resources like potential of mind and heart, time, and influence at the service of others. Sharing means taking part in the joys and sorrows, worries and the hopes of others.

Your continued generous donations are multiplied far beyond the dollars they represent. And I know I speak for all of our volunteers when I thank you for this sacred experience.

Christ Jesus, your Eucharist is a sign of love, -may the poor and outcasts find a place at your table.

Christ Jesus, your Eucharist is a sign of unity, -may we embrace diversity with reverence and open hearts.

Christ Jesus, your Eucharist is a bond of charity, -may we be living signs of your presence in our midst.

*Christ Jesus, your Eucharist is a pledge of future glory, -may you welcome home all who have died believing in you.
Amen.*

(Prayer from SDVP reflections)

- Chris Clemmons

TOTUS TUUS
Summer catechetical experience
JUNE 9-14 2024

- ✓ FUN AND GAMES
- ✓ DYNAMIC YOUNG ADULT LEADERS
- ✓ DAILY MASS
- ✓ ENGAGING CATECHESIS

2024 THEME:
BELIEVE - THE APOSTLES CREED & THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

Totus Tuus is a week long summer program held at St. Thomas for youth entering grades 1-12. It is dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic Faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship.

DAY PROGRAM: INCOMING 1ST-6TH MON-FRI 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM
TEEN PROGRAM: INCOMING 7TH-12TH SUN-THURS 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM

\$45 per child, grades 1-6
\$90 per family (2+ children) grades 1-6
\$25 per teen, grades 7-12

Registration packets are available in the school office or church narthex!

Contact: marycushing@stthomas-schol.net 309.685-2533 ex. 1182

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.

Shop at Helping Hands to Benefit Our Food Pantry

The week of May 7th a portion of proceeds from sales at Helping Hands, Peoria Heights will go to our Food Pantry to benefit our neighbors in need. If you have need of a quality thrifted item consider shopping at Helping Hands the week of May 7th!



JOIN US IN THE PND
COMMONS
THE IRISH EXPO

Come check out the capstone projects presented by our AP Research & PLTW students from 6-8 PM on Wednesday, May 8th! Students explored a wide range of topics from Lebanese pastries to fitness podcasts to Illinois politics!

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!

Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Monday, May 6, 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.

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 _____



All Women and Girls of All Ages
In the month of our Mother Mary
Join us Saturday, May 11
9:30 am
for a Morning of

Prayer, Honor, and Blessings

St. Mary of Lourdes & Grotto
424 Lourdes Church Rd. Germantown Hills, IL 61548

As we immerse ourselves in beautiful music, song, and liturgy surrounded by the beauty of St. Mary's of Lourdes Church and Grotto, we will honor Mary, all women, and graduates of the diocese.
"Blessed are you among women; blessed in turn all women, too."

The morning will include:
Recitation of the Most Holy Rosary with prayer and song
Procession with Mary bringing flowers to the altar
Holy Mass-Fr. Chase Hilgenbrink officiating
Rose Award Presentation
followed by a Morning Tea
Honoring all Mothers and Graduates

We invite you to bring flowers from your yard to be placed at Mary's altar during the procession.

To ensure there is enough food and drink for everyone, please RSVP by using the QR code to register or contact April Adams 309-369-5110 \$8.00 per person, children 5 and under free



*The Rose Award Scholarships encourage young women who actively live their Catholic faith to continue their participation and grow in spirituality, leadership, and service throughout their lives. For, in the words of Saint John Paul II, "the liberating message of the Gospel of Life has been put into your hands, and the mission of proclaiming it to the ends of the earth is now passing to your generation.."

Sponsored by the Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (PDCCW), Women Connect Ministry

Women's Care Center

Full-Time Sonographer needed, as well as **Full Time Counselor**, and volunteers, at Women's Care Center. Please email resumes to: wcc-joyce10@gmail.com or contact Joyce Elger at 309-689-0200 for details.

Help Wanted

OSF Saint Francis is hiring an Administrative Secretary for the Pastoral Care Department. Duties include answering and routing phone calls, document preparation, organizing and minute taking. Should have excellent customer service skills and ability to maintain confidentiality. High school diploma or equivalent and basic Microsoft Office program skills required; Associates degree, proficiency with email and calendar systems preferred. Expected pay is \$18.43/hour, actual pay determined by experience, skills and internal equity. For a detailed description or to apply online: <https://www.osfcareers.org/who-we-are/jobs/72256?lang=en-us>



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.

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