# 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

Pastor: Msgr. Jason A. Gray......(x3) msgrgray@stthomas-church.net

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Leopold Mushobozi.. (x4)

Fr\_Leo@stthomas-church.net

Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB

(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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parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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

Annulment Consultant:

John Mackoway......699-5213

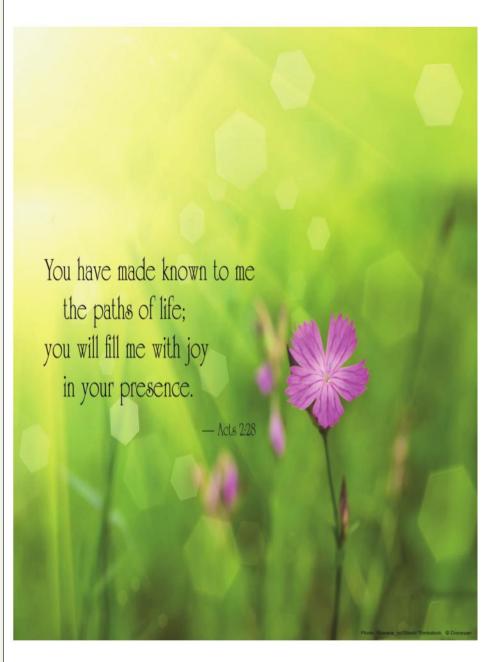
St. Vincent de Paul Society HelpLine..... (309) 264-5815

#### 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).



## May 4, 2025 Third Sunday of Easter





#### From Our Pastor

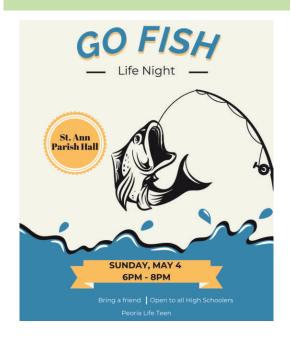
The Lenten season has come to an end and Christ is risen. This is clearly visible this weekend as we have coffee and donuts this Sunday! We suspended donuts during Lent, but now this tradition resumes.

We have been working with other parishes in the area on different initiatives, with St. Vincent de Paul, St. Anne, and St. Jude. We have collaborated on LifeTeen as a youth program, and this week on the Reboot as we bring in the nationally recognized speaker, Chris Stefanic. This event will take place on Tuesday at St. Vincent. Tickets much be purchased in advance. Please see the bulletin.

We will also be collaborating with St. Vincent to merge our CCD programs. The small number of students will make it more effective to share resources. We will finish our last CCD class this week and look forward to our combined effort next fall.

Please pray for our First Communion students who will receive the Eucharist for the first time this coming Saturday. Their excitement to receive Our Lord can be an inspiration for all of us to approach the reception of Communion more fervently.

- -Msgr. Gray





## Readings for the Week of May 4, 2025

Sunday Third Sunday of Easter

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

**Monday** Acts 6: 8-15; John 6: 22-29

**Tuesday** Acts 7: 51—8: 1a; John 6: 30-35

Wednesday Acts 8: 1b-8; John 6: 35-40

**Thursday** Acts 8: 26-40; John 6: 44-51

**Friday** Acts 9: 1-20; John 6: 52-59

**Saturday** Acts 9: 31-42; John 6: 60-69

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 13: 14, 43-52; Revelation 7: 9, 14b-17; John 10: 27-30

### **Mass Intentions**

#### Monday, May 5, 2025

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Jimmy Williams

8:00 a.m. Norman Stahl & Jim Becker/Patricia Stahl

#### Tuesday, May 6, 2025

7:00 a.m. Oscar & Gwen James/The Williams Family

8:00 a.m. Elaine Suau/Sharon Zogby

#### Wednesday, May 7, 2025

7:00 a.m. Melvin Noe 8th Anniv./Mary Ann Noe

8:00 a.m. Debbie Lane/Jenny Williams

#### Thursday, May 8, 2025

7:00 a.m. Charles Ginoli

2:30 p.m. Mike Doran/The Wombacher Family

#### Friday, May 9, 2025

7:00 a.m. Jeanne Broussard/Mary Lou & Michael Bartley

8:00 a.m. Mary Truitt/John Truitt

#### Saturday, May 10, 2025

8:00 a.m. Robert Nelson/The Nelson Family 10:00 a.m. Nancy Wilson/Ed & Cathy Mallow

5:00 p.m. Benefactors of FSJB

#### Sunday, May 11, 2025

8:00 a.m. For the People

10:00 a.m. Renae Kathleen Juska/Beth Reed5:00 p.m. Thomas Penn/Dave & Laurie Williams

## Week of May 4

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL & PANTRY COLLECTIONS** This Weekend after all Masses

**COFFEE & DONUTS** Sunday, following morning Masses

LIFETEEN Sunday, May 4, 6:00 p.m., St. Ann Parish

ROSARY Tuesday, May 6, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

REBOOT Tuesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m., St. Vincent de Paul

CCD Wednesday, May 7, 6:00 p.m., School

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, May 1, 6:30 p.m., Sullivan's in the Heights

FIRST COMMUNION Saturday, May 10, 10:00 a.m., Church

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

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

St. Thomas Holy Hour May 15
Extra Confession Sunday May 25
Adoration June 6

## **Our Sympathy**

Elita Kayyaly, sister of Rhonda Bachman

Mary Ann Lankton, mother of Cynthia Kiel

## **Baptism Congratulations**

Easton Coughlon, son of Brette & Ryan Coughlon

Ava Katherine Streid, daughter of Mark & Katrina Streid



## Pray with the Pope

# 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.

## **Wedding Congratulations**

Kaila Aisling Fennell & Grant Matthew Streid

## **Weekly Collection**

April 27, 2025

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Collections needed	\$20,000	\$860,000
Sunday Collections	\$8,287	\$659,807
Electronic Collections	\$5,264	\$167,469
Total Collected	\$13,551	\$827,276
Over/(Short)	\$(6,449)	\$(32,724)

Easter Collection.....\$7,692

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.



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## 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!



## **Knights of Columbus**

The Knights of Columbus Spalding Council #427 is teaming up with Sheridan Nursery. We invite you to participate in our Plant Sale Fund Raising event held

MAY 1 - MAY 31, 2025. You can shop at either location: N. Sheridan Rd. or W. Alta Ln.

You must present the flier at the time of purchase—which can be found here: HOME—in order for the fundraiser to be credited.

Funds raised will benefit the Newman Foundation and to purchase new aprons for the Tootsie Roll sale which benefits EPIC & CWTC.

## FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

#### SHALL WE NOT HEED THE REQUEST OF THE WOUNDED HEART OF **OUR MOTHER?**

On December 10, 1925, our Loving Mother Mary, appearing to Lucy, the only survivor of those who saw our Lady at Fatima, spoke these heartrending words: "My child, behold My Heart surrounded with the thorns which ungrateful men place therein at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least, try to console Me. Announce in My name that I promise to assist at the hour of death, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall: 1.Go to confession\* and receive Holy Communion, 2. Recite the Rosary, 3. And keep Me company for a quarter of an hour while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, 4. With the intention of making reparation to Me. I promise to assist them at the hour of their death with all the graces necessary to save their souls." \*The Confession may be made during the eight days before or after the Communion.

Beginning May 3, please join us once a month in prayer to honor our Blessed Mother and to make reparation for the sins against her Immaculate Heart. Rosary begins at 7:35 am. Mass at 8:00 am.

Confession schedule as posted in the bulletin.

Save the date.

Bring your spouse, children, grandkids, and friends.



**SCAN ME** 

https://fatima.org/first-saturday-devotion/





#### 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.

#### Scan to Donate

To make donating to St. 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!

## 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!







#### Men of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish,

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 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 <a href="mailto:hhcosner@gmail.com">hhcosner@gmail.com</a>.

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



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





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!

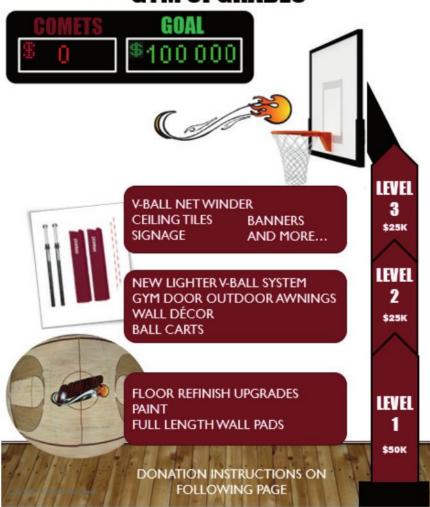
https://reallifecatholic.com/reboot/

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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First Name(s)	_Mr Mrs Ms
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Phone	
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Change of address/phone





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.



Caterpillar Foundation 1:1 Matching Gifts:

- I. Click on Matching Link or CAT Icon Button.
- 2. Select St. Thomas Elementary School
- 3. Request full match
- Email kellyascholz@gmail.com and/or sheriscatton@stthomaschurch.net the amount CAT will match for our tracking purposes.



ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL



Our Pet Pantry is empty! Can you help?

**Sophia's Kitchen** offers a pet pantry each Thursday at 1 PM, but we

haven't had much to give for the last 3 weeks! Could you help our guests stay bonded with their best friends? Donations of cat and dog food are much appreciated! Dry is best, but we also are happy to get canned foods and kitty litter. Large size bags are great - we will repack them into smaller sizes to make sure everyone gets some.

Donations can be dropped off at 105 N Richard Pryor Place, Peoria, IL 61605 Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 3 PM, or ordered online at <a href="https://bit.ly/ChewySK">https://bit.ly/ChewySK</a>
For more information, contact Claire at <a href="mailto:soupkitchen2010@gmail.com">soupkitchen2010@gmail.com</a>.



New Parishioner

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.



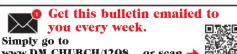
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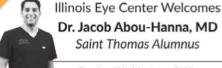


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