St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

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Dcn. Ed Mallow......360-7735 Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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Annulment Consultant:

John Mackoway......699-5213

Stay in Touch

- 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).
- 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 29, 2024

January 5, 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

The Epiphany of the Lord





From Our Pastor

Merry Christmas! Our secular observance of Christmas tends to begin after Thanksgiving and ends right after December 25th. However, the Church begins her observance of the Christmas Season on Christmas Eve and then continues to celebrate at least 12 days, leading up to Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord. Let us continue to celebrate the Nativity of Our Savior.

The Sunday after Christmas is set aside for the Holy Family as we remember Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Women should look to Mary as a model of femininity, tenderness, modesty and faith. Men should look to Joseph as a model of masculinity, courage, virtue and self-sacrifice. May the Blessed Mother and good St. Joseph pray for us.

There is a Holy Day of Obligation on January
1. Please make arrangements to attend
Masses for Mary, Mother of God, on New Year's
Eve or on New Year's Day. Masses will follow
our Sunday schedule, including Mass at 5 pm
(vigil), 8 am, 10 am, and 5 pm on the Holy
Day. Let us honor Mary who gave birth to the
Son of God and is therefore rightly called the
Mother of God.

In January, we celebrate the Epiphany in which the light of Christ shines forth. We see Christ revealed in the gifts brought by the three wise men. Gold represents kingship, incense is offered to Jesus' divinity, and myrrh is a sign of his coming death on the cross.

As we begin a new year, the men and women of the parish are encouraged to take part in the spiritual programs we offer: *That Man is You* and *Women of the Word*. Please see the bulletin for more information in the coming weeks.

Fr. Leo and I extend our thanks for the cards and gifts that we received around Christmas. God bless you for your generosity. God bless you all in the new year.

- -Msgr. Gray

Sponsor of the Week





Readings for the Week of December 29, 2024

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

Monday 1 John 2: 12-17; Luke 2: 36-40

Tuesday St. Sylvester I, Pope

1 John 2: 18-21; John 1: 1-18

Wednesday Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Numbers 6: 22-27; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 16-21

Thursday Sts. Basil, the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops

1 John 2: 22-28; John 1: 19-28

Friday The Most Holy Name of Jesus

1 John 2: 29-3: 6; John 1: 29-34

Saturday St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

1 John 3: 7-10: John 1: 35-42

Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2: 1-12

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 30, 2024

7:00 a.m. Charles & Betty Hanson/Katy Mitchell 8:00 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Schmidt/The Barkley Family

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

7:00 a.m. Dr. John & Isabelle Vonachen/Katy Mitchell 8:00 a.m. Fr. Neil Cahill, S.J./The Barkley Family

5:00 p.m. Rita Williams/The Williams Family

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

8:00 a.m. For the People

10:00 a.m. Linda Marcacci/Ed & Cathy Mallow5:00 p.m. Intentions of Abbi Socha/The Taylor Family

Thursday, January 2, 2025

7:00 a.m. Gary Smith/Sarah Sarmiento

8:00 a.m. Marianna Reed/Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist

Friday, January 3, 2025

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Jenny Williams

8:00 a.m. Ron Richardson/The Richardson Family

Saturday, January 4, 2025

8:00 a.m. Ron Richardson/The Richardson Family 5:00 p.m. Bernard & Margaret Sauer/Family

Sunday, January 5, 2025

8:00 a.m. For the People

10:00 a.m. Mary Kay Feldman/Jim & Mary Clare Geraghty5:00 p.m. For Intentions of Brady Socha/The Taylor Family



Readings for the Week of January 5, 2025

Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2: 1-12

Monday St. André Bessette, Religious

1 John 3: 22—4: 6; Matthew 4: 12-17, 23-25

Tuesday St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

1 John 4: 7-10; Mark 6: 34-44

Wednesday 1 John 4: 11-18; Mark 6: 45-52

Thursday 1 John 4: 19—5: 4; Luke 4: 14-22a

Friday 1 John 5: 5-13; Luke 5: 12-16

Saturday 1 John 5: 14-21; John 3: 22-30

Sunday The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11; Titus 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7; Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 6, 2025

7:00 a.m. For the People

8:00 a.m. Tom Keller/Sharon Zogby

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

7:00 a.m. Special Intention/Katy Mitchell

8:00 a.m. Pam Sullivan/Family

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

7:00 a.m. E. A. Presley/Jack & Margaret Weinstein

8:00 a.m. Rose Szakal/Cathleen Schisler

Thursday, January 9, 2025

7:00 a.m. Rita Wiliams/Larry Streitmatter

2:30 p.m. Clementine Nkulu

Friday, January 10, 2025

7:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB 8:00 a.m. Dolores Oppe/Warren Oppe

Saturday, January 11, 2025

8:00 a.m. Chuck Grawey 5:00 p.m. Joe Lucas/Family

Sunday, January 12, 2025

8:00 a.m. 473 Families Visited by St. Vincent de Paul last year

10:00 a.m. For the People

5:00 p.m. Intentions of Trey Socha/The Taylor Family

Our Sympathy

Patricia Hilsher Saum

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.

Pray with the Pope

January 2025
For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

OCIA Schedule

Jan 1: NO Class Jan 8: Marriage

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

Week of December 29

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

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, December 29, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

STS CLOSED December 23 through January 5; Classes resume January 6

ROSARY Tuesday, December 31, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

SOLEMNITY OF MARY Masses Tuesday, Dec 31, 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 1, 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

PARISH OFFICE REOPENS January 2, 9:00 a.m.

ADORATION Friday, January 3, following 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m., Church

CHURCH CLEANING Saturday following 8:00 a.m. Mass, Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women of the Word St. Thomas Holy Hour Millions of Monicas January 9 January 16 January 28

Week of January 5

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL & PANTRY COLLECTIONS This Weekend

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, January 5, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, January 7, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

CCD Wednesday, January 8, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, January 8, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WOMEN OF THE WORD Thursday, January 9, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, January 9, 6:30 p.m., Sullivan's in the Heights

CHURCH CLEANING Saturday following 8:00 a.m. Mass, Church

CARMELITES Saturday, January 11, 11:00 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Thomas Holy Hour Millions of Monicas January 16 January 28



Dear Friends in Christ.

Merry Christmas!

We once again celebrate with great joy the birth of Jesus Christ, the long-awaited Messiah. And as we do each year, we have spent the past several weeks preparing our hearts and our homes. The season of Advent beckoned us to prepare for the Lord's coming, especially through our prayer, reflection, works of charity, and the celebration of the Sacraments. We have decorated our homes, purchased gifts, and prepared meals—and it may have left us exhausted. I hope we have prepared our heart and soul as well. Yes, preparing our home and preparing our heart require focused attention on our part. Yet, as important as all our efforts have been to prepare for Christmas, the reality of Jesus' birth into our life as the Savior is just the beginning—there will be much more work to come!

Venerable Archbishop Sheen said:

The Christmas message is not that peace will come automatically, because Christ is born in Bethlehem; that birth in Bethlehem was the prelude to His birth in our hearts by grace and faith and love.

Peace belongs only to those who will to have it. If there is no peace in the world today, it is not because Christ did not come; it is because we did not let Him in.

Archbishop Sheen is reminding us of the work we must yet do. Christmas both celebrates Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and invites us to receive him into our hearts today. If we have welcomed Him, if we have "let Him in," then we must allow ourselves to be transformed by the encounter with Jesus – which in turn compels us to share our faith with the people whom God has placed in our life. As a disciple, "by grace and faith and love," we are to be a witness of how we have received God's greatest gift to us – Jesus Christ. By what we say and do, we are to sow the seeds of peace in our families, our workplaces, and in our communities. We live in a world that longs for God's peace. May we be people who have been transformed by the birth of Jesus into our world and into our hearts – and as a result, become instruments of God's peace.

It is my great hope that each of you may encounter the birth of Jesus into your heart this Christmas. And I pray that this overwhelming gift of God's love will indeed strengthen each of us that we may not grow weary of the mission we have received – but allow this to be a moment to be energized, to be renewed, and to be filled with God's grace for we have *let Him in*.

God love you!

◆Most Reverend Louis Tylka Bishop of Peoria

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus

St. Vincent de Paul Society Annual Report
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish
Fiscal Year October 1, 2023 –
September 30, 2024

Your St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference offers this annual report to you, our donors:

Total Visits with Neighbors in Need 496
Total Number of Families Served 468
Total Number of People Served 1048
Estimated Hours Served by Vincentians 3908
Estimated Number of Miles 6825

Receipts:

Conference Member Donations \$18,330 Other Parishioner Donations \$90,260 Disaster Relief Donations \$1,400 **Memorial Donations** \$5,600 Peoria Heights Village Grants \$3,500 **Twinning** \$8,466 (given to us by other Peoria parishes) **Employer Matching Funds** \$1,980 Total \$129,536

Expenses:

Total cash assistance provided \$124,77 \$63,194 (rent/housing)

\$61,576 (utilities, transportation, other)
Dues, Helpline Costs, Operating Expenses

\$2,485

Total \$127,255

In Kind Donations \$13,930

As you can see, the impact is great. It is our honor to represent you, your generosity and your caring to people living in poverty.

Vincentian Prayer:

We thank You, Lord, for the many blessings which we receive from those whom we visit. Help us to love and respect them, to understand their deeper needs, and to share their burdens and joys as true friends in Christ.

~ Mary Kay Pilat



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.



Thank You

I want to wish the members of the Martha Group a blessed and holy Christmas Season. Thank you for your service to the families of St. Thomas who have lost a loved one. Their gratitude is immense. Even when your schedule does not allow you to donate, your prayers for the deceased and their family are part of the Martha Group calling.

Best Wishes to you and your families in the coming New Year.

Mary Camp, Coordinator of the Martha Group



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, January 3

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

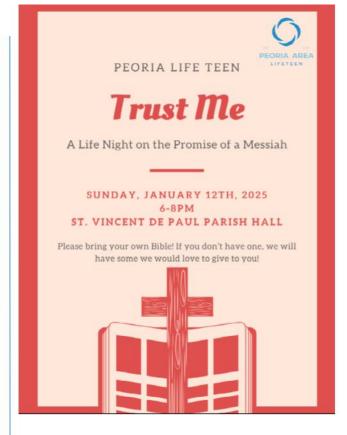




Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Monday, January 6, 2025, 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.





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.

New Parishioner	Change of address/phone
Phone	
City	ZIP
Address	
Phone	
Email	
First Name(s)	Mr Mrs Ms
Last Name	
TOTTI.	

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!

Business Manager Needed

Holy Family is seeking a business manager to work in our parish office. Responsibilities include:

Managing payroll submissions Paying invoices

Recording parishioner financial contributions Reconciling parish bank accounts

Lead development of budgets

Assisting principal with management

Assisting principal with management of school tuition

Training is available. If you would like to apply, please contact the parish office at 309-688-3427.

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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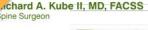
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