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

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Parochial Vicar: Fr. Leopold Mushobozi.. (x4) Fr_Leo@stthomas-church.net

Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB (688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

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Music Coordinator: Steven Harms..... steveharms@stthomas-church.net

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 mypari-shapp.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).



February 9, 2025 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am," I said, "send me!"

- Isaiah 6:8





From Our Pastor

The Diocese of Peoria will celebrate an important anniversary this week. On Wednesday, February 12th, the Diocese of Peoria marks the 150th anniversary since it was created by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1875. Bishop Tylka will open a time of thanksgiving that we will celebrate as a diocese. This period will run until the 150th anniversary of the ordination of our first Bishop, John Lancaster Spalding, on May 1, 1877.

You may ask the question: Why did it take so long from 1875 to 1877 to name our first Bishop? Well, this is an interesting story.

In 1875, the metropolitan of the Archdiocese of St. Louis thought the Diocese (not yet an Archdiocese) of Chicago was too big. The Pope carved out several counties to make the Diocese of Peoria. A papal bull was sent to Father Michael Hurley appointing him as bishop. However, Father Hurley did not accept his appointment and returned the bull to Rome. Unfortunately, the ship that carried the mandate sank, and Rome never was informed that we had a diocese on paper but no bishop.

Communication being what it was, it took two years to discover this oversight. In 1877, a new bishop was appointed, and John Lancaster Spalding became our first Bishop. In 1880, additional territory was added to the Diocese of Peoria. In 1948, some territory of Peoria was given up when the Diocese of Joliet was created.

The Diocese of Peoria will therefore celebrate our extended sesquicentennial from February 12, 2025 to May 1, 2027. Everyone who makes a visit to St. Thomas or any Catholic Church of this Diocese on February 12th can receive a plenary indulgence under the normal conditions (with confession and Communion within a week and with prayers for the Holy Father).

- -Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of February 9, 2025

Sunday	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 6: 1-2a, 3-8; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 OR 1 Corinthians 15: 3-8, 11; Luke 5: 1-11
Monday	St. Scholastica, Virgin Genesis 1: 1-19; Mark 6: 53-56
Tuesday	Our Lady of Lourdes Genesis 1: 20—2: 4a; Mark 7: 1-13
Wednesday	Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-17; Mark 7: 14-23
Thursday	Genesis 2: 18-25; Mark 7: 24-30
Friday	Sts. Cyril, Monk, & Methodius, Bishop Genesis 3: 1-8; Mark 7: 31-37
Saturday	Genesis 3: 9-24; Mark 8: 1-10
Sunday	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Jeremiah 17: 5-8; 1 Corinthians 15: 12, 16-20; Luke 6: 17, 20-26

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 10, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Terry Tully/Hal & Stanzia Weatherford
8:00 a.m.	Raymundo Aquila/Juanita Corrales

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Mary Truitt/John Truitt
8:00 a.m.	Renae Juska/Jeanine Rolett

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Benefactors of FSJB
8:00 a.m.	Dolores Oppe/Warren Oppe

Thursday, February 13, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Special Intentions of the Zarley Family/Mary Ann Noe
2:30 p.m.	David Riekert/Nancy Becker

Friday, February 14, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Charlie & Lid Zeman/Jack & Margaret Weinstein
8:00 a.m.	Tim Penn/Maximilian & Carolyn Prusak

Saturday, February 15, 2025

8:00 a.m. Johnny Deponai/Tracey Deponai 5:00 p.m. Jason Rutherford/Family

Sunday, February 16, 2025

8:00 a.m.	Peoria Seminarians & Priestly Vocations
10:00 a.m.	The Kouri Family/FSJB
5:00 p.m.	For the People

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

Week of February 9

ROSARY Tuesday, February 11, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

ST VINCENT DE PAUL Tuesday, February 11, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

CCD Wednesday, February 12, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ST. IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY Thursday, February 13, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, February 13, 6:30 p.m., Sullivan's in the Heights

TMIY Friday, February 14, 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

St. Thomas Holy Hour Trivia Night Progressive Dinner Ash Wednesday Adoration February 20 February 22 March 1 March 5 March 7



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

Sunday morning **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

February 2, 2025

Fiscal YTD

Collections needed	\$20,000	\$620,000
Sunday Collections		
Electronic Collections		
Total Collected		
Over/(Short)		

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

Michael Quigley, brother of Cissy Carlson

OCIA Schedule

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

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.

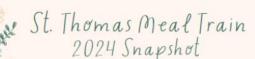
> parishoffice@stthomas-church.net 309-688-3446



Sponsor of the Week



February 9, 2025





Thank you volunteers for your delicious contributions to the St. Thomas Meal Train in 2024! Attached is a summary of the impact we were able to make together. Your generosity and support are truly appreciated.





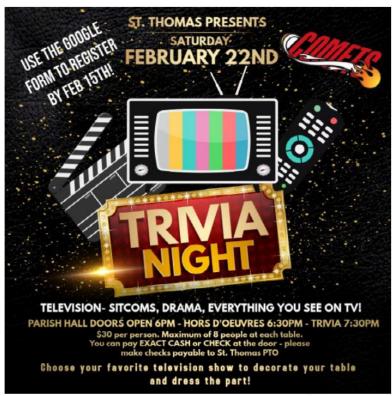
39 meals delivered

4 families helped



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THANK YOU!!! Looking forward to an even better 2025.



Register by Saturday, February 15th: STS 2025 Trivia Night Fundraiser

Did you Know?

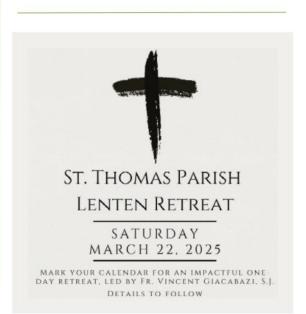
Your child <u>can</u> attend a Catholic School Financial Assistance Is Available

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 <u>www.cdop.org</u> 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.



St. Thomas the Apostle Church



2025 Souper Bowl **Kick-Off**

Let's team up for a Souper Bowl win against hunger! Please help us reach our goal of 1000 cans of soup

donated to the St. Thomas Food Pantry by the end of February. The food pantry dispenses an average of 350 cans of soup per month, so 1000 cans will get us through the cold winter

months and on into spring. Bringing just a few cans to each mass you attend from now until the end of February will go a long way towards helping us achieve our goal. Donations may be



placed in the Feed The Hungry

box in the church narthex. Thank you so much for helping us score in the fight against food insecurity!

EMMAUS KNIGHTS FOR YOUNG MEN GRADES 7-12

SPRING DATES: 2/16: 3/9: 4/13

FROM 4:30PM - 6:30PM

Join Fr. Chase for a Sunday night of faith, fraternity, and formation at the Emmaus House 2327 W. Heading Ave., West Peoria

EMMAUS KNIGHTS IS AN EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG MEN WHO DESIRE TO GROW IN FRIENDSHIP AND FAITH WITH SOME FOOD AND SOME FUN. IF YOU LOVED EMMAUS DAYS, COME AND CHECK OUT EMMAUS KNIGHTS.

FATHERS, DROP YOUR SONS OFF AND STAY FOR A TIME OF FRATERNITY

Scan the code to let us know you are coming and to have your parent fill out a digital permission form!



An Afternoon with the Holy Spirit Wednesday, February 19th, 1-4 pm at St. Thomas Church

Join us for an inspiring afternoon with the Catholic Women's League as we present An Afternoon with the Holy Spirit. The event will include talks, prayers, and discussion aimed at deepening our understanding and connection with the Holy Spirit.

A light lunch will be served. Come be a part of the experience. All are welcome!

"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

ARE INVITAD YOU SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE PROGRESSIVE DINNE

MARCH

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

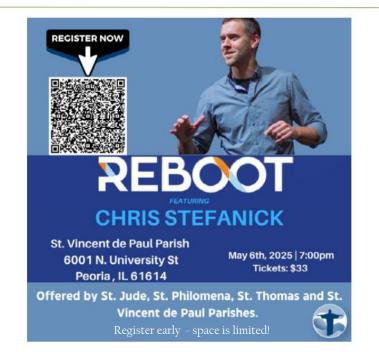
For any questions please reach out to: homasProgressiveDinner2025@gmail.com or Terry Best (309) 229-9904 or Molly Abbott (309) 303-3505

PLEASE RETURN TO FRONT OFFICE

Names of attendees:



Email address Phone number:







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	
Phone	
New Parishioner	



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://

Scan me

www.pndybsl.com/signup or scan the QR code to sign up.

Invitation to St. Phil's

All are invited to the St. Philomena Men's Club Smoker on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025 from 12-5 p.m. in the St. Philomena School Gym. Make sure you come hungry because they will be serving all-you-can-eat brats, German potato salad and ice cold beverages for just \$15.

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!

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

View Our Parish Supporters at www.DiscoverMass.com

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 V To Advertise 1-800-783-1623 Online at Diocesan.com/Business VISA Contraction of the local division of the loc DISCOVER 1208