

**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)
msggray@stthomas-church.net

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Leopold Mushobozi.. (x4)
Fr_Leo@stthomas-church.net

Fr. Fortunatus Rutaiwa.....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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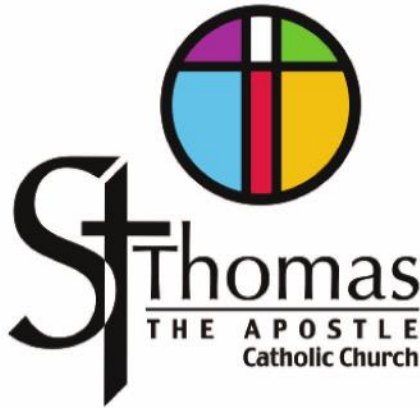
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)
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Music Coordinator: Ann Horst...(309)208-4862

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

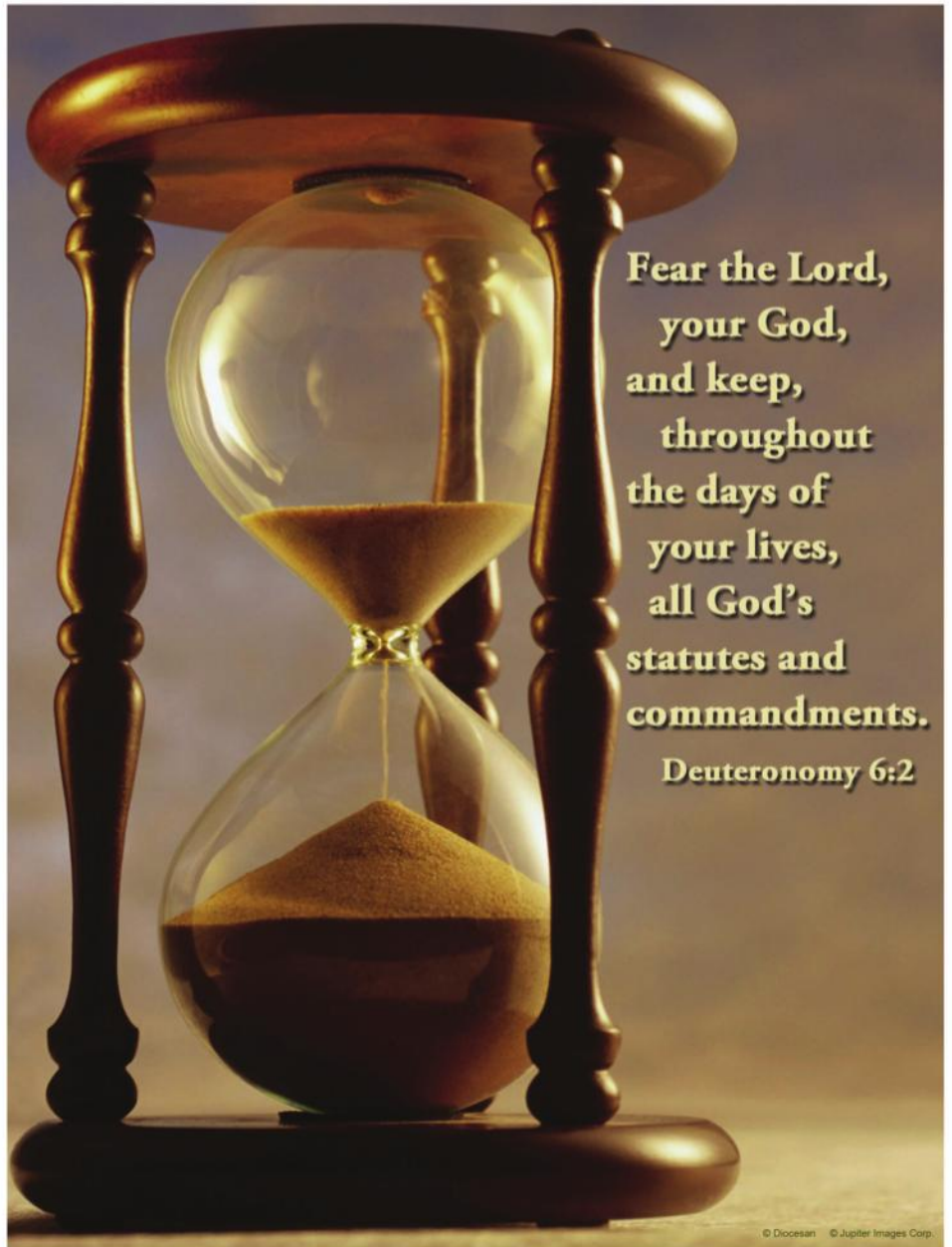
Stay in Touch

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).



November 3, 2024

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time





From Our Pastor

In October each year, the parishes of the Diocese take a count of all the people attending Mass over two weekends for statistical purposes. We had 794 people attending this year. This is an improvement since Covid over 2020 (618 people), 2021 (705 people), 2022 (771 people). However, it is a drop from last year in 2023 (889 people).

It is possible that last year was an unusual year, since the weekends for our Mass counts were held on the weekends on which we hosted the Diocesan Seminarian Support Group and the Light of the World Retreat. However, I bring this to our attention, since I believe there is still much work to be done in bringing the faithful back to the Mass.

I brought this subject to our Parish Council to discuss ways we can encourage Mass attendance and greater engagement with the Faith among parishioners, and especially our school families.

I am also happy to announce that we have reached our parish goal for the Annual Diocesan Appeal. However, this goal was reached based on the participation of approximately 15% of our parish families.

I express my gratitude to all those who have made a generous pledge to the ADA, as well as to the many dedicated parishioners who give in the Sunday collection or in support of tuition assistance at St. Thomas School.

At the same time, there is also a challenge for those who have not taken part. If you haven't made a pledge, I still encourage you to do so. Every dollar over our goal comes back to the parish as a rebate. (Rebates are not counted as income for the purpose of calculating next year's goal for the ADA!) Also, if you haven't given to our Sunday offertory, please consider taking a more active role in support of your parish.

We count on your support to manage our expenses, including the added position of Director of Faith Formation this year, as well as the increased cost of inflation that we all experience.

Thank you for your generous participation and contribution to St. Thomas the Apostle Parish!

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of November 3, 2024

Sunday	Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Deuteronomy 6: 2-6; Hebrews 7: 23-28; Mark 12: 28b-34
Monday	St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop Philippians 2: 1-4; Luke 14: 12-14
Tuesday	Philippians 2: 5-11; Luke 14: 15-24
Wednesday	Philippians 2: 12-18; Luke 14: 25-33
Thursday	Philippians 3:3-8a; Luke 15: 1-10
Friday	Philippians 3: 17—4: 1; Luke 16: 1-8
Saturday	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3: 9c-11, 16-17; John 2: 13-22
Sunday	Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Kings 17: 10-16; Hebrews 9: 24-28; Mark 12: 38-44 OR Mark 12: 41-44

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 4, 2024

7:00 a.m. Msgr. William Watson/Linh Luong
8:00 a.m. Intentions of Margaret Weinstein

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

7:00 a.m. Leonard F. Slye/Jack & Margaret Weinstein
8:00 a.m. Joe Lucas/Family

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

7:00 a.m. Rita Williams/Jeff & Jennifer Shields
8:00 a.m. Linda Marcacci/Ed & Cathy Mallow

Thursday, November 7, 2024

7:00 a.m. Dr. Bill Cusack/The Leary Family
2:30 p.m. Gene Cooper/Charles & Clare Tschirn

Friday, November 8, 2024

7:00 a.m. Betty Little/John & Amy Kelly
8:00 a.m. Tom Mikulecky/Pat Mikulecky

Saturday, November 9, 2024

8:00 a.m. Robert Newton/Friends & Family
5:00 p.m. Esther Antonacci/Michele Konecki

Sunday, November 10, 2024

8:00 a.m. Rita Williams/The Mallow Family
10:00 a.m. Dr. James Snyder, Jr./Dad
5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of November 3

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

SIGN-UP FOR FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION this Weekend after all Masses, narthex

COFFEE AND DONUTS Sunday, November 3, following morning Masses, Parish Hall

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, November 3, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, November 5, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CCD Wednesday, November 6, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, November 6, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WOMEN OF THE WORD Thursday, November 7, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

TMIY Friday, November 8, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

ADORATION Friday, November 8, following 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m., Church

CARMELITES Saturday, November 9, 11:00 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Thomas Holy Hour November 21
Extra Confession Sunday November 24

*Please pray for our Second Grade Students as they make
Their First Reconciliation
On Thursday, November 7 at 6:30 p.m.*



Pray with the Pope

November 2024

For Those Who Have Lost A Child

Let us pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community, and may receive peace of heart from the Spirit of Consolation.

Weekly Collection

October 27, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$340,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$15,890.....	\$239,802
Electronic Collections.....	\$3,300.....	\$56,503
Total Collected.....	\$19,190.....	\$296,305
Over/(Short).....	\$(810).....	\$(43,695)

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

Thomas Penn

Clementine Nkulu, sister of Fr. Marc Nkulu, SMA



Once each month we pause to spend time before our Lord during the hours of Adoration.

Please consider signing up to spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord.

Friday, November 8

Beginning after 8:00 a.m. Mass and continuing throughout the day, until Holy Hour at 7:00 p.m.

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.

Sponsor of the Week



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ST. CLEMENT COUNCIL #12407

Seminarian Fund Turkey Sale

BENEFITING SEMINARIANS FROM THE PEORIA DIOCESE

show your thanks

WITH YOUR TURKEY PURCHASE
Support the seminarians of the Diocese of Peoria by purchasing your Thanksgiving turkey through the Knights of Columbus, St. Clement Council.

Price
Frozen Turkey
Approximate size 11-13 lbs. **\$35**
OR
Deep Fried Turkey
Approximate size 11-13 lbs. **\$65**

**ORDER ONLINE BY NOVEMBER 11TH
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PICK UP DATES
Frozen Turkeys distributed after
Masses on November 23rd and 24th
outside Hettinger Hall.

Fried Turkeys available
Wednesday, November 27th from
10AM-1PM outside Hettinger Hall.

Thanks to the generous support of Kelleher's, our parish Knights will sell a limited number of whole turkeys. Choose a frozen bird or a deep-fried turkey prepared by our own Knights. A very limited number of fried birds will be available, which come with uncooked giblets in a covered foil pan for refrigeration and reheating instructions. **Don't miss out - order yours today while supplies last!**

Don't need a turkey, but still want to support the Seminarian Fund? There are two options from which to choose! You can make a monetary contribution, or you can purchase a frozen turkey for St. Vincent De Paul which will be used to support those in need in our community. These can be purchased in our online shop or drop a check in the collection payable to the Knights of Columbus, St. Clement Council 12407 with "Seminarian Fund Donation" or "Seminarian Fund SVDP Turkey" in the memo.

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners the Knights were able to support two seminarians in 2023, John Paul Stedwill and Anthony Willi from our parish.

Questions? Contact Andrew Morlock @ amorlock90@gmail.com or 314-799-7241

Thank you for your generosity!

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



Disaster Assistance Opportunity

You no doubt have learned of the devastation in our country due to hurricanes Helene and Milton. If you have wanted to help but were not sure how, we offer this opportunity. The National *St. Vincent de Paul Society* has a *Disaster Services* division. They are currently working in the Asheville, North Carolina area in cooperation with three SVdP conferences in the region. They are also working in Florida. SVdP volunteers are providing labor and basic assistance of all kinds, and they need donations.

Our St. Thomas SVdP Conference is gathering money to send to be used in the areas of greatest need. Please make your check out to *St. Vincent de Paul Society*, with a note designating *disaster relief* and drop it in the collection basket or in the Parish Office. We will then send the sum of donations to them on November 18th.

You may of course also donate directly to the National SVdP if you prefer:

<https://www.svdpdisaster.org>

We thank you for considering this - and for all that you do to make our ministry successful.

~ Mary Kay Pilat

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.



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.



2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal

September 7-8, 2024



Do everything for the Glory of God

Thanks to the generosity of a small percent of parish families, we have met our goal of \$130,063. Each gift is important to the mission of the diocese. If you have not yet had the opportunity, please return a pledge card with your response today. There are cards on the tables in the back of church. Your gift helps support the central ministries of our diocese including religious education of our young people, faith formation of adults, training of our future priests, Newman Centers on our college campuses and much more. Every dollar raised over our goal will return here to St. Thomas.

To those who have pledged,
thank you!



OCIA Schedule

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

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

Steubenville Youth Conference - JOLIET



June 27-29, 2025



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Ernie Hickman - Fr. Mike Schmitz - Lisa Cotter - Michael Gormley - Sonar Worship feat. Aly Aleigha

Current 8-12 graders are invited!



Register by
Nov. 18, 2024

Morning of Recollection by the Divine Mercy Cenacle of Peoria

Saturday, November 9th 9:00 a.m. - Noon
St. Jude Church, 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
paulagottemoller@gmail.com or polester500@msn.com

Join us in the Parish Hall for Coffee and Donuts
after Sunday morning Mass this weekend



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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dedication and steadfast faith. Millions
have experienced his intercession in times
of adversity and need.



DATE: Tuesday, November 12, 2024

LOCATION: St. Jude Catholic Church

ADDRESS: 10811 North Knoxville Avenue - Peoria, Illinois 61615 (309) 243-7811

VENERATION OF THE RELIC BEGINS: 2:00 PM

MASS IN HONOR OF SAINT JUDE: 6:30 PM

VENERATION ENDS: 10:00 PM

CHECK THE WEBSITE BELOW FOR OTHER LOCATIONS



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TOUR OF THE RELICS OF
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VISIT www.ApostleOfTheImpossible.com FOR COMPLETE DETAILS

Heavenly Father, thank you
for the precious gift of life.

Help us to cherish and protect
this gift, even in the midst of fear,
pain, and suffering.

Give us love for all people,
especially the most vulnerable,
and help us bear witness to the
truth that every life is worth living.

Grant us the humility to accept
help when we are in need,
and teach us to be merciful to all.


Through our words and actions,
may others encounter the
outstretched hands
of Your mercy.

We ask this through
Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Monday, November 4, 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.

Annual Motherhouse Bazaar 

Fri., Nov. 22 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sat., Nov., 23 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Motherhouse; 1175 St. Francis Ln.; E. Peoria

Christmas, Children's & Craft items, Plants, quilts,
Knitted & Crocheted items
Baked goods: donuts, breads, & cookies

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 _____

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 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.

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