

## 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

School Principal: Maureen Bentley....(x1210)  
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CCD Coordinator: Liz Plaskon .....

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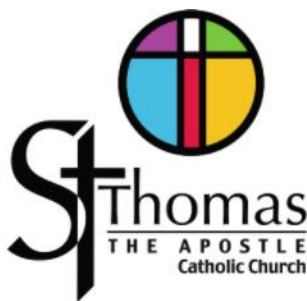
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parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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).



October 20, 2024

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Through his suffering,  
my servant shall justify many.**

— Isaiah 53:11b



## From Our Pastor

I am grateful for Fr. Leo's help last week as I was in Albuquerque at the Canon Law Society of America Convention. During that meeting, I was able to give presentations on the investigation of causes of beatification and canonization of saints. Since causes of saints require a detailed and thorough investigation by the Church, canon lawyers have a special role in these processes and it was good to be able to share information about this part of ecclesiastical law.

I can confirm that interest in the Venerable Servant of God Archbishop Fulton Sheen is very high, and many want to know about recent developments. I have shared, in particular, the inlaid marble image of the JMJ in our narthex. According to pious tradition, Sheen would honor Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in this three letter inscription that he wrote on the chalkboards or papers he used. This image is a reproduction of Sheen's own handwritten JMJ and was scanned from one of his own handwritten notes in the archives of the Sheen Museum. I'm not aware of any other church that has reproduced this pious inscription, so we have a unique and special element at St. Thomas that exists nowhere else.

This week the Bishop will gather on Tuesday and Wednesday with the priests of this Diocese for our priests' Assembly Days. During these days, the priests will spend time with one another and with our Bishop. We spend time learning about any updates to the initiatives of the Diocese.

I ask you to remember the priests of this Diocese in your prayers. Pray also for our Bishop, our seminarians, and the future seminarians who may be called to study for the priesthood. May God bless us and strengthen us in his service.

- Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of October 20, 2024

- Sunday**      **Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Isaiah 53: 10-11; Hebrews 4: 14-16; Mark 10: 35-45 OR  
Mark 10: 42-45
- Monday**      Ephesians 2: 1-10; Luke 12: 13-21
- Tuesday**      **St. John Paul II, Pope**  
Ephesians 2: 12-22; Luke 12: 35-38
- Wednesday**      **St. John of Capistrano, Priest**  
Ephesians 3: 2-12; Luke 12: 39-48
- Thursday**      **St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop**  
Ephesians 3: 14-21; Luke 12: 49-53
- Friday**      Ephesians 4: 1-6; Luke 12: 54-59
- Saturday**      Ephesians 4: 7-16; Luke 13: 1-9
- Sunday**      **Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Jeremiah 31: 7-9; Hebrews 5: 1-6; Mark 10: 46-52

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, October 21, 2024

- 7:00 a.m.      Fred Darche/Mark, Barb, & Joe Ruff  
8:00 a.m.      Sam & Eleanor Becker/Nancy Becker

### Tuesday, October 22, 2024

- 7:00 a.m.      Dr. James N. Kenny, Sr./Family  
8:00 a.m.      Lori Russell-Chapin/Kitty Bienemann

### Wednesday, October 23, 2024

- 7:00 a.m.      Hop Nguyen/Linh Luong  
8:00 a.m.      Betty Patterson/Abby Bode

### Thursday, October 24, 2024

- 7:00 a.m.      Donna Abdnour/Steve & Linda Schrader  
**2:30 p.m.**      Jim Hagemann/Judith & Ron Arnold

### Friday, October 25, 2024

- 7:00 a.m.      Joan Kulpa/Pat Schwerer  
8:00 p.m.      Raymundo Aguila, Jr./Aguila Family

### Saturday, October 26, 2024

- 8:00 a.m.      Joe Lucas/Family  
5:00 p.m.      Walter & Anthony Arnold/Family

### Sunday, October 27, 2024

- 8:00 a.m.      For the People  
10:00 a.m.      Jim Hagemann/Mike & Theresa Haughney  
5:00 p.m.      Gerald Delatt/Messmer Family

## Week of October 20

- MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, October 20, 7:00 p.m., School Gym
- ROSARY** Tuesday, October 22, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel
- MILLIONS OF MONICAS** Tuesday, October 22, 7:00 p.m., Daily Mass Chapel
- CCD** Wednesday, October 23, 6:00 p.m., School
- OCIA** Wednesday, October 23, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- WOMEN OF THE WORD** Thursday, October 24, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall
- TMIY** Friday, October 25, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall
- TRUNK OR TREAT** Friday, October 25, 5:30 p.m., Back Parking Lot
- EXTRA CONFESSION SUNDAY** Sunday, October 27, following all Masses

### UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>All Saints Day</i>	<i>November 1</i>
<i>Coffee &amp; Donuts (PreK/K)</i>	<i>November 3</i>
<i>Adoration</i>	<i>November 8</i>
<i>St. Thomas Holy Hour</i>	<i>November 21</i>
<i>Extra Confession Sunday</i>	<i>November 24</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.

## Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week

## Baptism Congratulations

Jonathan Hugh Graham, son of  
Nicole & Landen Graham

## 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.

## Weekly Collection

October 13, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$300,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$6,488.....	\$212,986
Electronic Collections.....	\$3,989.....	\$52,312
Total Collected.....	\$10,447.....	\$265,298
Over/(Short).....	\$(9,523).....	\$(34,702)

**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](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Thank you for your support.**

Sponsor of the Week



**ST THOMAS SUMMARY REPORT OF OPERATING REVENUE AND EXPENSES**

**Quarter and Year Ending June 30, 2024**

	Quarter Ending June 30, 2024		YTD June 30, 2024	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
<b>CHURCH</b>				
<b>Operating Revenue</b>				
Collections, Gifts and Bequests	249,800	321,600	1,059,200	964,000
Other: Parish Organizations, Etc	23,400	10,150	65,300	367,350
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>273,200</b>	<b>331,750</b>	<b>1,124,500</b>	<b>1,331,350</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Salary and Related	48,900	50,950	202,300	206,000
PND Tuition & Assessment	23,800	24,000	95,200	96,000
Other Operating Expenses	140,200	98,850	460,000	415,200
<b>Total Church Expenditures</b>	<b>212,900</b>	<b>173,800</b>	<b>757,500</b>	<b>717,200</b>
<b>NET CHURCH OPERATING REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>				
	<b>60,300</b>	<b>157,950</b>	<b>367,000</b>	<b>614,150</b>
<b>SCHOOL</b>				
<b>Operating Revenue</b>				
Tuition and Fees	205,000	201,600	1,022,800	1,012,500
Other: Café, Athletics, etc	300,500	131,900	895,200	699,900
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>505,500</b>	<b>333,500</b>	<b>1,918,000</b>	<b>1,712,400</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
School Expenditures	645,400	485,400	2,129,700	1,999,850
Other: Café, Athletics, etc	109,600	113,400	529,700	526,700
<b>Total School Expenditures</b>	<b>755,000</b>	<b>598,800</b>	<b>2,659,400</b>	<b>2,526,550</b>
<b>NET SCHOOL OPERATING EXPENSES OVER REVENUE</b>				
	<b>(249,500)</b>	<b>(265,300)</b>	<b>(741,400)</b>	<b>(814,150)</b>
<b>COMBINED OPERATING EXPENSES OVER REVENUE</b>				
	<b>(189,200)</b>	<b>(107,350)</b>	<b>(374,400)</b>	<b>(200,000)</b>
<b>NON OPERATING ACTUAL REVENUE/EXPENSES</b>				
Annual Giving	38,600		240,100	
Depreciation	(21,200)	(21,200)	(42,400)	(42,400)
Investments	27,100	25,000	188,800	100,000
<b>Total Non Operating Revenue</b>	<b>44,500</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>386,500</b>	<b>57,600</b>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS</b>				
	<b>(144,700)</b>	<b>(103,550)</b>	<b>12,100</b>	<b>(142,400)</b>
<b>NOTE:</b> The unrealized activity of our investments is not included in the above numbers. Those numbers are stated below.				
Unrealized Appreciation	79,200	25,000	473,400	100,000

SO LET US  
CONFIDENTLY  
APPROACH  
THE THRONE  
OF GRACE  
TO RECEIVE  
MERCY AND TO  
FIND GRACE  
FOR TIMELY HELP  
**HEBREWS 4:16**

*Our soul waits  
for the Lord,  
who is our help  
and our shield  
PSALM 33:20*



**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 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Thank you for your support of this program.



**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 13<sup>th</sup>—November 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Supplies may be dropped off in the lower level of the Church by the stairs

Thank you for your generosity.



# 2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal

September 7-8, 2024

## Do everything for the Glory of God



Have you made a pledge for the 2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal? There is still time. A gift to the ADA, large or small, can go a long way. Consider a one-time gift or a monthly pledge for eight months. 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 date, we have received pledges totaling \$115,000 towards our goal of \$130,063.

To those who have pledged,  
thank you!



## OCIA Schedule

**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

**Dec 4:** Blessed Virgin Mary, Rosary

**Dec 11:** Penance, Anointing, Funerals

## Immediate Opening at St. Thomas School

1. Teacher's aide/aftercare support worker  
Hours: 1:30-5:30 p.m. daily

If you are interested in either position please contact Mrs. Maureen Bentley, Principal, at [MaureenBentley@stthomas-school.net](mailto:MaureenBentley@stthomas-school.net)

## Catholic Women's League Annual Membership Meeting

**Monday, November 11, 2024**

9:30 am Social

10:00 am Meeting

Light Refreshments

at Buehler Home - Gathering Center  
3415 N. Sheridan Road, Peoria 61604



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.

**October 22 at 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas Daily Mass Chapel**

For more information visit [www.millionsofmonicas.com](http://www.millionsofmonicas.com)

## 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](#)

An additional reflection for this month: [I Came So That They Might Have Life](#) | [Respect Life](#)

## Thank You

Perfect weather and friends coming together for an afternoon of golf and comradery combined for a very successful Msgr. Watson Memorial Golf Outing. A total of \$10,500 profit was realized, all to benefit our *Sponsor a Student Scholarship* fund. Thank you to all the volunteers without whom all this would not have been possible. Special thanks to Tim Streid who put in countless hours in planning and logistics.



## Morning of Recollection by the Divine Mercy Cenacle of Peoria

Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. - Noon

St. Jude Church, 10811 Knoxville Ave., Peoria Hettinger Hall

Continental breakfast; 2 talks by Fr. Jeremy Freehill of St. Ann parish, Peoria; and praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet for your intentions.

Daily Mass at St. Jude available 8:30 a.m.

FREE, but please RSVP for breakfast planning to [paulagottmoller@gmail.com](mailto:paulagottmoller@gmail.com) or [polester500@msn.com](mailto:polester500@msn.com)

## 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!

## 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 weekend **will be held in the Peoria diocese October 25-27, 2024**. Information about the retreat can be found online at [cdop.org/rachels-vineyard](https://cdop.org/rachels-vineyard) or by calling Colleen at 309-264-1489, or by email at [rvrpeoria@gmail.com](mailto:rvrpeoria@gmail.com).

This October, St. Philomena gives thanks for **30 years of the perpetual adoration ministry** in our parish. The St. Philomena adoration chapel is accessible 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week; only closing for the Triduum. Ideally we have regular, scheduled adorers each hour of each day of the week.

We invite you to spend an hour with Jesus each week in our adoration chapel as a perpetual adorer. Adorers can be from any parish in our area. For more information or to sign up to be an adorer, contact the parish office or visit our website: [stphils.com/church/faith-formation/prayers/](https://stphils.com/church/faith-formation/prayers/) If you cannot be a scheduled adorer at this time, we welcome you to still be a part of this ministry as a substitute or to pray in the chapel as you can.

To check out a keycard to our chapel, come to the St. Philomena parish office (1000 W Albany, Peoria), Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm. Questions: 309-682-8642 or [adoration@stphils.com](mailto:adoration@stphils.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](https://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 \_\_\_\_\_



**visit**  
[itoosociety.org](https://itoosociety.org)  
for additional event info  
and to preorder for  
Saturday's drive-thru

**ITOO HALL**  
FARMINGTON RD

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 (3PM-6PM)**  
*preorder/drive-thru only (all orders prepaid)*  
*orders due by end of day Friday, November 1*  
*no orders taken on site Saturday*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 (11AM-5PM)**  
*dine-in seating / buffet serving*  
*carry-outs available*  
*bake sale & raffles*

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**Meal includes:** cabbage rolls, baked kibbeh,  
green beans, chicken & rice, salad, pita bread

**\$20 / MEAL**

## SPOONFUL

A FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT SOPHIA'S KITCHEN

Sunday, October 27 | 10 AM to 2 PM

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

Our masterful volunteer cooks have created  
delicious soups for you to enjoy!

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

Chili  
Chicken Stew  
Taco Soup  
Yummy Bean  
Minestrone

Grandma's Hamburger Soup  
Mexican Pork Pasole  
Old Fashioned Vegetable Beef  
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  
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Make your reservation online  
today at: <https://bit.ly/Soup24>



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*Save the Date!*


ST. JOSEPH NEWMAN CENTER

# ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER

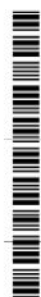
Friday | 07 | February  
2025

5:30 PM COCKTAIL HOUR  
6:30 PM DINNER & PROGRAMMING  
GUEST SPEAKER: FR. DOUG GRANDON

PEORIA, IL



Catholic Campus Ministry for Bradley University



**How to Submit Bulletin Information**  
Send information for the bulletin to [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto: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.
- 1341 - Sheris—Finance & 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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