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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Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350) parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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

Annulment Consultant:

John Mackoway......699-5213

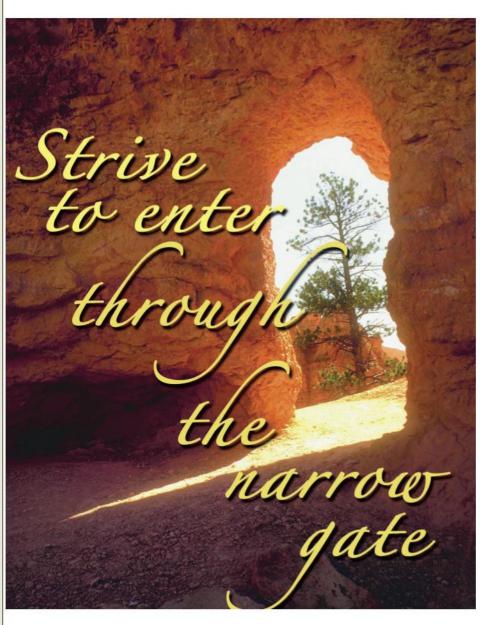
St. Vincent de Paul Society HelpLine.....(309) 264-5815

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).
- 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 24, 2025 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time





From Our Pastor

I was very happy to see a large number of our families at our 10:00 a.m. Mass two weeks ago when we had our parish and school picnic. It was a joy to have both older and younger parishioners mixed together especially with the younger children. Many of our school families set up their school supplies in their classroom for the new school year. However, we also had many parishioners without children in the school join us, which made for a delightfully full cafeteria with a sense of excitement.

This trend continued last weekend, when we again had a full church with parishioners of all ages. I know that so many parishioners take great pride and joy in a large turnout. The presence of children is also a sign of vitality. Parents should not hesitate to bring their children to church. They are a sign of a healthy parish.

Please be aware of email scams that claim to be from St. Thomas, especially if they ask for gift cards for a "cancer patient" or some other "emergency." This technique is used by scammers as an untraceable way of stealing your money. I will never email anyone to ask for an emergency donation.

Your donations to St. Thomas can be safely made by check or cash through the Sunday collection, or online through our parish website. QR Codes are available in the Narthex to help you. Some parishioners use their own bill pay services. Our parish office can also help you set up a monthly electronic donation if you prefer.

Unless you prefer to give electronically, the parish office sends envelopes to parishioners in the mail. Contribution envelopes can be sent for those who want to contribute monthly or weekly according to your preference. If you don't receive envelopes or want to adjust your envelopes, please contact the parish office.

As we begin a new school year and a new fiscal year, if you haven't reviewed your regular parish contributions, please do so. If you haven't increased your donation in a while, please consider doing so to help us meet our expenses. Thank you for your support and your generosity.

-- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of August 24, 2025

Sunday Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 66: 18-21; Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13; Luke 13: 22-30

Monday St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5, 8b-10; Matthew 23: 13-22

Tuesday 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8; Matthew 23: 23-26

Wednesday St. Monica

1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13; Matthew 23: 27-32

Thursday St. Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

1 Thessalonians 3: 7-13; Matthew 24: 42-51

Friday The Passion of St. John the Baptist

1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8; Mark 6: 17-29

Saturday 1 Thessalonians 4: 9-11; Matthew 25: 14-30

Sunday Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 3: 17-18; Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24a; Luke 14: 1, 7-14

Mass Intentions

Monday, August 25, 2025

7:00 a.m. Souls in Purgatory/Tam & Phan Vu

8:00 a.m. Josephine Langenfeld/Jim & Deb Rochford

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

7:00 a.m. Doug Cobb/Eileen Grawey

8:00 a.m. John Pusey/Family

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

7:00 a.m. Adrian & Helen Truitt/John Truitt 8:00 a.m. Jim & Penny Scherer/Family

Thursday, August 28, 2025

7:00 a.m. Jim & Nellie Dunne/Joe & Sandy Whalen

2:30 p.m. David Lang/Bob & Toni Hogan

Friday, August 29, 2025

7:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the Bartley Family/Mary Lou &

Mike Bartely

8:00 a.m. Fr. Tom Taylor/Bill & Ann Fulton

Saturday, August 30, 2025

8:00 a.m. Donald Besler/The Sarmiento & Tolentino Family

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

Sunday, August 31, 2025

8:00 a.m. For the People

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

5:00 p.m. Intentions of John & Sonia Nelson/Joe & Sandy Whalen

Week of August 24

TICKET SALES FOR SEPTEMBER FEST Following all Masses this weekend

EXTRA CONFESSIONS Following all Sunday Masses

ROSARY Tuesday, August 26, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

MILLIONS OF MONICAS Tuesday, August 26, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

FIRST RECONCILIATION MEETING Wednesday, August 27, 6:00 p.m., Various

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCIA Begins September 3 Adoration September 5 September Fest September 5 LifeTeen at St. Thomas September 7 Why It's Great to be Catholic September 8 Women of the Word Resumes September 11 That Man is You Resumes September 12 St. Thomas Holy Hour September 18 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 11th**. You can still register by calling the Parish Office. 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

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. Thank you for your support.

Our Sympathy

Betty Oberle



Millions of Monicas

Each month we invite all women to join Millions of Monicas in prayer 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, stepmothers, aunts, Godmothers, etc., as we pray to grow in holiness and humility, and for our children's faithful return to the Catholic Church.

> August 26th at 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas Daily Mass Chapel

For more information visit **www.millionsofmonicas.com**



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**



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



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
- 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

TEE SPONSOR \$150 / 36 Sponsors

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

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).

For more information please contact:

Tracey Deponai (309) 688-3446 Email: 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 \$
Mail registr	yable to: St. Thomas Men's Club ration along with payment to: 904 E. Lake Ave. • Peoria Heights, IL 616	Total Enclosed \$

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.



Prevent **Produce Waste!**

Do you have a garden? Is it producing more than vou 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 auestions please contact Diana at 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.

Harvest Mass & Dinner

An evening of giving

thanks to God for a bountiful harvest with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass followed by the fellowship and meal. August 30th, Sacré Coeur Retreat Center 8508 Country Road 100 N Magnolia, IL 61336 Mass 5:00 p.m. ~ Dinner 6:00 p.m. \$26/person \$13/child

(under 12) \$0/Child under 3 Scan the QR

code to RSVP RSVP by Aug





That Man Is You returns on **Friday, September 5th!** You can still register or get additional information by sending an email to **George Burek** at **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!

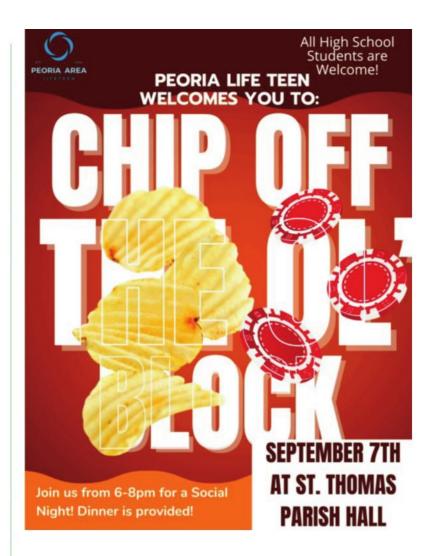
Human Resources Coordinator

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 <u>Online Employment Application</u> | <u>Open Positions</u>





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 at 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.

You can still register by sending an email to **George Burek** at **georgeburek@yahoo.com** We hope you will join us!





Featured are some of our

awesome students

volunteering at Sophia's

Kitchen this summer!







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!

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 permis-

sion

form.



Fr. Donald Francis Roszkowski



Ipm Sheen Point Cathedral Tour

2pm Holy Hour with Msgr. Jason A. Gray

Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Monday, September 1, 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.

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

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

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

New Parishioner	Change of address/phone
Phone	
City	ZIP
Address	
Phone	
Email	
First Name(s)	Mr Mrs Ms
Last Name	
form.	

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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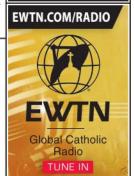
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