

## 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. Leopold Mushobozi.....(x4)  
[Fr\\_Leo@stthomas-church.net](mailto:Fr_Leo@stthomas-church.net)

Fr. Fortunatus Rutaihw.....In Residence

Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB  
(688-3500); [fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com](mailto:fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com)

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Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735  
Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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CCD Coordinator: Liz Plaskon .....

(309)339-4775 ..[ccd@stthomas-church.net](mailto:ccd@stthomas-church.net)

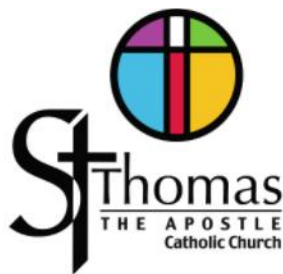
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)  
[parishnurse@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishnurse@stthomas-church.net)

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

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

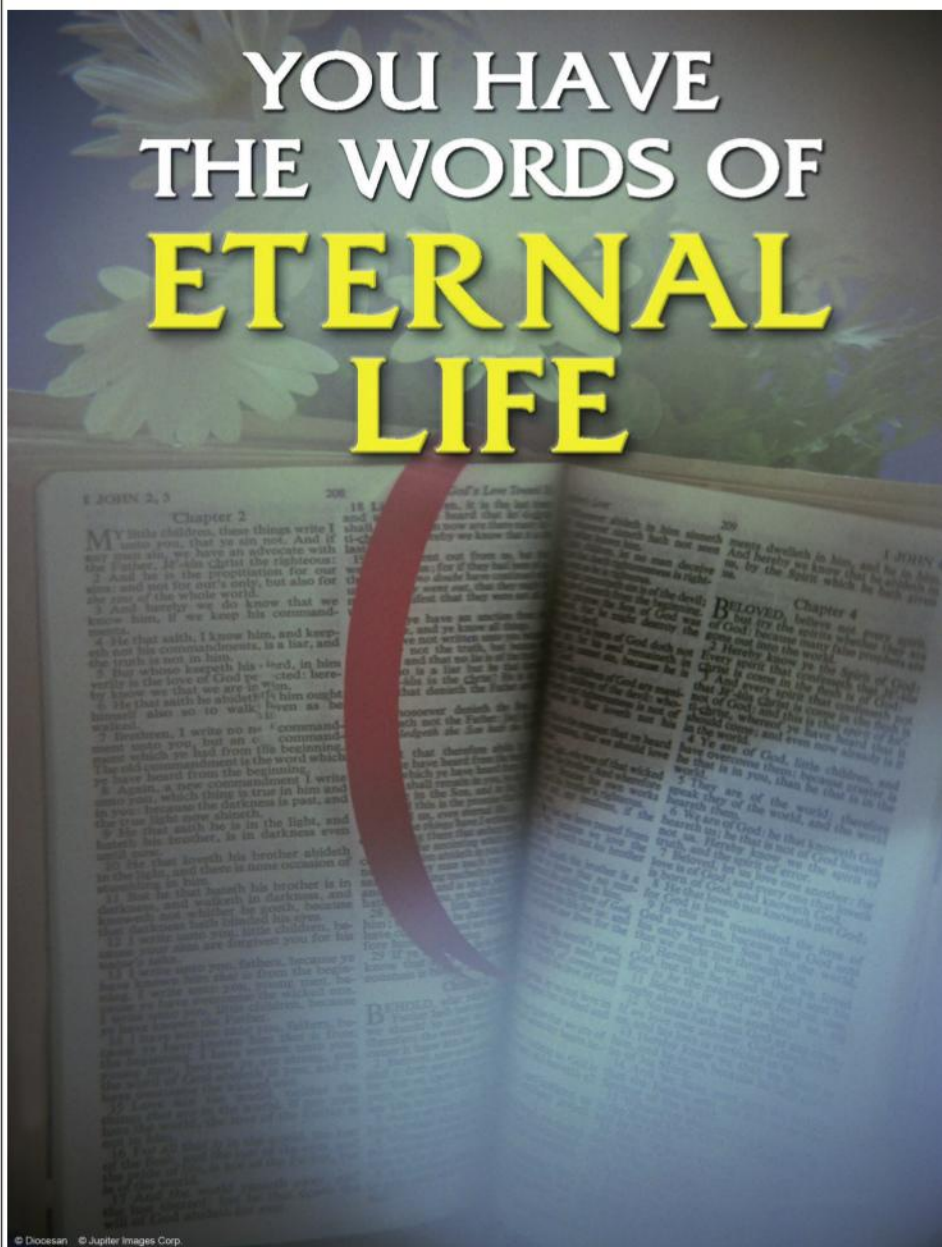
### Stay in Touch

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)).



August 25, 2024

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time





## From Our Pastor

This weekend will be an extra confession weekend. Confessions will be heard after all Masses for your convenience. Take advantage of this opportunity to be reconciled.

We have returned for our first full week of school and we have begun many of our regular activities once again. Soon we will begin three more educational programs: CCD for our grade school students needing religious education, Life Teen for our high school students, and OCIA for adults looking to learn more about the Catholic Church.

CCD will begin with Mass at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. If you have a grade school student who is not enrolled in a Catholic school, please register your child for our Wednesday evening CCD program. For more information, you will find contact information on the bulletin cover.

Life Teen will be a new program that we will introduce this year in cooperation with St. Vincent de Paul and St. Anne Parishes. The opening session will be Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. at St. Thomas. High schoolers can attend Mass at 5:00 p.m. and gather downstairs after Mass.

OCIA (or the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) will begin on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The class is open to anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic Faith. The course will follow the Catechism of the Catholic Church and will run on Wednesday evenings until Easter. Those who are already Catholic are welcome to brush up on your faith. You can pre-register by contacting the parish office, or simply attend on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

Please help us keep the church in good order. Kindly turn down the missalettes and hymnals (with the spine up) when you leave the pew. Any garbage should be collected and deposited in waste baskets in the narthex.

May God help us grow in the knowledge of our Faith and our love of God.

- Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of August 25, 2024

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Joshua 24: 1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Ephesians 5: 21-32 OR Ephesians 5: 2a, 25-32; John 6: 60-69
<b>Monday</b>	2 Thessalonians 1: 1-5, 11-12; Matthew 23: 13-22
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>St. Monica</b> 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-3a, 14-17; Matthew 23: 23-26
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>St. Augustine, Bishop &amp; Doctor of the Church</b> 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-10, 16-18; Matthew 23: 27-32
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>The Passion of St. John the Baptist</b> 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9; Mark 6: 17-29
<b>Friday</b>	1 Corinthians 1: 17-25; Matthew 25: 1-13
<b>Saturday</b>	1 Corinthians 1: 26-31; Matthew 25: 14-30
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8; James 1: 17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, August 26, 2024

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Dr. Richard & Anne Kube  
8:00 a.m. John Pusey, 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv./Pat Pusey & Family

### Tuesday, August 27, 2024

7:00 a.m. Lillian McCadden/Ray & Ellen McRae  
8:00 a.m. Ronald Shipp/Friends

### Wednesday, August 28, 2024

7:00 a.m. Hugh Bernard Maroney  
8:00 a.m. Jerry McDonough/Eileen McDonough

### Thursday, August 29, 2024

7:00 a.m. Msgr. William Watson/Linh Luong  
2:30 p.m. Steven Aeschliman/Mike & Donna Palkovic

### Friday, August 30, 2024

7:00 a.m. Dan Fitzhenry/The Messmer Family  
8:00 p.m. Alfonso & Magdalena Ang

### Saturday, August 31, 2024

8:00 a.m. Eugene Poignant/Pat Schwerer  
5:00 p.m. Pat McCauley/Family

### Sunday, September 1, 2024

8:00 a.m. Mark Brewer/Linh Luong  
10:00 a.m. Jim Zogby/Jim & Mary Donahue  
5:00 p.m. For the People

## Week of August 25

**EXTRA CONFESSIONS** Sunday after all Masses

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, August 25, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

**ROSARY** Tuesday, August 27, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**MILLIONS OF MONICAS** Tuesday, August 27, 7:00 p.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**FIRST RECONCILIATION FAMILY MEETING** Wednesday, August 28, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY**, Thursday, August 29, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

### UPCOMING EVENTS

OCIA & CCD begin	September 4
Adoration	September 6
Women of the Word begins	September 12
TMIY begins	September 13
Life Teen Kick-Off	September 18
Msgr. Watson Memorial Golf	September 20
Oktoberfest	October 5



**That Man Is You** will be back at St. Thomas this Fall, **starting Friday, September 13, 2024**. We have a tremendous lineup of speakers, all centered around the theme of *Worthy of the Call*. *That Man Is You* has been at St. Thomas for 10 years, and many men find it

to be not only spiritually enriching, but a great way to meet other men from the parish. Our sessions will run on Friday mornings, with doors opening at 6:00 am for breakfast and fellowship. The Video Program with the Presenter will start at 6:30 and we will conclude by 7:30 am. There is no charge to participate in *That Man Is You*.

All men of the Parish are encouraged to participate and to invite other men.

You can register by sending an email to **George Burek** at [georgeburek@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeburek@yahoo.com) and include: Name, address, phone, email address, age, marital status, and parish.

We're looking forward to another excellent year of *That Man Is You!*

## Weekly Collection

August 18, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$140,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$18,295.....	\$100,747
Electronic Collections.....	\$1,363.....	\$23,019
Total Collected.....	\$19,658.....	\$123,766
Over/(Short).....	\$(342).....	\$(16,234)

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.

## Our Sympathy

William "Bill" Cusack

Joe Lucas, brother of Mark Lucas

Ralph Noe Sr., uncle of Mary Ann Noe

## 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.

## 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!



A PROGRAM FOR ALL WOMEN BY

**PARADISUS DEI**

[MARYCUSHING@STTHOMAS-CHURCH.NET](mailto:MARYCUSHING@STTHOMAS-CHURCH.NET)

309-688-3446 EX. 1310

Sponsor of the Week





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



The Peoria Police Department used to have a *Ride with a Cop* program that was suspended by COVID. Participating people understood more clearly what the police do and the environment they work in and became more supportive of the police department. How would you like to *Ride with a Team* to understand and appreciate how your contributions to St. Vincent de Paul are invested?

Sorry, our St. Vincent de Paul conference will not invite anyone to ride with a team; confidentiality is too important. We would never jeopardize that aspect of our relationship with the people who call on us for help.

We invite you on a *Virtual Reality* ride instead:

Come along—You will meet people who are anxious about living from paycheck to paycheck. You'll witness people who are discouraged and confused by the regulations and red tape of the many service agencies. Who are overwhelmed by the daily demands of keeping their family safe and fed. Who are hungry. You'll also witness tears and prayers and hope, and glimpses of deep faith and amazing perseverance. You will discover the many forms that our assistance comes in; financial aid and food; reference information and listening and encouragement and prayers.

Your *Virtual Reality* ride will help you appreciate how St. Vincent de Paul is reaching out to aid your neighbors. Yes, the people in need that we help are your East Bluff and Peoria Heights neighbors; your *Neighbors in Need* as we call them. Please continue to help us help your neighbors with your generous contributions.

~ Don Smith

## Join-the-Choir Night

**Who:** Anyone (singer or instrumentalist) who is interested in being a part of the choir that provides inspiration and musical prayer for the congregation at liturgies.



**When:** Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** In the music room that is located to the right of the elevator on the level you enter off the playground parking lot.

**Why:** To experience a brief rehearsal with refreshments and answers to any questions. There is no commitment required.

**What:** The choir sings at the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays and at other special liturgies. Choir rehearsals are three Tuesday nights a month at 6:30 p.m.



Registration is open for our next **Light of the World Retreat**

on **September 20-23, 2024!**

This is an immersive weekend experience where participants personally encounter Christ through the presentation of the kerygma - the basic Gospel message. This retreat is meant for any adult who wishes to move ahead in their journey of faith.

The retreat takes place at St. Thomas and participants go home to sleep each night. For more details and to register, **see the parish website or pick up a brochure in the narthex!**

## Thank You!

Thank you so much for your generous support of this year's backpack project! Because of your generosity, 104 backpacks were given to students in need in the Peoria Heights community!



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 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_





## Young Adult Swing Dance

**Swing Dance Lessons will be Provided!**

**Address**

St. Thomas the Apostle Church  
904 E Lake Ave, Peoria Heights IL 61616

**Saturday, August 24th,  
1:00pm - 4:30pm**

### 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!*

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

## *Giving Thanks to God*

*Holy Family Parish's 2024 Dinner and Auction*

**Saturday, September 21, 2024**

**5:30 pm at the Spalding Pastoral Center**

*Special Guest: Bishop Louis Tylka*

Join us for a fun evening of fellowship, feasting, and fundraising!

- **Tickets \$75/person** - RSVP by 9/9/24
- Event includes **dinner** as well as **silent and live auctions**
- **Online auction** running from 9/14 - 9/25, open to all



Scan the QR code to:

- ✦ visit our website for more info
- ✦ purchase tickets
- ✦ participate in the online auction

or go to:

<https://holyfamilyparish.schoolauction.net/givingthankstogod24/>

**Get in touch with us:**

- Email [HolyFamilyParishAuction@gmail.com](mailto:HolyFamilyParishAuction@gmail.com), or
- Call the parish office at (309) 688-3427, ext. 4

### 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.

### TEC Weekends

Girls TEC 377—October 12-14, 2024  
More info and registration: [peoriatec.org](http://peoriatec.org)

### 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
- 1310 - Mary-Faith Formation

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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