

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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msggray@stthomas-church.net

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Fr_Leo@stthomas-church.net

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steveharms@stthomas-church.net

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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).



May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

I KNOW MY SHEEP
AND MINE KNOW ME

First Eucharist Congratulations

Janet Almonazi
Ava Blackert
Jason Braet
Cecilia Bui
Isabella Bui
Mark Capobianco
Duane Cullinan
Mary Michael Cullinan
Nathan Dang
Maeve Edwards
Aarón Esparza
Emilia Hankins
Lucia Hernandez
Ismije Juarez
Ashton Kepple
Wesley Kepple
Henry Knecht
Katarina Lai
Nicolas Leon
Fitzgerald Mishler
Colson Mitchell
Luna Moreno
Levi Mouro
Theodore Pearsall
Harper Pennell
Jaxon Ray
Analia Rodriguez
Jessely Rodriguez
Hudson Scrivner
Francesca Siever
Elena Slevin
Lucas Teran
Duke Unkovich
Lucille Wombacher





From Our Pastor

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers and expecting mothers. Let us remember our mothers and the gift of life that each of us has received from them. In this month of May, I turn to our Blessed Mother and ask her to watch over each of us. Mary faithfully leads us to her Divine Son. Let us call upon her prayers for our holiness in life.

Congratulations to all the students who made their First Communion. As our second-grade students prepare to receive the Eucharist, it reminds us all of the importance of the Blessed Sacrament and the way in which we receive it. This is a good moment for us to consider our own piety as we carefully and reverently come forward to receive Our Lord.

At the time of writing this column, we are about to see the Cardinals of the Church begin their conclave in anticipation of the election of the next Holy Father. Let us pray as a Church for the Holy Spirit to come down upon them in their prayerful deliberations. And let us also pray for the next Pope to be elected, that he may be granted wisdom, holiness, and prudence as he assumes the responsibilities for shepherding the Catholic Church.

Next Sunday, May 18th, we will have the graduation of our eighth-grade class after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Please be aware that the graduates and their families will be present at the Mass. The graduation will take place after the 10:00 a.m. Mass is over. While the Mass will be as usual, I advise the parish that there may be a larger than normal number of people present at that particular Mass.

On Tuesday, May 20th, the Eucharistic Pilgrimage will pass through Peoria. The Blessed Sacrament will be brought in procession to the Cathedral where there will be a Holy Hour at 7:00 p.m. in the same place where Archbishop Sheen's body is buried. Sheen was so devoted to the daily Holy Hour, and we can be inspired by his example. All are welcome to attend.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of May 11, 2025

Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 13: 14, 43-52; Revelation 7: 9, 14b-17; John 10: 27-30
Monday	Sts. Nereus & Achilleus, Martyrs Acts 11: 1-18; John 10: 1-10
Tuesday	Our Lady of Fatima Acts 11: 19-26; John 10: 22-30
Wednesday	St. Matthias, Apostle Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26; John 15: 9-17
Thursday	St. Isidore Acts 13: 13-25; John 13: 16-20
Friday	Acts 13: 26-33; John 14: 1-6
Saturday	Acts 13: 44-52; John 14: 7-14
Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 14: 21-27; Revelation 21: 1-5a; John 13: 31-33a, 34-35

Mass Intentions

Monday, May 12, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Lois Frasco/Linda Osika
8:00 a.m.	Paul Oser/Susan & Richard Coad

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Mary E. Truitt/John Truitt
8:00 a.m.	Nancy Wilson/Margaret Thomas

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Paul Hop Nguyen/Tam & Phan Vu
8:00 a.m.	Thu Dinh/Linh Luong

Thursday, May 15, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Dolores Oppe/Warren Oppe
2:30 p.m.	Don Grebner/Nancy Becker

Friday, May 16, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Gary Walker/The McCormack Family
8:00 a.m.	Stanley & Edith Gifford/John Truitt

Saturday, May 17, 2025

8:00 a.m.	Mary Kay Kemp/Carolyn Mitchell
5:00 p.m.	Thomas Penn/David & Laurie Williams

Sunday, May 18, 2025

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

Week of May 11

ROSARY Tuesday, May 13, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Tuesday, May 13, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

PARISH COUNCIL Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office

ST. IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY Thursday, May 15, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR Thursday, May 15, 7:00 p.m., Church

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

CARMELITES Saturday, May 17, 11:00 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Extra Confession Sunday	May 25
LifeTeen	June 1
Adoration	June 6

Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week

*Happy Mother's
Day
To all our*

*Mothers
Grandmothers
&
Godmothers*

Pray with the Pope



May 2025

For working conditions

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

Weekly Collection

May 4, 2025

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$880,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$12,151.....	\$671,958
Electronic Collections.....	\$6,935.....	\$174,404
Total Collected.....	\$19,086.....	\$846,362
Over/(Short).....	\$(914).....	\$(33,638)
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.



Women of Faith Celebration with Bishop Tylka – June 7, 2025

All women of the Peoria Diocese are invited to a special day of prayer, honor, and celebration with Bishop Louis Tylka on **Saturday, June 7, 2025**, at the **Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception** in Peoria.

The day includes:

- ✠ Rosary, beautiful music, Marian Procession
Mass with Bishop Tylka
- ✠ Special Blessing for Women
- ✠ Rose & Outstanding Volunteer Awards
- ✠ Post-Mass Celebration with lunch, music, raffles, vendors, and more!

✠ Cost: \$30 (includes lunch)

✠ Register by: June 1, 2025

✠ Invite your priest, family, and friends to join this joyful celebration of women living their faith!

Come. Be Inspired. Be blessed. Celebrate and be celebrated as women of God.

Register online using the QR code or by mail. Send check to April Adams, 928 County Rd. 1500 N., Metamora, IL 16548. For details, contact April Adams, PDCCW President at 309-369-5110.

Sponsor of the Week



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!



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 heart-rending 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.

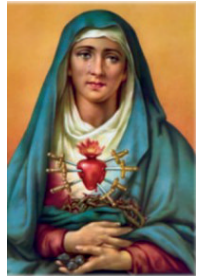
Save the date.

**Bring your spouse, children, grandkids,
and friends.**



SCAN ME

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



WE ARE HIRING

STS is seeking a FULL TIME Math Teacher for the
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Maureen Bentley, Principal
maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

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Respect Life Prayer & Action

When a woman finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, the news can come as a shock and bring overwhelming feelings of fear, shame, anxiety, and doubt. Without a strong support system, what should be joyful news, can instead be experienced as a crisis. Often, a woman facing an unexpected pregnancy may not know where she can turn for help and assistance. Pregnancy Help Centers respond to this urgent need every day, embracing expectant mothers with empathy and love

Act: Offer this [Prayer for Radical Solidarity](#) | [Respect Life](#) in thanksgiving for all pregnancy center staff and volunteers.

Catholic Women's League Summer Retreat

Revive, Refresh, Renew

Sr. Diane VandeVoorde (Leader)

When: June 11, 2025 from 9:30 to 2:00 Lunch included

Where: 2408 W. Heading Ave, West Peoria, Illinois 61604

Register by **Calling Bonnie 309-688-8063** \$30.00 (pay at the door)

Proceeds to benefit Heading Avenue Franciscans
Call early as space is limited

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.





*Congratulations to our STS Scholastic Bowl team!
They won their regionals and sectionals!
They are competing in State matches on Friday!
The students are awesome!
Over 300 pts each match!!*



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, repack 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



Knights of Columbus®

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPALDING COUNCIL #427 PLANT SALE

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.

LOCATION'S OF THE PLANT SALE – SHERIDAN NURSERY
3823 N SHERIDAN ROAD & 3012 W ALTA LANE
PEORIA, IL PEORIA, IL

HOURS OF OPERATION MON – FRI 8:00 – 8:00
SAT 8:00 – 7:00
SUN 8:00 – 5:00

SHOW THIS FLYER AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE AND SHERIDAN NURSERY WILL MAKE A 10% DONATION OF YOUR PURCHASE ON FLOWERS, POTS, SHRUBS, TREES, GIFT CERTIFICATES AND MORE TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPALDING COUNCIL #427. (EXCLUDES LANDSCAPE SERVICES AS WELL AS LABOR AND DELIVERY COSTS.)
THIS FLYER CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER SALES/PROMOTIONS.

FLYER MUST BE PRESENTED AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE.

FUNDS RAISED WILL BENEFIT THE NEWMAN FOUNDATION AND BE USED TO PURCHASE NEW APRONS FOR THE TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE CONDUCTED EACH FALL. THE TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE RAISES FUNDS TO SUPPORT EPIC AND CWTC.

Name: _____ Total amount of sale: _____

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPALDING COUNCIL #427

THIS OFFER IS GOOD FROM MAY 1 – MAY 31, 2025

Sponsor A Student Fund

We would like to thank our parishioners for your ongoing support of St. Thomas parish and school. We are blessed to have so many generous people who give of their time and talent as well as their financial support.

Our school families have been helped greatly by donations to our *Sponsor A Student Fund*. In recent years our families have also received significant financial support from Empower Illinois through the Invest in Kids Act. Unfortunately the Illinois State Legislature failed to renew the Invest in Kids program so our students will no longer have access to this source of financial support. Beginning with the 24/25 school year the need for financial assistance from our *Sponsor A Student Fund* will increase greatly as we will need to replace the assistance which had been provided through the Invest in Kids program.


Please support our school families by donating to our Sponsor A Student Fund. You may use the yellow envelope which is provided with your regular church envelope to direct your donation to our scholarship fund. Donations can also be made electronically and through our parish website. You will need to note that the donation is for the Sponsor A Student Fund if you do not use the yellow envelope. If you have any questions please contact the parish office.

We deeply appreciate your support of Catholic education at St. Thomas School.

PLEASE SUPPORT ST. THOMAS GYM UPGRADES

COMETS
GOAL

\$ 0
\$100 000



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\$25K

LEVEL 1
\$50K

DONATION INSTRUCTIONS ON
FOLLOWING PAGE

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!

Electronic Donation: <https://stthomaspeoria.org/giving/donate-now/>

Select - Apply my Gift to: School Gym Upgrades 2025

Donate
Now Link

Apply my gift to *

-- Please Select --

-- Please Select --

Sunday/Holy Day Contributions

School Gym Upgrades 2025

St. Thomas School

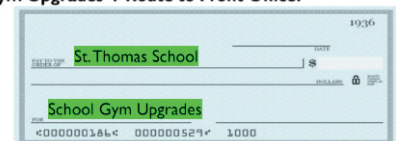
Msgr. Watson Scholarship Endowment

Sponsor-a-Student Tuition Assistance Fund

Annual Giving Building Fund

Other (please specify below)

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



Caterpillar Foundation 1:1 Matching Gifts:

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



ST THOMAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL

Select

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.

Last Name _____

First Name(s) _____ Mr. ___ Mrs. ___ Ms. ___

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

New Parishioner _____ Change of address/phone _____



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 <https://bit.ly/ChewySK>

For more information, contact Claire at soupkitchen2010@gmail.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 - 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.



Diocesan is proud to be printing *St. Thomas the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin*



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