#### 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)

Director of Faith Formation:

Mary Cushing.....(x1182) marycushing@stthomas-school.net

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

Administrative Assistant: Terri Moon......(x0) terrimoon@stthomas-church.net

Bulletin Editor: Peggy Sullivan.....(x1301) peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net

Accountant: Julie Streid.....(x1340)

juliestreid@stthomas-church.net

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

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

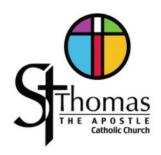
Music Coordinator: Ann Horst..(309)208-4862

Annulment Consultant:

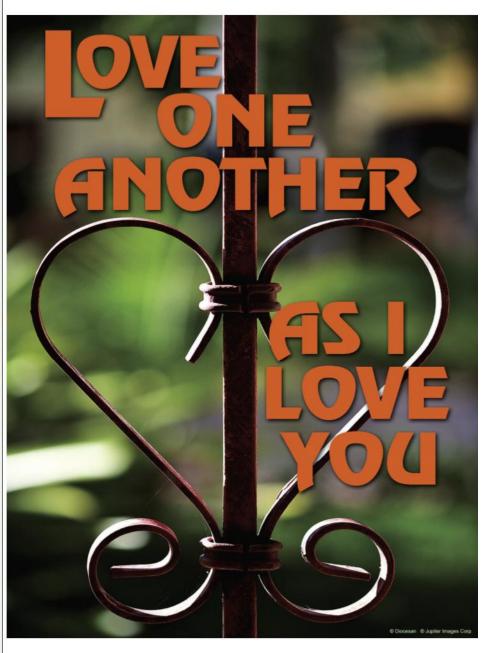
John Mackoway......699-5213

#### Stay in Touch

- Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org or the My Parish App
- Download My Parish App to receive push notifications (Visit myparishapp.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 (stthomaspeoria.org).



### May 5, 2024 Sixth Sunday of Easter





#### **From Our Pastor**

The Annual Diocesan Appeal is held each fall and parishioners are invited to make payments on pledges to the ADA over the course of the year. In our most recent report, we have surpassed our goal for the ADA and will begin to receive rebates for the contributions in excess of our goal. Thank you for your generosity!

On May 20, we will begin removing the pews from our church while we prepare for the installation of new pews, flooring and carpet. During the week, while work is being done in the church, our weekday Masses will be held in the chapel. On weekends, we will return to the main church for Saturday evening and Sunday Masses. We will need to set up chairs for the weekends to provide temporary seating until the new pews arrive.

We will be looking for volunteers to help set up chairs on Friday afternoons or Saturday mornings during the summer. We will also ask for help after the Sunday evening Mass to take the chairs down. If you would like to volunteer, please contact or email the parish office, and we will coordinate with those who volunteer. This is also an opportunity for service hours for our junior high or high school students.

As the new pews are installed later this summer, I would like to invite new volunteers to join our ushers at Masses. It would be nice to return to the custom of passing the basket during the offertory which we have not been able to do since the beginning of the pandemic. Please volunteer if you are interested in helping. We do not currently have enough ushers for all our Masses, so your willingness to serve is appreciated. Both male and female ushers are welcome.

- -Msgr. Gray



#### 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.



#### Readings for the Week of May 5, 2024

Sunday Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35,44-48; 1 John 4: 7-10; John 15: 9-17

**Monday** Acts 16: 11-15; John 15: 26—16: 4a

**Tuesday** Acts 16: 22-34; John 16: 5-11

**Wednesday** Acts 17: 15, 22—18: 1; John 16: 12-15

**Thursday** Acts 18: 1-8; John 16: 16-20

Friday St. John of Avila, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Acts 18: 9-18; John 16: 20-23

**Saturday** Acts 18: 23-28; John 16: 23b-28

Sunday The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1: 1-11; Ephesians 1: 17-23; Mark 16: 15-20

#### **Mass Intentions**

#### Monday, May 6, 2024

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

8:00 a.m. Tho M. Dang/Beth & Matt Salmon

#### Tuesday, May 7, 2024

7:00 a.m. Frank James Cooper/Jack & Margaret Weinstein

8:00 a.m. Bob Maushard

#### Wednesday, May 8, 2024

7:00 a.m. Norma Desouza/Jenny Williams 8:00 a.m. Yolanda Aguila Rodriguez 5:30 p.m. Msgr. Watson Memorial Mass

#### Thursday, May 9, 2024

7:00 a.m. Bob Nelson/John & Sonia Nelson **9:15 a.m.** Intentions of Ed & Cathy Mallow

#### Friday, May 10, 2024

7:00 a.m. Souls in Purgatory

8:00 a.m. Marissa Rodriguez/The Corrales Family

#### Saturday, May 11, 2024

8:00 a.m. Fred Daarche/Jeanette & Donald Timmons 5:00 p.m. Gloria Mae Palkovic/Mark & Jane Galowski

#### Sunday, May 12, 2024

8:00 a.m. Mary & Bill Jordan/The Jordan/Itschner Family

10:00 a.m. Emma Maske/Barbara Turner

5:00 p.m. For the People

#### Week of May 5

ST VINCENT DE PAUL AND PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

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

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, May 5, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, May 7, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

WORLD MISSION ROSARY Wednesday, May 8, 8:40 a.m., Church

MSGR. WATSON MEMORIAL MASS Wednesday, May 8, 5:30 p.m., Church

CCD Wednesday, May 8, 6:00 p.m., School

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, May 9, 6:30 p.m., Rudy's Cantina

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

St. Thomas Holy Hour May 16 Totus Tuus June 9-14

### 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 ones 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

Join us in the Parish Hall for Coffee and Donuts after morning Mass this weekend



Fiscal VTD

#### **Weekly Collection**

April 28, 2024

		113Cai 11D
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$880,000
Sunday Collections	\$9,613	\$572,940
Electronic Collections	\$2,447	\$179,814
Total Collected	\$12,060	\$752,754
Over/(Short)	\$(7,940)	\$(127,246)

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**

Cathy Duke, sister of Teresa Heinz

Jim Zogby

# Volunteers Needed for Ushers at St. Thomas

St. Thomas Parish is in need of additional volunteers to serve as ushers at the weekend Masses. We welcome any adult member of the parish who is interested, to volunteer. Our renovation work in the church will start on May 20th and should be completed by the end of July. When the church renovation is completed, we would like to start in August to have 4 ushers at each weekend Mass. Ushers will be scheduled according to their preferred Mass using Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP). Having a sufficient number of ushers at each Mass, will enable us to resume the collection and bringing up the gifts at the Offertory.

Usher responsibilities include:

- helping people find seats
- notifying the priest or Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist if anyone is in need of having the Eucharist brought to them
- assisting those scheduled to bring the gifts to the altar at the offertory
- · taking up the collection at the Offertory
- · passing out bulletins at the end of Mass
- assisting with St. Vincent DePaul collection after Mass on the first Sunday of each month
- Providing assistance or directions to anyone visiting or otherwise in need

If you are interested in being an usher, please contact the Parish Office and provide your name, email address, phone number and preferred weekend Mass that you will attend and serve. Usher training and additional information will be provided during the Summer.

Sponsor of the Week





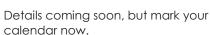
#### Chess Club Coach Needed

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.

#### **Ladies Night**

All women of the parish are invited to join us for an evening of fun on *Friday, June 14th*!





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 9<sup>th</sup> July 2<sup>nd</sup>

The study guide is from the National Council of Catholic Women. All parishioners are invited to participate.

For more information and to receive the Zoom link and study guide contact Peoria DCCW Spirituality Commission Chair Kim Padon at 217-898-5256 or kim@gabrielsmom.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 dianajanda 1964@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>

#### **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 7**th 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!

# 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, shutins, 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,

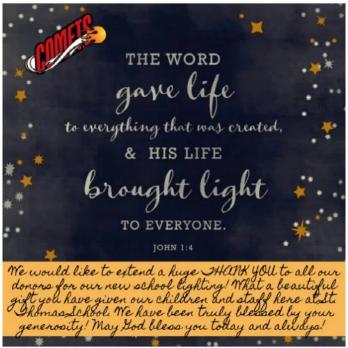
-may you welcome home all who have died believing in you.

Amen.

(Prayer from SDVP reflections)

~ Chris Clemmons







# THE IRIGH 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!



### Prayer, Honor, and Blessings

St. Mary of Lourdes & Grotto 424 Lourdes Church Rd. Germantown Hills, II 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 11, "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."

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

#### **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.

Torm.	
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First Name(s)	Mr Mrs Ms
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Change of address/phone

#### 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



New Parishioner

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

ጲ 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-Accountina
- 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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