

## 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  
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Fr. Fortunatus Rutaiwa.....In Residence

Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB  
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Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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

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

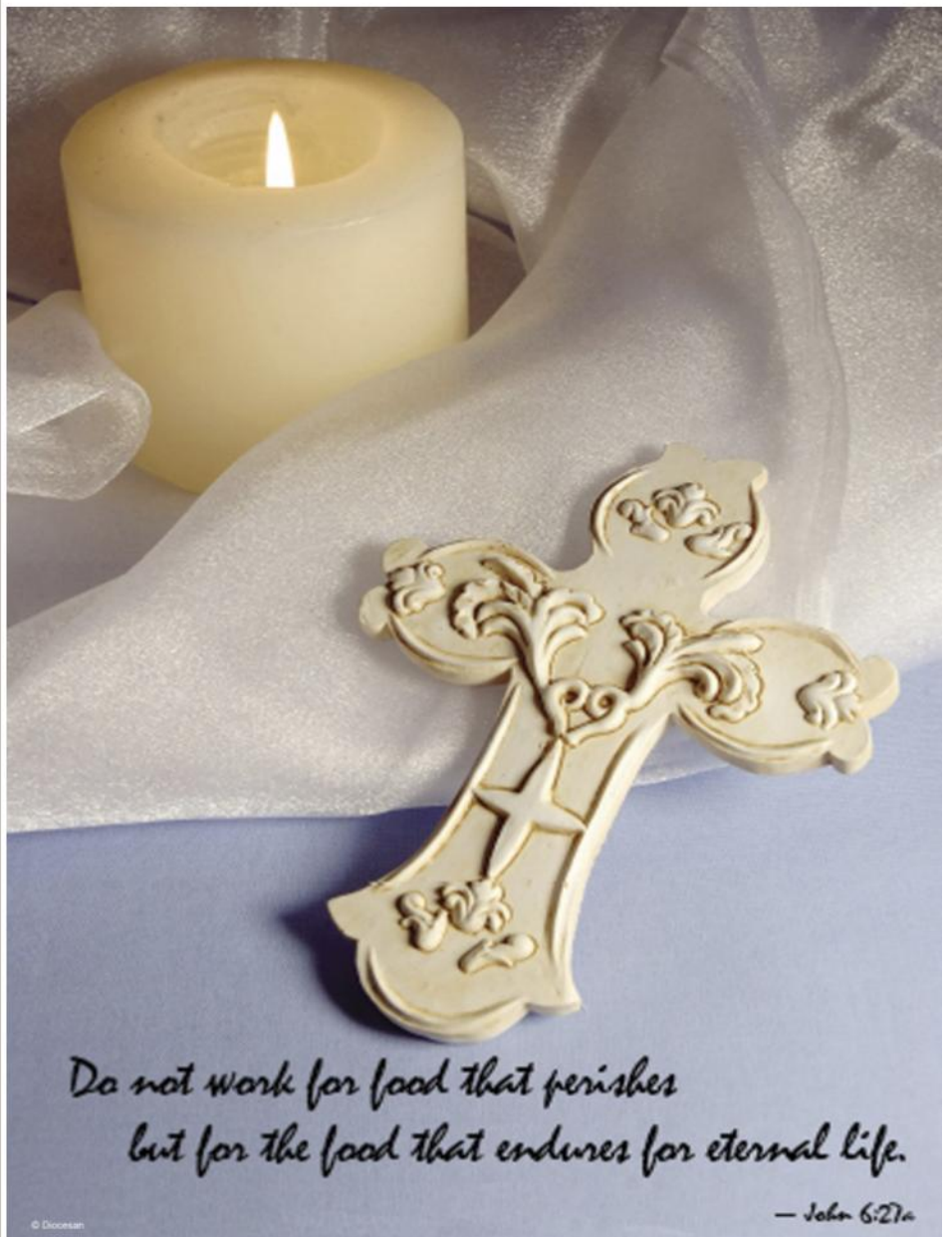
### Stay in Touch

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)).



August 4, 2024

*Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*



*Do not work for food that perishes  
but for the food that endures for eternal life.*

— John 6:27a



## From Our Pastor

This weekend we give thanks for the blessings of St. Thomas Church! Let us celebrate the work that has been done. Thank you to everyone whose generosity made this possible. Of course, the most important purpose of the Church is to draw souls to Jesus Christ. So let us strive to make our souls as beautiful and holy as the beauty we see in our Church building.

We will renew some old traditions this weekend, as we ask our ushers to resume their former duties. If they ask you to help bring the gifts forward at the offertory, please be generous and say yes. The gifts can be brought forward as the priest comes down to receive them. The cross bearer will ordinarily escort you forward with the hosts, water, and wine.

The ushers will also begin passing the baskets for the collection, in place of the baskets that are typically left in the narthex. Your contributions will be collected during the offertory. Thank you for supporting St. Thomas Parish and School. The ushers may need some additional volunteers, either men or women. If you are asked to help pass the basket, please be generous and step forward. Thank you in advance.

As we have beautiful and comfortable pews in the Church, we invite you to come into the Church to attend Mass. We will not bring Communion to the narthex. Any handicapped persons in the front pews will receive Communion first. If you are handicapped and sit elsewhere, please indicate to the ushers that you need Communion, and it will be brought to you at the end of the distribution.

To complete our celebration, we will have coffee and donuts after Sunday morning Masses this weekend.

Next weekend, I invite volunteers to come on Saturday after morning Masses to help clean the Church from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. Our Saturday morning cleaners will help keep the Church looking new.

Please mark your calendars for our St. Thomas picnic on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. All our parishioners and school families are invited to join us on the parking lot after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

- Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of August 4, 2024

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Exodus 16: 2-4, 12-15; Ephesians 4: 17, 20-24; John 6: 24-35
<b>Monday</b>	<b>The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major</b> Jeremiah 28: 1-17; Matthew 14: 13-21
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>The Transfiguration of the Lord</b> Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1: 16-19; Mark 9: 2-10
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>St. Cajetan, Priest</b> Jeremiah 31: 1-7; Matthew 15: 21-28
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>St. Dominic, Priest</b> Jeremiah 31: 31-34; Matthew 16: 13-23
<b>Friday</b>	<b>St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin &amp; Martyr</b> Nahum 2: 1, 3; 3: 1-3, 6-7; Matthew 16: 24-28
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Lawrence, Deacon &amp; Martyr</b> 2 Corinthians 9: 6-10; John 12: 24-26
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 1 Kings 19: 4-8; Ephesians 4: 30—5: 2; John 6: 41-51

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, August 5, 2024

7:00 a.m. Nancy Kelly/John & Amy Kelly  
8:00 a.m. Ray & Phyllis Noe/Mary Ann Noe

### Tuesday, August 6, 2024

7:00 a.m. Kasen Kaitharath/John & Amy Kelly  
8:00 a.m. Jim Becker/Don & Ruth Stahl

### Wednesday, August 7, 2024

7:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Stark, S.J./Linh Luong  
8:00 a.m. Patrick Regan

### Thursday, August 8, 2024

7:00 a.m. Souls in Purgatory  
8:00 a.m. The Zarley Family/Mary Ann Noe

### Friday, August 9, 2024

7:00 a.m. Dr. James N. Kenny, Sr./Family  
8:00 a.m. Namahana Kuamóo Buchanan/Malia Formes

### Saturday, August 10, 2024

8:00 a.m. Ann Merkle/Mike & Theresa Haughney  
5:00 p.m. Pat McCauley/Mary Phelan

### Sunday, August 11, 2024

8:00 a.m. Anna Merkle/Mike & Theresa Haughney  
10:00 a.m. Tho Dang/Linh Luong  
5:00 p.m. For the People

## Week of August 4

**DEDICATION OF PEWS** All Masses this weekend, Knights of Columbus at 10:00 a.m. Mass, Church

**COFFEE & DONUTS** Sunday, August 4, following morning Masses

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL & PANTRY COLLECTIONS** this weekend

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, August 4, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

**ROSARY** Tuesday, August 6, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**MEN'S CLUB** Thursday, August 8, 6:30 p.m., Sullivan's in the Heights

**BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT PRE3/PK** Thursday, August 8, 6:30 p.m., School

**IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY** Thursday, August 8, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

**CARMELITES** Saturday, August 10, 11:00 a.m., Parish Hall

**PARISH PICNIC** Sunday, August 11, 11:00 a.m., Back Parking Lot

### UPCOMING EVENTS

STS First Day of School	August 14
The Assumption	August 15
St. Thomas Holy Hour	August 15
Millions of Monicas	August 27

## Pray with the Pope

August 2024  
For Political Leaders



Let us pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking care of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poor.

## The Feast of the Assumption



Mass Times

Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>,  
5:30 pm

Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>,  
7:00 a.m., 12:15, 2:30, & 5:30 p.m.

## Our Sympathy

Pam Hawkins

## WOMEN OF THE WORD

2 THURSDAYS PER MONTH, STARTING SEPT. 12  
ST. THOMAS PARISH HALL 6:30PM -8:00PM

OUR PURPOSE IS TO HELP EVERY WOMAN GROW IN RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS WITHIN A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY. OUR PROGRAM WELCOMES ALL WOMEN AND CONSISTS OF VIDEO BASED TALKS, SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION, PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP. CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED. THIS YEAR'S STUDY IS SHE SHALL BE CALLED WOMAN.

COMING SOON TO OUR PARISH!

She Shall Be Called Woman



REGISTER TODAY OR AFTER MASSES AUG. 17/18!

A PROGRAM FOR ALL WOMEN BY  
PARADISUS DEI

MARYCUSHING@STTHOMAS-CHURCH.NET  
309-688-3446 EX. 1310

## Religious CCD Education

If you have a 1st-8th grade student not attending a Catholic school we would be grateful to have her/him join us for CCD. Please scan to register.



## Weekly Collection

July 28, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$80,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$11,930.....	\$53,753
Electronic Collections.....	\$.....	\$9,971
Total Collected.....	\$11,930.....	\$63,724
Over/(Short).....	\$(8,070).....	\$(16,276)

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.

To pay electronically please use link at the end of the registration form. Tuition can also be paid via check or cash. Make checks payable to St. Thomas CCD (may be dropped at church office or in marked envelope in collection basket at church).

Tuition:

- 1 Student \$90.00 (\$125 w/ sacrament)
- 2 Students \$135.00 (\$170 w/ sacrament)
- 3+ Students \$165.00 (\$200 w/ sacrament)

Contact information:  
Liz Plaskon, CCD Coordinator  
[CCD@StThomas-Church.net](mailto:CCD@StThomas-Church.net)  
(309) 339-4775



## When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus

My husband, John Pusey, died last August. He had asked me to name the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Thomas Parish as the charity to which people could donate in his memory. I was a bit surprised that he didn't also mention a group he had supported that provides legal services to needy people. But he believed strongly in the mission of SVdP: to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, to help neighbors in need. People responded very generously and donated thousands of dollars to our SVdP treasury. But that money, well spent, didn't last long because there is so much need in our community of Peoria and Peoria Heights.

Most of the people who call the Catholic Charities HELP line are working but just can't cover all their bills, especially when an unexpected problem arises. For example, earlier this summer we helped a young woman with one little girl, who has a job with a major local company, but fell behind on her rent when her employer began rolling layoffs that cut her income in half. Wouldn't most of us be in a panic if we suddenly lost half our income? And wouldn't most of us be grateful to find a helping hand extended by Christians humbly following the teaching of Jesus to *love thy neighbor*?

We all have a role to play. Those of us who are members of the SVdP Society visit callers and determine how best to help them, while donors provide the financial resources needed. We can give items to the food pantry. And all of us can pray for the work we do as we *love our neighbors*. Thank you for your continued generous support.

~ Pat Pusey



## Chess Club Coach Needed

The **STS Chess Club** needs a new coach **beginning in the Fall!** 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.



Sophia Showalter's Eagle Scout Project

## Collection for Women's Care Center

The Women's Care Center provides crucial support to pregnant women and mothers facing challenging circumstances. This project's initiative is to gather essential items such as diapers, baby wipes, formula, clothing, and other items which will be distributed to mothers in need who visit the center.

### Specific Items Needed

- 4-7 diapers
- Pull-ups, any size
- Clothes (new) - newborn to 5T
- Wipes



Any other Baby supplies/necessities are also encouraged

More information: (309)264-3724 or [chrishowalter70@gmail.com](mailto:chrishowalter70@gmail.com)

Drop off August 17 & 18 at Church, Please Mark For: Women's Care Center

Sponsor of the Week

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# St. Thomas Monsignor Watson Memorial Golf Outing

In support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Assistance Fund

**Friday, September 20, 2024 • MT. Hawley Country Club**

All golf outing proceeds will be used in the support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Tuition Assistance program. The net proceeds from the outing will again fund scholarships for students at St. Thomas. The goal of the Men's Club is to fund 20 scholarships for St. Thomas families. Your support of the golf outing is greatly appreciated!

## GOLF REGISTRATION \$130/Person

Golf Registration includes: Green fees, Cart, Range Balls, and Food + Drinks in the Club House after the event.

Registration Deadline Friday, September 13th  
Late registration after September 13th, \$140 Per Person

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### TITLE SPONSORSHIP \$2,500 / Sponsorship

Placement of company logo at all sponsorship levels. Logo as title sponsor on welcoming banner. Logo on all printed materials.

### HOT SPOT SPONSOR

- Golf Beverage Sponsors: \$250 / Logo on Sign at beverage stations
- Reception Sponsor - \$250 / Logo on Reception Tables

### TEE SPONSOR \$150 / 36 Sponsors

Placement of company logo sign at the Tee Box or at the Hole.

### BE A PRIZE OR RAFFLE SPONSOR

Feature your business by donating a raffle or prize item. Please drop off prize or raffle item to Macro Wealth Management at 6915 N. Knoxville Ave, Peoria IL 61614 Include donor information and value (optional).

- Registration/Check-in 11:00am-11:45am
- Shotgun Starts at Noon (Be at your hole by Noon)
- Followed by Food & Drinks in the Club House
- Registration Deadline Friday, September 13th
- Late Registration \$140 Per Person

For more information please contact:

Terri Moon (309) 688-3446  
Email: terrimoon@stthomas-church.net

Please Submit Payment with Registration

### REGISTRATION FORM

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Golfers

Player 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Player 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Player 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Sponsorship

Sponsorship Category : \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

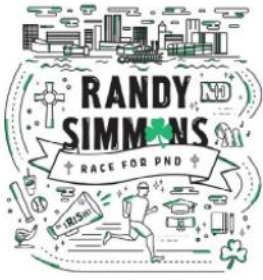
Make Checks Payable to: **St. Thomas Men's Club**

Mail registration along with payment to:

Terri Moon / Golf • 904 E. Lake Ave. • Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_





Please join us for the 5th annual Randy Simmons Race for PND! The 5K race will be held **August 17 at 6:00 pm**. The race will start at Heritage Square in Peoria Heights.

There will be a hydration station and entertainment along the way. There is also a 1 mile fun run/walk. Join the post race party with live music in Heritage Square after the run! Kids and families are welcome.

**IRISH**  
ON A MISSION TO  
HELP FUND TUITION  
**5k-run.** Packet pick up is the day before the race (August 16) from 2:00-6:00pm at Running Central. Hope to see you there!

All proceeds from the race provide scholarships for PND students! Sign up online at <https://raceroster.com/.../randy-simmons-memorial->

## Life Teen

Meeting Schedule  
Meetings rotate between St. Thomas, St. Vincent, and St. Ann  
Life Teen **Kickoff Sunday Sept. 8** 6-8pm  
(St. Thomas)



**WE ARE SEEKING A TEACHER APPLICANT THAT HAS A BACKGROUND IN MUSIC AND BAND. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS POSITION, PLEASE CONTACT MRS. MAUREEN BENTLEY AT MAUREENBENTLEY@STTHOMAS-SCHOOL.NET**

## St. Thomas - Food Pantry Critical Needs

The food pantry has reached a critical shortage of food and funds, but the community need remains at an all-time high. Please consider donating one or more of the following foods (or funds) soon to help us continue to serve our brothers and sisters in need. Thank you so much for your consideration!

Rice; Boxed pasta, stuffing & potato side dishes; Mac and Cheese; Cereal; Crackers; Pasta Sauce & Dry Pasta; Canned Meat; Peanut Butter & Jelly; Canned Fruit and Vegetables; Pancake Mix; Syrup; Canned Soup; Canned or Dry Beans (Legumes); Hamburger/Chicken/Tuna Helper

*Thank you for your generous support!*



## Can you help put Sophia's Kitchen Floor Fund over the top?

We're making great progress on our Floor Fundraiser! We're over 60% there, with more pledges coming in. Thank you to everyone who has helped make new flooring a reality. Our aging floor is in great disrepair due to the heavy traffic it receives and age. Your donations, marked FLOOR FUND, will put Sophia's Kitchen back on firm footing so we can continue to serve those in need in Peoria. Donations can be made at [www.CatholicPeoria.org](http://www.CatholicPeoria.org) or **Sophia's Kitchen, 105 N Richard Pryor Place, Peoria, IL 61605**. Be sure to designate your donation to the FLOOR FUND. God bless you!

## 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** \_\_\_\_\_

## Cursillo Weekends

Next Men's weekend: Aug. 22-25, 2024  
Next Women's Weekend: Oct. 24-27, 2024  
Weekends held at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Bartonville  
For more information, call (309) 676-5587 or visit [peoriacursillo.org](http://peoriacursillo.org).



**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.

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF Avery Murphy

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