St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

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

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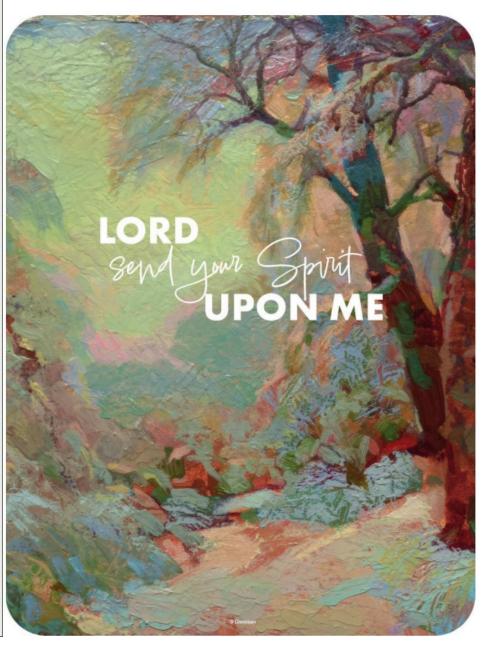
John Mackoway......699-5213

Stay in Touch

- Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org or the My Parish App
- 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).



January 26, 2025 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



From Our Pastor

We welcome the celebration of Catholic Schools' Week at St. Thomas. We have our open house on Sunday and encourage all our parish members to explore our parish school. We are very proud of St. Thomas School and I am thankful for the support of our parishioners for the Catholic education of our children!

We had the opportunity to thank Ann Horst for her service as our parish music coordinator. As she enters a well deserved retirement, I am happy to welcome Steven Harms who will step into this role. He was able to meet many of our musicians and choir members last week and I look forward to him getting more familiar with our parish. Please welcome him.

Next weekend is the celebration of the Presentation of the Lord. There is some information below about this feast day which is a traditional day for blessing candles. If you want to bring candles to be blessed for use in your homes, please bring them next weekend.

- -Msgr. Gray

Sunday, February 2 – Feast of the



Presentation of Our Lord

The Feast of the Presentation is the 40th day after Christmas when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Joseph and Mary according to the Law of Moses. In the Presentation, Jesus was

recognized by Simeon and the Prophetess, Anna, as the Christ-Messiah, as a Priest, and as the Lord and Savior. He is the light who came into the world to dispel sin and darkness. As the light of the world, it has become tradition to bless candles on this day. Hence the alternative title of this day: Candlemas day.

Our principal 10:00 a.m. Mass will begin in the narthex with the blessing of candles. We will bless candles that will be used throughout the liturgical year at St. Thomas. We will also bless candles for parishioners. St. Thomas will provide one candle for each family to be carried in procession. Furthermore, every parishioner is invited to bring in their own candles to be blessed at this Mass. Blessed candles are traditionally lit during storms or in the rooms of the sick. They can also be used during prayer at other family celebrations.



Readings for the Week of January 26, 2025

Sunday Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nehemiah 8: 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12: 12-30 OR 1

Corinthians 12: 12-14, 27; Luke 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21

Monday St. Angela Merici, Virgin

Hebrews 9: 15, 24-28; Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday St. Thomas Aguinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Hebrews 10: 1-10; Mark 3: 31-35

Wednesday Hebrews 10: 11-18; Mark 4: 1-20

Thursday Hebrews 10: 19-25; Mark 4: 21-25

Friday St. John Bosco, Priest

Hebrews 10: 32-39; Mark 4: 26-34

Saturday Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19; Mark 4: 35-41

Sunday The Presentation of the Lord

Malachi 3: 1-4; Hebrews 2: 14-18; Luke 2: 22-40 OR

Luke 2: 22-32

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 27, 2025

7:00 a.m. Bill Cusack/William Hughes

8:00 a.m. Chuck Grawey/Tim & Janet Bertschy

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

7:00 a.m. Jim West/Mai Dang 8:00 a.m. Helen Couri/Mary Arnold

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

7:00 a.m. Paul Hop Nguyen/Mai Dang 8:00 a.m. Paul Hop Nguyen/Mai Dang Thomas Penn/Gene & Gretta Couri

Thursday, January 30, 2025

7:00 a.m. Al Woods/Mai Dang

2:30 p.m. Patti Sauer/The McCormack Family

Friday, January 31, 2025

7:00 a.m. Eileen Maria Duffy/Mai Dang 8:00 a.m. Renae Kathleen Juska/Beth Reed

Saturday, February 1, 2025

8:00 a.m. Virgilio Mondero/The Corrales Family

5:00 p.m. Rita Clark/Family

Sunday, February 2, 2025

8:00 a.m. Carl & Marie Yack/Tom & Mary Kay Pilat

10:00 a.m. Elaine Suau/Elaine's Family

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of January 26

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK OPEN HOUSE Sunday, January 26, following 10:00 a.m. Mass, School

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, January 26, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, January 28, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

MILLIONS OF MONICAS Tuesday, January 28, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

PARISH COUNCIL Tuesday, January 28, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office

CCD Wednesday, January 29, 6:00 p.m., School

CONFIRMATION FAMILY MEETING Wednesday, January 29, 6:00 p.m., School/Parish Hall

OCIA Wednesday, January 29, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

TMIY Friday, January 31, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

LifeTeen February 2 February 7 Adoration St. Thomas Holy Hour February 20 Progressive Dinner March 1



Join with other mothers, grandmothers, step-mothers, aunts, Godmothers, etc., as we pray to grow in holiness and humility, and for our children's faithful return to the Catholic Church.

January 28 at 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas Daily Mass Chapel

For more information visit www.millionsofmonicas.com



That Man Is You begins this week, 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.

Weekly Collection

January 19, 2025

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Your support of St. Thomas Parish is important to sustain our Please remember to contribute reaularly 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

Donna Chance

OCIA Schedule

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

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.



Sponsor of the Week



www.monicalspizza.com

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



Doing God's Will

Jesus said to pick up your cross and follow me. Your cross, meaning all your problems and life's challenges and still do His will no matter what.

What is His will?

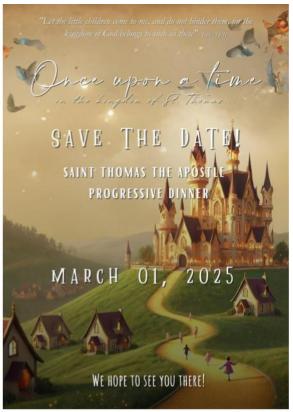
Jesus said the poor you will always have with you. Jesus called on the church to seek out the poor and care for them.

Mother Teresa said One thing that I ask of you: Never be afraid of giving. There is a deep joy in giving since what we receive is much more than we give. After witnessing a widow donate two small copper coins to the temple treasury Jesus said Amen I say to you. This poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. It's not about the amount of money as much as the amount of sacrifice you put into the offering.

I joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society 3 years ago because I felt a calling to help the poor. I also knew that I knew nothing about the poor, and I also knew I had misconceptions about the poor. St. Vincent de Paul Society changed that.

One neighbor my partner and I visited was a young single mother with 2 kids and had just gotten a better job. She was finally able to rent an apartment. She had no electricity because there was and old bill that needed to be paid before the power could be turned on. We determined that she made enough money at this new job to get by, but she just needed a little help getting started. We were able to get her old bill paid to get the power turned on, and we also helped her out with some furniture and we signed her up for the Giving Tree at St. Thomas. Because of all your generosity she and the kids had a gift filled Christmas. Not everyone can actively seek the poor. But a good way to do God's will is to actively support St. Vincent de Paul Society. We can do the leg work for you. Like the widow - please give until it hurts a little.

~ Mike Hallar







Catholic Schools Week Open House



Sunday, January 26-10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Following 10:00 a.m. Mass)



Terri Moon 25 yrs.

Donna Palkovic 25 yrs.

Congratulations! We are very proud of the exceptional

teachers and staff we have at St. Thomas the Apostle School.

We would like to congratulate Terri Moon & Donna Palkovic on their 25th service anniversary! We would also like to congratulate Karrie Kilian on her 15th service anniversary!



Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to our school, parish, and students!

Find out more about us at school.stthomaspeoria.org





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
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 - Athletics & Extra-Curriculars
 - Pre-care & After-care services
- Financial Assistance Opportunities

 Pre-3 Pre-K & Kinder 2025-2026 reserve

Pre-3, Pre-K, & Kinder 2025-2026 reserve your spot today!







Your child <u>can</u> 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.



Super Bowl Squares



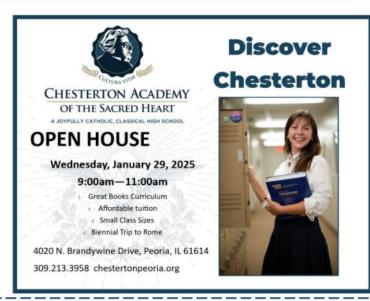
Now that the NFL playoffs have begun, it's time for the annual PND Super Bowl Squares Board! We have two boards with 100 squares each. Each square cost \$100. For each board, \$3,850 (40%) will be paid out. The remaining 60% will benefit PND Athletics. There are more than 15 ways to win

throughout the game. For more information and details on how to play, visit https://www.pndhs.org/super-bowl/

Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Monday, February 3, 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	
form.	



Join the Peoria Notre Dame Youth Baseball and Softball League

The Peoria Notre Dame Youth Baseball and Softball League (PNDYBSL) invites you to join our



league! We offer options for boys & girls ages 4-15, including t -ball, baseball, and softball. Go to https://www.pndybsl.com/ signup or scan the QR code to sign up.

Scan me

Kick off St. Patrick's Day weekend at the Maggie Bertram Foundation' Irish Fest and Fish Fry - Friday, March 14th at the Holy Family School Gym. Included: live music, Irish Dancers and the best fish fry in town. The festivities kick off at 4pm and end at 9pm. Meals will be served between 4pm and 7:30pm. Admission to the event is free. All proceeds go towards the Maggie Bertram Foundation's fine arts education grants. To be a financial sponsor or make a donation to the silent auction, contact Tim Campbell at 309-303-1155.

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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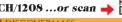
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