

**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

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

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John Mackoway.....699-5213

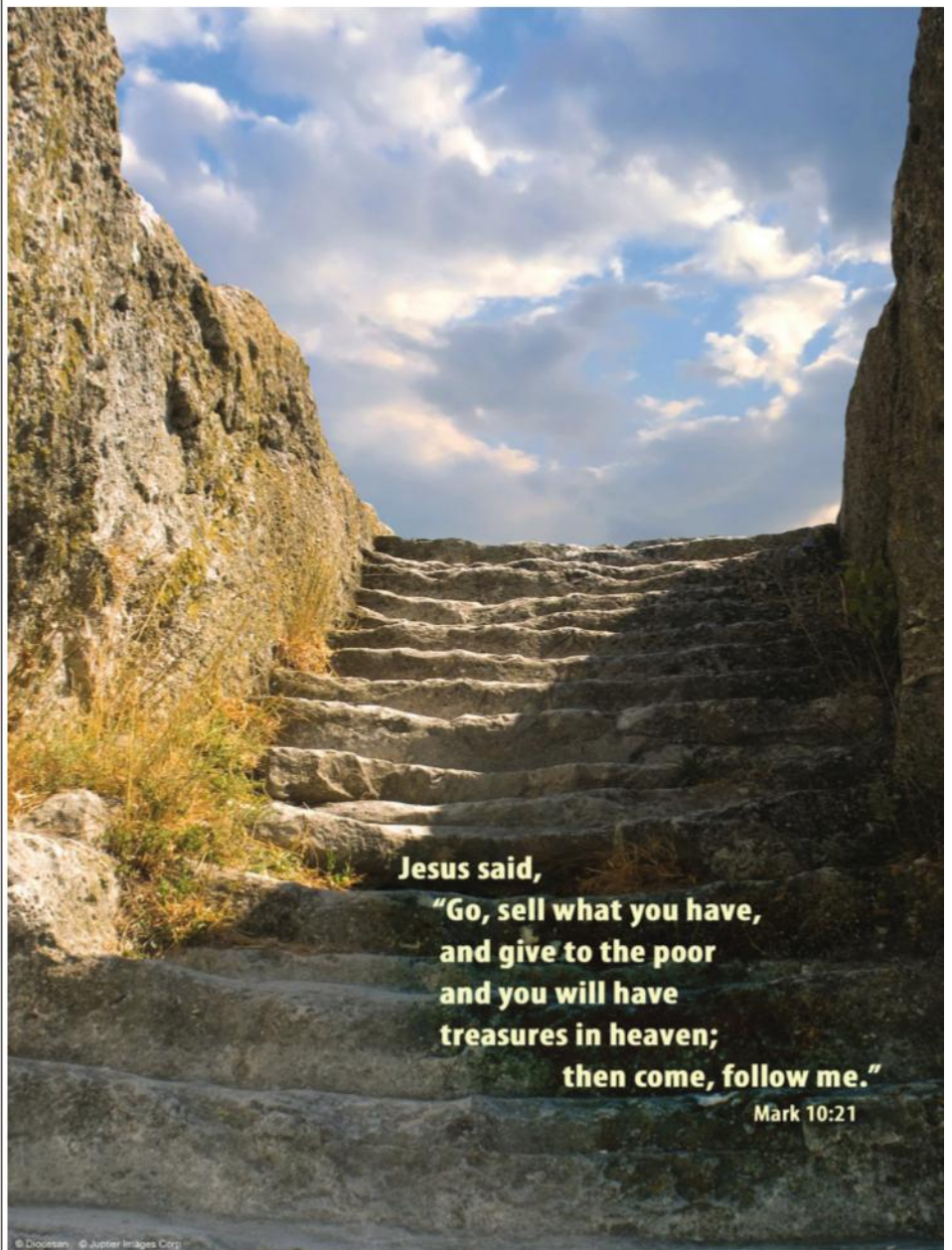
Stay in Touch

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 13, 2024

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Jesus said,
"Go, sell what you have,
and give to the poor
and you will have
treasures in heaven;
then come, follow me."**

Mark 10:21



From Our Pastor

I am away this weekend, attending the Canon Law Society of America. I am grateful for Father Leo's help in managing the parish while I'm away.

Each fall, we invite parishioners to consider serving on the Parish Council. The Parish Council advises the pastor regarding all aspects of the pastoral life of the parish. I have found the suggestions and recommendations of the council members to be very beneficial.

The Parish Council is assisting now in the implementation phase of the Growing Disciples program. I have asked the Council members to assist in evaluating and revitalizing various areas of parish life, focusing on our liturgical, catechetical, spiritual, and social activities. I always want to find ways to draw together our parish and school families.

If you are interested, or know someone who would be helpful, please consider making a recommendation for a new Parish Council member.

We continue to have openings for Mass intentions. You are welcome to request that a Mass be said for a loved one's intention, either living or deceased, or for a benefit, such as praying for vocations. Mass intentions can be requested by submitting them to the parish office. Asking for the graces of a Mass offered for another person is a valuable spiritual gift for a loved one.

Please join us for our Parish Holy Hour this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. as we honor the Eucharist and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

I am grateful to our ushers who have helped us return to the regular practice of taking up a collection at our Masses. Please be generous in supporting our Parish. We depend on your regular contributions to continue our work at St. Thomas!

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of October 13, 2024

Sunday	Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Wisdom 7: 7-11; Hebrews 4: 12-13; Mark 10: 17-30 OR Mark 10: 17-27
Monday	St. Callistus I, Pope & Martyr Galatians 4: 22-24, 26-27, 31—5:1; Luke 11:29-32
Tuesday	St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church Galatians 5: 1-6; Luke 11: 37-41
Wednesday	St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin Galatians 5: 18-25; Luke 11: 42-46
Thursday	St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr Ephesians 1: 1-10; Luke 11: 47-54
Friday	St. Luke, Evangelist 2 Timothy 4: 10-17b; Luke 10: 1-9
Saturday	St. John de Brébeuf & Isaac Jogues, Priests & Companions, Martyrs Ephesians 1: 15-23; Luke 12: 8-12
Sunday	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 53: 10-11; Hebrews 4: 14-16; Mark 10: 35-45 OR Mark 10: 42-45

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 14, 2024

7:00 a.m. Sue McWhirter
8:00 a.m. Tho Dang/Linh Luong

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

7:00 a.m. Matt Leali
8:00 a.m. Joyce Whitney/Lucy Schriber

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

7:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Stark, S.J.
8:00 a.m. Melvin & Lucille Noe/Mary Ann Noe

Thursday, October 17, 2024

7:00 a.m. Shawn Connolly/Cari Connolly
2:30 p.m. Larry Harmon/John & Julie Chan & Family

Friday, October 18, 2024

7:00 a.m. Betty Pegg
8:00 p.m. Meinardo Ravago

Saturday, October 19, 2024

8:00 a.m. John Carlson/Kitty Bienemann
5:00 p.m. Ann Lloyd Wiesemann/Julie & Michael Henson

Sunday, October 20, 2024

8:00 a.m. For the People
10:00 a.m. Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist
5:00 p.m. John Michael Jackson/Ed & Cathy Mallow

Week of October 13

- MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, October 13, 7:00 p.m., School Gym
- INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY** Monday, October 14, Parish Office & School Closed
- HOW CAN WE GIVE BACK?** Bukoba Presentation, Monday, October 14, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- ROSARY** Tuesday, October 15, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel
- CCD** Wednesday, October 16, 6:00 p.m., School
- FIRST RECONCILIATION FAMILY MEETING** Wednesday, October 16, 6:00 p.m., School Library
- OCIA** Wednesday, October 16, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- IGNATOUS BIBLE STUDY** Thursday, October 17, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR** Thursday, October 17, 7:00 p.m., Church
- TMIY** Friday, October 18, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>Extra Confession Sunday</i>	October 27
<i>All Saints Day</i>	November 1
<i>Coffee & Donuts (PreK/K)</i>	November 3
<i>Adoration</i>	November 8



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

October 6, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$280,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$21,666.....	\$206,292
Electronic Collections.....	\$3,990.....	\$48,323
Total Collected.....	\$25,656.....	\$254,615
Over/(Short).....	\$5,656.....	\$(26,386)

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

Parish Council Openings

The Parish Council is a group of nine individuals who were selected to represent the Parish by advising and assisting the pastor in the following ways:

- by promoting the Catholic faith in the Parish and in the community;
- by developing a pastoral plan and facilitating the participation of parishioners;
- by monitoring Parish activities for effectiveness;
- by coordinating charitable works for those in need in the Parish and community.

Members of the Council commit to a three-year term and meet once per month for one hour, generally on the third Tuesday of each month, with breaks for holidays.

Prospective candidates should be practicing Catholics who support St. Thomas and are engaged in the life of the Parish. It is helpful if the candidate brings some familiarity or involvement in the activities of the Parish or the School

If you would like to be considered for an open position on the Parish Council, or if you would like to nominate someone to be considered, please contact the parish office.

OCIA Schedule

- 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

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October 2024

My dear friends in Christ,

As we move into October, a month that has traditionally been a powerful period of reflection and mobilization for our Church's missionary efforts, I write on behalf of the missionary men and women spreading the Gospel in 1,150 mission territories, to humbly and boldly seek your support.

This October presents us with another profound opportunity to renew our commitment to the Great Commission. World Mission Sunday serves as a call to mobilize faith, resources, and action in introducing the Gospel to our brothers and sisters living in the further reaches of our world.

Pope Francis has chosen as this year's theme: *Go and invite everyone to the banquet*, inspired by the parable of the wedding banquet in Matthew 22:9. This theme calls us to reach out and welcome all to the feast of God's love, echoing the inclusivity and urgency of the king's invitation. We are to reflect this divine hospitality, bringing joy, compassion, and hope to everyone we encounter.

Friends, the invitation to the banquet is more than just a call; it is a transformative journey of embracing and sharing God's love. Through our shared efforts and God's unceasing grace, may our hearts remain open to His call, and may our actions reflect His boundless love!

Peace and Prayers,

✦ Most Reverend Louis Tylka
Bishop of Peoria

Winter Coat Drive



St. Thomas Parish will once again be participating in a Winter Coat Drive, to benefit the Salvation Army Coats for Kids program, serving those less fortunate in our community.

Barrels for donations are located at the top and bottom of the church staircase. Please bring in any new or like-new Winter Coats, gloves, hats, scarfs and drop them in the barrels. The **coat drive will run through Sunday, November 10th.**



Thank you for your support of this program.

Thank You

St. Thomas OktoberFest 2024 was a success from the food to the band and especially the great weather! Events like this are not possible without support from both our church and school community who attend. In all everyone enjoyed the evening. Men's Club would like to thank all the volunteers that took time to help out from PTO, Women's Guild and our very own Men's Club. It also would not be possible without the donations received from Market Place Distributors.

Thanks again, St. Thomas Men's Club

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!



Pray the Respect Life Month Novena October 22-30, 2024

Join thousands of Catholics across the country in prayer for the protection of human life from conception to natural death. Each day of the novena features a different prayer intention, as well as a short reflection, ideas for building a culture of life, and more. Download the novena or sign up to get the daily prayers delivered straight to your inbox! Visit: [Respect Life Month Novena](#) | [USCCB Respect Life](#)

Wrapping Paper Drive for Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities needs our help. The elves at Catholic Charities will be wrapping between 500-600 presents to be delivered this Christmas Season. They need wrapping paper, Christmas gift bags, and ribbon.

St. Thomas is sponsoring a Wrapping Paper Drive for them. Please consider donating any old or new Christmas gift wrap, bags, or ribbon from your closet to the cause. **We will be collecting the supplies from October 13th—November 3rd.**

Supplies may be dropped off in the lower level of the Church by the stairs

Thank you for your generosity.



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast Cancer Risk Factors

Everyone wants to know what they can do to lower their breast cancer risk. Although doctors don't know what causes breast cancer, they do know there are factors linked to a higher-than-average risk of developing the disease. Some factors associated with an increase in breast cancer risk can't be changed. Other factors can be altered by making lifestyle choices. By choosing the healthiest lifestyle options possible, you can empower yourself and make sure your breast cancer risk is as low as possible. The known risk factors for breast cancer are listed below. This information is provided by [Breastcancer.org](https://www.breastcancer.org/risk/risk-factors). Please visit <https://www.breastcancer.org/risk/risk-factors> to read more about the following risk factors and ways you can minimize them in your own life. If a factor can't be changed (such as your genetics), you can learn about protective steps to help keep your risk as low as possible.

Known breast cancer risk factors ~ Non-modifiable (you can't change)

Sex: Being a woman, or a person assigned female at birth, is one of the most important risk factors for developing breast cancer.

Age: As with many other diseases, your risk of breast cancer goes up as you get older. About two out of three invasive breast cancers are found in women 55 or older.

Family History: Women with close relatives — sisters, mothers, or daughters — who have been diagnosed with breast cancer have a higher risk of developing the disease.

Genetics: About 5% to 10% of breast cancers are thought to be hereditary, caused by abnormal genes passed from parent to child.

Personal History of Breast Cancer: If you've been diagnosed with breast cancer, you're three to four times more likely to develop a new cancer in the other breast or a different part of the same breast.

Radiation to Chest or Face Before Age 30: If you had radiation to the chest or face to treat another cancer or acne, you have a higher-than-average risk of breast cancer.

Certain Breast Changes: If you've been diagnosed with certain benign (not cancer) breast conditions, you may have a higher risk of breast cancer.

Dense Breasts: Women with dense breasts have a higher risk of developing breast cancer.

Race/Ethnicity: White women are slightly more likely to develop breast cancer than Black, Hispanic, and Asian women. But Black women are more likely to develop more aggressive, more advanced-stage breast cancer diagnosed at a young age.

Menstrual History: Women who had their first period before they turned 12 have a higher risk of breast cancer later in life.

Pregnancy History: Your age when you give birth to your first child and the number of times you've given birth — including if you've never had a full-term pregnancy — can affect your risk of developing breast cancer.

Modifiable risk factors (you can make changes):

Being Overweight: Overweight and obese women have a higher risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer compared to women who maintain a healthy weight, especially after menopause.

Breastfeeding History: Breastfeeding can lower breast cancer risk, especially if you breastfeed for longer than one year.

Using HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy): Some types of HRT can increase your risk of breast cancer.

Drinking Alcohol: Research shows that drinking alcoholic beverages of any kind increases a woman's risk of hormone receptor-positive breast cancer.

Lack of Exercise: Research shows a link between exercising regularly at a moderate or intense level for four to seven hours per week and a lower risk of breast cancer.

Smoking: Smoking is linked to a higher risk of breast cancer in younger, pre-menopausal women.

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.



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.

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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Road Rally for Life and Pizza Sunday October 20th

This FUNdraiser, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #5034, is for both Peoria pregnancy resource centers: Women's Care Center and Destiny for Women.

Road Rally: Cars leave at 2:00pm from St. Mary's in Kickapoo. This is approximately a two-hour road rally on mostly back roads of central Illinois. Each team is given a set of directions and questions. Cars leave at one-minute intervals.

Teams are judged on time, mileage and answers. Cost of Road Rally is \$10.

Pizza: Pizza will be served 4:30pm - 6:30pm back at St. Mary's Kickapoo. Pizza buffet is \$10 for adults or \$20 for families with kids. Bring your own beverage including BYOB. Ice water and lemonade free. Soda \$1 a can.

You can do both the Road Rally and pizza or just pizza. If you plan on coming for pizza, give us a heads up and **text the # of people by Saturday the 19th to my cell: 309-635-3276 Rick Smith**



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 class of 2026)

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