

**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)

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[msgrgray@stthomas-church.net](mailto:msgrgray@stthomas-church.net)  
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[frmarc@stthomas-church.net](mailto:frmarc@stthomas-church.net)  
Fr. John Twinomujuni.....In Residence

Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB  
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Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735  
Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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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 19, 2024  
Pentecost Sunday*





## From Our Pastor

I wish you a blessed Pentecost. With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Mary and the Apostles, we close the Season of Easter.

This day also marks the end of the study phase of the *Growing Disciples* program as the Bishop makes announcements about the status of every parish in the Diocese of Peoria. A letter from the Bishop appears in this bulletin.

The implementation phase of *Growing Disciples* now begins. Every parish, even those that do not have a change in their canonical status, is asked to engage in a program of renewal. Renewal can take the form of parish programs, activities, and increased involvement. However, the most important renewal comes from a deepening prayer life, a personal encounter with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and a richer participation in the sacraments and the Mass. May the Holy Spirit help us to grow disciples in this parish.

Congratulations to the three deacons ordained on Saturday, Benjamin Schoonmaker, Francis Strong, and Jack Watt.

The pews in the main church will be removed after this weekend's Masses. Please note that daily Masses will move to the chapel and we will set up chairs in the church during the two months that work is being done. We look forward to a renewal of our parish as new pews are installed this Summer.

- 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 19, 2024

- Sunday Pentecost Sunday**  
Vigil: Exodus 19: 3-8a, 16-20b; Romans 8: 22-27;  
John 7: 37-39  
Sunday: Acts 2: 1-11; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-7, 12-13 OR  
Galatians 5: 16-25; John 20: 19-23
- Monday The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church**  
Genesis 3: 9-15, 20 OR Acts 1: 12-14; John 19: 25-34
- Tuesday St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, & Companions, Martyrs**  
James 4: 1-10; Mark 9: 30-37
- Wednesday St. Rita of Casis, Religious**  
James 4: 13-17; Mark 9: 38-40
- Thursday**  
James 5: 1-6; Mark 9: 41-50
- Friday**  
James 5: 9-12; Mark 10: 1-12
- Saturday St. Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor of the Church**  
James 5: 13-20; Mark 10: 13-16
- Sunday The Most Holy Trinity**  
Deuteronomy 4: 32-34, 39-40; Romans 8: 14-17;  
Matthew 28: 16-20

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, May 20, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. Thomas J. Alexander/Jack & Margaret Weinstein  
8:00 a.m. Agnes Lucy Maushard/Kathy Maushard & Family

### Tuesday, May 21, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. Sue Connor/Steve & Nan Powers  
8:00 a.m. Sue McWhirter/Herb Bingham

### Wednesday, May 22, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. Dr. James N. Kenny Sr./Family  
8:00 a.m. Cathy Duke/Margie & Jack Murray

### Thursday, May 23, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. Dorothy Paesani/Family  
8:00 a.m. John R. Pusey/Denny Powers

### Friday, May 24, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. Lillian McCadden/Ray & Ellen McRae  
8:00 a.m. Eugene Poignant/Mary Poignant & Family

### Saturday, May 25, 2024

- 8:00 a.m. Robert Singleton/Chris & Dianna Russick  
5:00 p.m. Intentions of Jan Connell/John & Kathy Connell

### Sunday, May 26, 2024

- 8:00 a.m. Norberta Jean Faulkner/The Spenglers  
10:00 a.m. Jane Doran & Ann Wombacher/Family  
5:00 p.m. For the People

## Week of May 19

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

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, May 19, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

**ROSARY** Tuesday, May 21, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**PARISH COUNCIL** Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Millions of Monicas	May 28
Adoration	June 7
Totus Tuus	June 9-14
Ladies Night Out	June 14
St. Thomas Holy Hour	June 20



# 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*



## Our Sympathy

Susan Quigley, sister-in-law of Cissy Carlson

Steven Aeschliman, son of Linda and Glen Aeschliman

Virginia Kreutz, mother of Mary Voorhees

## Baptism Congratulations

Ethan Samuel Mendez, son of  
Diane & Sonny Mendez



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.

**May 28 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**St. Thomas Daily Mass Chapel**

For more information visit  
[www.millionsofmonicas.com](http://www.millionsofmonicas.com)

## Weekly Collection

May 12, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$920,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$10,650.....	\$602,716
Electronic Collections.....	\$6,321.....	\$189,029
Total Collected.....	\$16,971.....	\$791,745
Over/(Short).....	\$(3,029).....	\$(128,255)

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.

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

## 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!

## May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

Mental Health Awareness Month 2024 focuses on "Take the Moment" and promoting NAMI signature programs, including: NAMI Basics; NAMI Family-to-Family; NAMI Family & Friends; NAMI Homefront; NAMI In Our Own Voice; NAMI Peer-to-Peer; NAMI Support Groups; and NAMI Help lines. Visit [namiillinois.org](http://namiillinois.org) to learn more about these nationally-recognized programs and groups, as well as those programs and resources that we offer at no cost. Join us, take the moment and let's make a difference together. Encourage Individuals to Seek Help If They Need It

- Let's support each other and make it okay to reach out and seek help whenever we need it.
- Be aware of the signs and symptoms of mental health issues so that we can all work together to support one another.
- If you are worried about your mental health or are worried about someone you know, there are resources and people out there who are willing to help, no matter what your situation is. Call, text, or chat online with 988 crisis counselors. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in English, Spanish, for people who are deaf and for the hard of hearing. The 988 Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States.

- Whether we share resources, encourage others to seek help or simply are there for someone when they need us, we instill hope and can help others to reach out when they need it most.
- NAMI Tri-County offers the following monthly programs:
- Monthly In-Person Support Groups meet 3rd Thursday of each month.
- Connection Recovery Support Group, for anyone living in recovery of any mental health condition.
- Family Support Group, for family members or significant others involved in the lives of anyone dealing with a mental health condition.
- The June Education Meeting will be on June 6, presented by Kenneth Godbolt on Men's Mental Health.
- For more information check our: website: [www.namitri-countyillinois.org](http://www.namitri-countyillinois.org) Or Facebook NAMI TRI COUNTY ILLINOIS

ST. THOMAS COMMUNITY & FRIENDS

## Save the Date

# All American Comets

Saturday, July 13th  
4:00 pm



**HEAVEN ON THE FARM**

Join us for an all American day of family fun at the stunning Heaven 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>



As we celebrate the great Solemnity of Pentecost, we recall the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and the birth of the Church.

Yet, as we are well aware, the world we live in today presents many challenges for us to propose the Gospel in a compelling and impactful way. We cannot ignore the realities we face. However, we are full of hope as we trust the prompting of the Holy Spirit to engage in a new apostolic age of missionary discipleship.

It is in this hope that Bishop Lou Tylka announces the decisions that have been discerned regarding the structure of the parishes in the Diocese of Peoria for the future. We certainly call upon the Holy Spirit to open our minds and hearts to these necessary changes to create a more vibrant, mission driven and sustainable Church for growing disciples.

Two years ago, the Diocese of Peoria initiated a process in our diocese which we call “Growing Disciples.” The process was not centered upon the reality of decline; rather it has been a process of renewal seeking opportunities for growth. Originating from listening sessions of his first two years serving as Coadjutor Bishop, the Bishop articulated five foundations on which to create a better, more vibrant Church: Evangelization, Discipleship, The Eucharist, Vocations and the legacy of Archbishop Fulton Sheen. He enlisted the help of the Catholic Leadership Institute to guide our process of assessing our current structure and discerning a more mission-driven sustainable structure for the future.

The process was quite thorough, working with every parish and ministry in the diocese. They gathered hard data, including Baptisms and funeral trends, Mass attendance counts, the number of active priests, upcoming priest retirements, trends in candidates for the seminary, maintenance costs for the churches, parish budgets, projected costs for repairs, geography and population trends among other factors. The Growing Disciples Core Team, Consultants, Priests, Curia Offices, Diocesan Planning Commission, and Key Parish Leaders provided opportunities for conversations, prayer and discerning. The Diocese gathered feedback from thousands of parishioners and community members as we went through several rounds of parish modeling.

The details of the new parish configurations, as well as the assignments of priests can be found on the Growing Disciples website: [growingdisciplescdop.org](http://growingdisciplescdop.org) beginning Saturday evening, May 18, 2024.

These difficult and yet necessary changes will create greater freedom to engage in this new apostolic age. The first disciples, including the Blessed Mother Mary, were filled with the Holy Spirit and commissioned by Jesus to go make disciples. May we encounter the same gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us today - setting our hearts ablaze for Christ, so that we too may bear fruit for God's kingdom in our local Church.

Venerable Archbishop Sheen - pray for us!

**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

**FOR IN ONE SPIRIT WE**  
*were all baptized*  
**INTO ONE BODY**

1 Corinthians 12:13

# St. Mary's Day June 15, 2024

**FAMILY FUN  
LOCATION: KICKAPOO BASEBALL FIELDS**



- \$20 Includes:**
- INFLATABLES
  - CARNIVAL GAMES
  - BALLOON ARTIST
  - CRAFT SHOW
  - AIR BRUSH TATTOOS

**12pm-5pm  
Family Fun**

**LIVE MUSIC - ADULTS ONLY  
LOCATION: BEHIND THE SCHOOL**

**6pm-10pm  
Adults Only**

**No Entry Fee  
FREE WILL Offerings Appreciated  
Cash Bar Available for Beverages  
(No outside drinks allowed  
MUST be 21 to enter.)**



**FOOD & DRINK AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ALL 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** \_\_\_\_\_

**CATHOLIC  
CEMETERY  
ASSOCIATION  
OF PEORIA**

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

*St. Joseph of  
Arimathea Chapel  
Resurrection Mausoleum*

[www.ccapeo.org](http://www.ccapeo.org)  
309.691.5889

7519 N Allen Rd, Peoria

## 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.

## 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.

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.



**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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