

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

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)

Director of Faith Formation:
Mary Cushing.....(x1310)
marycushing@stthomas-church.net

School Principal: Maureen Bentley....(x1210)
maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

Administrative Assistant: Terri Moon.....(x0)
terrimoon@stthomas-church.net

Bulletin Editor: Peggy Sullivan.....(x1301)
peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net

Finance & Tuition: Sheris Catton.....(x1341)
sheriscatton@stthomas-church.net

CCD Coordinator: Liz Plaskon...(309)339-4775
ccd@stthomas-church.net

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

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

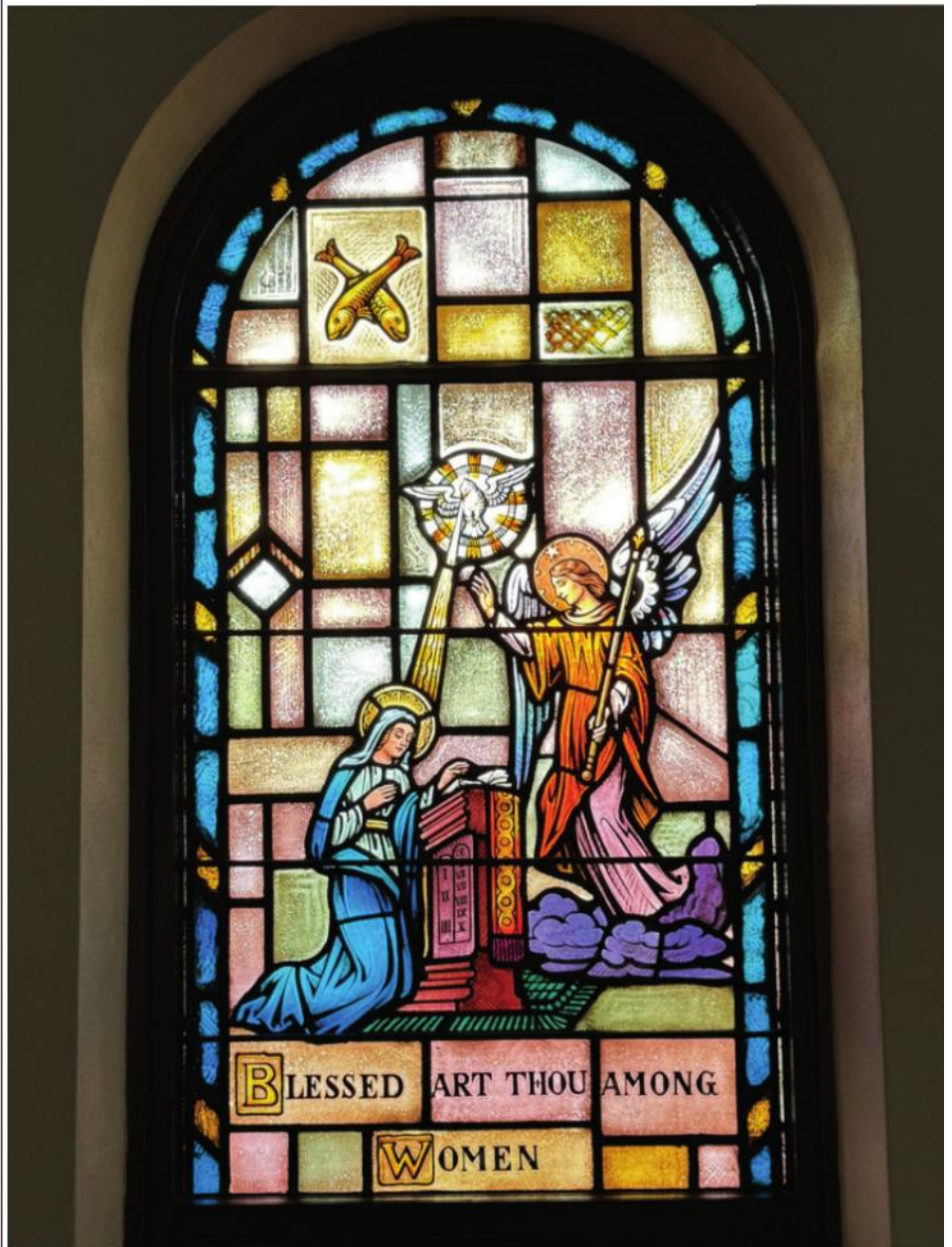
Annulment Consultant:
John Mackoway.....699-5213

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 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent - Peace





From Our Pastor

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, let us prepare ourselves for the coming birth of our Savior this week. As we have done through Advent, confessions will be heard after Masses this weekend. Furthermore, confessions will be available Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Although this is not a formal penance service, this will be the last chance for confessions before Christmas.

Please note our schedule of Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as we celebrate one of the high points in our liturgical year. The Incarnation is the mystery in which we celebrate the closeness of God who loved us so much that he became man for our salvation. As Fulton Sheen points out, Jesus' love for us is so great that God came to us in order to die. Since his love for us is so great, we need not have any fear to come to him.

I offer my thanks to all the parishioners who donated Christmas gifts for the Giving Tree. Those gifts were distributed last week and will be a sign of your generosity to those in need at this time.

I also thank Denise Tascher, Terri Moon and their volunteers for providing the Open House refreshments that we enjoyed two weeks ago. Their efforts made our parish celebration in thanksgiving for the end of the year very special. Please be aware that the parish office will be closed between Christmas and New Year. The last day for any parish business will be Tuesday, December 24th before noon.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of December 22, 2024

- Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Micah 5: 1-4a; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45
- Monday St. John of Canty, Priest**
Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24; Luke 1: 57-66
- Tuesday**
Morning 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1: 67-79
Genesis 49: 2, 8-10; Matthew 1: 1-17
Vigil of the Nativity Isaiah 62: 1-5; Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25;
Mathew 1: 1-25 OR Matthew 1: 18-25
During the Night Isaiah 9: 1-6; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-14
- Wednesday The Nativity of the Lord**
Isaiah 52: 7-10; Hebrews 1: 1-6; John 1: 1-18 OR
John 1: 1-5, 9-14
- Thursday St. Stephen, the First Martyr**
Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59; Matthew 10: 17-22
- Friday St. John, Apostle & Evangelist**
1 John 1: 1-4; John 20: 1a, 2-8
- Saturday The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**
1 John 1: 5—2: 2; Matthew 2: 13-18
- Sunday The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**
Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24; Luke 2: 41-52

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 23, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. Joe Casten/John & Amy Kelly
8:00 a.m. Glen Morton/Family

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

- 8:00 a.m. Ria Richardson/The Richardson Family
5:00 p.m. Intentions of Brady Socha/The Taylor Family
7:00 p.m. For the People
10:00 p.m. Sonia Gray/John & Sonia Nelson

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

- 8:00 a.m. Pat McCauley/The McCauley Family
10:00 a.m. Catherine & Walter Vogel/Family
Len Kuchan/Family

Thursday, December 26, 2024

- 8:00 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Fiddes/The Barkley Family

Friday, December 27, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. Roger Tramel/Lynn Tramel
8:00 a.m. Robert Newton/Friends & Family

Saturday, December 28, 2024

- 8:00 a.m. Phuong Nguyen/Linh Luong
5:00 p.m. Rose & Bill Chase/Dave & Rose Chase

Sunday, December 29, 2024

- 8:00 a.m. Luisa Martinez/Corrales Family
10:00 a.m. Edith Zeller/Family
5:00 p.m. For Intentions of Trey Socha/The Taylor Family

Week of December 22

- EXTRA CONFESSIONS** Sunday following all Masses
- MEN'S BASKETBALL** Sunday, December 22, 7:00 p.m., School Gym
- CONFESSION** Monday, December 23, 7:00 p.m., Church
- STS CLOSED** December 23 through January 5; Classes resume January 6
- ROSARY** Tuesday, December 24, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel
- PARISH OFFICE CLOSED** Noon December 24 through January 1
- CHRISTMAS MASSES** Wednesday, December 24, 5:00, 7:00, & 10:00 p.m.
December 25, 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
- MASS DECEMBER 26** 8:00 a.m. only
- CHURCH CLEANING** Saturday following 8:00 a.m. Mass, Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

Solemnity of Mary	January 1
Adoration	January 3
Millions of Monicas	January 28

Our Sympathy

Dennis Powers

Pam Sullivan, daughter-in-law of Rose Sullivan
& sister-in-law of Peggy Sullivan

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.



Masses and Confessions for Christmas

Advent Confessions Before Christmas confession times include:

Saturday, Dec. 14, 16 & 21, 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. and after 5:00 p.m. Mass
Sunday, Dec. 15 & 22, after 8:00 am, 10:00 am, and 5:00 pm Masses
Monday, Dec. 23, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Masses will be offered **Dec. 24**, Christmas Eve at 5:00, 7:00, and 10:00 p.m. and **Dec 25**, Christmas Day at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.



Weekly Collection

December 15, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000	\$480,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$17,907	\$350,571
Electronic Collections.....	\$2,385	\$79,825
Total Collected.....	\$20,290	\$430,396
Over/(Short).....	\$290	\$(49,604)

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.



The Rosary is the best therapy for those distraught, unhappy, fearful, and frustrated souls, precisely because it involves the simultaneous use of three powers: the physical, the vocal, and the spiritual, and in that order.

~ Fulton J. Sheen

Sponsor of the Week

H&M HEDIGER & MEYERS
Insuring Your Business, Your Family, Your Future.
4208 PARTRIDGE WAY • P.O. BOX 3858 • PEORIA, IL 61612
— Parishioners —
WWW.HEDIGERANDMEYERS.COM 309.691.5001
COLLINS VOORHEES JAKE VOORHEES WILLIAM VOORHEES



PEORIA LIFE TEEN

Trust Me

A Life Night on the Promise of a Messiah

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 2025

6-8PM

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH HALL

Please bring your own Bible! If you don't have one, we will have some we would love to give to you!



That Man Is You will return for the spring semester on **Friday, January 31, 2025**. The second semester includes sessions with Michael Gormley, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and many others. All men are welcome to attend and invite others.

OCIA Schedule

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

Jan 29: Community and Moral Law, grace

Feb 5: Great Commandments; Divine/Natural Law; Commandment 1

Feb 12: Commandments 2-3-4

Feb 19: Prayer, Universal Call to Holiness

Feb 26: Our Father, Hail Mary, other prayers, prepare for Lent

Mar 5: Ash Wednesday: NO CLASS

Mar 12: Commandments 5, 7, 8

Mar 19: Commandments 6, 9, 10

Mar 26: History of the Church, Preparation for confession

Apr 2: Make up session

Apr 9: Penance Service

Apr 19: Easter Vigil (Saturday)

Apr 30: Mystagogia



Millions of Monicas will not meet in December. We wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas and New Year. We will return in prayer on January 28, 2025.

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.

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!



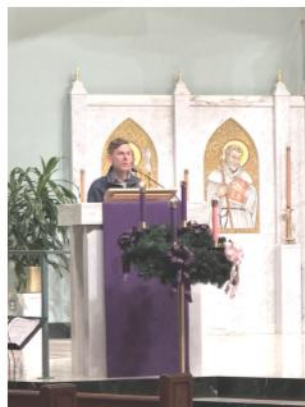
Women of the Word will begin its second session in January!

Our purpose is to help every woman grow in relationship with Jesus within a supportive community. Our program welcomes all women and consists of video based talks, small group discussion, prayer and fellowship. Childcare is provided. We meet from 6:30-8:00pm in the parish hall.

Please stop in anytime or register at this link <https://programs.paradisusdei.org/join/37019E>

The Ten Virtues of Mary

- Jan 9: Angelic Sweetness
- Jan 23: Ardent Charity
- Feb 6: Blind Obedience
- Feb 27: Unceasing Prayer
- Mar 6: Surpassing Purity
- Mar 13: Divine Wisdom
- Mar 27: Heroic Patience
- Apr 3: Profound Humility & Universal Mortification
- May 1: Lively Faith



Those participating in OCIA this fall



Advent Mission

An evening of contemplation, music, and prayer to begin the season of Advent here at St. Thomas



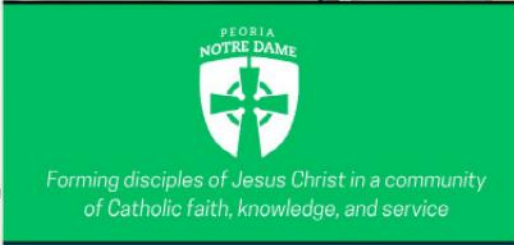
All School Council members delivering boxes!



Brady & Freddie cart the food down sophomore hall!



Fr. McShane works hard packing boxes!



Thank you for the support of our 2024 Christmas Basket Drive! With your help, our students prepared 340 baskets of food that were distributed through the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Sophia's Kitchen, and our local parish food pantries.



Thank You!

A big thank you to St. Thomas School for another successful food drive! The bounty filled our pantry shelves and will help to feed hungry neighbors for a few months. A special thank you to Sister Elizabeth and her fourth graders for organizing the drive and delivering the food items. 1,761 items were collected! We are truly grateful for this blessing!

St. Thomas Food Pantry Volunteers

Assistant Kitchen Manager

Sophia's Kitchen is seeking to hire a full time assistant manager. Work in a fast paced kitchen environment as you serve the poorest of Peoria. You'll oversee volunteers and work directly with guests. A Food Manager license is required. We will help you obtain it if you aren't certified yet.

Send resumes to soupkitchen2010@gmail.com.
Claire Crone; Program Director
Sophia's Kitchen, a Mission of St. Joseph Church; (309) 655-1578
www.CatholicPeoria.org

Peoria Cursillo January Ultreya
 St. Philomena Catholic Church
 1000 W Albany Ave, Peoria IL
 Saturday, January 4 at 4:30 pm
 Speaker: Bonnie Stroot



2025 Theme:
 "The hand of the Lord feeds us, He answers all our needs."

Guests & families are welcome and encouraged to attend

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 _____

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.



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.

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

Green For Life
Your full-service waste and recycling services provider.
309.688.0760 | gflenv.com

BuseyBANK
Business | Wealth Management | Personal
busey.com Member FDIC

catholicmatch®
Illinois
CatholicMatch.com/goIL

OSF HEALTHCARE
OSFHealthCare.org

Tazewell County ASPHALT CO. INC.
EAST PEORIA 698-8404 CARL KAUFMAN
www.tazewellcountyasphalt.com
SPECIALIZING IN ASPHALT PAVING • ASPHALT SEALING

H&M HEDIGER & MEYERS
Insuring Your Business, Your Family, Your Future.
4208 PARTRIDGE WAY • P.O. BOX 3858 • PEORIA, IL 61612
— Parishioners —
WWW.HEDIGERANDMEYERS.COM 309.691.5001
COLLINS VOORHEES JAKE VOORHEES WILLIAM VOORHEES

BIBI BISHOP BROS. INC.
* General Construction
* Design Build
* Commercial & Residential
* Construction Management
* Pre Engineered Structures
DESIGNERS & CONTRACTORS
Dennis Bishop, Parishioner
243-5599
2800 W Alta Rd.

EWTN.COM/RADIO
EWTN
Global Catholic Radio
TUNE IN

DENTURES PAR EXCELLENCE
"Excellence in Removable Prosthodontics"
Richard P. June, DDS
richardjunedds.com
Parishioner 309-693-7200 Trumpeter

RASHID
Plastic Surgery
804 W. Trailcreek Dr. Peoria, IL
Call: 309-670-0700
Text: 309-328-3248
www.rashidps.com

KGI KELLY GLASS INC.
2400 S.W. Adams
www.kellyglass.com • (309) 676-3573

ADVERTISE HERE
Promote your Business AND support your Parish.
Don Roe - 616-340-8580
droe@diocesan.com


MONICAL'S PIZZA RESTAURANT
www.monicalspizza.com

DMI
Heating-Cooling-Refrigeration Residential & Commercial
(309) 633-1313
www.dmiheatingandair.com
24-hour emergency service
"free estimates on new equipment installation"

VONACHEN GROUP

Commercial — 24 Hour Service —
Industrial (309) 693-2400
Residential
Laserelectric Inc.
www.laserelectricinc.com

INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.
REPRESENTING
FCSLA Life and FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION
LIFE INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES WITH FRATERNAL BENEFIT'S
DON'T MISS OUR QUARTERLY FRATERNAL MEETINGS WHERE YOU CAN TRACE YOUR FAMILY HERITAGE FREE OF CHARGE!
309-682-3314
WWW.THEISICOMPANIES.COM 4930 N. EXECUTIVE DR. PEORIA, IL 61614

Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.
Simply go to www.DM.CHURCH/1208 ...or scan 
*DISCOVERMASS

#ThankYouForYourPriesthood

We help the accused by listening, preparing, protecting, and caring.
309.999.1177
Maureen Williams, Owner/Parishioner

Grandview Capital Group at Morgan Stanley
Bob Manning
Senior Vice President
Financial Advisor
(309) 671 4653
401 Main St. Suite 1000, Peoria, IL 61602 

market place
SELECTIONS

CAMPBELL
Real Estate Appraisals, LTD
cambellappraisals.com
Lise: 309-645-0406
Parishioner
REFINANCING • HOME EQUITY LOANS • PURCHASING • CONSULTING

m comm group
Mcomm Group, Inc.
Channel Marketing
Alumnus/Parishioner

Thanh Anh
Authentic Vietnamese Cuisine
309-495-0179
1209 W. Main Street
Peoria, IL 61606

PEORIA EAR, NOSE & THROAT GROUP
7301 N KNOXVILLE AVE. • 309-589-5900
- Parishioner -
JAMES A. GERAGHTY, M.D.

Natural NAILS
For beautiful, strong... natural looking nails
683-6968 Junction City's New Building
Tammy Vu Parishioner

Aging Care Management, LLC
49 Years Experience Working With The Aged
Sandi Kistner, MSW, C-ASWCM
Assessment • Consultation • Care Management
Assistance with Long Term Care Insurance Claims
309-251-0318 Parishioner

MESSING ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION
Family Owned & Operated for Over 40 Years
309-686-1870
Insurance Claims Specialists

myParish
The App for Catholic Life Every Day
www.myParishApp.com
Available for Apple and Android

Avanti's Ristorante
Home of the Gondola®
Order Online at avantispeoria.com

GARY E. SCHMIDT
Attorney at Law
309.322.8315
www.heyloyster.com
PARISHIONER

OM SMITH PLUMBING CO.
ILLINOIS LICENSE 055-004303
Plumbing • Heating • Sewering • COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
Tom Smith
tsptom@mtco.com
www.tomsmithplumbing.com
429 E. Sciota
Peoria Heights, IL
(309) 688-5114

JIM ROCHFORD
ATTORNEY AT LAW
JIM ROCHFORD & ASSOCIATES
309.637.5322 PARISHIONER
101 South West Adams, #700
drochford@rochfordlaw.com

Santiago Garcia
Peoria, IL
(309) 863-6581
sghandyman5@gmail.com
Licensed & Insured
Roof Repairs
Gutter & Downspout Cleaning
Fences • Decks • Windows
Fascia & Soffit • And More!
¡Se habla español!

DISCOVER SCHERER, YOU'LL LOVE IT HERE.

SCHERER MAZDA

Keri Thierer
Sales Consultant
SchererMazda.com
2300 W Pioneer Pkwy
Peoria, IL 61615
309.691.0300

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

PRAIRIE HOME ALLIANCE PARISHIONER STEVE JACKSON PRESIDENT

PEORIA SIDING & WINDOW CO.
PEORIASIDING.COM

CUSTOM BATH SOLUTIONS
CUSTOMBATHROOMSOLUTIONS.COM

WOOD FRONT KITCHENS
WOODFRONTKITCHENS.COM

Gutter Helmet
ILLINOISGUTTERHELMET.COM

B-DRY SYSTEM
OF MID-STATE ILLINOIS
ILLINOISBDRY.COM

HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES
SIDING • WINDOWS • ROOFING • DOORS • KITCHENS
BATHROOMS • OUTDOOR LIVING • SUNROOMS
GUTTER HELMET • BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

PRAIRIEHOMEALLIANCE.COM
203 EASTGATE DRIVE • WASHINGTON, IL • (309) 699-9517

The Big Corner

PEORIA TOYOTA
peoriatoyota.com

LEXUS OF PEORIA
lexusofpeoria.com

BENNETT & Sons TREE SERVICE
(309) 688-TREE (8733)
greg@bennetttree.com
"We think of them as our trees, but why don't we keep them in your yard."

MCQUELLON CONSULTING, INC.

Robert W. McQuellon, MBA
President / CEO and Parishioner

Real Estate Tax Appeals
Commercial • Industrial • Residential
309-256-6700 Mobile • 309-693-2600 Office • 309-693-6200 Fax
Email: bob@mcquellon.com • www.mcquellon.com

5901 N. Knoxville Avenue, Suite #101, Peoria, Illinois 61614

Richard A. Kube II, MD, FACSS
Spine Surgeon

Prairie SPINE & PAIN INSTITUTE

Minimally invasive spine surgery
Physical therapy on site
Parishioner

7620 N University St.
Office: 309-691-7774
www.prairiespine.com

the WYMAN group
wyman-group.com | 309.685.8222
114 West Stratford Dr.
Suite E | Peoria

Builders warehouse
Flooring • Lighting
Kitchens & Bath Cabinets
COUNTERTOPS
Quartz • Granite • Laminate
Visit us online at bwpeoria.net 309-672-1760
2115 SW Washington St.

Illinois Eye Center Welcomes Dr. Jacob Abou-Hanna, MD
Saint Thomas Alumnus

Peoria • Washington • Pekin
309.243.2400 | illinoiseyecenter.com

HealthInsuranceExchange
OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS

John E. Moore - President
Focusing on the health insurance needs of small businesses & individuals
Chase Bank Building • 411 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria IL 61602
www.HealthInsuranceExchangeCI.com 309-740-9850

EH ENERGYHOME Insulation Inc.

- Blown Insulation
- Fiberglass Batts
- Spray Foam
- Insulation Removal

309.682.9090 www.ehinsulation.com
Dave & David LaHood - Parishioners

KEMP MFG. CO.
Precision Machining & Assembly of
Casting, Forging & Steel Products

KRUMHOLZ BROTHERS
LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS
Landscape • Excavating • Erosion Control
309-579-2244
www.krumholzbro.com
DAVE & RICHARD KRUMHOLZ

