

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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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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marycushing@stthomas-church.net

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maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

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parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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

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

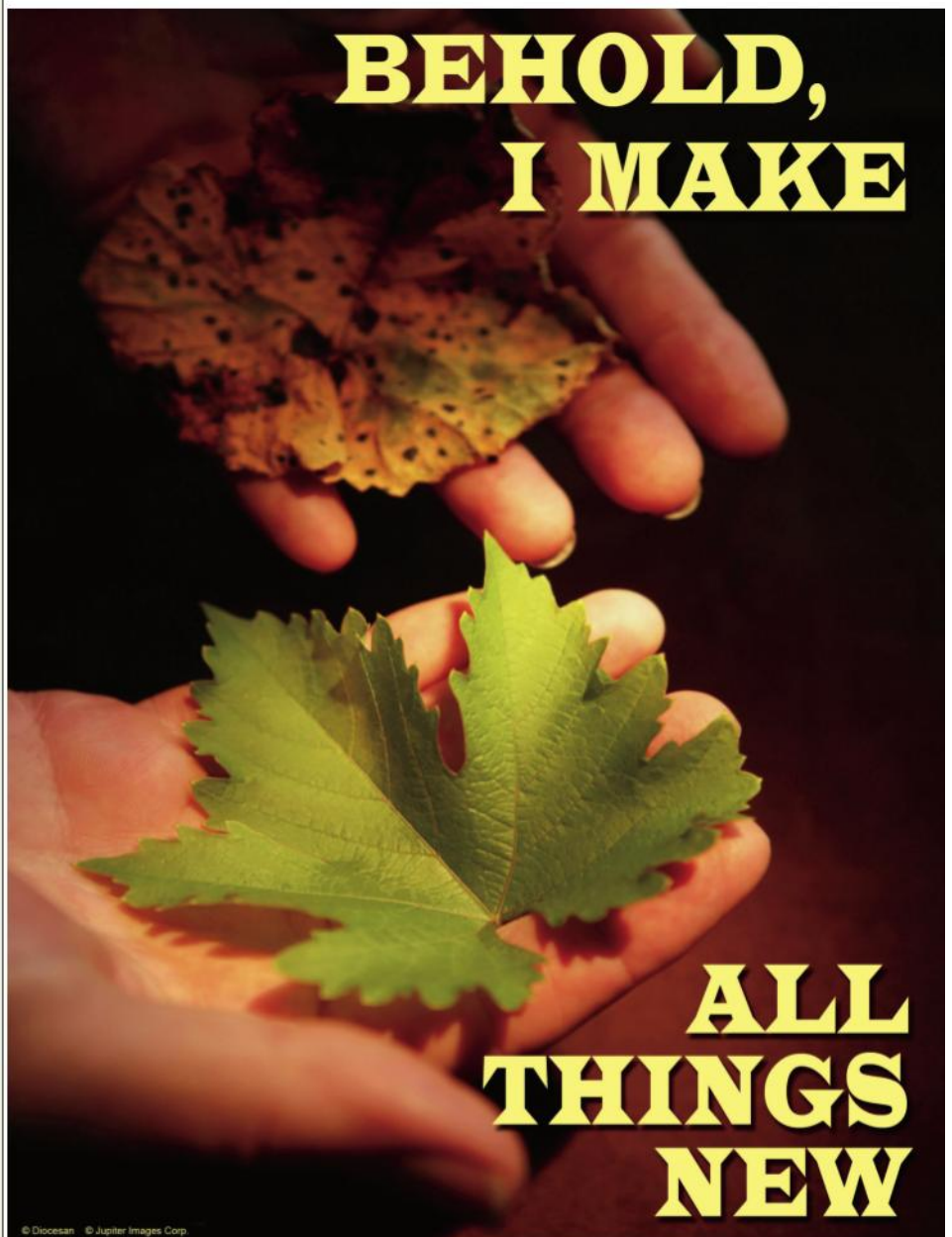
St. Vincent de Paul Society Helpline..... (309)
264-5815

Stay in Touch

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 18, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Easter



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From Our Pastor

Since we received word of the election of Pope Leo XIV last week, I have heard many positive reactions and sensed the enthusiasm of parishioners and Catholics throughout the country to our Holy Father. I worked in Rome ten years ago, but never overlapped with Cardinal Prevost and have not met him. However, I would like to share a few observations.

He is part of the Augustinian order founded in the spirit of St. Augustine, one of the great Fathers of the Church. He also attended the Angelicum, also known as the University of St. Thomas Aquinas. Part of the Pope's formation and background roots him in the great traditions of St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas.

He chose the name of Leo. In comments made on May 9th to the Cardinals, he indicated that he was thinking of Pope Leo XIII who authored *Rerum Novarum* on the social teaching of the Church. This document rejects laissez faire capitalism and communism as extremes in understanding the Gospel. Leo XIII consecrated the world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He wrote on the study of Scripture, encouraging scholarship while maintaining the foundations of the faith. After he had a vision of Satan trying to destroy the Church, Leo XIII composed the St. Michael prayer which was added to the Mass as part of the "Leonine" prayers.

The name of Leo recalls the first Pope of that name, Pope St. Leo the Great, one of only three popes to hold that title. Leo the Great was known especially for defending the classic teaching on the divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ at the Council of Chalcedon in 451. He proclaimed that Jesus Christ is *true God and true man* after which the Council Fathers greeted this expression with the response, *Peter speaks through Leo!* Let us receive the election of our Holy Father with joy and support him with our prayers.

Congratulations to the students who will be graduating after the 10:00 a.m. Mass this weekend. We wish them the best in high school. Please also remember the men to be ordained as priests for our Diocese next weekend. May God bless them in their ministry.

As part of the Eucharistic pilgrimage, the Blessed Sacrament will come through the Diocese of Peoria this week. On Tuesday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m. there will be a Holy Hour in the Cathedral with a focus on Archbishop Sheen. Please attend if you are able.

Finally, because of the generosity of those who attended the Progressive Dinner, we have installed a new organ in the church to replace the 47 year old organ that was coming to the end of its useful life. I hope you notice the sound quality of the organ which is significantly better than the previous organ.

God bless you as we prepare for Memorial Day next weekend.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of May 18, 2025

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Sunday | Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 14: 21-27; Revelation 21: 1-5a; John 13: 31-33a, 34-35 |
| Monday | Acts 14: 5-18; John 14: 21-26 |
| Tuesday | St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest Acts 14: 19-28; John 14: 27-31a |
| Wednesday | St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, & Companions, Martyrs Acts 15: 1-6; John 15: 1-8 |
| Thursday | St. Rita of Cascia, Religious Acts 15: 7-21; John 15: 9-11 |
| Friday | Acts 15: 22-31; John 15: 12-17 |
| Saturday | Acts 16: 1-10; John 15: 18-21 |
| Sunday | Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 15: 1-2, 22-29; Revelation 21: 10-14, 22-23; John 14: 23-29 |

Mass Intentions

Monday, May 19, 2025

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 7:00 a.m. | Souls in Purgatory/Tam & Phan Vu |
| 8:00 a.m. | Thomas Penn/Gene & Gretta Couri |

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 7:00 a.m. | Stanley & Edith Gifford/John Truitt |
| 8:00 a.m. | Intention of Anthony & Nicole Eber Family/Terry & Eileen Grawey |

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 7:00 a.m. | Cecilio Apas Con-Ui/The Sarmiento Family |
| 8:00 a.m. | Deceased Members of the Mallow Hessling Family |

Thursday, May 22, 2025

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 7:00 a.m. | Intentions of Andrew Williams |
| 8:00 a.m. | Adriana Helen Truitt/John Truitt |

Friday, May 23, 2025

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 7:00 a.m. | Fr. Paul Stark, S.J./Tam & Phan Vu |
| 2:30 p.m. | Intentions of Rhonda Bachman |

Saturday, May 24, 2025

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 8:00 a.m. | Dcn. Greg Serangeli/Ed & Cathy Mallow |
| 5:00 p.m. | Michael Quigley/SVdP Conference at St. Thomas |

Sunday, May 25, 2025

| | |
|------------|---|
| 8:00 a.m. | Ann Wombacher & Jane Doran/The Wombacher Family |
| 10:00 a.m. | Dan L. Arnold/The Hugh Toaer Family |
| 5:00 p.m. | For the People |

Week of May 18

CHOIR PRACTICE Sundays, 9:00 a.m., Music Room

GRADUATION Sunday, May 18, 10:00 a.m., Church

ROSARY Tuesday, May 20, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

SHEEN EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 p.m.

SCHOOL MASS Friday, May 23, 9:15 a.m., Church, Final Mass of the School Year

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

EXTRA CONFESSIONS Sunday, May 25, after all Masses, Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Millions of Monicas | May 27 |
| LifeTeen | June 1 |
| Adoration | June 6 |
| St. Thomas Holy Hour | June 19 |

In Gratitude for Pope Leo XIV

God of all people,

In trust and gratitude, we turn to your Holy Spirit. We know your Spirit has been active during this time of conclave, guiding the prayerful discernment that has brought your Church to this important moment. Now, as Pope Leo XIV assumes the Petrine Ministry, we pray that your Spirit draw ever closer to our new Holy Father, illuminating his path so that he may faithfully see and respond to the needs of your people.

We pray that Pope Leo XIV be strengthened in his ministry. May he continue building bridges that connect us to one another. May he be an example of faith, hope and love. We pray that you give him joy in his work and a renewed fervor for your Gospel message. May he never lose sight of Christ who walks before us and among us — particularly in the most vulnerable, the forgotten and the outcast.

Christ Jesus, bless Pope Leo XIV — and bless us, your holy people, as together we strive to be your Body in our wounded world.

Amen.

Jesuits Central & Southern Province

Weekly Collection

May 11, 2025

| | | Fiscal YTD |
|-----------------------------|----------|------------|
| Collections needed..... | \$20,000 | \$900,000 |
| Sunday Collections..... | \$12,756 | \$684,714 |
| Electronic Collections..... | \$6,355 | \$180,759 |
| Total Collected..... | \$19,111 | \$865,473 |
| Over/(Short)..... | \$(889) | \$(34,527) |

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

David Lang, brother of Mary Lang

Mary Ambrosch

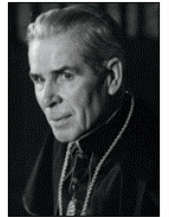
Baptism Congratulations

Lincoln & Colton Hankins,
Children of Andrea & Levi Hankins

THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE

PEORIA DIOCESE
MAY 19-MAY 21, 2025

PEORIA - SHEEN DAY
MAY 20, 2025



9am-6pm Sheen Museum open
(419 NE Madison Ave., Peoria IL 61603)
12pm-8:30pm visit the Tomb of Fulton Sheen
6:30pm Procession
from Sacred Heart Church (504 Fulton St., Peoria IL 61602)
to St. Mary Cathedral (607 NE Madison Ave., Peoria IL 61603)
7pm Program at St. Mary Cathedral:

7:30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Silent Prayer
7:45pm – 8:00pm Fulton J. Sheen and the Eucharist
(Reflection by Msgr. Jason A. Gray,
Director of the Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Foundation)
Silent Prayer
8:10pm – 8:25pm Music
(by Dr. and Tracey Prescott and the
Chesterton Academy of the Sacred Heart, Peoria, Illinois)
Silent Prayer
8:30pm Litany
8:40pm Benediction

CelebrateSheen.com

Sponsor of the Week

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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.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY



WEEK OF JUNE 1

DAILY ROSARY at 7:35 am, Church
FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION, Saturday June 7

Catholic Women's League Summer Retreat

Revive, Refresh, Renew

Sr. Diane VandeVoorde (Leader)

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

Where: 2408 W. Heading Ave, West Peoria

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.



Notes from the Music Room

Before I introduce myself to the St Thomas family I'd like to first take this time to thank Ann Horst for her 56 years of faithful service to the music ministry. Thank you, Ann, for your inspiration and dedication to St Thomas parish. We look forward to seeing her

around church and still filling in now and again at Mass.

Just a brief introduction. My name is *Steve Harms*, and I am your *Music Coordinator*. As you may have noticed I am utilizing some newer hymns mixed with some older well known hymns. The choir is doing a great job of learning some of these newer songs. Previous to coming to St Thomas I spent the last 12 years as accompanist at St Anthony parish in Bartonville. During that time I had the privilege of touring with the St Anthony Camerata Choral to Italy where we got to sing for Pope Francis at the Epiphany Mass in 2016.

I'd like to thank everyone for being so welcoming at St Thomas. The choir members, and myself, would like to invite you to join us in singing joyfully to the Lord. We are rehearsing on Sunday mornings in the music room at 9am. We would love to have new voices join us. If interested, you are welcome to come on Sunday morning or you can contact me ahead of time.

I would also like to thank Dan and Rhonda Bachman for taking care of the music on Sunday evening Masses. You have been a blessing to the music ministry here at St. Thomas. Dan & Rhonda are stepping down after the May 11th Mass. With that, I would like to start up a Praise Band once again for the Sunday 5pm Masses. If you would like to assist with this, please contact me for further information.

Thank you again for welcoming me into the St. Thomas family. I can be reached at (309)573-2410 or email at steharms@stthomas-church.net

Steve Harms

St Thomas Parish Music Coordinator

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.

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 (choose one):

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

Skip your morning coffee from your favorite café or a lunch outing this week. Donate what you would usually spend on these small treats to your local pregnancy center instead.

Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month's intention.

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



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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 &
PEORIA, IL

SHERIDAN NURSERY
3012 W ALTA LANE
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



May is the Month of Mary and of Mothers

In this Month of Mothers we invite all women to join *Millions of Monicas* in prayer May 27th in the Daily Mass Chapel to pray for our loved ones, especially our children, who have fallen away from our faith. We pray together before the Blessed Sacrament that those we love will again find comfort in the faith and return to the Church.

Join with other mothers, grandmothers, step-mothers, aunts, Godmothers, etc., as we pray to grow in holiness and humility, and for our children's faithful return to the Catholic Church.


May 27th at 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas Daily Mass Chapel

For more information visit www.millionsofmonicas.com

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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



Apply my gift to *

-- Please Select --

-- Please Select --

Sunday/Holy Day Contributions

School Gym Upgrades 2025

St. Thomas School

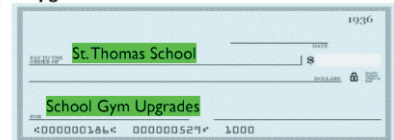
Msgr. Watson Scholarship Endowment

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

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.



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. 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*



You are invited to help support our Parish!
For opportunities to advertise, please call 800-783-1623

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