# 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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Fr\_Leo@stthomas-church.net

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(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

Deacon: Dcn. John Nelson......981-2716

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

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

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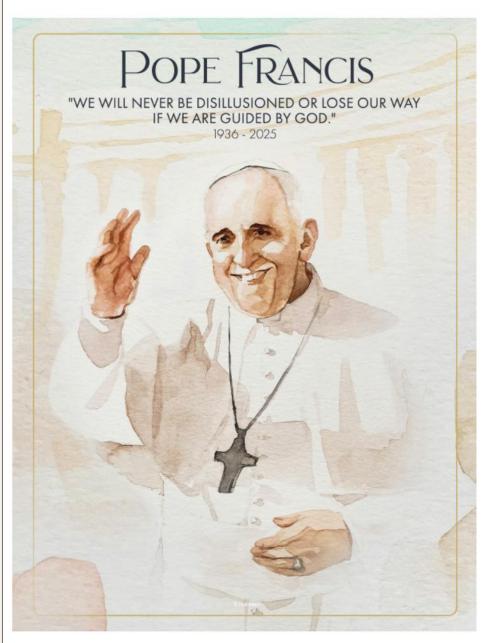
St. Vincent de Paul Society HelpLine..... (309) 264-5815

### 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).



April 27, 2025 Sunday of Divine Mercy





### From Our Pastor

Today we celebrate the Sunday in the octave of Easter. Today is a day of great joy and also sadness, as we recall both the Lord's resurrection on Easter and also commemorate the passing of Pope Francis.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, we recall the gift of the Lord's merciful love. This afternoon, we will have adoration and confession as a way to give honor to the Lord's Sacred Heart, where we find Mercy, the forgiveness of sins, and the Lord's providential care for us at every moment in our life. The image of divine Mercy is depicted with red and white rays coming from the Lord's Sacred Heart. Red to represent the saving blood of Christ, which nourishes us in the Eucharist and white to represent the water from the side of Christ, symbolic of the waters of baptism. In this font of mercy, we approach our Lord with great confidence.

We also pray for Pope Francis, whose funeral has just been celebrated. He expressed his desire to be buried in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, a sign of his trust in the motherly protection of Mary. We should always remember to pray for the faithful departed, and especially by offering prayers for the repose of the soul of Francis. Praying for the dead is always a great act of charity.

Several of the parishes in the area are working together to present the Reboot Parish retreat. We have arranged to bring in the nationally recognize speaker Chris Stefanic. This should be a delight for Catholics throughout the area. Plan to attend this event, hosted by St. Vincent de Paul Parish. See the bulletin for details to purchase tickets in advance.

This coming Wednesday we will have the Msgr. Watson memorial Mass at which we will remember all the faithful departed over the past year. All those who have lost a loved one are invited to take part.

Finally, for those parishioners who prefer to contribute electronically, in place of cash or check, I draw your attention to the QR codes available in the church or in the bulletin. These will link to our Parish website where electronic giving is available and easy to use. Thank you for your support of St. Thomas.

- -Msgr. Gray

### Readings for the Week of April 27, 2025

Sunday **Sunday of Divine Mercy** 

Acts 5: 12-16; Revelation 1: 9-11a, 12-13, 17-19;

John 20: 19-31

Monday St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest

Acts 4: 23-31: John 3: 1-8

Tuesday St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church

Acts 4: 32-37; John 3: 7b-15

Wednesday St. Pius V, Pope

Acts 5: 17-26: John 3: 16-21

Thursday St. Joseph the Worker

Acts 5: 27-33; John 3: 31-36

Friday St. Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Acts 5: 34-42; John 6: 1-15

Saturday Sts. Philip & James, Apostles

1 Corinthians 15: 1-8; John 14: 6-14

Sunday Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 5: 27-32, 40b-41; Revelation 5: 11-14; John 21: 1-19

### **Mass Intentions**

Sunday, April 27, 2025

10:00 a.m. For the People (correction)

Monday, April 28, 2025

Stanley & Edith Gifford/John Truitt 7:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. Msgr. William Watson/Linh Luong

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Michael Doyle/Danny Phelan 7:00 a.m.

8:00 a.m. Intention of The Gus Portman Family/The McCormack

Family

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Intention of Nate & Vicki Grawey Family/Terry & Eileen 7:00 a.m.

Grawey

8:00 a.m. Rita Oser/Susan & Richard Cood

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Renae Kathleen Juska/Beth Reed 7:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. Michael Quigley/Timothy Messmer

Friday, May 2, 2025

7:00 a.m. Nancy Wilson/Dayton & Mary Stephens

8:00 a.m. Adrian & Helen Truitt/John Truitt

Saturday, May 3, 2025

8:00 a.m. Joy Hartnett/Molly Gialandri & Becky Blasek

Thomas Penn/David & Laurie Williams 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Paul Hop Nguyen/Mai Dang 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB

5:00 p.m. For the People

### Week of April 27

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

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS** Sunday, April 27, 3:00 p.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, April 29, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

MSGR WATSON MEMORIAL MASS Wednesday, April 30, 5:30 p.m., Church

CCD Wednesday, April 30, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, April 30, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

SCHOOL MASS & MAY CROWNING Thursday, May 1, 9:15 a.m., Church

**WOMEN OF THE WORD** Thursday, May 1, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

**TMIY** Friday, May 2, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**ADORATION** Friday, May 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**

LifeTeen at St. Ann Parish May 4
Reboot May 6
St. Thomas Holy Hour May 15

## Pray with the Pope

April 2025

### For the use of the new technologies

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

### May 2025 For working conditions

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

### **Weekly Collection**

April 13, 2025

		riscai fid
Collections needed	\$20,000	\$820,000
Sunday Collections	\$19,226	\$636,961
Electronic Collections	\$4,987	\$157,233
Total Collected	\$24,213	\$794,194
Over/(Short)	\$4,213	\$(25,806)

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

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis



Pope Francis
December 17, 1936 - April 21, 2025

O God, faithful rewarder of souls, grant that your departed servant Pope Francis, whom you made successor of Peter and shepherd of your Church, may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven the mysteries of your grace and compassion, which he faithfully ministered on earth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen. (Roman Missal)

### **OCIA Schedule**

Apr 30: Mystagogia

Sponsor of the Week



Eige al VID

### Congratulations & Welcome Catechumens & Candidates

Jozalynn Arnold Allyson Rose Camargo Beleche Camdon Cotton-Frakes

Teresa Finegan

Colleen Glatz

Andrew Glatz

Keegan Glatz

Elda Gonzalez Kayla Guerra

Khloe Lovin

Michael Mapes

Reynold Mitchell

Cameron Mouro

Laura Mouro

Katria Mouro

Haven Mouro

Semaiah Mouro

Amalea Mouro

Pearl Mouro

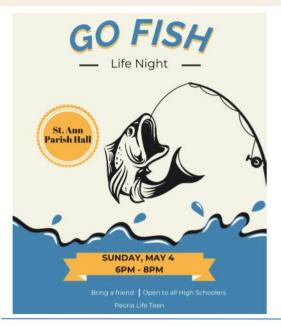
Levi Mouro

Jorge Ramirez

Addison Sharpe

Cyllis Trapps

Melissa VanVianen





### Men's Retreat at White House in St. Louis

Men from St. Thomas Parish are invited to participate in a 3 day men's retreat at White House Retreat in Saint Louis. This year's retreat will take place from September 18 to 21, 2025. Join us at White House's beautiful 80-acre campus high on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River. This is a silent, guided retreat filled with good rest, good food, and inspiring conferences that will help bring you closer to Christ. You'll come away with a new perspective on your life and a wonderful inner peace to face challenges with a new perspective. Give it a chance and see what it can do for your life! To register, or if you have questions, email George Burek at georgeburek@yahoo.com

More information on White House Retreats can be found at:

https://whitehouseretreat.org

We hope you will join us!

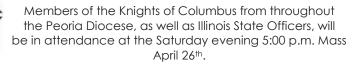


### Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Monday, May 5, 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.

### Night of Knights



This Mass begins their night of celebration for the recipients of the *Night of Knights* awards which recognize their countless dedicated hours of service to others. These award winners stand as living testaments to the noble principles upon which our Order was founded—Charity, Unity, Fraternity, & Patriotism.

### Scan to Donate

To make donating to \$t. Thomas Parish easy we now have a QR Code. Just scan this code from wherever you are, whenever you want to donate.



For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. –

Matthew 25: 35



The St. Thomas Food Pantry offers an excellent opportunity for students needing service hours! On Monday and Thursday mornings, federal holidays excepted, the pantry

distributes groceries to neighbors in need in the Peoria Heights area. Packing groceries, registering pantry guests, restocking shelves, repackaging food, and helping guests to their vehicles are tasks that students will perform while under adult supervision. An additional service opportunity occurs one Thursday afternoon per month when we receive a truckload of food products from Midwest Food Bank. On these days, students help adult volunteers unload the truck, repackage food, rotate stock, and stock shelves. Students interested in earning service hours at the food pantry this summer should **contact Diana Janda at dianajanda1964@gmail.com by Friday, May 16th.** 

### 2025 Opportunities Available:

Mondays & Thursdays – 8:30 am - 11:30 am June 2nd through August 14th

Monthly Food Delivery – 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM Thursdays June 12th, July 17th, and August 14th

### 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!

# for Easter 50, a program designed to help you to fulfill your mission as a son of God through Scripture study, prayer, and fraternity. Make the most of this glorious season by embracing its celebratory character and drawing upon its power to live differently. Visit <a href="https://exodus90.com/">https://exodus90.com/</a> for more information.

Questions or interested in joining? Contact hhcosner@gmail.com.

Men of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish,

### When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus

Exodus 90

Do you desire to experience the joy of Christ's resurrection in a deeper

way this Easter season? Join St. Thomas the Apostle's Exodus 90 group



We go to church to be close to God...
We pray or talk with God to be close to God...

The truth is that God is present in our daily life, in the face of someone in need.

Pope Francis said that by reaching our to those in need we grow closer to Him. What are we doing to serve the poor? Are we doing all we can to help the less fortunate among us.

We are doing the work of God when we help the less fortunate among us. As the Bible says love your neighbor as yourself. You are with us in spirit as we visit those in need. Charity is an essential part of being a Christian.

We—you, me, all of us are called by God to acknowledge the presence of Jesus in the stranger not able to pay their utilities or rent, having a financial crisis, or in need of support in daily living struggles, and to welcome them as family.

Remember God is hidden in our daily lives. Presently SVdP funds are tight and we need your assistance to continue our support efforts.

God bless you for reading this plea and answering.

~ Cynthia Hall

### Do you lead a ministry or group that primarily serves women in the Diocese of Peoria?

We want to hear about it!

The Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (PDCCW) is compiling a directory of ministries to post on our website and help women connect with each other in friendship, faith and community.

Fill out the form to be added to our directory!









Perfect for Ages 12 & Up!

This high-energy, 2-hour event with internationally acclaimed speaker **Chris Stefanick** will awaken your faith, reignite your joy, and equip you with tools to live the life God created you for: A life of JOY. It will help you rediscover the JOY you were created for, and is perfect for everyone... even friends, family, and children (12+) who may not be actively practicing their faith.

### Tickets Are Limited!

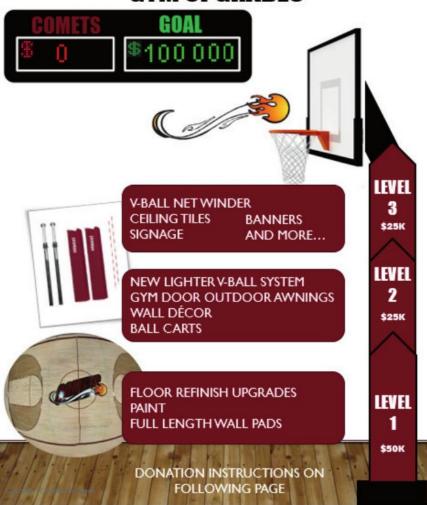
https://reallifecatholic.com/reboot/

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 7:00 - 9:00 PM

St. Vincent de Paul Parish 6001 N University St, Peoria, IL 61614



# PLEASE SUPPORT ST. THOMAS GYM UPGRADES



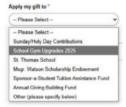
## **Parish Registration**

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.

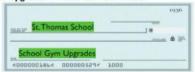
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City	ZIP	
Address		
Phone		
Email		
First Name(s)	Mr Mrs Ms	
Last Name		
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Electronic Donation: https://stthomaspeoria.org/giving/donate-now/ Select - Apply my Gift to: School Gym Upgrades 2025





<u>Checks</u>: Please make checks out to "St.Thomas School" with memo "School Gym Upgrades". Route to Front Office.



CAT

Caterpillar Foundation 1:1 Matching Gifts:

- I. Click on Matching Link or CAT Icon Button.
- 2. Select St. Thomas Elementary School
- . Select St. I homas Elementary School



Email kellyascholz@gmail.com and/or sheriscatton@stthomaschurch.net the amount CAT will match for our tracking purposes.



### Dunlap Valley Middle School Red Cross Blood Drive in Memory of Mrs. Brooke Crawmer-Joseph

Thursday, May 1, 2025 2:00-6:00 PM Dunlap Valley Middle School Commons

> 13120 Route 91 Dunlap, IL 61525

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS Or visit https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=DVMS

All donors will be entered into a raffle to win a \$40 gift card from Weaver's Restaurant, generously donated by Weaver's.





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 - Tracey - 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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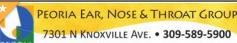


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