

**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, 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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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).



*November 17, 2024*

*Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*



THEY WILL SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING IN THE CLOUDS  
**WITH GREAT POWER  
AND GLORY**





## From Our Pastor

Toward the end of each year we invite parishioners to contribute to our end-of-year fund that Msgr. Watson established many years ago. This appeal is usually focused on a particular need for the benefit of the parish or school. This year, I draw your attention to two items: one repair we made earlier and one we will make soon. Earlier in 2024, we repaired the roof above the main entrance on Lake Avenue. This repair solved a persistent water leak that we had in the narthex area. Recently, we identified the need to repair the wood frames and the seals around two stained glass windows on the south side of the narthex area. Thank you for your response to our traditional end-of-year appeal.

We have also been able to make additional repairs to our parking lot thanks to generous donations. This work will fix some potholes that have been developing in the areas where students are traditionally dropped off and picked up. I am thankful for the generosity of our parishioners.

With the help of our Director of Faith Formation, we have helped 28 students who are in the process of becoming Catholic or catching up on their sacraments. This is in addition to the 16 candidates in our OCIA program this year. I mention this because you may not be aware of the number of people who are seeking to come to the Catholic Faith or grow in their Catholic Faith. Please pray for them as they continue on their journey.

--Msgr. Gray

Sponsor of the Week

### **DENTURES PAR EXCELLENCE**

"Excellence in Removable Prosthodontics"

**Richard P. June, DDS**

[richardjunedds.com](http://richardjunedds.com)

Parishioner

**309-693-7200**

Trumpeter



## Readings for the Week of November 17, 2024

- Sunday**      **Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Daniel 12: 1-3; Hebrews 10: 11-14, 18; Mark 13: 24-32
- Monday**      **The Dedication of the Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul**  
Revelation 1: 1-4; 2: 1-5; Luke 18: 35-43
- Tuesday**      Revelation 3: 1-6, 14-22; Luke 19: 1-10
- Wednesday**      Revelation 4: 1-11; Luke 19: 11-28
- Thursday**      **The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
Revelation 5: 1-10; Luke 19: 41-44
- Friday**      **St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr**  
Revelation 10: 8-11; Luke 19: 45-48
- Saturday**      **St. Clement I, Pope**  
Revelation 11: 4-12; Luke 20: 27-40
- Sunday**      **Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**  
Daniel 7: 13-14; Revelation 1: 5-8; John 18: 33b-37

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, November 18, 2024

- 7:00 a.m.      Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist  
8:00 a.m.      Shawn Connolly/Cari Connolly

### Tuesday, November 19, 2024

- 7:00 a.m.      Fr. Robert Livingston/The Barkley Family  
8:00 a.m.      Ron Richardson/The Richardson Family

### Wednesday, November 20, 2024

- 7:00 a.m.      Janice Marie Kennedy/John & Amy Kelly  
8:00 a.m.      Diane Nowlan/Mary Ann & Sheldon Schafer

### Thursday, November 21, 2024

- 7:00 a.m.      David R. Hoffman/Jack & Margaret Weinstein  
**2:30 p.m.**      Melvin & Lucille Noe/Mary Ann Noe

### Friday, November 22, 2024

- 7:00 a.m.      Mary Cooper  
8:00 a.m.      Robert Newton/Friends & Family

### Saturday, November 23, 2024

- 8:00 a.m.      Intentions of Fr. Mark Nkulu, SMA/The Barkley Family  
5:00 p.m.      Jim Zogby/Karen Metzinger

### Sunday, November 24, 2024

- 8:00 a.m.      Patricia Messmer/The Messmer Family  
10:00 a.m.      Vivien Burek/George & Connie Burek  
5:00 p.m.      For the People

## Week of November 17

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, November 17, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

**ROSARY** Tuesday, November 19, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

**PARISH COUNCIL** Tuesday, November 19, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office

**CCD** Wednesday, November 20, 6:00 p.m., School

**CONFIRMATION FAMILY MEETING** Wednesday, November 20. 6:00 p.m., School

**OCIA** Wednesday, November 20, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY** Thursday, November 21, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR** Thursday, November 21, 7:00 p.m., Church

**TMIY** Friday, November 22, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**CHURCH CLEANING** Saturday, November 23, 8:30 a.m., Church

### UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>Extra Confession Sunday</i>	<i>November 24</i>
<i>Advent Mission</i>	<i>December 2</i>
<i>Parish Open House</i>	<i>December 7/8</i>



## 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

November 10, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000 .....	\$364,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$20,272 .....	\$277,640
Electronic Collections.....	\$7,145.....	\$64,468
Total Collected.....	\$27,417.....	\$342,108
Over/(Short).....	\$7,417 .....	\$(37,892)

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.

## Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week

Elaine Suau

## Baptism Congratulations

Fitzgerald Bradley Mishler  
Maeve Marian Mishler  
children of Blake and Mara Mishler

Emily Maria Truong  
Jordan the Great Francis Xavier Truong  
children of Khiem Truong and Mai Dinh

## Giving Tree



The Giving Tree is an important tradition at St. Thomas. The gift tags will be available soon. We ask you to take one or more of the tags and purchase the requested gift. Please give new gifts only.

**RETURN YOUR GIFTS IN GIFT BAGS WITH THE ORIGINAL TAG ATTACHED.** You may leave them under the Giving Tree in the Narthex, or deliver to the Parish Office. Your generosity providing gifts under the Giving Tree has been incredibly helpful in the past. Last year we were able to distribute gifts to almost 300 individuals. This includes St. Thomas Families, Foster Children, Catholic Charities, and neighbors in our community.

**MONETARY DONATIONS** This year a monetary donation might work best for many people. You can make your donation on our website: [stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Go to GIVING, then DONATE NOW. As you complete the form please Apply your Donation to The Giving Tree.

Please make your monetary donation as soon as possible so our elves have time to shop before the deadline.

**PLEASE RETURN GIFTS BY DECEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

## Job Opening

St. Thomas the Apostle is looking for a full time Administrative Assistant for our Parish Office. Applicants should be detail oriented and have experience with Microsoft Office and data entry. Confidentiality is required.


If interested, send your resume to [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net)

St. Thomas Advent Mission

# COME LET US ADORE HIM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2ND 7:00PM

An evening of  
Adoration, music,  
and testimony with  
singer-songwriter  
Matt Faley



PREPARE YOUR  
HEART THIS  
ADVENT

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish - 904 E. Lake St. Peoria Heights, IL

## Evangelization-Recruitment Drive **Knights of Columbus - Spalding Council #427**



The Spalding Council of the Knights of Columbus serves our Parish, St. Thomas the Apostle, as well as four other Peoria Parishes.



*We are Catholic men who lead, serve, protect, and defend. Together, we empower Catholic men to be better husbands, fathers, and neighbors. We live a life of Catholic faith in action. Join the two million Catholic men on a mission for God to save souls and better our communities.*

Spalding Council K of C will host a **Membership Drive** the weekend of **November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> following all Masses**. If you are a Catholic gentleman at least 18 years of age who is interested in joining the Knights of Columbus please see a member after Mass for more information and/or to apply for membership!

### OCIA Schedule

**Nov 20:** Eucharist

**Nov 27:** No Class, Thanksgiving

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

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

**Dec 18:** Marriage

**Dec 25:** NO Class

**Jan 1:** NO Class

From your Parish Nurse

### November is National Diabetes Month

Diabetes is a disease that occurs when your blood glucose, also called blood sugar, is too high. It affects about 38 million Americans, including adults and youth. Diabetes can damage the eyes, kidneys, nerves, and heart, and it is linked to some types of cancer.

But there's also good news: Taking charge of your health may help you prevent diabetes health problems.

#### Know your risk for developing diabetes

You are more likely to develop type 2 diabetes if you are overweight or obese; are age 35 or older; have a family history of diabetes; are African American, American Indian, Asian American, Hispanic or Latino, or Pacific Islander; are not physically active; or have prediabetes.

#### Manage your blood glucose, blood pressure, and cholesterol levels

Preventing diabetes or managing diabetes as soon as possible after diagnosis may help prevent diabetes health

problems. You can start by managing your diabetes ABCs.

- A is for the A1C test that healthcare professionals use to measure your average blood glucose levels. Some people with diabetes also use devices to track their blood glucose throughout the day and night.
- B is for blood pressure.
- C is for cholesterol.

Ask your health care team what your ABCs goals should be.

#### Take small steps toward healthy habits

Lifestyle habits such as planning healthy meals, being physically active, getting enough sleep, and not smoking may help you prevent diabetes or manage your diabetes ABCs. You don't have to do it all at once. Start slow and build healthier habits from there.

#### Take your medicines on time

Remember to take your medicines even if you feel healthy. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist if you have trouble taking your medicines on time or at the correct dose.

*Continued next week*

## 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!



## 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.

## Catholic Women's League of Peoria

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Tea Fundraiser*  
*Grandmothers, Mothers, Daughters,*  
*Granddaughters, & Friends are All Welcome*

Sunday, December 15

2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

St. Philomena Parish Center

### Agenda:

2:00 Welcome & Prayer

2:15 Tea-Time Menu

Scones

Finger

Sandwiches

Dessert

3:15 Entertainment

3:45 Closing Prayer



**RSVP BY November 30, 2024—Seating is Limited**

Mail reservations including Name(s), phone number, email, and check (payable to Catholic Women's League) to: Ann Gerardo, 3415 N. Sheridan Rd., Peoria IL 61604.

Cost: Adult \$35.00; Teen (13-18) \$20.00; Child (5-12) \$10.00; Reserved Table of 6 \$200.00

**Steubenville Youth Conference - JOLIET**

June 27-29, 2025

PEORIA AREA LIFETEEN

One weekend. Eternal impact.

Current 8-12 graders are invited!

Register by Nov. 18, 2024

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

## Donations needed for Sophia's Kitchen Food Pantry

- Healthy grains: oatmeal, brown rice, barley.
- Canned fruits: low sugar
- Vegetables: collard greens, carrots, green beans, peas, beans. Low sodium.
- Tomato products: paste, sauce, diced.
- Spaghetti sauce
- Spices: cinnamon, oregano, basil, pepper
- Personal care items: tampons, pads, toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, band aids, shaving cream.
- Toilet Paper
- Cleaning supplies: Comet, SOS pads, laundry soap, Spic and Span
- Treats: nail polish, chocolate syrup, coffee creamer
- Soap: bar or liquid
- Cereal and cereal bars
- Meat: canned chicken, tuna fish, Spam
- Soups: Healthy request/ low sodium/low fat

When donating, think nutritionally dense. Many of our guests suffer from high blood pressure and diabetes, or this might be the only nutrition they eat today. Please be mindful of sodium and sugar.

No glass or expired foods.

Donations accepted Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 3 PM  
105 N Richard Pryor Place, Peoria, IL 61605  
Ring bell at door to the far right next to the orange sign

### 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](http://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** \_\_\_\_\_



### Peoria Notre Dame's *12 Days of Christmas*

CASH & CAR RAFFLE

Early Bird winner of \$500 will be drawn November 21. Daily cash prizes will be awarded from December 9 through December 19 with the Grand Prize drawing for a 2025 Mazda CX-5 (MSRP \$31,485) on December 20. Tickets can be purchased from PND students or employees, by calling 309-691-8741, or online at [www.pndhs.com/12days](http://www.pndhs.com/12days). Ticket orders can be credited to PND students or staff for incentives.

Only 3,000 tickets will be sold. The cost is \$75 per ticket, 3 for \$200, 5 for \$300, 10 for \$550, and 12 for \$600. Official rules, details, and online purchasing can also be found at [www.pndhs.com/12days](http://www.pndhs.com/12days).

### 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!*

### 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

*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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 <p>We help the accused by listening, preparing, protecting, and caring. <b>309.999.1177</b> Maureen Williams, Owner/Parishioner</p>	 <p><b>Grandview Capital Group at Morgan Stanley</b> <b>Bob Manning</b> Senior Vice President Financial Advisor (309) 671 4653 401 Main St. Suite 1000, Peoria, IL 61602</p> 		

**market place**  
SELECTIONS

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Proud mother of Aberdeen  
(St. Thomas class of 2026)

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