

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

Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB
(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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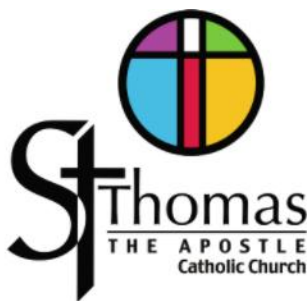
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)
parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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).



October 6, 2024

Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Thomas

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time





From Our Pastor

This Sunday is the anniversary of the dedication of our Church. On this day in 2002, the new Church was consecrated by Bishop Jenky. Because of the importance of this parish anniversary, we celebrate it as a solemnity which comes with special readings and prayers. The texts in the missalette will be substituted with special readings that relate to the establishment and consecration of the Church as a Temple of the Holy Spirit.

Let us give thanks for our Church as a beautiful place to encounter God and receive his Word and his sacraments. We give thanks to God for the children who have been baptized here and all those who have received the Holy Spirit in confirmation. The Church is also a place to find the Lord's mercy by making time for confession. The beauty of the Church is not only found in the external décor. We add to the glory of the Church when we decorate it with our virtues, our sacrifices, and our humble contrition. The Church is more glorious when it is adorned with more faithful worshiping God. By attending Mass and by confessing your sins, you contribute to the holiness of this House of God.

We are training new servers beginning in fourth grade to assist at the altar. If your children are interested in serving, please contact your teacher or the parish office. I am asking all our servers to volunteer regularly so they continue to develop as a server. As part of our liturgical revitalization, we not only want a beautiful church but also beautiful and well celebrated liturgies. This can only be possible with the help of dedicated and prepared servers, readings, extraordinary ministers, ushers and musicians. Thank you to all those who volunteer their time for the celebration of the liturgy.

I am grateful for all those who have made their pledge to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. So far, we have received pledges of about \$115,000 toward our goal of \$130,000. This response is very encouraging, as we exceeded our goal last year and are on target to exceed our goal again this year. If you haven't made your pledge, visit the ADA page on the Diocesan website (cdop.org) to contribute. Thank you for your generosity.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of October 6, 2024

- Sunday** **Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Thomas**
Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12; Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24;
John 4: 19-24
- Monday** **Our Lady of the Rosary**
Galatians 1: 6-12; Luke 10: 25-37
- Tuesday** Galatians 1: 13-24; Luke 10: 38-42
- Wednesday** **St. John Leonardi, Priest**
Galatians 2: 1-2, 7-14; Luke 11: 1-4
- Thursday** Galatians 3: 1-5; Luke 11: 5-13
- Friday** **St. John XXIII, Pope**
Galatians 3: 7-14; Luke 11: 15-26
- Saturday** Galatians 3: 22-29; Luke 11: 27-28
- Sunday** **Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Wisdom 7: 7-11; Hebrews 4: 12-13; Mark 10: 17-30 OR
Mark 10: 17-27

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 7, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. Betty Pegg/The Grawey Family
8:00 a.m. Mark Brewer/Linh Luong

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the James Family
8:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the Kipfer Family

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB
8:00 a.m. Charles Ginoli

Thursday, October 10, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. Edith Zeller/The Zeller Family
2:30 p.m. Intentions of Clare Cooper/Lisa & Kedric Curtis

Friday, October 11, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. Bill McDermott/Kitty Bienemann
8:00 p.m. Jerry McDonough/Eileen McDonough

Saturday, October 12, 2024

- 8:00 a.m. Jean Brown/Ed & Cathy Mallow
5:00 p.m. Pat McCauley/Family

Sunday, October 13, 2024

- 8:00 a.m. Jack & Bertha Weinstein/Family
10:00 a.m. For the People
5:00 p.m. Virginia Kreutz/Paul & Karen Mundie

Week of October 6

- ANNIVERSARY OF CHURCH DEDICATION** At all Masses This Weekend
- KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TOOTSIE ROLL SALE** this Weekend after all Masses
- COFFEE AND DONUTS** After Sunday morning Masses this weekend
- LIFETEEN** Sunday, October 6, 6:00 p.m., St. Vincent de Paul Parish
- MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, October 6, 7:00 p.m., School Gym
- ROSARY** Tuesday, October 8, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel
- ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** Tuesday, October 8, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- WHAT WOULD FULTON SHEEN SAY ABOUT POLITICS TODAY** Msgr. Gray presentation, Wednesday, October 9, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- CCD** Wednesday, October 9, 6:00 p.m., School
- OCIA** Wednesday, October 9, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- WOMEN OF THE WORD** Thursday, October 10, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall
- MEN'S CLUB MEETING** Thursday, October 10, 6:30 p.m., Sullivan's in Heights
- TMIY** Friday, October 11, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>St. Thomas Holy Hour</i>	<i>October 17</i>
<i>Extra Confession Sunday</i>	<i>October 27</i>
<i>Adoration</i>	<i>November 8</i>



Pray with the Pope

**October 2024
For A Shared Mission**

Let us pray that the Church continues to sustain a synodal lifestyle in every way, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, communion and mission shared by priests, religious and laity.

Weekly Collection

September 27, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$260,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$12,791.....	\$184,626
Electronic Collections.....	\$2,989.....	\$44,333
Total Collected.....	\$15,780.....	\$228,959
Over/(Short).....	\$(4,220).....	\$(31,042)

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 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

Join us for Coffee
and Donuts after
morning Mass this
weekend



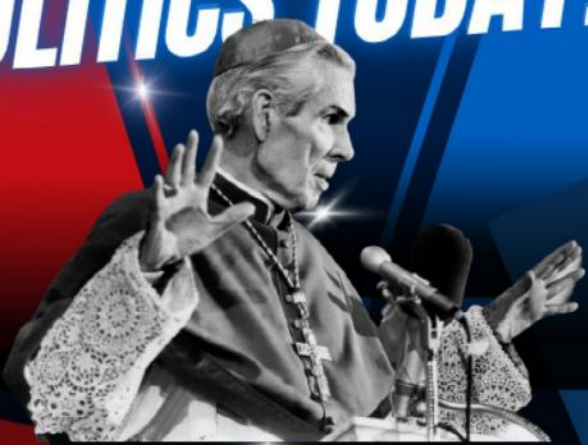
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**WHAT WOULD
FULTON SHEEN
SAY ABOUT**

POLITICS TODAY?



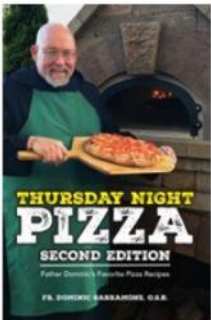
**Presentation by
Msgr. Jason Gray**
**Executive Director
Archbishop
Fulton J. Sheen
Foundation**

**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 9TH
6:00-7:00PM**
ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH HALL
904 E. LAKE ST. PEORIA HEIGHTS, IL

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.



**A BOOK SIGNING WITH THE BREAD MONK
SAT, OCTOBER 19th, 11am to 1pm
Lagron Miller, 4517 N. Sterling Ave, Peoria**

Come purchase the newly released 2nd edition of *Thursday Night Pizza* or the newest edition of *Breakfast Breads & Sweet Treats* and visit with Fr. Dominic Garramone. If you aren't able to make it in person but would like a prepaid signed copy, please call 309-681-9171 to purchase.

Immediate Openings at St. Thomas School

Also needed:

1. Teacher's aide/aftercare support worker
Hours: 1:30-5:30 p.m. daily
2. 1:1 Teacher's Aide needed for a second grade student
Hours: 8:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m. daily

If you are interested in either position please contact Mrs. Maureen Bentley, Principal, at MaureenBentley@stthomas-school.net



How can we give back?

Tanzania has blessed Peoria Diocese with amazing, holy priests, most of them coming from Bukoba Diocese in NW Tanzania. Bukoba is in a region of stark poverty with poor health and education resources, but rich in faith. *Bukoba Friends Foundation* invites you to come and learn about ways to give blessings back to this region in need.

Please join us on **Monday, October 14th at 6:00 p.m.** for the presentation in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions call Jeanne Smith at (309) 369-5683.

Extraordinary Ministers Needed at OSF St. Francis

Please consider joining our team of volunteer Extraordinary Ministers at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center. Join us in the hospital's Gandhi meeting room for an informational meeting on Monday October 28th and training session on Tuesday October 29th at 6:00 p.m. These volunteers perform a great service to the Church, by distributing Holy Communion to God's people on those occasions where they are hospitalized.

If you are interested in learning about this ministry to the sick, please scan to register

Contact information
John R. Phillips, Administrative
Secretary, Pastoral Care
Department
john.r.phillips@osfhealthcare.org
(309) 655-2084





2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal

September 7-8, 2024

Do everything for the *Glory of God*



Thank you to all who made a pledge to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. To date, we have received pledges totaling \$115,000 towards our goal of \$130,000. Your generosity helps give food to the hungry, training to our seminarians, prepare engaged couples for the sacrament of marriage, give support to parishes and leadership in our schools. If you have not completed a pledge card, please do so. There are envelopes in the narthex. Every dollar raised to make our goal supports important diocesan ministries, and every dollar raised over our goal will be kept in the parish. To those who have pledged, thank you!

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

Join us for a night about the **Afterlife!**

NEXT LIFE NIGHT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

6-8PM

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

SEE YOU THERE!

PEORIA AREA LIFETEEN

Fall Yard Clean-Up For Veterans

The Illinois Valley Fuller Center for Housing is offering FREE fall yard cleanups for Veterans and widows of Veterans. Volunteers will provide a maximum of 2 hours of service during the month of November. To sign up for this service or to volunteer call 309-678-9552.



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

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!

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A FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT SOPHIA'S KITCHEN

Sunday, October 27 | 10 AM to 2 PM

Sophia's Kitchen | 105 N. Richard Pryor Place, Peoria

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Reserve your frozen quart today. \$15 a quart. Take it home to enjoy a warm soup one day this winter.

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Minestrone

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Pumpkin Maple Bacon
Stuffed Pepper Soup

Beautiful painted soup bowls available for a \$25 donation. Come browse our craft area and check out the baked goods made by Sr. Salvacion and friends!

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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 3,000,000+ 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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St. Thomas the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin



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