

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

904 East Lake Avenue,
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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

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

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

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marycushing@stthomas-church.net

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

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

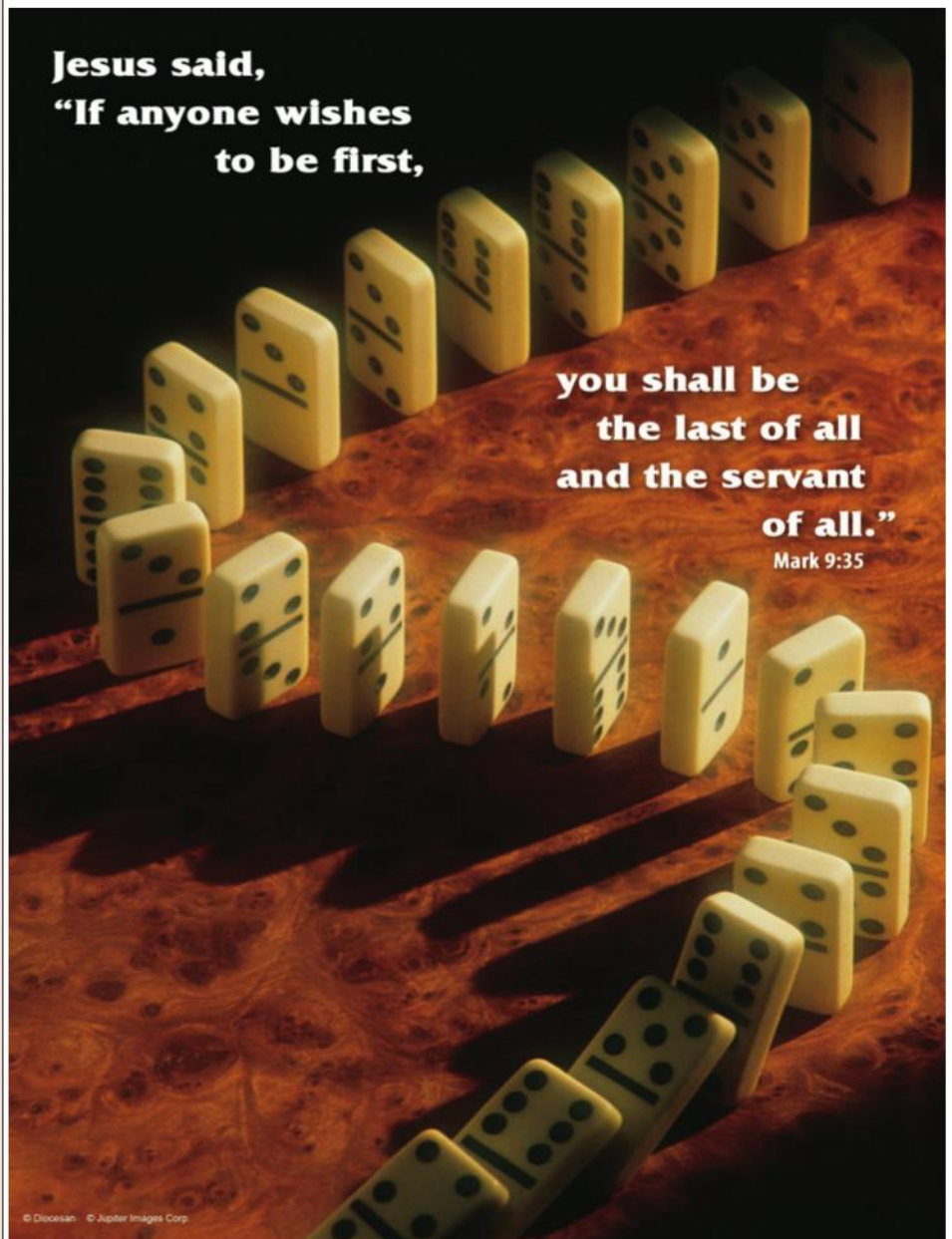
Stay in Touch

1. Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org 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 22, 2024

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Jesus said,
“If anyone wishes
to be first,**

**you shall be
the last of all
and the servant
of all.”**

Mark 9:35



From Our Pastor

Two weeks ago, I spoke on the Annual Diocesan Appeal. If you haven't had a chance to see the Diocesan video, I urge you to visit www.cdop.org/ada/ to see the message from Bishop Tylka.

If you haven't made a pledge, I urge you to consider your gift toward our goal. St. Thomas Parish exceeded last year's goal of \$153,000 by over \$10,000. This year, our goal has come down to \$130,000, so I am confident that we will again surpass our target.

You can make a pledge by returning the pledge card you received in the mail, or one of the cards we have available in the narthex. You may find it easier to go online to the same website above to make your pledge electronically. I am very grateful for your support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal and of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

One of the stained-glass windows in the narthex had some wood deterioration that put the window at risk. We have removed a portion of the window in order to have it repaired. We will need to make sure the window is properly framed and protected with exterior glass in order to preserve and protect this priceless treasure from the original 1940 church building.

You are invited to request Masses to be said for your intentions. Mass intentions can be sent to the parish office to be scheduled. Some people prefer to come into the office or call to request specific Mass times, while others simply present the requests to be scheduled when convenient. In either case, we will try to accommodate your requests. The customary offering for a Mass is \$10.

While many Masses are requested for the deceased, Masses can be offered for the living or for any noble intention. If you would like to have a Mass said for a loved one or for a special intention, please present your request to the parish office.

A special thank you to our ushers who have begun again to assist with the collection at the offertory. The last pew on the main aisle is reserved for them so they have a place to sit and kneel and do not have to stand in the narthex throughout the Mass.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of September 22, 2024

Sunday	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Wisdom 2: 12, 17-20; James 3: 16—4: 3; Mark 9: 30-37
Monday	St. Pius of Pietrelcina. Priest Proverbs 3: 27-34; Luke 8: 16-18
Tuesday	Proverbs 21: 1-6, 10-13; Luke 8: 19-21
Wednesday	Proverbs 30: 5-9; Luke 9: 1-6
Thursday	Sts. Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs Ecclesiastes 1: 2-11; Luke 9: 7-9
Friday	St. Vincent de Paul, Priest Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11; Luke 9: 18-22
Saturday	St. Wenceslaus, Martyr Ecclesiastes 11: 9—12: 8; Luke 9: 43b-45
Sunday	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Numbers 11: 25-29; James 5: 1-6; Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 23, 2024

7:00 a.m. Eugene Poignant/Mary Poignant & Family
8:00 a.m. Sarah Salmon/Family

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

7:00 a.m. Hop Nguyen/Linh Luong
8:00 a.m. Deceased members of the Ravago Family

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

7:00 a.m. Dr. James N. Kenny, Sr./Family
8:00 a.m. James & Dorothy Reed/Sharon Zogby

Thursday, September 26, 2024

7:00 a.m. Suzette Little Kennedy/John & Amy Kelly
2:30 p.m. Jim Hagemann/Rose Pasquel

Friday, September 27, 2024

7:00 a.m. Jeanne Broussard/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley
8:00 p.m. Chip Chan/Family

Saturday, September 28, 2024

8:00 a.m. Sue Connor/Steve & Nan Powers
5:00 p.m. The Williams Family

Sunday, September 29, 2024

8:00 a.m. Avery Grazier/The Messmer Family
10:00 a.m. Jim Zogby/Jim & Mary Donahue
5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of September 22

OCTOBERFEST TICKET SALES For food/drink after all Masses this weekend

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, September 22, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, September 24, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

MILLIONS OF MONICAS Tuesday, September 24, 7:00 p.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CCD Wednesday, September 25, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, September 25, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WOMEN OF THE WORD Thursday, September 26, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

TMIY Friday, September 27, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

CHURCH CLEANING Saturday, September 28, 8:30 a.m. following Mass, Church

OCTOBERFEST TICKET SALES After all Masses September 28/29

UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>Adoration</i>	<i>October 4</i>
<i>Blessing of Animals</i>	<i>October 4</i>
<i>Oktoberfest</i>	<i>October 5</i>
<i>Anniversary of Church Dedication</i>	<i>October 6</i>
<i>Lifeteen</i>	<i>October 6</i>
<i>St. Thomas Holy Hour</i>	<i>October 17</i>



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 15, 2024

	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....\$220,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$14,020.....\$162,243
Electronic Collections.....	\$6,798.....\$38,889
Total Collected.....	\$20,818.....\$201,132
Over/(Short).....	\$818.....\$(18,868)

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

Dorothy Bertschy

Baptism Congratulations

Harrison Clayton Lister, son of
Brooke & Clay Lister

Caroline May Crim, daughter of
Kate & Calen Crim

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

TAUGHT BY MSGR. JASON GRAY

Are you interested in becoming Catholic?

Want to better understand Church teaching?

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

parishoffice@stthomas-church.net 309.688.3446

OCIA Schedule

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

Oct 30: Forgiveness of sins, resurrection of body, judgment, eternal life, Liturgy, Sacraments

Anyone wishing to become Catholic, or anyone wishing to learn more are welcome.

Sponsor of the Week

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ST. THOMAS FREE ADMISSION!!!

Oktoberfest

BRATS, PRETZELS, BACON BEER CHEESE SOUP, BUCKSHOT CORN, FUNNEL CAKES!

BRING YOUR CHAIRS & BLANKETS!

FAMILIES & KIDS WELCOME! HOTDOGS & CHIPS GAMES

GERMAN & AMERICAN BEERS, WINE, SODA & WATER

LIVE BAND - 3 AND HALF MEN
6:30-9:30 PM

DRINK • FOOD • MUSIC • DANCE

OCT 5TH 6-10 PM- BACK LOT

Food & drinks are 1-5 tickets each. Tickets at the door: \$1.00 each.
Save when you buy your tickets early after Mass!



Millions of Monicas is a 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.

September 24th at 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas Daily Mass Chapel

For more information visit www.millionsofmonicas.com

Respect Life Dinner

The Annual Respect Life Dinner to benefit the Women's Care Center of Peoria is scheduled **Sunday, October 6th at 6:00 p.m.** at Barrack's Cater inn, 1224 W. Pioneer Parkway

Featured Speaker: Ann Kube, the president of the Peoria Women's Care Center will be introduced by the President PND's Teens for Life

Master of Ceremonies: Tom Dermody, retired editor of the Catholic Post Music provided by Class Act

Ticket price: \$75 per person

Please mail checks to: Respect Life Dinner, c/o Women's Care Center, 2609 Knoxville Ave., Peoria, IL 61604.

Deadline for ticket purchase is **September 30**. Tickets must be pre-ordered. No tickets will be sold on the night of the event.

For more information call 309-689-0200.

Novena to St. Therese

Please mark your calendars and join us as we prepare to pray a novena to St. Therese of Lisieux on **September 22nd**. You can find the novena prayers on our website here: <https://comeandfollowme.org/howtohelp/prayer>

St. Therese has always been a faithful intercessor for our vocations program, and through her prayers to God, we have been blessed with many faithful, holy priests to the diocese. Join us in asking her to send us an abundance of priestly vocations after the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Please print off copies of the novena for each family in your parishes. Please also consider sending the novena to those who are homebound or in the nursing home or hospital. This is a great way they can participate in helping to grow the culture of vocations.

New Seminarians



Please join us in praying for the 14 current seminarians in formation for the Diocese of Peoria. This year we welcome 4 new seminarians: Angel Garcia, St. Mary's, Bloomington; Gerard Remmes, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Galesburg; Brennan O'Keeffe, Christ the King, Moline; and Daniel Miller, St. Philomena, Peoria.

Join us for a night about the Afterlife!

NEXT LIFE NIGHT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

6-8PM

SEE YOU THERE!

St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall
6001 North University Street,
Peoria, IL 61614



2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal

September 7-8, 2024

Do everything for the *Glory of God*

The 2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal is now underway in our parish. Thank you to all who have already pledged to the appeal. Your gift supports ministries that help form our young people into disciples eager to share their faith with others. No gift is too small, and our parish is trying to reach 100% participation. If you have not given yet, please consider filling out a pledge card today and mail it to the Diocese or drop it in the collection basket. Additional pledge cards are in the narthex/pews. Every dollar raised over our goal will be returned to our parish to help us.



Tootsie Rolls!

Spalding Council #427
Knights of Columbus



Annual Tootsie Roll sale to benefit
Intellectual Disabilities

After all Masses October 5th & 6th



About 40 teens came together for faith, fun, & food. Don't miss the next one at St. Vincent's!

LifeTeen



September is Suicide Prevention Month — A time to raise awareness of this urgently important crisis

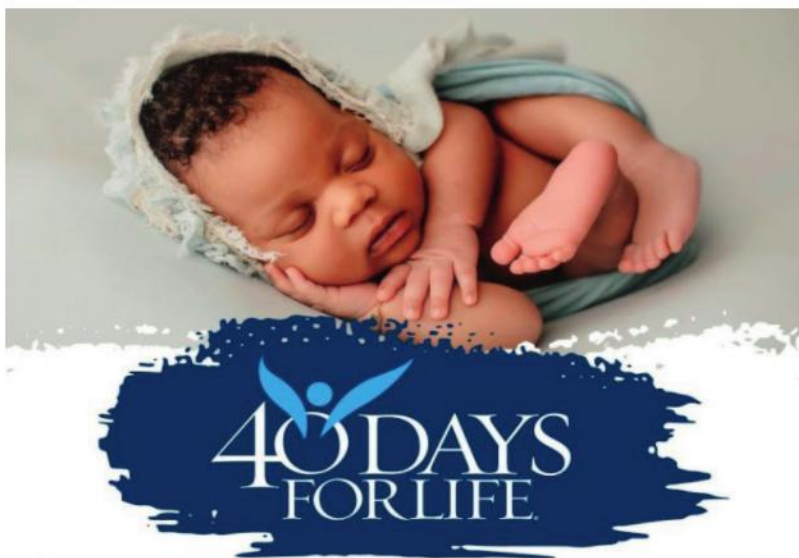
Starting a conversation can help save a life. Studies show people who are having thoughts of suicide feel relief when someone asks about them in a caring way. Learn more about how to help support someone you care about through a crisis at [nami.org/suicidepreventionmonth](https://www.nami.org/suicidepreventionmonth).

According to 2022 data collected by the CDC, Illinois lost 1,533 of our friends, family, and neighbors to suicide. It's important to know the signs of suicidal ideations and what to do when someone you love needs help. Please refer to the information below for more guidance.

- <https://www.samhsa.gov/mental-health/suicide/warning-signs>
- <https://www.bethe1to.com/bethe1to-steps-evidence/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/suicide-mortality/suicide.htm>

If you or someone you know has thoughts of suicide, immediate help is available. **Call, text, or chat 988** to speak to a trained crisis counselor offering support 24/7/365.

- <https://www.hhsil.com>
- <https://www.nami.org/Get-Involved/Awareness-Events/Suicide-Prevention-Month/>



KICK OFF RALLY

September 24th, 6:30pm at the Spalding Pastoral Center, Peoria IL



Keynote Speaker

Veronica Lamlech
Midwest Field Operations Coordinator
for Students for Life of America

Peoria 40 Days for Life is proud to announce the time and date of our Kick Off Rally. At the rally you will have the opportunity to acquire free "Pray to End Abortion" signs as well as Pro-life apologetics materials. We will be distributing free copies of the "20 Answers" series on the topic of abortion. Additionally you will also be able to learn more about 40 days for life and our mission. There is no RSVP. All are welcome.

Our speaker for the rally will be Veronica Lamlech. Veronica was raised pro-life, but it wasn't until she went to pray and sidewalk counsel at her local Planned Parenthood (in the pouring rain) that her fire was ignited. From then on, she volunteered and co-led 40 Days for Life, attended the Chicago March for Life, became a sidewalk counselor, and worked at The Women's Center in Evergreen Park. Veronica currently resides in Westmont, Illinois and serves the Pro-Life Generation as Students for Life's Midwest Field Operations Coordinator. At the Rally, she will be speaking on her experiences in sidewalk counseling and delivering a message of encouragement for those who fight for the right to life!

For inquires or details, contact campaign leader Anthony Berlinger.
Email: anthonyberlinger@gmail.com Phone: 309-340-2002

**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

Rachel's Vineyard: The program name for post-abortion healing in the Peoria diocese has been restored. The Living Scripture Retreat will now be known again as **Rachel's Vineyard Retreats**. An upcoming retreat week-end **will be held in the Peoria diocese October 25-27, 2024**. Information about the retreat can be found online at cdop.org/rachels-vineyard or by calling Colleen at 309-264-1489, or by email at rvrpeoria@gmail.com.

**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!

**ST. MARY'S OF KICKAPOO
ANNUAL FAMOUS SAUSAGE DINNER
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024
11:00-3:00**

→ St. Mary's Gymnasium, Kickapoo, Illinois ←

Adults..... \$20.00
Children 5-12..... \$10.00
Children 4 & Under..... Free
Children's Hot Dog plate \$10.00



All you can eat Buffet!
Carry outs Available!
Hummingbird Carving Raffle
Lottery Ticket Boards Raffle

Raw Bulk Sausage—5lb. Pkg. @ \$30 each x _____ = \$ _____

Raw Link Sausage—5lb. Pkg. @ \$30 each x _____ = \$ _____

*Cooked Links—3lb. Pkg. @ \$30 each x _____ = \$ _____

Cooked Links available for pickup on day of dinner only Scan code to order

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

Order forms & Payment can be mailed to:
St. Mary's Church, 9910 W. Knox Street, Edwards, IL 61528

→ ORDERS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 ←



September 25 - November 3
40 DAYS FOR LIFE

HELP SAVE LIVES IN PEORIA!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

- Over 20,000 babies saved from abortion
- Over 200 abortion workers converted
- Over 100 abortion centers closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

Vigil location: Outside Planned Parenthood of Peoria, 2709 Knoxville Ave, Peoria.

Vigil hours: 7 am to 7 pm daily

Local contact: Anthony Berlinger, Peoria Leader, 309-340-2002, anthonyberlinger@gmail.com

Learn more ... get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

40daysforlife.com/peoria



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.



















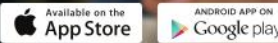

Parish Office Hours

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

 <p>Green For Life Your full-service waste and recycling services provider. 309.688.0760 gflenv.com</p>	 <p>Business Wealth Management Personal busey.com Member FDIC</p>	 <p>Illinois CatholicMatch.com/goIL</p>	 <p>OSF HealthCare OSFHealthCare.org</p>
 <p>EAST PEORIA 698-8404 CARL KAUFMAN www.tazewellcountyasphalt.com SPECIALIZING IN ASPHALT PAVING • ASPHALT SEALING</p>	 <p>4208 PARTRIDGE WAY • P.O. BOX 3858 • PEORIA, IL 61612 — Parishioners — WWW.HEDIGERANDMEYERS.COM 309.691.5001 COLLINS VOORHEES JAKE VOORHEES WILLIAM VOORHEES</p>	 <p>General Construction Design Build Commercial & Residential Construction Management Pre Engineered Structures DESIGNERS & CONTRACTORS Dennis Bishop, Parishioner 243-5599 2800 W Alta Rd.</p>	 <p>EWTN.COM/RADIO Global Catholic Radio TUNE IN</p>
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 <p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF Avery Murphy</p>	 <p>The App for Catholic Life Every Day www.myParishApp.com</p>		<p>Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.</p>
 <p>We help the accused by listening, preparing, protecting, and caring. 309.999.1177 Maureen Williams, Owner/Parishioner</p>			<p>Simply go to www.DM.CHURCH/1208 ...or scan </p>

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ATTORNEY AT LAW
JIM ROCHFORD & ASSOCIATES
309.637.5322 PARISHIONER
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(St. Thomas class of 2026)

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The Big Corner

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