

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. Leopold Mushobozi.....(x4)
Fr_Leo@stthomas-church.net

Fr. Fortunatus Rutaihwa.....In Residence

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(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

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

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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 or the My Parish App
2. Download My Parish App to receive push notifications (Visit myparishapp.com/download).
3. 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).

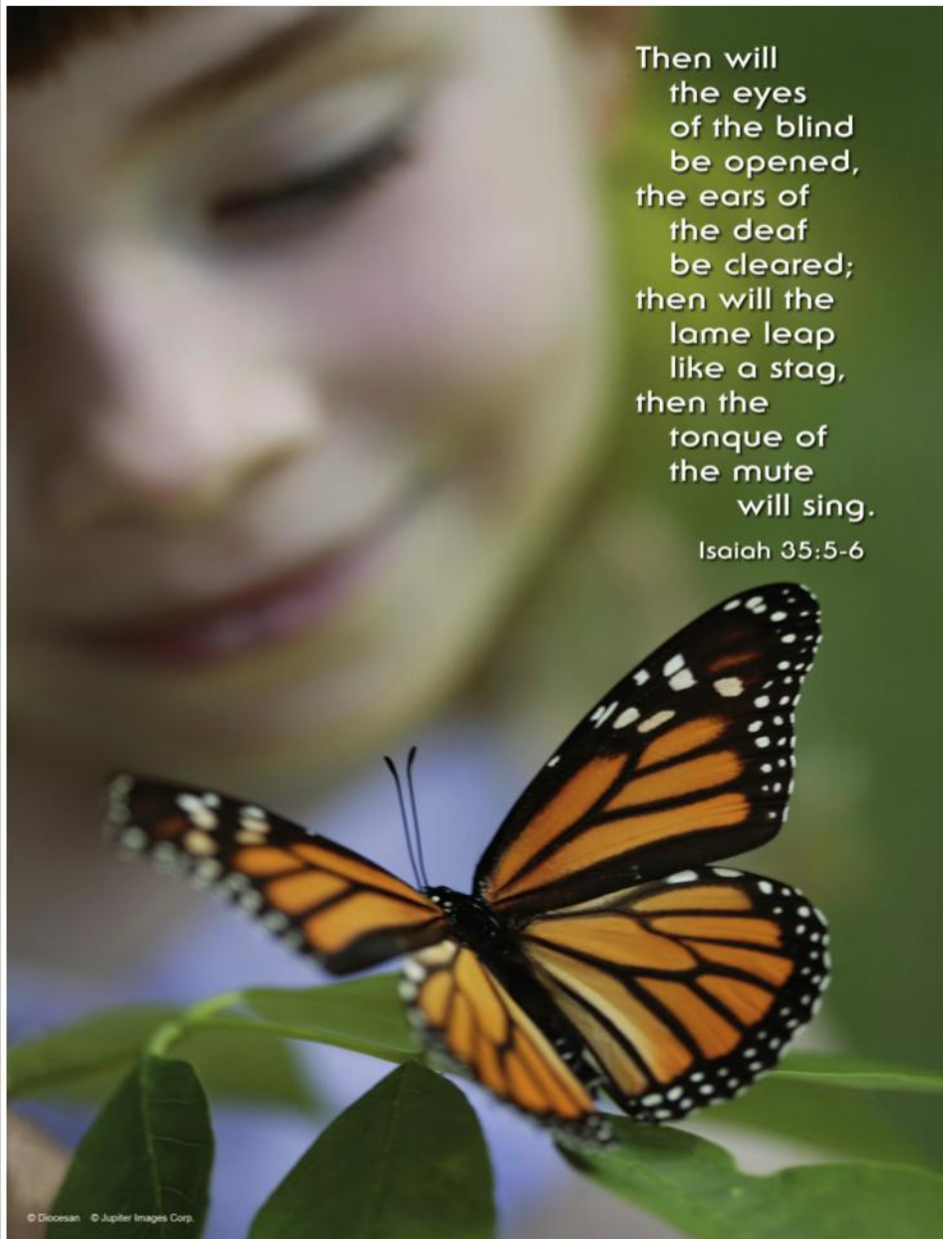


September 8, 2024

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Then will
the eyes
of the blind
be opened,
the ears of
the deaf
be cleared;
then will the
lame leap
like a stag,
then the
tongue of
the mute
will sing.

Isaiah 35:5-6





From Our Pastor

This Sunday has the double blessing of being a Donut Sunday and also Grandparent's Day. We welcome our 7th and 8th grade students who will assist us at our 10 AM Mass, as well as the grandparents who may be present. Join us after Sunday morning Masses for refreshments in the parish hall.

This Sunday is also the weekend for the Annual Diocesan Appeal. You may have seen information about the needs of the Diocese of Peoria in the mail or online. I ask you to consider making a pledge to support the programs provided by our Diocese. As a sign of gratitude to Bishop Tylka, I appreciate your generosity. We exceeded our goal last year by \$10,000, which we received back in the parish as a rebate. I hope to do the same again this year.

I was speaking with one of the staff in the Diocesan offices about the ways that the priests rely on the Diocese. There are some services and programs that priests can't effectively coordinate on the parish level. We lean on the Diocese to help meet these needs. I hope that everyone is able to appreciate the way that our Diocese provides support for each of our parishes.

The sign up for the Light of the World retreat is this weekend. Please see the information in the narthex. The retreat will run from September 20-23 and is a good way for you to grow in your faith and make more connections with other parishioners. Please join us.

Ministry to our high school students also begins Sunday evening. Teens interested in Lifeteen are invited this Sunday evening. The first meeting will take place at 6 PM in our parish hall following our Sunday evening Mass.

Finally, as a courtesy, I ask you not to bring food and drink into the church. Now that we have made the church so beautiful, I ask you to help us keep it that way. We sometimes find crumbs from food for children under the pews. Please help our Saturday morning volunteer cleaners by keeping food items out of the church.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of September 8, 2024

- Sunday** **Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Isaiah 35: 4-7a; James 2: 1-5; Mark 7: 31-37
- Monday** **St. Peter Claver, Priest**
1 Corinthians 5: 1-8; Luke 6: 6-11
- Tuesday** 1 Corinthians 6: 1-11; Luke 6: 12-19
- Wednesday** 1 Corinthians 7: 25-31; Luke 6: 20-26
- Thursday** **The Most Holy Name of Mary**
1 Corinthians 8: 1b-7, 11-13; Luke 6: 27-38
- Friday** **St. John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**
1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22b-27; Luke 6: 39-42
- Saturday** **The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**
Numbers 21: 4b-9; Philippians 2: 6-11
- Sunday** **Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Isaiah 50: 5-9a; James 2: 14-18; Mark 8: 27-35

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 9, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB
- 8:00 a.m. Jim Hagemann/The Hagemann Family

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. Tho Dang/Linh Luong
- 8:00 a.m. Mariano Tolentino/The Sarmiento Family

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. Arlene Crawford/The Jockisch Family
- 8:00 a.m. Chip Chan/Family

Thursday, September 12, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. Rita Williams/Jeff & Jennifer Shields
- 2:30 p.m. Jim Hagemann/Mark & Marlynn Kelsch

Friday, September 13, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. George Hrdlicka/The Messmer Family
- 8:00 p.m. John Michael Jackson/Ed & Cathy Mallow

Saturday, September 14, 2024

- 8:00 a.m. Mary Ellen Van Buskirk/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley
- 5:00 p.m. Steve Sprenger/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley

Sunday, September 15, 2024

- 8:00 a.m. For the People
- 10:00 a.m. Melvin & Lucille Noe/Mary Ann Noe
- 5:00 p.m. Len Kuchan/Maureen Kuchan

Week of September 8

LIGHT OF THE WORLD RETREAT SIGN-UP after all Masses this weekend

COFFEE AND DONUTS after Sunday morning Masses

LIFE TEEN Sunday, September 8, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, September 8, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

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

JOIN THE CHOIR NIGHT Tuesday, September 10, 6:30 p.m., Music Room

ST VINCENT DE PAUL Tuesday, September 10, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

CONFIRMATION FAMILY MEETING Wednesday, September 11, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

CCD Wednesday, September 11, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, September 4, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WOMEN OF THE WORD Thursday, September 12, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, September 12, 6:30 p.m., Sullivan's in the Heights

TMIY Friday, September 13, doors open 6:00 a.m., program 6:30 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Msgr. Watson Memorial Golf</i> | September 20 |
| <i>Light of the World Retreat</i> | September 20-23 |
| <i>Oktoberfest</i> | October 5 |

Pray with the Pope

September 2024

For The Cry Of The Earth



Let us pray that each of us listens with our hearts to the cry of the Earth and of the victims of environmental disasters and the climate crisis, making a personal commitment to care for the world we inhabit.

Weekly Collection

September 1, 2024

| | | Fiscal YTD |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Collections needed..... | \$20,000 | \$180,000 |
| Sunday Collections..... | \$14,617 | \$122,815 |
| Electronic Collections..... | \$415 | \$27,704 |
| Total Collected..... | \$15,032 | \$150,555 |
| Over/(Short)..... | \$(4,968) | \$(29,445) |

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

James Thomas Pearce,
brother-in-law of Jim & Carole Barr

JOIN US FOR O.C.I.A.
ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

WEDNESDAYS
Beginning Sept. 4th
7:00-8:00PM

TAUGHT BY MSGR. JASON GRAY

Are you interested in becoming Catholic?

Want to better understand Church teaching?

parishoffice@stthomas-church.net 309.688.3446

2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal

September 7-8, 2024

**Do everything for the
Glory of God**



Today, the 2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal begins in our parish and throughout the Diocese of Peoria. Through the ADA we are able to advance the mission entrusted to us by the Lord. In our parishes, our schools, our Newman Centers on college campuses, in our social service ministries in Catholic Charities we create places of encounter with Jesus. And we know that when we encounter Jesus, lives are changed.

If you have not made your pledge by mail, please fill out the pledge card in your pew. The goal for our parish is \$130,063 and we can reach it only with your help.

Contributions can be made by check payable to the Catholic Diocese of Peoria, by a credit or debit card, by direct debit from checking or savings account or online at www.cdop.org/ada. Gifts of appreciated stock, grain, qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) or donor advised funds have special considerations and requirements. Contact 309-671-1550 for more information.

OCIA Schedule

Sept 4: Intro, Belief in God
Sept 11: Apostolic Tradition, Sacred Scripture, Revelation, Faith
Sept 18: Biblical History, Bible Timeline
Sept 25: Trinity, God is Three, God is One

Oct 2: God the Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth
Oct 9: God the Son
Oct 16: God the Son; God the Holy Spirit; Saints
Oct 23: Holy Catholic Church
 Anyone wishing to become Catholic, or anyone wishing to learn more are welcome.



August 30, 2024



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Do Everything for the Glory of God! This is the theme for this year's Annual Diocesan Appeal. As disciples of Jesus, we are to live out our mission to *Go Make Disciples* – and we do so not for our own sake, but for the sake of God's kingdom and for the *Glory of God!*

In the coming year, the Church will be blessed with her first millennial saint when Blessed Carlo Acutis is canonized. In his brief life, he showed a heroic witness of faith. He is quoted as saying, *Everything fades, anyway. ... What will make us truly beautiful in the eyes of God is only the way in which we loved him and how we loved our neighbors.* To love as Jesus loved is to *do everything for the glory of God!*

To ensure that we as a diocese can carry on our mission, it is vital that we receive the generous support of the faithful across the twenty-six counties that we call home. Our efforts to reach out to others and invite them to encounter Jesus through our parishes, our schools, our Newman Centers on college campuses, and through Catholic Charities are all examples of sharing the Gospel. Our efforts to defend and support human life, from conception until natural death, demonstrate our deeply held belief in the dignity of the human person. Our encouragement and support for those in formation to become priests demonstrates our deep desire that the Church's Sacraments will continue to be available to feed and enrich the life of the faithful. All of these endeavors give glory to God.

I ask you to join with me in supporting the ADA through your prayer and through your financial support. Together, we can make a significant impact spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. Together, we can show that we truly desire to *Do Everything for the Glory of God!*

Know that I daily pray with and for you. I am grateful for the many ways in which you show the love of Jesus right here in the Heart of Illinois – it is what makes our Church so beautiful in the eyes of God!

God love you and God bless you!


 †Most Reverend Louis Tylka
 Bishop of Peoria

Back-to-school time brings thoughts of childhood immunizations, but for adults, remembering to keep updated on the recommended vaccines is just as important to help reduce the severity and spread of disease.

Vaccines help prevent severe illness and death.

- Immunizations are a core prevention strategy to lower risk from respiratory viruses.
- For most people that means getting a current flu and COVID-19 vaccine.
- Everyone ages 75 and older should get a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine.
- CDC also recommends adults ages 60-74 who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease get an RSV vaccine.
- To prevent severe RSV disease in infants, CDC recommends either the pregnant mother gets an RSV vaccine, or the infant gets an immunization with an RSV monoclonal antibody. Most infants will not need both.

Stay up to date with the immunizations that are recommended for you: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>

Getting vaccinated can reduce your chances of getting infected to some degree, but its main strength is preventing severe illness and death.

For more information:
<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/immunizations.html>



That Man Is You fall semester begins on Friday, September 13th. Doors open at 6:00 am for fellowship and breakfast. The video

portion of the program will start at 6:30 am followed by small group discussion at our tables. The session will adjourn by 7:30 a.m.

Our theme for this year is *Worthy of the Call*. The lineup of speakers include Dr. John Bergsma, Fr. John Burns, Michael Gormley, Navy Seal Sam Blair and Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers just to name a few. It promises to be an incredible year of TMiY.

If you would like to attend, but haven't registered yet, you can come at 6:00 am on September 13th and register in person, or you can send an email to George Burek at georgeburek@yahoo.com

Sponsor of the Week



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 \$ _____






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!**



Oktoberfest!

Will be here before you know it! October 5th from 6:00-10:00 p.m. Food, beer, games, a band from 6:30-9:30. Don't miss this!

Join-the-Choir Night

If you can sing or play an instrument please join us **Tuesday, September 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the Music Room**, for a brief practice and information about the choir. Our choir sings for 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass and for special occasions.

He who sings prays twice



YOU ARE INVITED
TO A "GREEN MASS" for the Care for Creation
with BISHOP LOUIS TYLKA

Bishop Lou is offering this Mass in Thanksgiving to God for the goodness of creation, our 'common home', and to pray for its present and future integrity. **He invites parishes to celebrate together as a diocesan family.**

Saturday, October 5, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
 St. Anthony Church, 2525 S Skyway Road
 Bartonville, IL 61607

Lunch and short program to follow. No cost for lunch; Please RSVP by Saturday, Sept 21 to ensure there is enough food.

*To register for lunch and info session complete the following form and return it to Mary Ann Hughes, 202 North Ranch St., Westville, IL 61883 by Saturday, September 21.

hug13@aol.com 217-597-1021

Catholic Women's League invites you to a
Baby Shower

For Christ Child Society

Date: Sunday, September 29, 2024

Place: St. Thomas the Apostle Church ~ Parish Hall
 904 E. Lake Ave, Peoria, Heights, IL 61616

Time: 1:30 – 3:30 pm



Come and enjoy fellowship, games, and light refreshments while helping the special work of the Christ Child Society.

You can help by bringing one or more of the following baby items: Gown/Sack, Onesie, Sleeper, Socks (newborn – 3 months size or preemie size)

If you prefer not to shop and would like to make a monetary donation, please bring your check to the baby shower (Please make it payable to the Catholic Women's League).

Please RSVP Ann Gerardo at 630-464-8474 by September 23, 2024

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.

Last Name _____

First Name(s) _____ Mr ___ Mrs ___ Ms ___

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

New Parishioner _____ **Change of address/phone** _____

St. Thomas - Food Pantry

Items needed at this time are: 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!

You're invited to



The National Day of Remembrance

**Saturday, Sept. 14
10 am**

One of the more than 200 locations throughout the U. S.

Memorial to the Unborn

St. Mary's Cemetery
 421 N. Sterling Avenue
 West Peoria, IL 61604

Jointly hosted by
 Knights of Columbus Spalding Council
 &
 Central Illinois Right to Life

Celebrate the Season of Creation

Know How to Recycle. Closely follow local recycling/compost/trash rules. Reducing contamination is key in proper recycling. Otherwise buyers of materials to be recycled may reject material sending it to the landfill. Follow these basic tips: Only recycle what your hauler or city picks up. Flatten boxes and throwaway any soiled ones. Keep SOFT PLASTIC and Styrofoam OUT of the curbside bin. Do not use plastic bags to contain your recyclables as these can gum up the machines. Make sure your items are clean and dry and free from contaminants (food, glue, tape). Care for Creation!



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
&
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 *St. Thomas the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin*



You are invited to help support our Parish!
For opportunities to advertise, please call 800-783-1623

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