## 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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Fr\_Leo@stthomas-church.net

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Dcn. Ed Mallow......360-7735

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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).
- 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 21, 2025 Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## No servant can serve two masters.



He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other.

You cannot serve both God and mammon.

Duriter Interes Com - © Domeson

Luke 16:13



#### From Our Pastor

Recent tragic events have been on many of our minds in just the past couple of weeks. A school shooting in Minneapolis makes every school family concerned about safety and security. Then the shooting of Charlie Kirk has brought about much sadness and a sense of anxiety about the direction of our country.

In our community and within our parish, there are a variety of political opinions, and I've heard individual parishioners share their concerns about politics, about politicians, and about policy. However, in a country that has thrived on vigorous political debate and has protected the freedom of speech in our Constitution, I'm confident that we can all agree that no one should lose their life over their political views.

I offer my own suggestion in these challenging times: I do not recommend that we avoid political discussions or conversations about our country, as if we should bury our opinions and hide them from one another. Rather, I encourage you to discuss your deeply held convictions with one another, with friends, and with family in an atmosphere of respect for the other. We should be able to interact kindly with one another as a brother or sister, even when we disagree. May we strive for charity and live in harmony with one another.

At St. Thomas School, we will take additional steps to increase security at the school, and especially when the children come to school Mass. To support these efforts, we will dedicate the majority of the proceeds from our Progressive Dinner to school safety efforts. More information will be available in the weeks ahead. For now, mark your calendars for Saturday, November 8, and plan to join your fellow parishioners and school families for a fun night of fellowship. Those who take part will gather for appetizers and then dinner in individual parishioner's homes and then conclude with dessert at the Country Club of Peoria.

Finally, I ask you to pray with our Diocese and Bishop for Vocations as we begin the St. Therese Novena for vocations. The novena begins on September 22nd in preparation for the October 1st feast day of St. Therese of Lisieux. More information is available at https://www.cdop.org/pray.

- -Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of September 21, 2025

Sunday Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Amos 8: 4-7; 1 Timothy 2: 1-8; Luke 16: 1-13

**Monday** Ezra 1: 1-6; Luke 8: 16-18

Tuesday St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

Ezra 6: 7-8, 12b, 14-20; Luke 8: 19-21

Wednesday Ezra 9: 5-9; Luke 9: 1-6

**Thursday** Haggai 1: 1-8; Luke 9: 7-9

Friday Sts. Cosmos and Damian, Martyrs

Haggai 2: 1-9; Luke 9: 18-22

Saturday St. Vincent de Paul, Priest

Zechariah 2: 5-9, 14-15a; Luke 9: 43b-45

Sunday Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Amos 6: 1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6: 11-16; Luke 16: 19-31

#### Mass Intentions

#### Monday, September 22, 2025

7:00 a.m. Vivienne Burek/George & Connie Burek

8:00 a.m. Marianne Hunt

#### Tuesday, September 23, 2025

7:00 a.m. Mary Truitt/John Truitt 8:00 a.m. Sarah Salmon/Family

#### Wednesday, September 24, 2025

7:00 a.m. Archbishop John Myers/FSJB

8:00 a.m. Fr. Tom Taylor/Jerry & Deborah Heinz

#### Thursday, September 25, 2025

7:00 a.m. Jeanne Broussard/Mary Lou & Michael Bartley Sch. Mass Christine Pilat/Dan & Many Anne Campbell

#### Friday, September 26, 2025

7:00 a.m. Suzette Little Kennedy/Amy & John Kelly 8:00 a.m. Martha Truyen Nguyen/Joe & Sandy Whalen

#### Saturday, September 27, 2025

8:00 a.m. Chip Chan/Family

5:00 p.m. In Honor of St. Vincent de Paul

#### Sunday, September 28, 2025

8:00 a.m. Greg Allen Patterson/Kelly & Tim Messmer 10:00 a.m. Thomas Penn/Dave & Laurie Williams

5:00 p.m. For the People

## Week of September 21

LIFETEEN Sunday, September 21, 6:00 p.m., St. Thomas Parish Hall

ST. THERESA NOVENA Begins Monday, September 22,

INCLUSION Monday, September 22, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ROSARY Tuesday, September 23, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

MILLIONS OF MONICAS Tuesday, September 23, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

CCD Wednesday, September 24, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, September 24, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WOMEN OF THE WORD Thursday, September 25, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

**THAT MAN IS YOU** Friday, September 26, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**MSGR. WATSON MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING** Friday, September 26, 11:00 a.m. Check-In begins, Mt. Hawley Golf Course

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

K OF C MEXICAN DINNER Saturday, September 27, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Extra Confession Sunday September 27/28
Adoration October 3
St. Thomas Holy Hour October 16

## 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.



## Weekly Collection September 14, 2025

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,400	\$224,400
Sunday Collections	\$11,843	\$139,130
Electronic Collections	\$3,390	\$60,637
Total Collected		
Over/(Short)	\$(5,167)	\$(24,633)

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**

Please pray for those who have died this week

## **Wedding Congratulations**

Noemi Guadalupe Vazquez Vazquez & Nicholas Adam Lees

## **Baptism Congratulations**

Sutton Grace Clonch, daughter of Sarah & Bryce Clonch

## 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Thank you to all who made a pledge to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. We have begun to progress towards our goal of \$110,554. Your generosity helps give food to the hungry, training to our seminarians, and give support to parishes. The ADA helps parishes support programs for forming children like Catechesis of the Good Shepard. If you have not completed a pledge card, please do so. There are envelopes in the narthex. Every dollar raised to make our goal supports important diocesan ministries, and every dollar raised over our goal will be kept in the parish. To those who have pledged, thank you!

Sponsor of the Week



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## The Novena to St. Theresa, Little Flower of Jesus



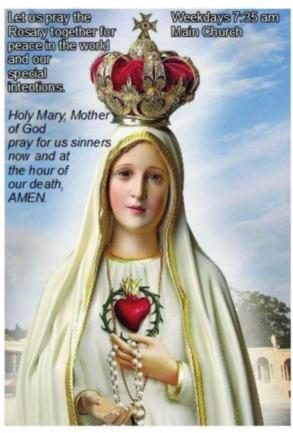
This nine day Novena is an excellent way to prepare for the feast day of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, one of the greatest saints of the modern era. We also pray this novena for the specific intention of increasing Priestly vocations in our diocese, and the Catholic Church as a whole. Saint Therese, also known as the Little Flower, commonly gives roses or flowers as a sign to those who receive miracles by her intercession. With the power of Saint Therese's intercession in mind let us imitate her great and innocent confi-

dence in the loving promises of our God. May this novena to St. Therese of Lisieux help us to follow in her footsteps as she followed in Our Lord's through her little way.

The Novena can be found here: St. Therese of Lisieux – 9 Day Novena - Angelus Press

This is a PDF version which can be printed into a booklet: st.\_therese\_novena.pdf





## 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!

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

(Fundraiser for K of C)



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

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

# HEAD OF THE HOUSE





September 21st St. Thomas Parish Hall 6-8pm

Come for a Life Night on the Papacy. Dinner is provided. All High Schoolers are welcome! Bring a friend!!





#### 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, 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.

September 23 at 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas Daily Mass Chapel

For more information visit www.millionsofmonicas.com

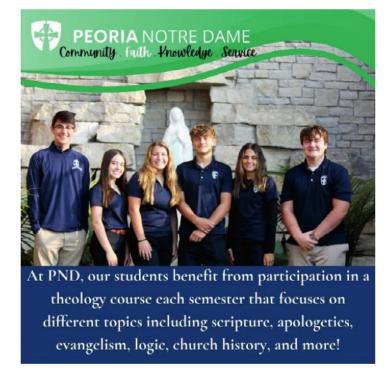
St. Mary of Lourden

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST
SUNDAY – October 5th 7:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

If you wish to pre-order sausage:
Please call or text Bill Kessling @ #309-645-7795
\$4.00 per pound (Bulk or Link)

\*\*\*Last day to pre-order – September 28th\*\*\*

Sausage orders must be picked up on SUNDAY – October 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00 AM – 12 NOON St. Mary of Lourdes Parish Center 424 Lourdes Church Road Metamora, IL. 61548



### **OCIA Schedule**

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

Oct 1: God the Son

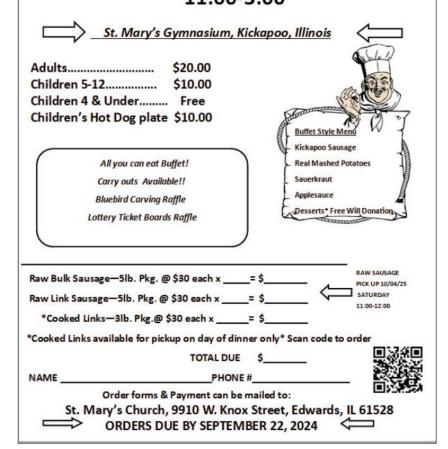
Oct 8: God the Son; God the Holy Spirit

Oct 15: Holy Catholic Church

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



## ST. MARY'S OF KICKAPOO ANNUAL FAMOUS SAUSAGE DINNER SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025 11:00-3:00



## **Emmaus Knights**

For young men grades 7-12



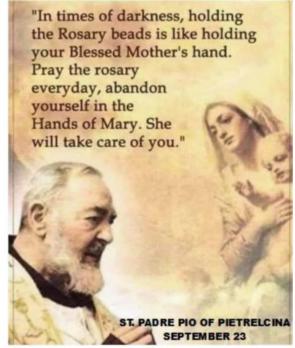


Join Fr. Chase for a Sunday night of faith, fraternity, and formation at the Emmaus House 2327 W. Heading Ave., W. Peoria

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









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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