

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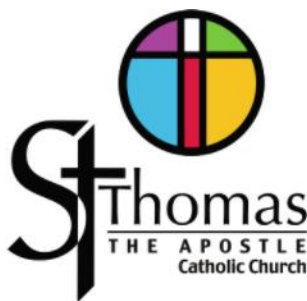
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Music Coordinator: Ann Horst...(309)208-4862

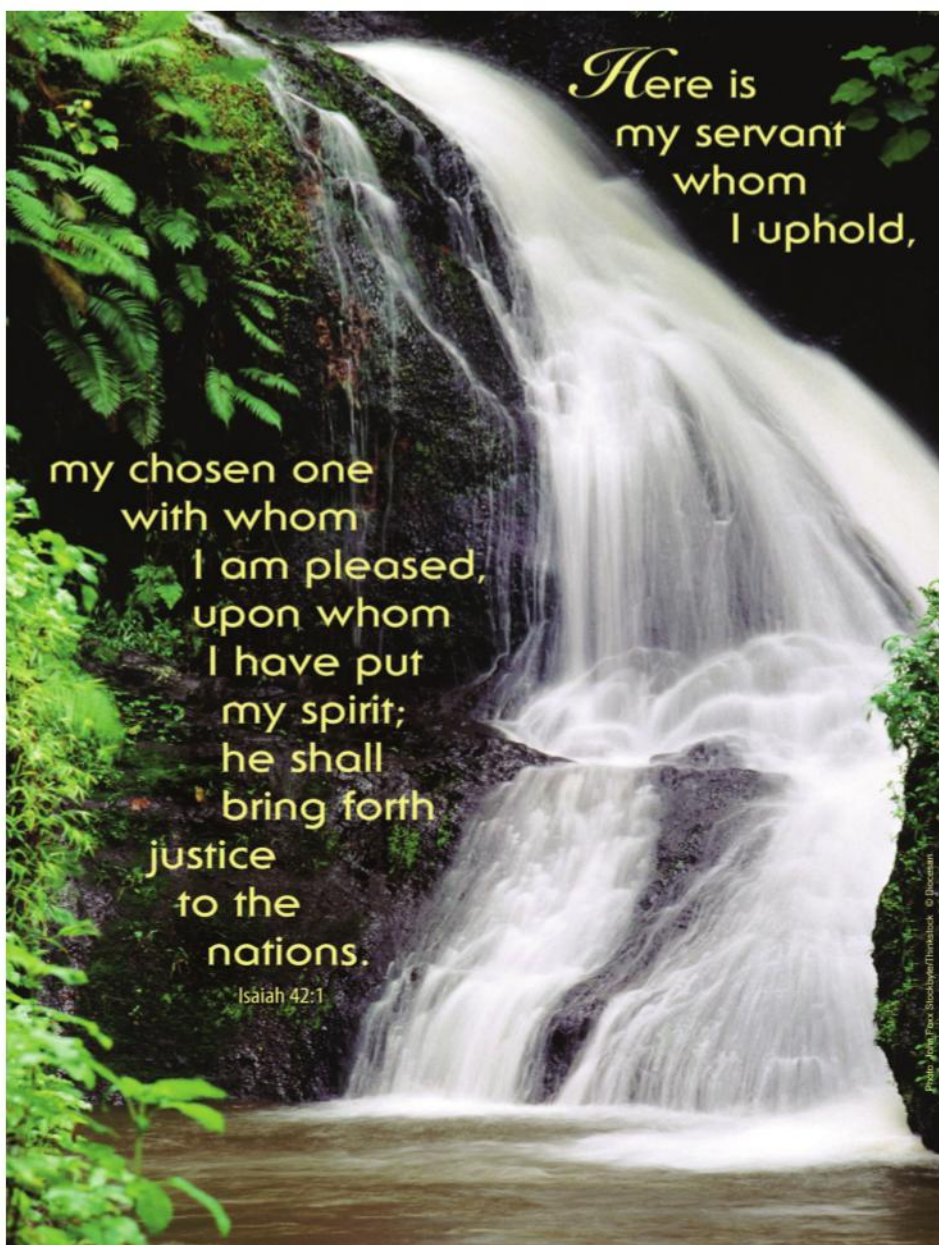
Annulment Consultant:
John Mackoway.....699-5213

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).



January 12, 2025
The Baptism of the Lord





From Our Pastor

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, I am thankful for the great number of baptisms we have had over the past year. This is a sign of growth and vitality in the parish. Parents are encouraged to have their children baptized soon after they are born. We ask parents to participate in a brief baptism class before the baptism of their first child in order to review the responsibilities they are undertaking. Parents may also choose one godfather and one godmother as godparents. At least one godparent must be a baptized and confirmed Catholic in good standing. Baptisms can be scheduled during our Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass or, more commonly, after this Mass at 11:00 a.m. When Sunday is not convenient, we can also schedule a baptism on another day of the week.

If a child wasn't baptized as a newborn or as an infant, it is still never too late. We have worked with several families this year to catch up on sacraments. Once a child has passed the normal age for First Communion, we will work with the child not only to prepare him or her for baptism, but also for confession and Communion. If you need help catching up on any sacraments, please contact me or Mary Cushing, our Director for Faith Formation.

The Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas Season and our return to Ordinary Time. I especially single out the Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist for their heroic work in decorating the church and organizing the sacristy at St. Thomas. I don't think any other church in the Diocese is better cared for. Thank you, Sisters!

With the new year, we also return to our regular routines as we welcome back St. Thomas School students and CCD students for a new semester. As our students are welcomed back, we will have a Donut Sunday with coffee and donuts after Sunday morning Masses.

The adults taking part in OCIA are returning for their final months of preparation before entering the Church at Easter. Our programs for adult spiritual enrichment are also available to all parishioners. Women of the Word has started again, meeting every other Thursday evening. That Man Is You will start at the end of the month, meeting every Friday morning.

After the special events of the Advent and Christmas Season, I take some time away for vacation, but I look forward to seeing you next weekend.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of January 12, 2025

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
Monday	St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church Hebrews 1: 1-6; Mark 1: 14-20
Tuesday	Hebrews 2: 5-12; Mark 1: 21-28
Wednesday	Hebrews 2: 14-18; Mark 1: 29-39
Thursday	Hebrews 3: 7-14; Mark 1: 40-45
Friday	St. Anthony, Abbot Hebrews 4: 1-5, 11; Mark 2: 1-12
Saturday	Hebrews 4: 12-16; Mark 2: 13-17
Sunday	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 62: 1-5; 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11; John 2: 1-11

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 13, 2025

7:00 a.m. Martha Truyen Thi Nguyen/Sarah Stickelmaier
8:00 a.m. Bill Cusack/Mark & Marlynn Kelsch

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

7:00 a.m. Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist
8:00 a.m. Patti Saum/Gerald Poplette

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Mike & Donna Palkovic/Larry Streitmatter
8:00 a.m. Mariano Tolentino/Sarmiento Family

Thursday, January 16, 2025

7:00 a.m. Tom Burek/George & Connie Burek
2:30 p.m. The Dang/Linh Luong

Friday, January 17, 2025

7:00 a.m. Canon John Flattery/Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist
8:00 a.m. Helen Couri/Mary Arnold

Saturday, January 18, 2025

8:00 a.m. Bart Tubalinal/Corrales Family
5:00 p.m. Pat McCauley/Family

Sunday, January 19, 2025

8:00 a.m. Lawrence Matthews/Tom & Mary Kay Pilat
10:00 a.m. Intentions of Ed & Cathy Mallow's Godchildren
5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of January 12

COFFEE AND DONUTS Sunday, January 12, after morning Masses

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, January 12, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, January 14, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Tuesday, January 14, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

CCD Wednesday, January 15, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, January 15, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR Thursday, January 16, 7:00 p.m., Church

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>Millions of Monicas</i>	<i>January 28</i>
<i>Adoration</i>	<i>February 7</i>



Join Us for Our
Catholic School's Week

Open House

Sunday, January 26th

Pack the pews at 10:00 a.m. Mass, wear your STS Spiritwear
Open House immediately following Mass until 12:30 p.m.

- School tours available! Come & see all STS has to offer!
- Christ-centered Learning Environment
 - Exemplary Academics
 - Safe, secure campus
 - Athletics & Extra-Curriculars
 - Pre-care & After-care services
 - Financial Assistance Opportunities
- Pre-3, Pre-K, & Kinder 2025-2026 reserve your spot today!

Donuts, Coffee, & Juice



Weekly Collection

January 5, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000	\$540,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$27,550	\$302,972
Electronic Collections.....	\$6,385	\$90,499
Total Collected.....	\$33,935	\$493,471
Over/(Short).....	\$13,935	\$(46,529)
Christmas.....	\$25,801	Mary, Mother of God.....\$3415

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

Patricia Hilsher Saum

Martha Truyen Nguyen

Sharon Sprecher



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.

Join us for Coffee
and Donuts after
Sunday morning
Mass this weekend



OCIA Schedule

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

Sponsor of the Week





Did you Know?

Your child can attend a Catholic School Financial Assistance Is Available

Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2025 -2026 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are active members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed.

Information about the grants and application materials may be obtained from any Catholic elementary or secondary school in the Diocese of Peoria or on the Diocesan website www.cdop.org under Catholic Schools and then under John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship. Consult the detailed protocols and procedures and checklist at the bottom of the webpage for all requirements necessary to be eligible for an award.

Parents must apply online at: online.factsmgt.com/aid. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and **anyone seeking to renew a grant for the 2025-2026 school year must reapply.**

Deadline date for the completed application is April 25, 2025. Notification of grant awards will be made in June of 2025.





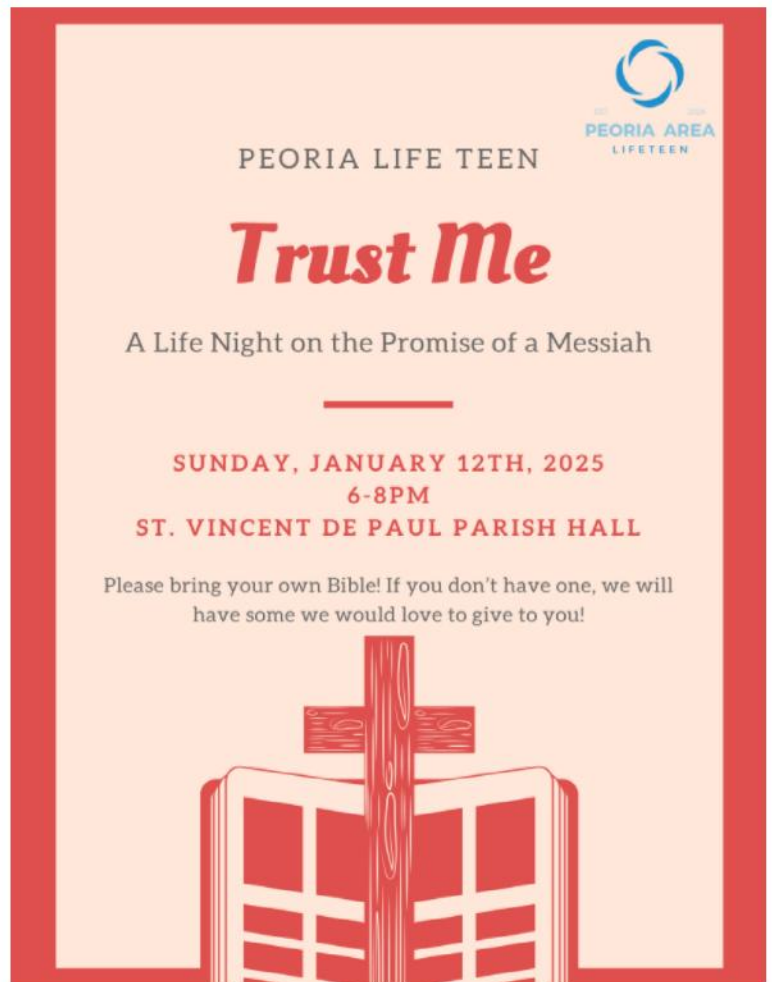
That Man Is You will return for the spring semester on **Friday, January 31, 2025**. The second semester includes sessions with Michael Gormley, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and many others. All men are welcome to attend and invite others.

January 22, A Day of Prayer

On this day we pray for the legal protection of unborn children. In addition, we can stay connected with UCCB Respect Life by: Signing up for *Respect Life Prayer and Action*. When you sign up you will receive the following to help you protect the innocent against attacks on human life:

- prayers
- action alerts to contact Congress and government leaders
- ways to strengthen a culture of life in your community
- and more

Join thousands of Catholics as we seek to transform our culture. Together, we are powerful!
[Respect Life Prayer and Action](#) | [Respect Life](#)



Secular Franciscan Order

The Secular Franciscan Order of the Catholic Church was started by St. Francis over 800 years ago to allow single and married men and women to follow the Franciscan way of life. We are a branch of the Franciscan Order, and our purpose is to bring the gospel to life where we live and where we work. Our Order is obedient to the Catholic Church, and we strive to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ daily by following the example of St. Francis of Assisi. We focus on continued spiritual growth and are involved in various apostolic ministries. The Sacred Heart Fraternity is the Peoria chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order and meets at 1:00 PM on the first Saturday of every month at the Cursillo Center adjacent to Holy Family Parish (2312 W. Wagner Ln, Peoria, IL). We will be hosting a *Come and See* event on **Saturday, February 1st at 1:00 p.m.** at the Cursillo Center. If you feel you may have a calling to a Franciscan vocation, please come and join us on February 1st to meet us and learn more about the Secular Franciscan Order. For any questions or more information, please contact Bob Polizzi, OFS at 309-634-9958 or email us at SacredHeartOFS@gmail.com.

Reflections on the New Year

"The beginning of a new year is an opportunity for improvement. It makes little difference what the past has been, for we are not to look back to see if the furrow be crooked. What matters most is the sanctification of the now moment. Time is so precious that God does it out second by second. If life in the past has been evil, the new year is an opportunity for penance. In such a way is time redeemed. If life, however, has been virtuous, the new year is an opportunity for greater self-perfection."

— Archbishop Fulton Sheen (On Being Human)

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 _____

Reflection for The Baptism of the Lord

Did the first reading from Isaiah sound familiar? We also hear it on the first Sunday of Advent every few years. I suppose it could be a reminder that John the Baptist appears at the beginning of the Advent/Christmas season and at the end. In Advent we were preparing for Jesus' coming at Christmas. Now we are preparing for his coming at any time.

The reading from Isaiah talks about the Lord coming in mercy to the people whose *guilt is expiated* (Isaiah 40:2). With our sins forgiven we need not fear asking God for help: *Fear not to cry out* (Isaiah 40:9). The Lord comes in power, not to strike sinners down but to shepherd them and lead them.

In the second reading, St. Paul has a similar theme. Jesus gave his life for us on the cross so that we could be free to give ourselves in love as he did. No matter how bad I was in the past, the Lord loves me enough to forgive it all, and even better, to give the Spirit to help me stay close to God.

How do we prepare for this? We can start by hearing the words of the readings today, letting them sink into our hearts and minds. Ask the Spirit to help look for ways you can be more loving with your family, then with your friends, and eventually with anyone who needs your help. When we let that Spirit guide us, we become like Jesus in that we can listen for God to say, *You are my beloved child; with you I am well pleased* (see Luke 3:22). Tom Schmidt

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.

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!



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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