

## 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  
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parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

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Parochial Vicar: Fr. Leopold Mushobozi.. (x4)  
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Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB  
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Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735  
Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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Music Coordinator: Steven Harms.....

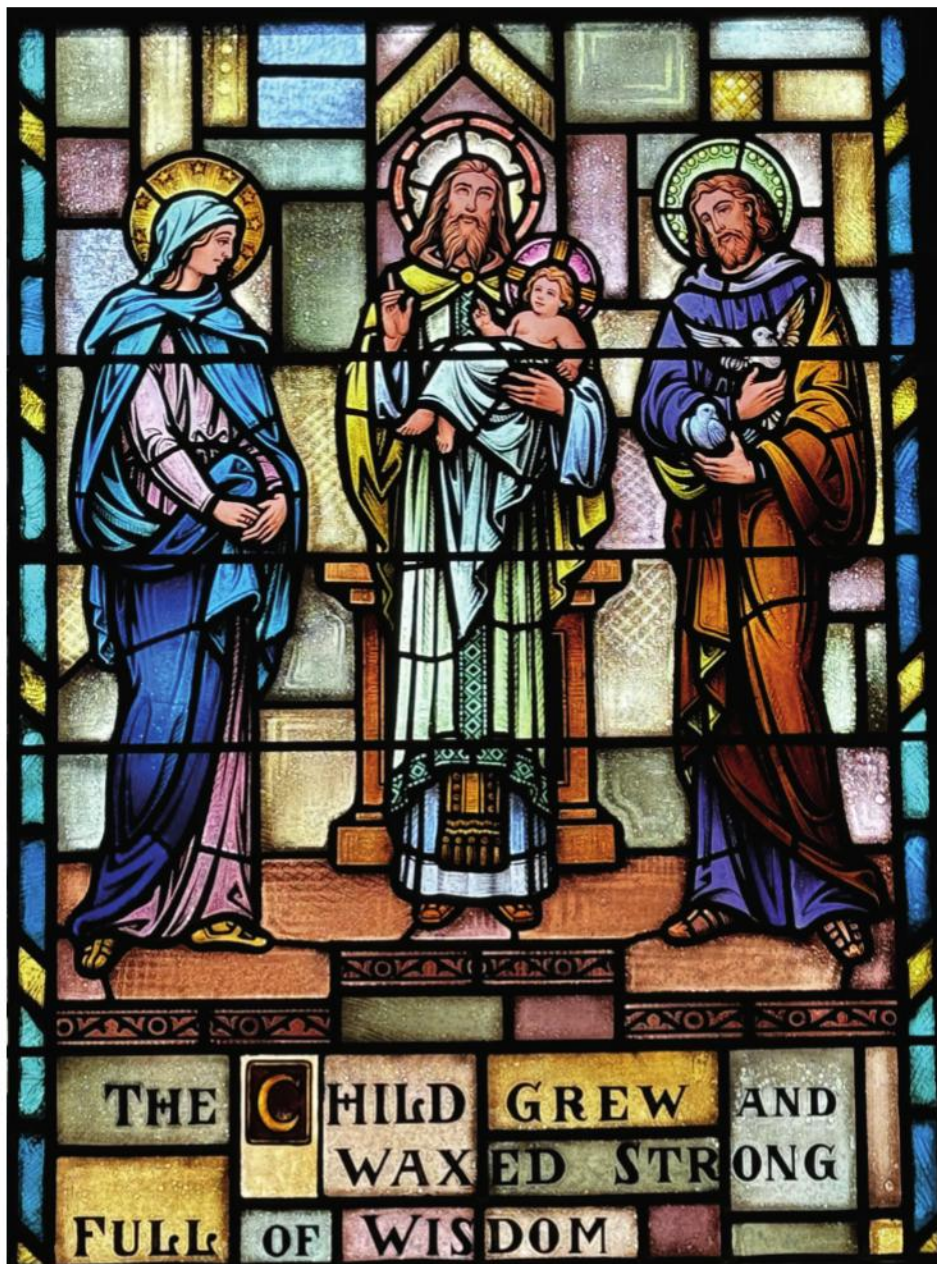
Annulment Consultant:  
John Mackoway.....699-5213

### 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).



## February 2, 2025 The Presentation of the Lord





## From Our Pastor

We just celebrated Catholic Schools' Week, so I would like to salute the teachers and staff of St. Thomas School for all their hard work in making this past week successful.

In the fall, we had a broken pipe in the kitchen that partially flooded the school cafeteria. This was repaired and the water was taken up. However, the water also overflowed into the school gym. The water was removed, but the full extent of the damage was not immediately known. Over the past months, it has become clear that water seeped into the area beneath the wood floor and began to warp the wood. We have tried to resolve this issue, but the damage to the wood floor has not been able to be repaired.

Fortunately, this falls under our property insurance, so the damage will not affect St. Thomas Parish or School. Our claim has been approved by our insurance carrier, and we will be soon replacing the gym floor. The good news is that the cost of replacement has been covered. The bad news is that we will not be able to use the school gym for approximately 6 to 8 weeks while the new floor is installed.

Please be patient while we work through this project. Sports practice and games have been relocated and some of our events will be moved to a different location or rescheduled. This will affect the schedule for Trivia Night and our Lenten Fish Fry.

Please join us for our upcoming Progressive Dinner on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. We will gather for appetizers and then guests will move to various homes for dinner before concluding at the Country Club of Peoria. The proceeds will help refurbish the school library and other areas in the school in need of repair.

Those who are interested in participating in our choir are welcome to join. Steve Harms will hold choir practice on Sunday mornings before our 10:00 a.m. Mass. Please volunteer by adding your voice to our singers and musicians at St. Thomas.

- Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of February 2, 2025

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>The Presentation of the Lord</b> Malachi 3: 1-4; Hebrews 2: 14-18; Luke 2: 22-40 OR Luke 2: 22-32
<b>Monday</b>	<b>St. Blaise, Bishop &amp; Martyr</b> Hebrews 11: 32-40; Mark 5: 1-20
<b>Tuesday</b>	Hebrews 12: 1-4; Mark 5: 21-43
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>St. Agatha, Virgin &amp; Martyr</b> Hebrews 12: 4-7, 11-15; Mark 6: 1-6
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>St. Paul Miki &amp; Companions, Martyrs</b> Hebrews 12: 18-19, 21-24; Mark 6: 7-13
<b>Friday</b>	Hebrews 13: 1-8; Mark 6: 14-29
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin</b> Hebrews 13: 15-17, 20-21; Mark 6: 30-34
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Isaiah 6: 1-2a, 3-8; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11; Luke 5: 1-11

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, February 3, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB
8:00 a.m.	Helen Vicare & Jean Faulkner/Kathleen Spengler

### Tuesday, February 4, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Maria Dinh T Thu/Mai Dang
8:00 a.m.	Adrian & Helen Truitt/John Truitt

### Wednesday, February 5, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Mary Vogel Kelly/Amy & John Kelly
8:00 a.m.	Erna Lacy/The Gainey Family

### Thursday, February 6, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Rita Williams/Mike Phelan & Kim Jaegle
2:30 p.m.	Thomas Penn/John & Amy Kelly

### Friday, February 7, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Joseph P. Kelly/John & Amy Kelly
8:00 a.m.	Living & Deceased Members of the Noe & Eisele Families/ Mary Ann Noe

### Saturday, February 8, 2025

8:00 a.m.	Ronald Stear/George & Connie Burek
5:00 p.m.	Pat McCauley/Family

### Sunday, February 9, 2025

8:00 a.m.	For the People
10:00 a.m.	Renae Kathleen Juska/Beth Reed
5:00 p.m.	Intentions of Ed & Cathy Mallow Godchildren

## Week of February 2

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL & PANTRY COLLECTIONS** After all Masses this weekend

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

**COFFEE & DONUTS** Sunday, February 2, after morning Masses

**LIFETEEN** Sunday, February 2, 6:00 p.m., St. Ann Parish

**ROSARY** Tuesday, February 4, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

**CCD** Wednesday, February 5, 6:00 p.m., School

**OCIA** Wednesday, February 5, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**WOMEN OF THE WORD** Thursday, February 6, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

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

**ADORATION** Friday, February 2, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>St. Thomas Holy Hour</i>	<i>February 20</i>
<i>Progressive Dinner</i>	<i>March 1</i>



## Pray with the Pope

February 2025

**For vocations to the priesthood and religious life**

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



## Choir Practice

Beginning **February 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.**, in the Music Room  
Anyone interested in singing with the choir is welcome to join!  
*He who sings prays twice*

## Weekly Collection

January 26, 2025

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$600,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$47,799.....	\$473,604
Electronic Collections.....	\$3,499.....	\$97,205
Total Collected.....	\$51,298.....	\$570,809
Over/(Short).....	\$31,298.....	\$(29,191)

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](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Thank you for your support.

## Our Sympathy

Monsignor Charles Beebe

## OCIA Schedule

**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

## 2024 Contribution Statements

Thank you to all for your generosity to the parish in 2024. If you would like a copy of your statement for the year please call or email the parish office.

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## 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 an 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

**COMETS**  
ST THOMAS MEN'S  
**BASKETBALL LEAGUE**  
ALL PARISH & STS DADS  
WELCOME!  
**SUNDAYS**  
CURRENTLY ON HOLD  
WHILE OUR NEW GYM  
FLOOR IS BEING  
INSTALLED! WE WILL LET  
YOU KNOW AS SOON AS  
WE CAN RESUME!  
THANKS!

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](http://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](http://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.

**ST. THOMAS PARISH  
LENTEN RETREAT**  
**SATURDAY  
MARCH 22, 2025**  
MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR AN IMPACTFUL ONE-  
DAY RETREAT, LED BY FR. VINCENT GIACABAZI, S.J.  
DETAILS TO FOLLOW

## Protect Yourself from Phishing Scams

Cybersecurity threats, including phishing attempts, are on the rise, and staying vigilant is key to keeping our church, school and personal information safe. Phishing is when cybercriminals use fraudulent emails, websites, or messages to trick you into providing sensitive information like passwords, financial data, or personal details.

### Red Flags of Phishing Emails:

- **Suspicious Senders:** Emails from unknown or unusual email addresses.
  - Example: A message that seems to be from "Fr. Smith" but comes from "john.smith987@randommail.com" instead of their actual work email address.
- **Urgent or Threatening Language:** Messages pressuring you to act quickly.
- **Generic Greetings:** Look out for "Dear Friend" instead of personalized greetings.
- **Unusual Requests:** Asking for sensitive information like passwords or account details.
- **Misspellings and Poor Grammar:** Legitimate organizations usually proofread their communications.
- **Unverified Links:** Hover over links without clicking to see the actual URL. Unverified URL's would be things like example.asdasdf.com

### Watch Out for Impersonation Attempts:

Phishers often pose as coworkers, using email addresses or phone numbers that look similar to legitimate ones.

- Example: You receive a text message from a number claiming to be your pastor or manager, asking you to purchase gift cards and send the codes urgently.
- Always verify the sender by contacting them through a known, official channel.

### How to Protect Yourself:

- **Verify Requests:** If you're unsure about an email, contact the sender directly using known contact information.
- **Avoid Clicking Links:** Type URLs into your browser instead of clicking links in emails.
- **Don't Open/Download Attachments:** Especially from unknown senders.
- **Use Strong Passwords:** Regularly update and use unique passwords for different accounts.
- **Report Suspicious Emails:** Report phishing emails, block the sender, and delete the email from your inbox.

Your awareness and quick action can prevent potential threats to our parishes, schools and ministries.

*"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" Luke 18:16*

*Once upon a time  
in the kingdom of St. Thomas...*

**YOU ARE INVITED!**

**SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE PROGRESSIVE DINNER**

**MARCH 01, 2025**

5:00 – 6:30: Hors d'oeuvres for everyone attending at the home of Tracy and Lou Schendl  
6:45 - 8:30: Small group dinners at St Thomas parishioners' private homes  
8:45 - 10:30: Dessert and auction at the Country Club of Peoria

*Prior to the event, attendees will be emailed their host homes.*

Price per person: \$50  
Register online or via this form, please make checks payable to St. Thomas the Apostle and turn in at parish or school office

Registration deadline: Feb 19th

For any questions please reach out to:  
StThomasProgressiveDinner2025@gmail.com or Terry Best (309) 229-9904  
or Molly Abbott (309) 303-3503

PLEASE RETURN TO FRONT OFFICE

Names of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_



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Register early - space is limited!

# Eucharistic Consecration



**Start on February 1st & Consecrate on Ash Wednesday**

As Valentine's Day approaches, let's nurture our hearts and relationships. Join us on February 1st at 9:30 am at St. Mary's Cathedral for Eucharistic Adoration, confession, uplifting music, a Eucharistic Procession, followed by Mass.

For those interested in starting the consecration, we will begin the 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory immediately after mass, leading up to Ash Wednesday.

To order the book, contact April Adams at 309-369-5110.

If you can't attend in person, consider joining with a local group to you or reading the book on your own, and follow our daily podcast and weekly questions.

**Embrace this sacred season of love and renewal!**

Sponsored by: Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Women Connect Ministry

**2025 Dates**

- Boys TEC 378 - February 15-17
- Girls TEC 379 - June 7-9
- Boys TEC 380 - Aug 2-4
- Girls TEC 381 - October 11-13

## 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](http://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** \_\_\_\_\_

# Join us!

**42<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL  
BLUE & GREEN  
gala**



"Where everybody knows your name."

**Saturday, March 29, 2025**



Peoria Notre Dame Gym | 5105 N. Sheridan Rd. Peoria, IL 61614  
Cocktails at 5:00 | Dinner served at 6:30 | Program to follow

## 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 14<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto: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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