

## 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)

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katecrim@stthomas-church.net

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maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

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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).



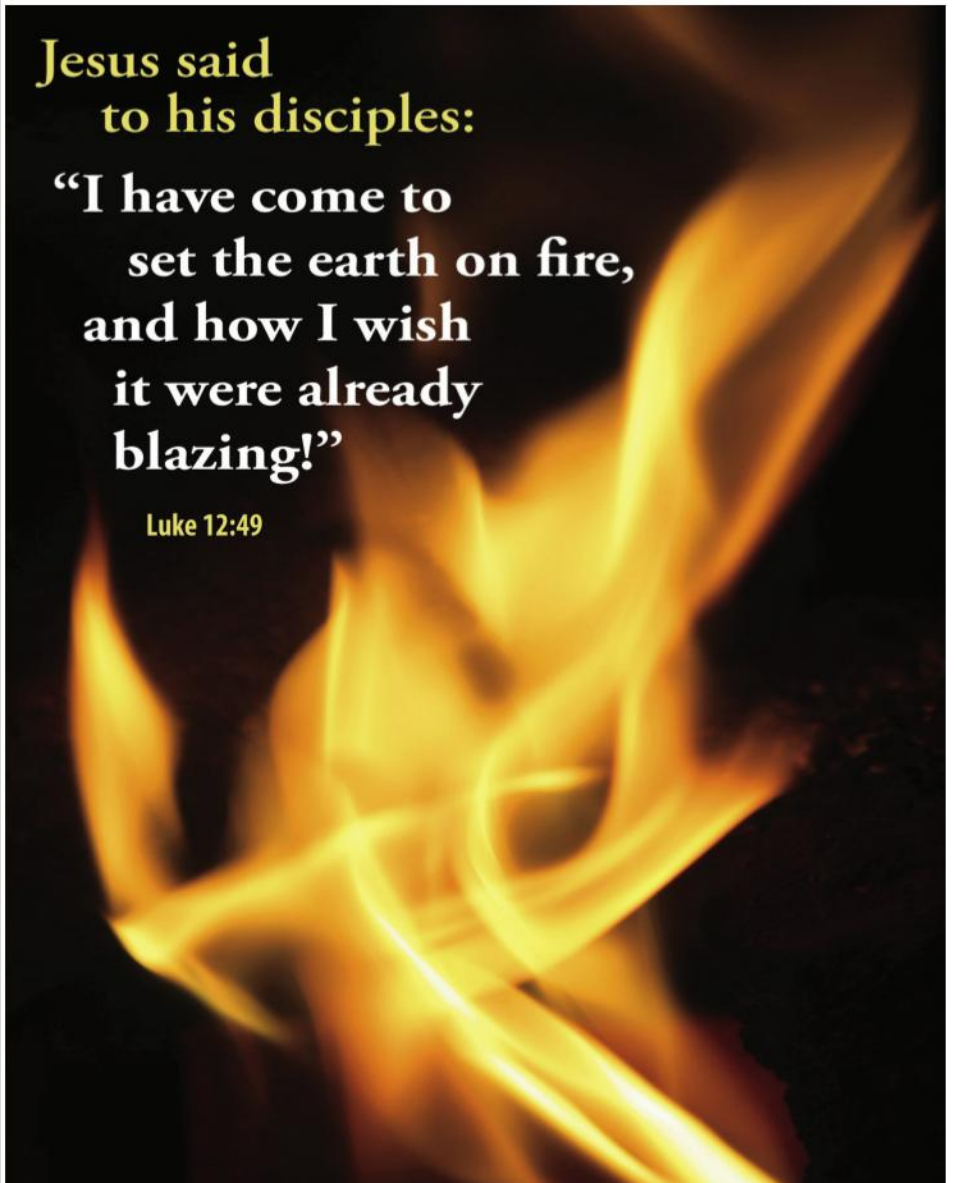
*August 17, 2025*

*Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**Jesus said  
to his disciples:**

**“I have come to  
set the earth on fire,  
and how I wish  
it were already  
blazing!”**

**Luke 12:49**





### From Our Pastor

We began a new school year this week at St. Thomas. However, for the adults, it is also a time to learn more about our Catholic Faith. After Mass this weekend, you are welcome to sign up for a number of programs for adult education.

*That Man is You* is available for the men of the parish, including our school dads. This is the 10th year for *TMIY* and will focus on a theme of Apostleship for a new year. The men meet each Friday morning for breakfast refreshments, a video, and group discussion.

*Women of the Word* is available for the women of the parish, including school moms. This program follows the Paradisus Dei program *She Shall Be Called Woman*, and will focus on the theme of Love Unveiled. The women meet twice a month on Thursday evenings for evening refreshments, a video, and group discussion. Both programs have been well received by the participants.

A new program will be introduced this year called *Inclusion*, hosted by Michael Gormley. Michael Gormley presented a parish mission here over a year ago. *Inclusion* will help you better understand the biblical foundations of the Catholic Church. It is good to be able to explain what we believe as Catholics and why the Church teaches what it does, using both the Bible and history. This program will take place on Monday evenings beginning September 8 and is open to all adults.

Finally, those who are interested in exploring the Catechism of the Catholic Church, or learning about the Faith in order to become Catholic are encouraged to participate in OCIA (the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults). These classes will take place on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm beginning September 3rd. The schedule of classes is posted on the parish website.

Please take some time to consider these programs and what might be beneficial for your spiritual growth and enrichment this year.

- Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of August 17, 2025

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Jeremiah 38: 4-6, 8-10; Hebrews 12: 1-4; Luke 12: 49-53
<b>Monday</b>	Judges 2: 11-19; Matthew 19: 16-22
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>St. John Eudes, Priest</b> Judges 6: 11-24a; Matthew 19: 23-30
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>St. Bernard, Abbot &amp; Doctor of the Church</b> Judges 9: 6-15; Matthew 20: 1-16
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>St. Pius X, Pope</b> Judges 11: 29-39a; Matthew 22: 1-14
<b>Friday</b>	<b>The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> Ruth 1: 1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Matthew 22: 34-40
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Rose of Lima, Virgin</b> Ruth 2: 1-3, 8-11; 4: 13-17; Matthew 23: 1-12
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Isaiah 66: 18-21; Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13; Luke 13: 22-30

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, August 18, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Mary Truitt/John Truitt
8:00 a.m.	Dan L. Arnold/The Hugh Toner Family

### Tuesday, August 19, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Klem Osika/Linda Osika
8:00 a.m.	Gary Smith/The Sarmiento Family

### Wednesday, August 20, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Intentions of Msgr. James Campbell/FSJB
8:00 a.m.	Ralph & Norma Noe/Mary Ann Noe

### Thursday, August 21, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Betty Ginoli
2:30 p.m.	Jim Becker/Nancy Becker

### Friday, August 22, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Benefactors of FSJB
8:00 a.m.	Msgr. William Watson/Linh Luong

### Saturday, August 23, 2025

8:00 a.m.	James Gum/Gina Crum & the Sarmiento Family
5:00 p.m.	Roger Tramel/Lynn Tramel

### Sunday, August 24, 2025

8:00 a.m.	For the People
10:00 a.m.	Thomas Penn/Gene & Gretta Couri
5:00 p.m.	Nancy Wilson/Ed & Cathy Mallow

## Week of August 17

**LIFETEEN** Sunday, August 17, 6:00 p.m., St. Vincent de Paul

**ROSARY** Tuesday, August 19, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

**PARISH COUNCIL** Tuesday, August 19, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**CCD MEETING** Wednesday, August 20, 5:00 p.m., School Library

**ST. IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY** Thursday, August 21, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

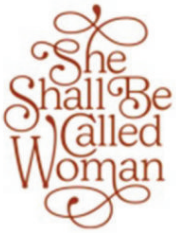
**ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR** Thursday, August 21, 7:00 p.m., Church

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Extra Confession Sunday	August 24
Millions of Monicas	August 26
Adoration	September 5
Msgr. Watson Memorial Golf Outing	September 26

## Women of the Word



Our women's ministry, Women of the Word, is back again this fall **beginning on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**. New participant **registration is following all masses** on the weekend of **August 16-17<sup>th</sup>**. Women who were previously registered do not need to re-register.

We'd love to have you join us as we meet twice monthly to learn and grow in our faith. We will be using study material from Paradisus Dei's *She Shall be Called Woman*, with our fall semester focused on the theme *Love Unveiled*. There is no cost for the program and childcare is provided free of charge.

## Weekly Collection

August 10, 2025

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,400	\$122,400
Sunday Collections.....	\$21,186	\$78,148
Electronic Collections.....	\$7,935	\$40,372
Total Collected.....	\$29,121	\$118,520
Over/(Short).....	\$8,721	\$(3,880)

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

Christine Pilat, sister of Tom Pilat

## Baptism Congratulations

Faith Malana, daughter of  
Rhea & Victor Malana



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)



## 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.



Sponsor of the Week



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## Inclusion

St. Thomas Parish is excited to offer **INCLUSION: Explaining the Biblical Foundations of the Catholic Church** by Michael Gormley. Some of you may remember Michael from our parish mission a few years ago, and he also is a presenter for That Man Is You. For those who participated in *Why It's Great To Be Catholic*, this program is a logical follow on, which will go a bit deeper into some of the key principles of the Catholic faith, and tie it back to Scripture.

The *Inclusion Program* features a video presentation on a different topic each week, by Michael Gormley. The presentations are approximately 30 minutes, and are followed up by group discussion for about 30 minutes afterwards. We will meet on Mondays from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall starting September 8th. There are eleven sessions in the program. Some of the topics include:

- The Catholic Church is Biblical
- Scripture and Church Authority
- The Communion of Saints
- Sacraments of New Life
- Faith Working in Love

This program will help you better understand your Catholic faith, and how it is based in Scripture and Truth.

Registration will be after all Masses the weekend of August 16 & 17th. You can also register by sending an email to **George Burek** at [georgeburek@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeburek@yahoo.com). We hope you will join us!



**That Man Is You** returns on **Friday, September 5th!** Registration will take place after all Masses the weekend of **August 16-17th**. You can also register or get additional information by sending an email to **George Burek** at [georgeburek@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeburek@yahoo.com). All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The theme for this year is *Apostles of a New Springtime*. Besides some outstanding presenters, this year will also include another Mysteries of the Rosary series. We meet on Friday mornings. Doors open at 6:00 am for Continental Breakfast, the Video presentation starts at 6:30 followed by Table Discussion around 7:00 am, and we adjourn by 7:30.

*This will be our 10th year of That Man Is You at St. Thomas, and we hope you can join us!*



## Thank You!

A grateful thanks to all who helped make the backpack project a success this year!

Whether you volunteered for the event, donated some of the many needed backpacks and school supplies, supported our efforts financially or prayed over our efforts and the recipients of the backpacks, your generosity made it possible for 101 area school children to start the school year with shiny new backpacks filled with the school supplies necessary to have a meaningful learning experience. Thank you!



## Volunteers Needed

Growing in space and harvest each year, **OSF's Gardens of Hope** are places where people gather to celebrate life, build friendships, beautify their neighborhood and promote good nutrition by growing healthy food for people who live in the area.

OSF has three locations where volunteers are needed:

- **St. Ann's Garden of Hope** – St. Ann Catholic Church – 1141 Antoinette St. Peoria, IL 61605
- **St. Matthew's Garden of Hope** – OSF Center for Health – 8600 State Route 91, Peoria, IL 61615
- **OSF HealthCare Cancer Institute** – 1310 N Missouri Ave. Peoria, IL 61603

## 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).

## 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.



## 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](#)

# St. Thomas Monsignor Watson Memorial Golf Outing

In support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Assistance Fund

**Friday, September 26, 2025 • MT. Hawley Country Club**

All golf outing proceeds will be used in the support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Tuition Assistance program. The net proceeds from the outing will again fund scholarships for students at St. Thomas. The goal of the Men's Club is to fund 20 scholarships for St. Thomas families. Your support of the golf outing is greatly appreciated!

## GOLF REGISTRATION \$135/Person

Golf Registration includes: Green fees, Cart, Range Balls, and Food + Drinks in the Club House after the event.

**Registration Deadline Friday, September 19th**

*Late registration after September 19th, \$145 Per Person*

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### TITLE SPONSORSHIP \$2,500 / Sponsorship

Placement of company logo at all sponsorship levels. Logo as title sponsor on welcoming banner. Logo on all printed materials.

### HOT SPOT SPONSOR

- Golf Beverage Sponsors: \$250 / Logo on Sign at beverage stations
- Reception Sponsor - \$250 / Logo on Reception Tables

### TEE SPONSOR \$150 / 36 Sponsors

Placement of company logo sign at the Tee Box or at the Hole.

### BE A PRIZE OR RAFFLE SPONSOR

Feature your business by donating a raffle or prize item. Please drop off prize or raffle item to Macro Wealth Management at 6915 N. Knoxville Ave, Peoria IL 61614 Include donor information and value (optional).

- **Registration/Check-in 11:00am-11:45am**
- **Shotgun Starts at Noon (Be at your hole by Noon)**
- **Followed by Food & Drinks in the Club House**
- **Registration Deadline Friday, September 19th**
- **Late Registration \$145 Per Person**

**For more information please contact:**

Tracey Deponai (309) 688-3446

Email: [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net)

**Please Submit Payment with Registration**

### REGISTRATION FORM

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Golfers

Player 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Player 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Player 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Sponsorship

Sponsorship Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: **St. Thomas Men's Club**

Mail registration along with payment to:

Tracey Deponai / Golf • 904 E. Lake Ave. • Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## NOTICE: CHANGE of DATE!!

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the date has changed:

### 8th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING to Benefit Building Hope In Kids - Uganda

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 21, 2025**

#### QUAIL MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

50-50  
Fun!

4 PLAYER  
SCRAMBLE

MULLIGANS 😊

#### \$100/PLAYER

Includes Greens fee, cart, & awards dinner afterwards at Dining Room & Bar at Quail Meadows, catered by Barracks Catering. \*\*

12 Noon  
Shotgun  
Start

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(Adolph is the BHIKU Board's  
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\*\*Dinner Menu: Fire-roasted pulled chicken, au gratin potatoes, green beans w/ bacon & onions, salad, and dinner roll.

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER: SEPT. 14th**

### 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)

### The ShamROCK

Friday, August 22, 5-10 p.m.

Introducing PND Fall Sports Teams

Location: PND Athletic Fields

Entertainment, food, beverages, kids activities

Scan the QR code for tickets



### Peoria Area Catholic Young Adults Holy Hour Pilgrimage & Lunch

Saturday, August 23

10:30 am Holy Hour @ St. Mary, Moline

12:00 pm Lunch @ Clint's Draft House

Carpool 8:45 am Kohl's East Peoria

### Irish Fest Mass 2025

On **Sunday, August 24th**, Bishop Lou Tylka will be celebrating **Mass at 11:00 am**, on the Peoria Riverfront CEFCU Stage as part of Irish Fest. Canned goods will be collected before Mass at the entry gate and distributed to local food banks. Traditional Irish music will begin at 10:30 am under direction of Mary Ann Fahey Darling and the St. Anthony's Camerata Ecumenical Chorale. The Mass is hosted by the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The public is welcome to participate





### How to Submit Bulletin Information

Send information for the bulletin to [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto: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.



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



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