



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

Priesthood Sunday

Thank You

Monsignor Gray & Fr. Leo



Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests.
 Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.
 Help them, and all priests, to be strong in their vocation.
 Set their souls on fire with love for your people.
 Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need
 to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.
 Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.
 Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.
 Allow them to experience joy in their ministry.
 Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.
 We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our
 Eternal Priest.

Amen.

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 Rutaiwa.....In Residence

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

Deacon: Dcn. John Nelson.....981-2716
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..... 682-5507

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

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

Stay in Touch

1. Join Msgr. Gray for Mass. 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).



From Our Pastor

I am meeting with our parish council as part of the Growing Disciples initiative to discuss the revitalization of our parish. Our discussions have been very fruitful so far and will help focus on parish renewal. Our first area of focus has been on the liturgy. With their input, it will be good to review our best practices with our ushers, readers, and extraordinary ministers to be more effective in our celebration of the Mass.

In the next few weeks, we will begin accepting nominations to our parish council. You will be invited to consider volunteering or suggesting someone who would make a good parish council member. We will have three openings to fill by the end of the year. Keep an eye on the bulletin for more information

We are currently in transition in the parish office to welcome Sheris Catton as she begins taking over the finance and tuition work done by Julie Streid and Pat Wombacher. We look forward to helping her settle into this role over the next several weeks.

During this election season, politics can be the cause of a lot of anxiety. I have been studying the writings of Archbishop Sheen, who was not afraid to talk about any number of topics, including politics. I plan to present a talk to answer the question, What would Fulton Sheen say about politics today? This presentation will take place on October 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Finally, extra confessions will be heard after Masses this weekend. Please take advantage of this opportunity to be reconciled with God.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of September 29, 2024

- Sunday** **Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Numbers 11: 25-29; James 5: 1-6; Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48
- Monday** **St. Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church**
Job 1: 6-22; Luke 9: 46-50
- Tuesday** **St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church**
Job 3: 1-3, 11-17, 20-23; Luke 9: 51-56
- Wednesday** **The Holy Guardian Angels**
Job 9: 1-12, 14-16; Matthew 18: 1-5, 10
- Thursday** Job 19: 21-27; Luke 10: 1-12
- Friday** **St. Francis of Assisi**
Job 38: 1, 12-21; 40: 3-5; Luke 10: 13-16
- Saturday** **St. Faustina Kowalska, Virgin**
Job 42: 1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Luke 10: 17-24
- Sunday** **Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Genesis 2: 18-24; Hebrews 2: 9-11; Mark 10: 2-16 OR
Mark 10: 2-12

Mass Intentions

- Monday, September 30, 2024**
7:00 a.m. Mary Ellen Van Buskirk/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley
8:00 a.m. Pat McCauley/Brenda Christian
- Tuesday, October 1, 2024**
7:00 a.m. Susan Vonachen Davidson/The Vonachen Family
8:00 a.m. Carmelite Community of Mary, Mother of the Blessed Sacrament
- Wednesday, October 2, 2024**
7:00 a.m. Rita Williams/Jeff & Jennifer Shields
8:00 a.m. Joan Kulpa/Helen Baker
- Thursday, October 3, 2024**
7:00 a.m. Raymond Little/John & Amy Kelly
2:30 p.m. Danny Jones/Ed & Cathy Mallow
- Friday, October 4, 2024**
7:00 a.m. Jim Zogby/Sharon Zogby
8:00 p.m. Intentions of John & Julie Chan & Family
- Saturday, October 5, 2024**
8:00 a.m. Joe Lucas/Family
5:00 p.m. Charles Bode/Jeanine Rolett
- Sunday, October 6, 2024**
8:00 a.m. For the People
10:00 a.m. Jim Becker/Joe & Joan Kelch
5:00 p.m. John Michael Jackson/Blasek, Cook, & Gualandri Families

Week of September 29

- EXTRA CONFESSION TIMES** After all Sunday Masses
- OCTOBERFEST TICKET SALES** For food/drink after all Masses this weekend
- SIGN-UP FOR FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION** this Weekend after all Masses, narthex
- MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, September 29, 7:00 p.m., School Gym
- ROSARY** Tuesday, October 1, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel
- CCD** Wednesday, October 2, 6:00 p.m., School
- OCIA** Wednesday, October 2, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- WOMEN OF THE WORD** Thursday, October 3, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall
- TMIY** Friday, October 4, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall
- ADORATION** Friday, October 4, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.
- BLESSING OF ANIMALS** Friday, October 4, 8:45 a.m., Back Parking Lot
- OKTOBERFEST** Saturday, October 5, 6:30 p.m., Back Parking Lot
- ANNIVERSARY OF CHURCH DEDICATION** At all Masses October 6
- LIFETEEN** Sunday, October 6, 6:00 p.m., St. Vincent de Paul Parish

UPCOMING EVENTS

What Would Fulton Sheen Say
About Politics Today *October 9*
St. Thomas Holy Hour *October 17*



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 22, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$240,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$9,592.....	\$171,835
Electronic Collections.....	\$2,455.....	\$41,344
Total Collected.....	\$12,047.....	\$213,179
Over/(Short).....	\$(7,953).....	\$(26,821)

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

Please pray for those who have died this week

OCIA Schedule

- 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
- Nov 6:** Liturgy, Sacraments
- Nov 13:** Baptism, Confirmation
- Nov 20:** Eucharist
- Nov 27:** No Class, Thanksgiving

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

Blessing of the Animals



Everyone is invited to bring your pets for the Blessing of the Animals

Friday, October 4
8:45 a.m., in the Back Parking Lot

Please keep all pets leashed or in their cage as appropriate.

- Blown Insulation
- Fiberglass Batts
- Spray Foam
- Insulation Removal

309.682.9090

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Dave & David LaHood - Parishioners

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Oktoberfest



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

GERMAN & AMERICAN BEERS, WINE, SODA & WATER

BRING YOUR CHAIRS & BLANKETS!

FAMILIES & KIDS WELCOME! HOTDOGS & CHIPS GAMES

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!

Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Monday, October 7, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Saint Mark Church,
1113 W. Bradley Avenue, Peoria

Holy Hour consists of Benediction, the Rosary, and other prayers. Please join us in prayer for the protection of these innocent lives and the restoration of their Constitutional rights.

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.

Public Square Rosary at St. Mark

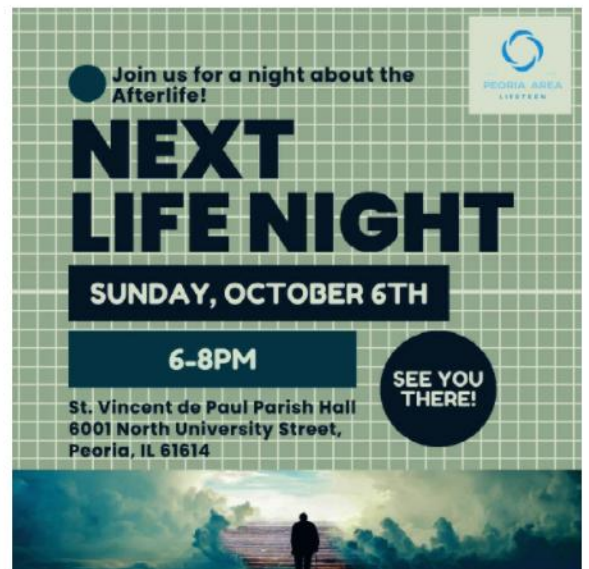
Saturday, October 12th
Starts at Noon in the Parking Lot

America desperately needs the Holy Rosary, and Our Lady's saving message of Fatima. In fact, the current situation in America reminds us of Austria and how that country was freed from the chains of Communism in 1955. The people of Austria were freed by Our Lady because they heeded her warning and publicly prayed the Rosary.

This is now the 18th year that St. Mark parishioners and friends have participated in the *Rosary Crusade*. More than 25,000 *Rosary Rallies* will be prayed at the same time on October 12 in various locations across the U.S. and the world - to ask for Our Lady's intervention for our country and the world - and to commemorate the *Miracle of the Sun* in Fatima.

On October 13, 1917, Our Lady appeared for the last time to Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto, and their cousin, Blessed Lucia of Fatima. She promised them that she would provide a sign so people would believe in the apparitions and her message. What happened that day in Fatima has come to be known as the *Miracle of the Sun* - when people saw the sun spin in the sky and appear to change in shape and color.

Please come and join us in prayer for the conversion of our country, for peace, and for the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Please dress warmly, bring a chair and friends - and be part of the *Rosary Crusade*. **For any questions, please call 309-686-0017.**



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, or use the QR code ↗. Additional pledge cards are in the narthex. Every dollar raised over our goal will be returned to our parish to help us.

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



August, traditionally our busiest month, was very challenging this year. We answered 54 calls for assistance, and through your generosity we were able to provide nearly \$15,000 to families with almost 150 members. The calls were all unique and as we met with the families, we found ways to suggest other steps they may take for a better future. Many are challenged by employment, housing, and utility situations that become burdensome. In all these situations we rely on God's grace, your prayers and donations to find some answers for them.

One example comes to mind. A lady called us for a bus pass to get to work. It seems that was the biggest need she had. We learned she and her 6 children live in a rented house with her partner. The children aged 5 to 15 all attend school and are active in many sports, etc. We asked if she had enough food. She said she could use some as it was the end of the month. Through the generosity of our food pantry, we were able to take several bags of groceries to her. During our visit, we learned that she has no car, a part time job, and receives government assistance for her rent, food stamps and her son's disability income. She is taking courses online through ICC to become a Medical Office Assistant. She says, "everything is going pretty well as long as my multiple sclerosis is in check". We provided a few suggestions for more resources she might consult. We assured her that we would be praying for her and her family.

In the society of St. Vincent de Paul we strive to grow spiritually so we can better respond to our Neighbors in Need with compassion, understanding and support. You help us provide when the needs are great as they were in August. Thank you, and may God bless you.

~ T. Pilat

Heart of Illinois Life Chain

Sunday, October 6, 2:00—3:00 p.m.

2805 N. Knoxville

Meet at Knoxville & Hansler Place Intersection, Sidewalk at Planned Parenthood



Tootsie Rolls!



Spalding Council #427
Knights of Columbus

Annual Tootsie Roll sale to benefit
Intellectual Disabilities

After all Masses October 5th & 6th

WALKING THE PATH OF INFERTILITY?

we are here for you


Infertility can be an isolating experience, impacting our marriage and other relationships, and testing our faith. If this is your experience, you're not alone! We invite you to join with others walking this path in a small group for women: "Pearls of Hope". We will be guided by materials from Springs in the Desert, a Catholic infertility ministry, and our group will be a place to acknowledge the pain and complex emotions associated with infertility and loss through prayer, sharing, and reclaiming our identities as beloved daughters of God.

Register Here



Join us

SEPTEMBER 30TH FOR A COME AND SEE MEETING AT ST. PHILOMENA'S PARISH CENTER 1000 W. ALBANY AVE. PEORIA, IL SEE WEBSITE FOR REGISTRATION FOR QUESTIONS EMAIL KATHERINE@SPRINGSINTHEDESERT.ORG



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.

Bookkeeper Needed

St. Jude Parish is seeking a skilled full-time bookkeeper. This position will be responsible for all aspects of accounting for both the church and school. These duties will include managing Accounts Payable/Receivable, processing Payroll and all electronic donations, balancing bank statements, preparing monthly financial statements, annual budgets, and Diocesan annual reports. If interested, please send a resume to frhenahan@stjudecatholic.com.

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 ←

EMMAUS KNIGHTS

OCT 20 | NOV 10 | DEC 8

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

2327 W. HEADING AVENUE, PEORIA IL.

If your parents haven't filled out a registration and waiver in 2024, please click below to do so.
 Thanks!

[forms.ministryforms.net/embed.aspx?](https://forms.ministryforms.net/embed.aspx?formId=096f2f39-5c68-4165-8115-8591270049fb)
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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.

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