# 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

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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

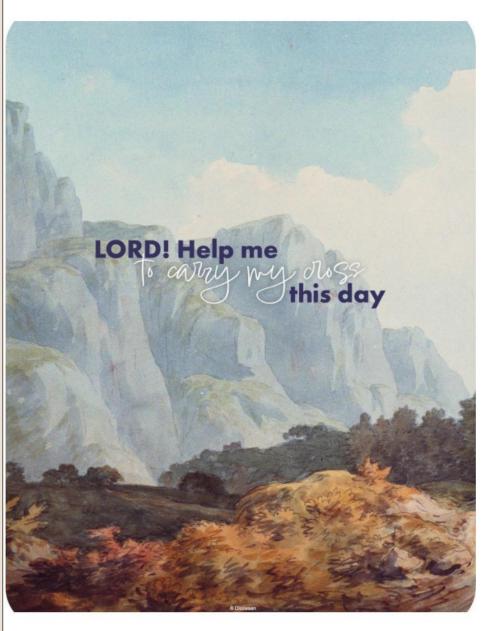
St. Vincent de Paul Society HelpLine.....(309) 264-5815

#### Stay in Touch

- 1. 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).



## September 7, 2025 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time





#### From Our Pastor

A special thank you to the Men's Club who are hosting Septoberfest on Saturday evening, September 6<sup>th</sup>, after the evening Mass.

Now that the school year is well underway, we return to Donut Sundays with this weekend hosted by our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Please join us after Sunday morning Masses for refreshments.

All of our extra programs have now also begun with the return of the school year. That includes *Lifeteen* for any high school students in the area. St. Thomas hosts the session on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

On Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, the Michael Gormley program, *Inclusion*, will begin to look at the biblical foundations of the Church.

On Wednesday, we continue with our joint CCD program with St. Vincent de Paul Parish for grade school students who are not in a Catholic school. This is followed by OCIA classes for those who want to become Catholic or learn more about the Catholic faith.

On Thursday, Women of the Word begin their fall series, and the men continue That Man is You on Friday mornings.

There is no shortage of opportunities for faith enrichment. I encourage you to take part.

- -Msgr. Gray

## Pray with the Pope

September 2025
For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.





## Readings for the Week of September 7, 2025

Sunday Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 9: 13-18b; Philemon 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14: 25-33

Monday The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Micah 5: 1-4a OR Romans 8: 28-30; Matthew 1: 1-16, 18-23

Tuesday St. Peter Claver, Priest

Colossians 2: 6-15; Luke 6: 12-19

Wednesday Colossians 3: 1-11; Luke 6: 20-26

**Thursday** Colossians 3: 12-17; Luke 6: 27-38

Friday Most Holy Name of Mary

1 Timothy 1: 1-2, 12-14; Luke 6: 39-42

Saturday St. John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

1 Timothy 1: 15-17; Luke 6: 43-49

Sunday The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Numbers 21: 4b-9; Philippians 2: 6-11; John 3: 13-17

#### **Mass Intentions**

#### Monday, September 8, 2025

7:00 a.m. James & Dorothy Reed/Sharon Zogby 8:00 a.m. Adrian & Helen Truitt/John Truitt

#### Tuesday, September 9, 2025

7:00 a.m. Msgr. William Watson/Tony & Honey Jacob 8:00 a.m. Blessed Fredric Ozanam/Tom & Mary Kay Pilat

#### Wednesday, September 10, 2025

7:00 a.m. Dr. James Snyder, Jr./James Snyder 8:00 a.m. Mariano Tolentino/The Sarmiento Family

#### Thursday, September 11, 2025

7:00 a.m. Chip Chan/Family

2:30 p.m. Fr. Thomas Taylor/Joe & Sandy Whalen

#### Friday, September 12, 2025

7:00 a.m. Lloyd Edward Reece, Jr./The Sarmiento Family

8:00 a.m. Michael Quigley/Mike & Beth Flores

#### Saturday, September 13, 2025

8:00 a.m. Mike Palkovic/Linda Aeschliman

5:00 p.m. Deceased Members of the McCauley Family

#### Sunday, September 14, 2025

8:00 a.m. For the People

10:00 a.m. Intentions of Ed & Cathy Mallow's Grandchildren

5:00 p.m. Thomas Penn/Gene & Gretta Couri

## Week of September 7

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL & PANTRY COLLECTIONS Following all Masses this weekend

**COFFEE & DONUTS** Sunday, September 7, following morning Mass, Parish Hall

LIFETEEN Sunday, September 7, 6:00 p.m., St. Thomas Parish Hall

**INCLUSION** Monday, September 8, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ROSARY Tuesday, September 9, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

CCD CONFIRMATION MEETING Wednesday, September 10, 6:00 p.m., School & Parish Hall

OCIA Wednesday, September 10, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WOMEN OF THE WORD Thursday, September 11, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, September 11, 6:30 p.m., Sullivan's in the Heights

THAT MAN IS YOU Friday, September 12, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

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

CARMELITES Saturday, September 13, 11:00 a.m., Parish Hall

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

St. Thomas Holy Hour September 18 Msgr. Watson Memorial Golf Outing September 26

> Join us for Coffee and Donuts after morning Mass this weekend



## **Weekly Collection**

August 24, 2025

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,400	\$163,200
Sunday Collections	\$7,342	\$99,099
Electronic Collections	\$10,169	\$51,026
Total Collected		
Over/(Short)	\$(2,889)	\$(13,075)

Your support of St. Thomas Parish is important to sustain our Please remember to contribute mission. 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

Please pray for those who have died this week

## **Wedding Congratulations**

Amy Brewer & Michael Mapes

## 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Today, the 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal begins in our parish and throughout the Diocese of Peoria. Through the ADA we are able to advance the mission entrusted to us by the Lord. Our retired priests have faithfully served our communities by giving their lives to the Church. Your support for the ADA helps us care for those who built the Church we cherish today.

If you have not made your pledge by mail, please fill out the pleage card in your pew. We can reach our Parish goal only with your help.

Contributions can be made by check payable to the Catholic Diocese of Peoria, by a credit or debit card, by direct debit from checking or savings account or online at www.cdop.org/ ada. Gifts of appreciated stock, grain, qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) or donor advised funds have special considerations and requirements. Contact 309-671-1550 for more information.



GARY E. SCHMIDT Attorney at Law 309.322.8315 www.heylroyster.com **PARISHIONER** 

## 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 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).

#### 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 regis	ayable to: St. Thomas Men's Club tration along with payment to: 904 E. Lake Ave. ◆ Peoria Heights, IL 6161	Total Enclosed \$

You're invited to

The National Day of Remembrance Saturday, Sept. 13

10 am to 10:30 am



One of the more than 200 locations throughout the U. S. St. Mary Cemetery 421 N Starling Ave West Peoria

Jointly hosted by Knights of Columbus Spalding Council & Central Right to Life Spalding Council #427 Knights of Columbus

#### Mexican Dinner

Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>
St. Thomas Parish Hall
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$15 includes dinner & drink

ers. \$13 includes diffrier & diffri



I.D. Drive (Tootsie Rolls)
Before & After All Masses
October 4th & 5th

For more information about either of the above please call Dennis
Goett at 309-550-1967



All women of the Parish are Invited!





#### Most Holy Name of Mary September 12

The name of Mary is regarded as holy be cause it is the name of the Mother of God - She who brought the savior into the world. This feast was added to the universal calendar in 1684 b Blessed Innocent XI, commemorating the defeat of the Turks at the gate of Vienna the previous year -a powerful example of the might of the Blessed Virgin's intercession.

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary, pray for us Most Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

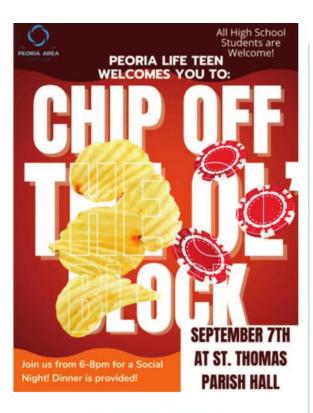
#### **OCIA Schedule**

**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

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



## 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!



# 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 thy 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 House2327 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.



## **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

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





#### **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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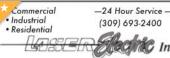
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