

## 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)  
[msgrgray@stthomas-church.net](mailto:msgrgray@stthomas-church.net)  
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)

Deacon: Dcn. John Nelson.....981-2716  
Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735  
Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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Tuition Coordinator: Pat Wombacher..(x1341)  
[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)

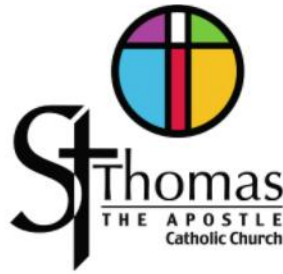
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)  
[parishnurse@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishnurse@stthomas-church.net)

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

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

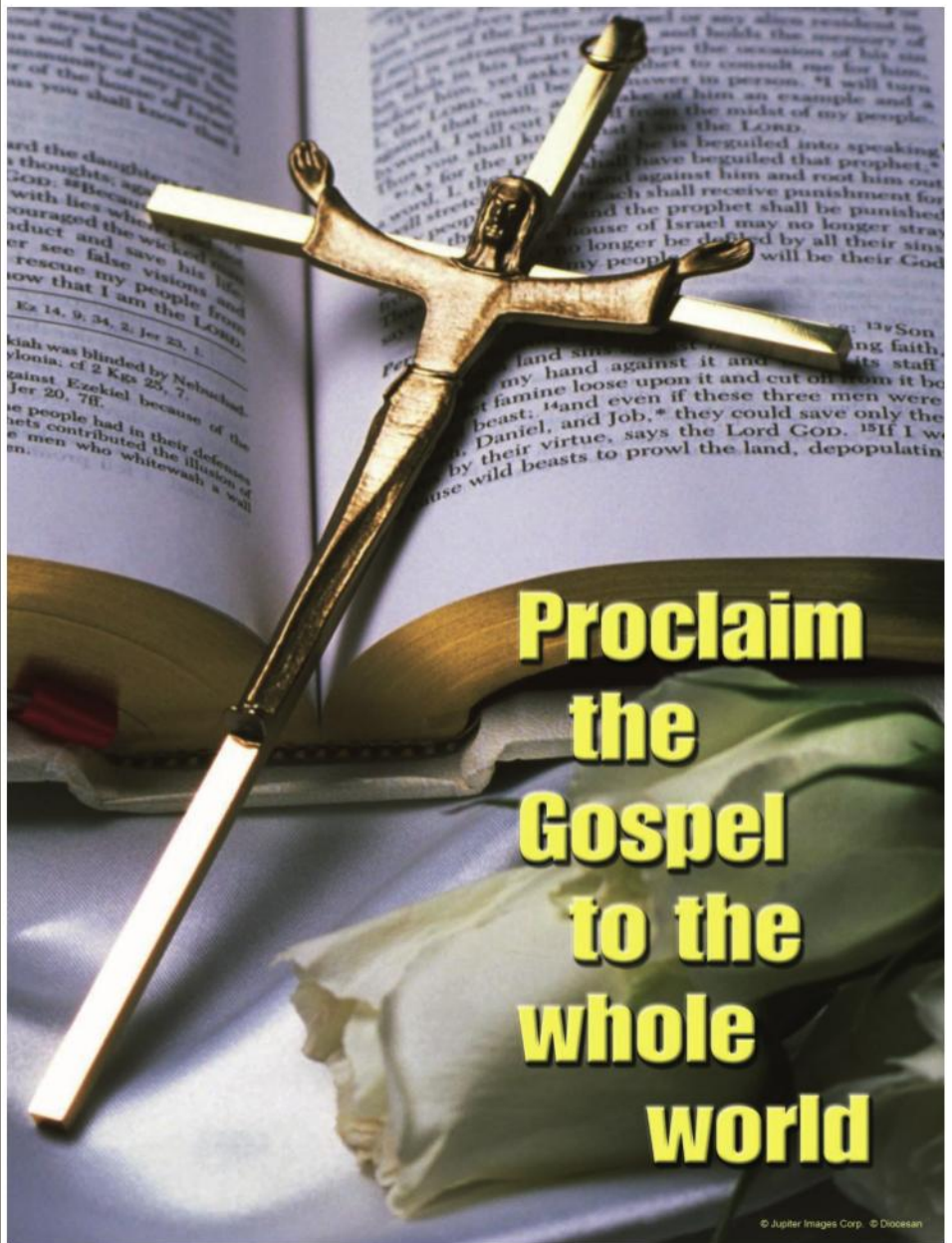
### Stay in Touch

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)).



May 12, 2024

*The Ascension of the Lord*



**Proclaim  
the  
Gospel  
to the  
whole  
world**



## From Our Pastor

Today we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord. While traditionally celebrated as *Ascension Thursday*, in this territory the Ascension is observed on Sunday.

The Ascension marks Jesus' return to the right hand of the Father and completes the work that began when Jesus descended out of Heaven and took flesh in the womb of the Blessed Mother. As Jesus goes up into Heaven, it is a promise for us as well that we who are part of the mystical Body of Christ are called to be with Jesus in Heaven for all eternity. The Ascension is connected to next week's celebration of Pentecost since Jesus said that after he returned to the Father, he would send us an Advocate, the Holy Spirit.

Next weekend we will have three new deacons ordained for the Diocese of Peoria: Benjamin Schoonmaker, Francis Strong, and Jack Watt. The following weekend we will have four new priests ordained for this Diocese. They are Deacons Nicholas Conner, Jacob Martini, Justin Ramza, and Jack Swoik. Please remember to pray for them as they approach ordination.

Our current pews will be removed on Monday, May 20th. I have learned that St. Columba Church in Ottawa, Illinois, will not be able to take our pews since they do not fit the layout in that church. Anyone who is interested in claiming a pew should contact the parish office so we can plan for this. You are welcome to any of the pews. There is only one catch: You must be ready to claim the pew and transport it on Monday, May 20th. After this, the church will be cleared out as we begin removing old carpet and begin the work of painting and decoration.

The entire project should take about eight weeks. We will be using chairs in the meantime for weekend Masses. Thank you for your understanding during this transition as we look forward to the installation of new pews.

- 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 12, 2024

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>The Ascension of the Lord</b> Acts 1: 1-11; Ephesians 1: 17-23; Mark 16: 15-20
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Our Lady of Fatima</b> Acts 19: 1-8; John 16: 29-33
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>St. Matthias, Apostle</b> Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26; John 15: 9-17
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>St. Isidore</b> Acts 20: 28-36 ; John 17: 11b-19
<b>Thursday</b>	Acts 22: 30; 23: 6-11; John 17: 20-26
<b>Friday</b>	Acts 25: 13b-21; John 21: 15-19
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. John I, Pope &amp; Martyr</b> Acts 28: 16-20, 30-31; John 21: 20-25
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b> <i>Vigil: Exodus 19: 3-8a, 16-20b; Romans 8: 22-27; John 7: 37-39</i> <i>Sunday: Acts 2: 1-11; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-7, 12-13 OR Galatians 5: 16-25; John 20: 19-23</i>

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, May 13, 2024

7:00 a.m. Mary Rose Kelly/Don Kelly  
8:00 a.m. Albert Borowski/Michele & Sarah Konecki

### Tuesday, May 14, 2024

7:00 a.m. Donna Abdnour/Mark & Theresa Deboris  
8:00 a.m. Jim Becker/Carolyn Grebner

### Wednesday, May 15, 2024

7:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Stark, S.J./Bob & Barb Gusman  
8:00 a.m. Dolores Oppe/Warren Oppe

### Thursday, May 16, 2024

7:00 a.m. Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist  
**9:15 a.m.** Jim Hagemann/Ed & Cathy Mallow

### Friday, May 17, 2024

7:00 a.m. Martha Lang Tran/Cindy Pham  
8:00 a.m. Judy Campbell/Lisa Sanders-Halberg

### Saturday, May 18, 2024

8:00 a.m. Patrick Regan/Kathleen Ray  
5:00 p.m. Bessie Parks/John & Kathy Connell

### Sunday, May 19, 2024

8:00 a.m. Bob & Meg Itschner/Tom & Katie Itschner  
10:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB  
2:00 p.m. STS Class of 2024  
5:00 p.m. For the People

## Week of May 12

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, May 12, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

**ROSARY** Tuesday, May 14, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL** Tuesday, May 14, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**St. THOMAS HOLY HOUR** Thursday, May 16, 7:00 p.m., Church

**CARMELITES** Saturday, May 18, 11:00 a.m., Parish Hall

**STS GRADUATION** Sunday, May 19, 2:00 p.m., Church

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Adoration	June 7
Totus Tuus	June 9-14
St. Thomas Holy Hour	June 20

## Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week

## Baptism Congratulations

Colson, Arianna, Ramiyah, & Ryland Mitchell  
children of Kimberly & Reynold Mitchell

Wyatt Joseph Flynn  
son of Lisa & John Flynn



# CORPUS CHRISTI

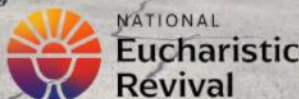
## *Eucharistic Procession*

SUNDAY JUNE 2, 2024

Following 10:00am Mass

A Eucharistic procession is a beautiful tradition of the Church that brings Jesus, truly present into the world that he loves. Please join us as the Blessed Sacrament is placed in a monstrance and lovingly carried throughout our campus.

*\*First communicants are especially invited to wear their outfits to Mass and take part in the procession afterward*



## PARISH HOLY HOUR

Thursday, May 16  
7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

## Volunteers Needed

With the upcoming renovation of the church beginning in May, we are in need of some volunteers to assist with setting up chairs for weekend Mass. Anyone wishing to help, men, women, and Jr. High or High school students are welcome. Students can put the time toward your volunteer hours.

The pews and flooring will be removed the week of May 20<sup>th</sup>. The first set-up is **Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>** and we need to set up chairs in the church for the weekend Masses. We will move the chairs from the daily Mass chapel and set up folding chairs in the church for Mass. If you can be available to **help on Saturday morning, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.** to move and set up chairs in the church, please email **George Burek** at [georgeburek@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeburek@yahoo.com).

Until the renovation is completed in July, we will be setting up chairs in the church on Saturday mornings, and then removing the chairs, after the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sundays. Any volunteers to help with setting up and taking down the chairs on the weekends would be appreciated.

ST. THOMAS COMMUNITY & FRIENDS

# Save the Date

## All American Comets

Saturday, July 13th  
4:00 pm

**HAVEN ON THE FARM**

Join us for an all American day of family fun at the stunning Haven on the Farm. Proceeds directly benefiting the STS counseling fund. If you are willing to be a proud sponsor or donate a silent auction item, please email [stscometsmarketing@gmail.com](mailto:stscometsmarketing@gmail.com)  
More details and information coming soon!



*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](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>

# WINE WOMEN & CHOCOLATE

Ladies Night Out June 14, 2024  
6.00 PM

Bring a friend and a bottle to share!

St. Thomas Parish Hall  
904 E. Lake St. Peoria Heights

RSVP text 309.678.3905

**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.

**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!*

## 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

Men and women are welcome to volunteer. 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.

## 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](mailto:maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net) or call 309-688-3446, Ex. 1210.

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- ✓ 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](mailto:marycushing@stthomas-schol.net) 309.685-2533 ex. 1182

## Weekly Collection

May 5, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$900,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$19,126.....	\$592,066
Electronic Collections.....	\$2,894.....	\$182,708
Total Collected.....	\$22,020.....	\$774,774
Over/(Short).....	\$2,020.....	\$(125,226)

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.

# Upcoming CLASS REUNIONS

Academy of Our Lady, Spalding, Bergan, & Peoria Notre Dame

- PND '14..... May 11
- BHS '84..... July 13
- AOL/SI '74..... August 24
- BHS '69..... September 13 & 14
- AOL/SI '84..... September 20 & 21
- AOL & SI '69... September 27 & 28
- AOL & SI '64... September 27 & 28

For more information about your class reunion, or to list a reunion in the alumni magazine, email Tara Shane at t.shane@pnths.org.

## 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](mailto:wcc-joyce10@gmail.com) or contact Joyce Elger at 309-689-0200 for details.



CATHOLIC  
CEMETERY  
ASSOCIATION  
OF PEORIA

**Memorial Day Mass**  
**MONDAY, May 27, 9:30 am**  
**Fr. Mike Schaab, Presider**

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7519 N Allen Rd, Peoria*

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309.691.5889



*Happy  
Mother's  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

## 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](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**  
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(St. Thomas class of 2026)

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