

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

904 East Lake Avenue,
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parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

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msggray@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

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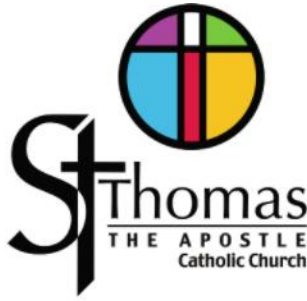
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)
parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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).



December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent



© Diocesan / The Annunciation (1819) - Peter Paul Rubens

Be vigilant at all times...
LK 21:36

HOPE

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



From Our Pastor

Today we enter into a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent. May these four weeks be a special time of focus and preparation for the birth of Our Savior. Let us make this a spiritual time of preparation.

To begin the Advent Season, please join us for adoration Monday night at 7 PM. This time of adoration will include spiritual music and reflections as well as an opportunity for confession. Confessions will also be heard after all the Sunday Masses through the Advent Season.

Our Giving Tree has begun and everyone is invited to bring in Christmas gifts for needy families. There are slips in the narthex with suggestions about gifts that are needed. Please bring in your gifts soon so we can distribute them to some needy families in our parish and in our community.

New members of the Parish Council were selected at our last meeting. I thank Stephanie Coad and Jessica Ramsay for their past service and I welcome Rick Picl and John Meisinger onto the Parish Council.

The Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Monday, December 9th this year since December 8th is the Second Sunday of Advent. On that day, we will add an additional 5:30 p.m. Mass to our morning Masses to give more parishioners the opportunity to honor the Blessed Mother. At that Mass we will also pray for our city, state and country as we look ahead to the new year, especially consecrating the Village of Peoria Heights to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We continue to accept applicants for the position of administrative assistant in the parish office. We are also accepting applicants for the position of music director at the Parish. Resumes should be submitted to the parish office.

- Msgr. Gray



Pray with the Pope

December 2024
For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



Readings for the Week of December 1, 2024

Sunday	First Sunday of Advent Jeremiah 33: 14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3: 12—4: 2; Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36
Monday	Isaiah 2: 1-5; Matthew 8: 5-11
Tuesday	St. Francis Xavier, Priest Isaiah 11: 1-10; Luke 10: 21-24
Wednesday	St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church Isaiah 25: 6-10a; Mathew 15: 29-37
Thursday	Isaiah 26: 1-6; Matthew 7: 21, 24-27
Friday	St. Nicholas, Bishop Isaiah 29: 17-24; Matthew 9: 27-31
Saturday	St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9: 35—10: 1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday	Second Sunday of Advent Baruch 5: 1-9; Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11; Luke 3: 1-6

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 2, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Tho Dang/Linh Luong
8:00 a.m.	Ron Richardson/The Richardson Family

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Renae Kathleen Juska/Beth Reed
8:00 a.m.	Msgr. William Watson/The Barkley Family

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Fr. Flavian, OFM/ Linda Osika
8:00 a.m.	Robert Newton/Friends & Family

Thursday, December 5, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Thanksgiving for the Williams Family
2:30 p.m.	Jim Hagemann/Paul & Ann Horst

Friday, December 6, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Ward, Nyla, & Needra Bell/Family
8:00 a.m.	Mr. James Vonnahme/The Barkley Family

Saturday, December 7, 2024

8:00 a.m.	Jeffrey Greenbough/Sarmiento & Greenbough Families
5:00 p.m.	Jim Zogby/Kerry & Linda Leifeld

Sunday, December 8, 2024

8:00 a.m.	John Snyder/Dad
10:00 a.m.	Melvin & Lucille Noe/Mary Ann Noe
5:00 p.m.	For the People

Week of December 1

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE Following all Masses Nov 30/ Dec 1

HEADING AVE FRANCISCAN SISTERS ROLAN JOHNSON ORNAMENT SALE
Following all Masses Nov 30/Dec 1

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

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

COFFEE & DONUTS Sunday, December 1, following morning Masses, Parish Hall

LIFETEEN Sunday, December 1, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, December 1, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ADVENT PARISH MISSION Monday, December 2, 7:00 p.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, December 3, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

PARISH COUNCIL Tuesday, December 3, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office

CCD Wednesday, December 4, 6:00 p.m. School

OCIA Wednesday, December 4, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WOMEN OF THE WORD Thursday, December 5, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

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

ADORATION Friday, December 6, following 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m., Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>Parish Open House</i>	<i>December 7/8</i>
<i>Mass for the Immaculate Conception</i>	<i>December 9</i>
<i>Simbang Gabi at St. Thomas</i>	<i>December 19</i>

Weekly Collection

November 17, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$400,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$17,755.....	\$295,395
Electronic Collections.....	\$1,616.....	\$66,084
Total Collected.....	\$19,371.....	\$361,479
Over/(Short).....	\$(629).....	\$(38,521)

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



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, December 6

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

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. 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 12th. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

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When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



Our December bulletin article is dedicated to you, our St. Thomas parishioners. We thank you so much for your prayers and your generous contributions to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Your prayers and financial support are what enable us to help the poor. You are the foundation of our mission. We couldn't do this without you.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Thomas helps approximately 40 to 45 families per month. Their needs are many, generally due to a situational change in their lives such as a job loss, a reduction in work hours, costly car repairs, an illness, an accident, or sometimes simply due to the circumstances of their birth. Your donations are spent helping the needy get their situational setback resolved. Your generosity prevents evictions, water or Ameren shut-offs, helps buy furniture for the homeless who are finally able to rent an apartment, and the list goes on. We tell those whom we serve that you are their source of help. They pray for you and are most grateful to you.

Those of us involved in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul say the following prayer at the end of every meeting. We want to share this prayer with you, as it reflects the spirit of our Vincentian Family.

Lord Jesus, you who willed to become poor, give us eyes and a heart directed toward the poor; help us recognize you in them, in their thirst, their hunger, their loneliness, and their misfortune. Enkindle within our Vincentian Family, unity, simplicity, humility, and the fire of love that burned in St. Vincent de Paul. Strengthen us, so that faithful to the practice of these virtues, we may contemplate you and serve you in the person of the poor, and may one day be united with you in your Kingdom. Amen

Again, we thank you. God bless you.

Al Barhorst, Bettsey Barhorst, Brian Barkley, Edie Brereton, Mary Brennan, Cissy Carlson, Chris Clemons, Jim Clemons, John Galbreath, Cynthia Hall, Mike Hallar, Loretta Hardgrove, Mary Heller, Nancy Higgins, Mike Hinchman, Kim Jaegle, Diana Janda, Mark Kelsch, Marlynn Kelsch, Brian Kemp, Colleen Matarelli, Jim Matarelli, Brian Medendorp, Nancy Medendorp, Jill Meints, Mary Jennifer Meister, Mark Milford, Rosemary Muchow, Mike Phelan, Mary Kay Pilat, Tom Pilat, Pat Pusey, Clarissa Rhode, Dave Schlicksup, Terri Schlicksup, Cindy Smith, Dan Smith, Don Smith, Jan Smith, Joan Utley, Linda Waible, Nanette Westerhold, and Walter Wilkins.

If you are interested in joining the St. Vincent de Paul Society, please call the church office at 688-3446, and a member who can answer your questions will contact you. Those of us who serve the needy through the Society know that we receive much more than we give.

~ Edie Brereton

Advent Sunday Vespers

The Heart of Peoria Catholic Community invites you to Advent Sunday Vespers with guest preacher Fr Daniel Dionesotes.

4:00pm— Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by silent adoration.

4:35pm— Evening Prayer closing with

Benediction.

Dec. 8th Sacred Heart Church
Dec. 15th St Joseph's Church
Dec. 22nd St. Mary's Cathedral

Come sing and pray with us as we prepare to celebrate our Savior's birthday.

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

OCIA Schedule

Dec 4: Blessed Virgin Mary, Rosary

Dec 11: Penance, Anointing, Funerals

Dec 18: Marriage

Dec 25: NO Class

Jan 1: NO Class

Jan 8: Orders, Religious Life

Jan 15: Liturgical year, Church tour, Mass Practice

Jan 22: Individual aspects of the Moral Life

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 30th and December 1st 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!

St. Thomas - Food Pantry

Items needed at this time are: Rice, Boxed pasta, stuffing & potato side dishes, Mac and Cheese, 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!

**Come Thrifting to Help
St. Thomas Pantry**

The week of **December 9th** is **St. Thomas Food Pantry week** at **Helping Hands Thrift Store!**

Proceeds from the week will be donated to our pantry. *Helping Hands* is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is located at 921 E. War Memorial Drive, Peoria Heights. Come see what treasures you can find and help our pantry at the same time!

**COOKIE EXCHANGE
& PICTURES WITH
SANTA
DECEMBER 15TH**

DIRECTLY AFTER 10 AM MASS
PARISH HALL

Cookies can be dropped off
at the parish kitchen prior
to the start of Mass!



Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn
Monday, December 2, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Saint Mark Church,
1113 W. Bradley Avenue, Peoria

Remembering Loved Ones
Join us in prayer at Mass Sat., Dec. 7, 9:30 am
Fr. Daniel Dionesotes, Celebrant



*St. Joseph of
Arimathea Chapel
Resurrection Mausoleum
7519 N Allen Rd, Peoria*




CATHOLIC
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OF PEORIA

www.ccapeo.org
309.691.5889

Catholic Women's League of Peoria
The 2nd 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
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

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




 **St. Thomas**
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

JOIN US FOR OUR PARISH

**Christmas
Open House**

DEC. 7TH & 8TH
AFTER ALL MASSES

Enjoy food and drinks in the parish hall in appreciation of our parishioners who do so much to make St. Thomas a great community.

— — — — —

If you would like to help make this event a success, call the parish office or Denise at
309.693.8633

Simbang Gabi

This Novena of Masses before Christmas is one of the oldest Christmas traditions in the Philippines, and has been practiced by Filipino Communities here in the U.S.

This year, 2024, is the third year of Simbang Gabi in Peoria, thanks in large part to Peoria's Bishop Louis Tylka (who participated in this religious custom at his former parish in Chicago) and the Franciscan Apostolic Sisters (reviving a tradition which was last observed in Peoria in 2007).

Since there are Filipinos who belong to the different parishes in the Peoria area, Bishop Lou wanted the Masses to be celebrated in different churches to mobilize the community and invite other parishioners.

The Simbang Gabi Novena will begin at the Cathedral of St. Mary with the first Mass (Saturday, December 14) celebrated by Bishop Lou.

2024 Simbang Gabi Masses:

- Saturday, December 14, 5pm:** Cathedral of St. Mary, Peoria (Bishop Louis Tylka)
- Sunday, December 15, 5pm:** St. Anthony, Bartonville (Father Charles Klamut)
- Monday, December 16, 5pm:** St. Joseph, Peoria (Father Bill Miller)
- Tuesday, December 17, 6pm:** St. Mark, Peoria (Father Robert Lampitt)
- Wednesday, December 18, 6pm:** Blessed Sacrament, Morton (Father Adam Cesarek)
- Thursday, December 19, 6pm:** St. Thomas, Peoria Heights (Monsignor Jason Gray)
- Friday, December 20, 5pm:** St. Vincent de Paul, Peoria (Father Stephen Willard)
- Saturday, December 21, 6:30pm:** St. Philomena, Peoria (Father Luke Spannagel)
- Sunday, December 22, 4pm:** Holy Family, Peoria (Father Greg Jozefiak)

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** _____



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.org/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.org/12days.



CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART

Advent Choir Concert

"THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CAME DOWN"

Date: Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024

Time: 7:00pm

Place: Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception,
607 NE Madison, Peoria, IL

Free Admission—Donations Appreciated

ADVENT HARP CONCERT

Join us for an evening of music to enter more deeply into the spirit of the Advent season. Monday, **December 9, 2024, 6:30-7:30pm**. St. Philomena Catholic Church, 1000 W Albany



Advent Evening Mass

During Advent, the priests of St. Philomena (1000 W Albany, Peoria) will offer an evening daily Mass at 5:30 pm each Monday through Friday from December 2-23. *All are welcome.*

Please gather with us this sacred season for

Advent Prayer Services

Hosted by Peoria Cursillo
at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Morton,
Illinois

**Beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Mondays
December 2, 9, & 16**

The Advent Services bring an opportunity for peace, stillness, and time to reflect on *Mary's Yes, Joseph's Yes, and Our Yes*, through prayer, Scripture, and music (including an Immaculate Conception Parish Mass on Dec. 9)



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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