

## 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)  
msggray@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)

Director of Faith Formation:  
Kate Crim.....(x1310)  
katecrim@stthomas-church.net

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maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

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peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net

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ccd@stthomas-church.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

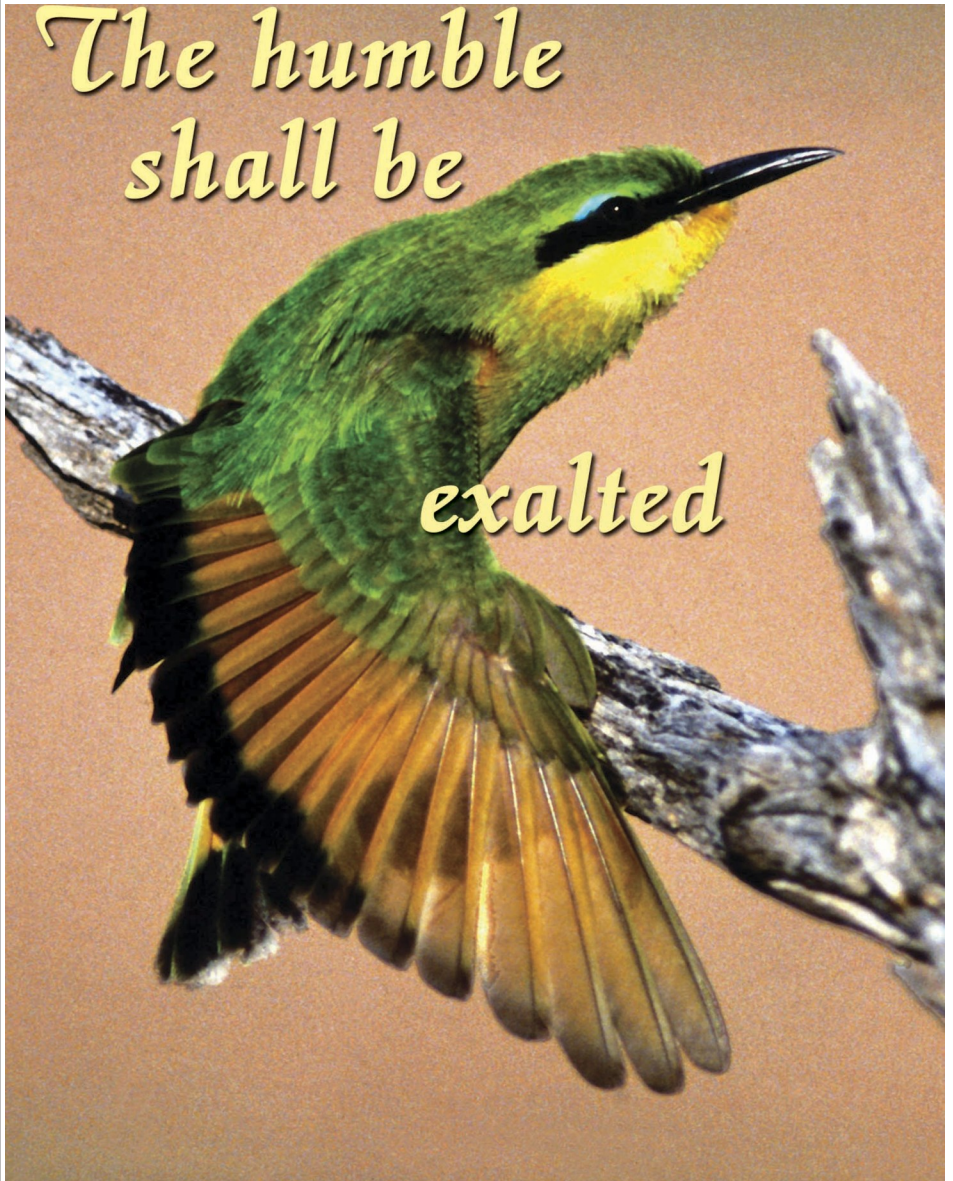
### Stay in Touch

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).



*August 31, 2025*

*Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*





## From Our Pastor

School is back in session, but Labor Day seems to mark the transition from the Summer into the new school year. Please join us on Labor Day as we offer one Mass at 9:00 a.m. for our country and for those who work. This Friday will also be the First Friday of September when we offer Adoration. Please make time to pray before the Blessed Sacrament that Day.

After Labor Day, our adult education programs begin in earnest. This includes OCIA on Wednesdays for new converts to Catholicism and *That Man is You* on Friday. The Michael Gormley scriptural study on the Church begins the following Monday and *Women of the Word* on the following Thursday. I am grateful to all those who volunteer to lead and coordinate these programs.

We have many generous volunteers who serve as readers at Mass. I offer a special invitation to be a reader at our daily Masses at 7:00 or 8:00 a.m. If you would be willing to read, please let me know and I can add you to the volunteer program.

This fall we are also beginning a relationship with Evangelical Catholic and will start some training sessions for those who want to take a more active role in witnessing to their faith. This approach will begin by engaging only a small number of parishioners individually. Evangelical Catholic looks to the model of Jesus who began by devoting most of his time to forming only 12 men as disciples who became apostles. Over time, those apostles evangelized a larger number of believers who preached the Gospel, and the growth of the Church became exponential.

If you feel a passion for sharing the faith, but don't know how, you might approach myself or Kate Crim to ask about the Evangelical Catholic formation groups that will be established.

- Msgr. Gray

## Pray with the Pope

August 2025

For mutual coexistence

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.



## Readings for the Week of August 31, 2025

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Sirach 3: 17-18, 20, 28-29; Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24a; Luke 14: 1, 7-14
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Labor Day</b> 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18; Luke 4: 16-30
<b>Tuesday</b>	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6, 9-11; Luke 4: 31-37
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>St. Gregory the Great, Pope &amp; Doctor of the Church</b> Colossians 1: 1-8; Luke 4: 38-44
<b>Thursday</b>	Colossians 1: 9-14; Luke 5: 1-11
<b>Friday</b>	<b>St. Teresa of Calcutta, Virgin</b> Colossians 1: 15-20; Luke 5: 33-39
<b>Saturday</b>	Colossians 1: 21-23; Luke 6: 1-5
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Wisdom 9: 13-18b; Philemon 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14: 25-33

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, September 1, 2025

9:00 a.m. Lou Szakal/Cathleen Schisler

### Tuesday, September 2, 2025

7:00 a.m. Mary Truitt/John Truitt

8:00 a.m. Intentions of Charina Ventura-Villareal

### Wednesday, September 3, 2025

7:00 a.m. Michael Doyle/Mike & Kim Phelan

8:00 a.m. Nancy Wilson/Dayton & Mary Stephens

### Thursday, September 4, 2025

7:00 a.m. Dave Lang/Mary Ann Noe

2:30 p.m. Adeline Snyder/James Snyder

### Friday, September 5, 2025

7:00 a.m. Neumann Family/Terry & Eileen Grawey

8:00 a.m. Thomas Rochford/Jim & Deb Rochford

### Saturday, September 6, 2025

8:00 a.m. Michael Desyllas/The Sarmiento Family

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

### Sunday, September 7, 2025

8:00 a.m. Melvin & Lucille Noe/Mary Ann Noe

10:00 a.m. Peoria Seminarians & Priestly Vocations

5:00 p.m. For the People

## Week of August 31

**TICKET SALES FOR SEPTEMBER FEST** Following all Masses August 30/31

**SIGN UP FOR FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION** following Mass, narthex

**PARISH OFFICE & SCHOOL CLOSED** Monday, September 1, Labor Day

**LABOR DAY MASS** Monday, September 1, 9:00 a.m., Church

**ROSARY** Tuesday, September 2, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

**CCD MASS** Wednesday, September 3, 6:00 p.m., Church

**OCIA** Wednesday, September 3, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**ST. IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY** Thursday, September 4, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**THAT MAN IS YOU** Friday, September 5, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS** Saturday, September 6, 7:30 a.m., Church

**ADORATION** Friday, September 5, following 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

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

**CURSILLO ULTREA** Saturday, September 6, 5:00 p.m. Mass with Social to follow, Church & Parish Hall

**SEPTEMBER FEST** Saturday, September 6, 6:00 p.m., Back Parking Lot

### UPCOMING EVENTS

LifeTeen at St. Thomas	September 7
Inclusion w/Michael Gormley	September 8
Women of the Word Resumes	September 11
St. Thomas Holy Hour	September 18
Msgr. Watson Memorial Golf Outing	September 26

## Weekly Collection

August 17, 2025

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,400	\$142,800
Sunday Collections.....	\$13,609	\$91,757
Electronic Collections.....	\$485	\$40,857
Total Collected.....	\$14,094	\$132,614
Over/(Short).....	\$(6,306)	\$(10,186)

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](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Thank you for your support.

## Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week

## Wedding Congratulations

Stephanie Espana &  
Jorge Ramirez

## OCIA Schedule

**Sept 3:** Intro, Belief in God

**Sept 10:** Apostolic Tradition, Sacred Scripture, Revelation, Faith

**Sept 17:** Trinity, God is Three, God is One

**Sept 24:** God the Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth

**Oct 1:** God the Son

**Oct 8:** God the Son; God the Holy Spirit

**Oct 15:** Holy Catholic Church

**Oct 22:** Forgiveness of sins, resurrection of body, judgment, eternal life

Anyone wishing to become Catholic, or anyone wishing to learn more are welcome.



All 1st-8th grade students not attending a catholic school are invited to CCD. This is also the sacrament preparation for First Communion and Confirmation for students not attending a catholic school.

Scan for more information and registration.

Contact information:

**Liz Plaskon**, CCD Coordinator

[CCD@StThomas-Church.net](mailto:CCD@StThomas-Church.net)



Sponsor of the Week  
Avanti's





# SEPTOBERFEST

## AT ST. THOMAS

September 6th  
6 - 10 PM

Back  
Parking  
Lot

Brautwurst • Hamburgers • Hot Dogs  
Beer Cheese Soup • Buckshot Corn  
Pretzels • Funnel Cakes

**ADMISSION  
IS  
FREE!**

Live music by Will Spicher

**FOOD • MUSIC • GAMES**

Families Welcome



Save the Date  
Thom's Mom's & Friends

Join us for

# STS Ladies Night Out

Saturday, September 27th  
5:00-7:00 p.m.  
Jonah's Seafood House  
2601 N Main St.  
-East Peoria-  
\$25/person  
Appetizers and Cash Bar  
Friends Welcome!  
RSVP to Allexe #309-696-2301 &  
PAY IN OFFICE NO LATER THAN SEPT 12TH

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

All women of the Parish are Invited!

## OCIA ~ Becoming Catholic

Are you, or someone you know, interested in becoming Catholic and joining the Church? Are you already Catholic, but would like to learn more about the Faith? You are invited to participate in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) here at St. Thomas. Classes are Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., from **September 3** until the Easter Vigil Mass. For more information please call the Parish Office. You can register in advance through the Office or just come to the first class.

## 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.




FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION  
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY  
September 6, 2025

Pray for world peace, conversion of souls, and  
in reparation to the Immaculate Heart

Rosary at 7:30 am  
Mass at 8:00 am  
Confessions as scheduled  
Blessed rosaries available at the narthex



## Prevent Produce Waste!

Do you have a garden? Is it producing more than you can use this summer? Our Pantry clients do love fresh produce. If you have some to give away please bring on Sunday or Wednesday and drop in the box in the narthex, or drop it off to the Pantry Monday or Thursday before it opens at 9:00 a.m. If you have questions please contact Diana at [sdjanda1@comcast.net](mailto:sdjanda1@comcast.net).



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



### The Refrigerator

This is a reflection on a recent assignment I had with our St. Vincent De Paul conference here at St. Thomas. It is an example of a typical situation we encounter in our mission to serve the poor.

My partner and I received a call from our helpline on one of the hottest days this summer. We visited the family consisting of a woman "Linda", her two teenage daughters, and her 2 year old grandson (quite a cutie). They needed a refrigerator. Theirs had been "going out" for the past week, and quit completely yesterday, making the situation urgent. Linda worked two jobs as a nurse assistant. She wasn't able to get full time hours, but said she was taking any shift available, hoping to secure a regular hospital spot. The family car was out of commission with no foreseeable way to pay for repairs. She put the payments on hold for a while, but that won't go on long without it being repossessed. Linda's sister, (who was in similar straits) was helping her with transportation while the heat was so oppressive. Linda can take the bus, but was hoping to scrape up enough money to have the car fixed by winter.

Linda reported that she was up to date on her rent and her Ameren (thanks to some once a year help from energy assistance programs), but those bills take most of her unpredictable income each month and right now funds are pretty low. She said that she had a grocery order ready to place at Wal Mart, and could put it in at midnight because her SNAP (nutrition/food stamps) benefits posted to the bank tomorrow. The problem was that she did not have money for a refrigerator, and so couldn't place the order until she had one. This currently caput fridge was in the house when she moved in, but the landlord told her that when it went, he would not be replacing. Also, one of Linda's daughters had a casted hand/arm injury she didn't seem to want to talk about.

We offered resource information (as we always do) about other sources of help for her overall situation. Linda seemed pretty savvy in this regard and in our visit, seemed focused on "milk for the baby". No other agency in our area helps with purchasing or delivering appliances, but St. Vincent De Paul tries to help with whatever is the most pressing need. We make a home visit, and we talk things over with folks.

My temptation was to judge Linda and her situation by my standards and life paradigm. Why buy a car you couldn't afford from a shady lender who preys on people? Why aren't these teenagers working to help pay the bills? Where is the baby's, and for that matter the teenager's father (s)? Do these guys help? I smell marijuana in this house, how much does that cost? Why do you keep switching jobs? However, the elements outside, and the milk container in a bag of ice in the kitchen sink pushed those thoughts aside. These questions didn't seem to matter in that moment. We could at least help this family get a refrigerator. Thankfully, thankfully, God blesses us with generous donors here at St. Thomas. We worked through it. Linda did her part and found a used fridge for around \$300 and a couple of young men to help get it in and out of the truck. (Linda's sister brought them in her car after her shift) I contacted another member of our St. Vincent De Paul group and he showed up with his truck and got it moved from the used (and I must say a little stinky in the heat) appliance store. She did get a one year warranty. Fingers crossed.

Linda was grateful, and happy she said, to "get her Walmart order in" (and of course pay a delivery fee, but there was no way around that) I have learned much about poverty in my Saint Vincent De Paul work. This case highlights the pattern of just surviving from one crisis to the next which seems universal for the people we serve. I have also learned much about myself, my attitudes, my preconceptions, and I hope, where Jesus is leading me to greater understanding and compassion. I wasn't meant to learn the answers to the questions I struggled with for Linda, valid as they may have been, but I certainly know God tells me to help my neighbor. So, I believe the lesson in this was "There but for the Grace of God go I" and sometimes its simple... Don't we all just need a working refrigerator? With gratitude for my SDVP friends, and for our Parish,

Chris Clemons



## Emmaus Knights

For young men grades 7-12

Aug 31/Sept 28/Oct 12/Nov 9  
From 4:30 pm-6:30 pm



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

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



## MI School of Mary Village Meeting on September 13

**The Militia of the Immaculata** movement was created by St. Maximilian Kolbe in 1917. The primary mission of the MI: To win the entire world for the Immaculata and, through her, for the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. To accomplish this mission, small groups of MI members meet regularly in an MI Village. Those who attend an MI Village meeting will learn about consecration to Jesus through Mary and formation in the spirituality of St. Maximilian Kolbe. The group is open to MI members and other Catholic adults who want to discover an effective way to live out their baptismal and confirmation call. The MI School of Mary Village meets on the second Saturday of the month at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Peoria. Join us on **Saturday, Sept. 13, at 10:00 a.m.** We will pray the rosary before the meeting at 9:30 a.m. For more information, email John at [Mischoolofmary@gmail.com](mailto:Mischoolofmary@gmail.com).

**National Day of Remembrance of Aborted Children** Saturday, September 13 at 10:00 a.m.  
at back of St. Mary's Cemetery, 421 N. Sterling,  
West Peoria.  
For more information contact Dan Smith  
309-369-5123

## 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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

## St. Thomas - Food Pantry

Items needed at this time are: Rice, Mac and Cheese, Crackers, Pasta Sauce, Cereal, Canned Meat, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Canned Fruit and Vegetables, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Canned or Dry Beans (Legumes), Hamburger/Chicken/Tuna Helper

Thank you for your generous support!



## FULTON SHEEN RETREAT

by  
Fr. Donald Francis Roszkowski

Saturday,  
September 20, 2025

Location: St. Mary Cathedral and Spalding Ctr.



8:30am Opening Mass at St. Mary Cathedral  
9:30am Talk by Fr. Donald Francis Roszkowski  
11am Sheen Museum highlights by Sr. Lea, FSJB  
11:15am Museum tour  
12pm Lunch & Sheen television show  
1pm Sheen Point Cathedral Tour  
2pm Holy Hour with Msgr. Jason A. Gray

Cost \$40 \* Register at [CelebrateSheen.com](http://CelebrateSheen.com)

## Human Resources Coordinator

Needed

**Position Summary:** The Human Resources Coordinator is responsible for the administration and support of benefits, employment compliance, and personnel-related processes for diocesan entities. This position ensures accurate recordkeeping, effective communication with employees and vendors, and compliance with legal and diocesan policies.

**For full job description and to apply see:**  
Submit your application through [Online Employment Application](#) | [Open Positions](#)

**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 - Kate—Faith Formation

1301 - Peggy—Bulletin

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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