

## 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

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Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735  
Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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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).



September 28, 2025

*Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*





## From Our Pastor

St. Thomas Parish and School have announced our upcoming Progressive Dinner to take place on November 8<sup>th</sup>. This event will raise funds first and foremost for added school security and also for new chairs in the parish hall. I encourage all our parish families and school families to take part.

The Progressive Dinner is a fun social event in which parishioners and school parents mingle at a St. Thomas family home for appetizers and then in various homes for dinner before regrouping at the Peoria Country Club for a brief auction and dessert. This is a good way for you to meet other St. Thomas families and strengthen our bonds of fellowship.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Our goal is a little more than \$110,000, and we are approximately halfway to our goal thanks to your generosity. If you haven't contributed, I encourage you to pick up a pledge card from the tables in the narthex or to go online to [www.cdop.org/ada](http://www.cdop.org/ada) to watch the video and make your pledge. Every dollar we receive over our goal is returned to the parish and helps us to meet our local needs.

This is the time to recruit new members of our Parish Council. In October, we invite parishioners to nominate themselves or other parishioners who can offer sound advice regarding parish activities. Please see the bulletin for more information over the coming weeks. The new Parish Council members are selected in November.

St. Thomas takes care of five nursing homes in our territory by providing Communion weekly and a visit by one of the priests monthly. One of those nursing homes is Aperion on Gardner Lane. This is one of the least affluent nursing homes, which makes the pastoral care of the Catholics there even more important than other more active nursing homes. Until recently, the pastoral care of the Catholics at Aperion was coordinated by the Missionaries of Charity. Now, we are looking for a volunteer who would be willing to help visit the Catholics there, bringing them the Eucharist once a week. Please let me know if you can help.

Finally, if you are interested in reading at daily Mass, we are preparing the schedule for the upcoming months. If you would like to be added to the list of readers, we can put your name into the rotation. Please contact me or the parish office.

- Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of September 28, 2025

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b><br>Amos 6: 1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6: 11-16; Luke 16: 19-31                          |
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>Sts. Michael, Gabriel, &amp; Raphael, Archangels</b><br>Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14 OR Revelation 12: 7-12ab;<br>John 1: 47-51 |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>St. Jerome, Priest &amp; Doctor of the Church</b><br>Zechariah 8: 20-23; Luke 9: 51-56                                   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin &amp; Doctor of the Church</b><br>Nehemiah 2: 1-8; Luke 9: 57-62                  |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>The Holy Guardian Angels</b><br>Nehemiah 8: 1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Matthew 18: 1-5, 10  |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Baruch 1: 15-22; Luke 10: 13-16   |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>St. Francis of Assisi</b><br>Baruch 4: 5-12, 27-29; Luke 10: 17-24   |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b><br>Hebrew 1:2-3; 2:2-4; Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14; Luke 17:5-10                    |

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, September 29, 2025

|           |                                   |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 7:00 a.m. | Arthur Cook/Family                |
| 8:00 a.m. | Adrian & Helen Truitt/John Truitt |

### Tuesday, September 30, 2025

|           |                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 7:00 a.m. | Souls in Purgatory/Angela Kenny |
| 8:00 a.m. | Jim Zogby/Sharon Zogby          |

### Wednesday, October 1, 2025

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 7:00 a.m. | Gary Parmelee/Sharon Zogby  |
| 8:00 a.m. | Carmelite Community or Mary, Mother of the Blessed Sacrament/Mary Ann Noe |

### Thursday, October 2, 2025

|           |                                      |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| 7:00 a.m. | Neumann Family/Terry & Eileen Grawey |
| Sch. Mass | Eunice Galsky/Kathy Clary            |

### Friday, October 3, 2025

|           |                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 7:00 a.m. | Raymond Little/Amy & John Kelly    |
| 8:00 a.m. | Michael Quigley/Mike & Beth Flores |

### Saturday, October 4, 2025

|           |                                     |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m. | Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB          |
| 5:00 p.m. | Thomas Penn/David & Laurie Williams |

### Sunday, October 5, 2025

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m.  | Charles Bode/The Bode & Rolfe Families |
| 10:00 a.m. | Dave Ryon/Family                       |
| 5:00 p.m.  | For the People                         |

## Week of September 28

**EXTRA CONFESSIONS** following all Sunday Masses this weekend

**SIGN-UP FOR FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION** This Weekend after all Masses, narthex

**INCLUSION** Monday, September 29, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**ROSARY** Tuesday, September 30, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

**CCD** Wednesday, October 1, 6:00 p.m., School

**OCIA** Wednesday, October 1, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**ST. IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY** Thursday, October 2, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**THAT MAN IS YOU** Friday, October 3, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**ADORATION** Friday, October 3, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS** Friday, October 3, 8:45 a.m., Back Parking Lot

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <i>LifeTeen</i>                           | <i>October 5</i>  |
| <i>Anniv. Of Dedication of St. Thomas</i> | <i>October 6</i>  |
| <i>St. Thomas Holy Hour</i>               | <i>October 16</i> |
| <i>Fr. Leo Mission Appeal</i>             | <i>October 26</i> |

## 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 21, 2025

|                             |                 | Fiscal YTD |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Collections needed.....     | \$20,400 .....  | \$244,800  |
| Sunday Collections .....    | \$9,037 .....   | \$148,167  |
| Electronic Collections..... | \$1,912.....    | \$62,549   |
| Total Collected.....        | \$10,949.....   | \$210,716  |
| Over/(Short).....           | \$(9,451) ..... | \$(34,084) |

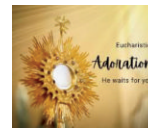
Your support of St. Thomas Parish is important to sustain our mission. Please remember to contribute regularly with your envelopes or checks in our regular Sunday collection. Electronic contributions can be made through direct debit, or by using the Giving tab on our parish website: [stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Thank you for your support.

## Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week

Once each month we pause to spend time before our Lord during the hours of Adoration.

Please consider signing up to spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord.



**Friday, October 3**

Beginning after 8:00 a.m. Mass and continuing throughout the day, until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

## Blessing of the Animals

The feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals is celebrated each year on October 4. In his honor each year we have the Blessing of the Animals, this year on



**October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:45 a.m. in the back parking lot.**

Everyone is invited to bring his or her pet, be it dog, cat, goldfish, guinea pig, or iguana, for the blessing. All we ask, for the safety of the pets and their owners, is that each pet is appropriately leashed or caged.

## ST. THERESE HOLY HOUR

WITH MEDITATION AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Wednesday, October 1, 6:30 p.m.  
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception  
Peoria

Celebrating 100 years of  
Sainthood  
1925-2025

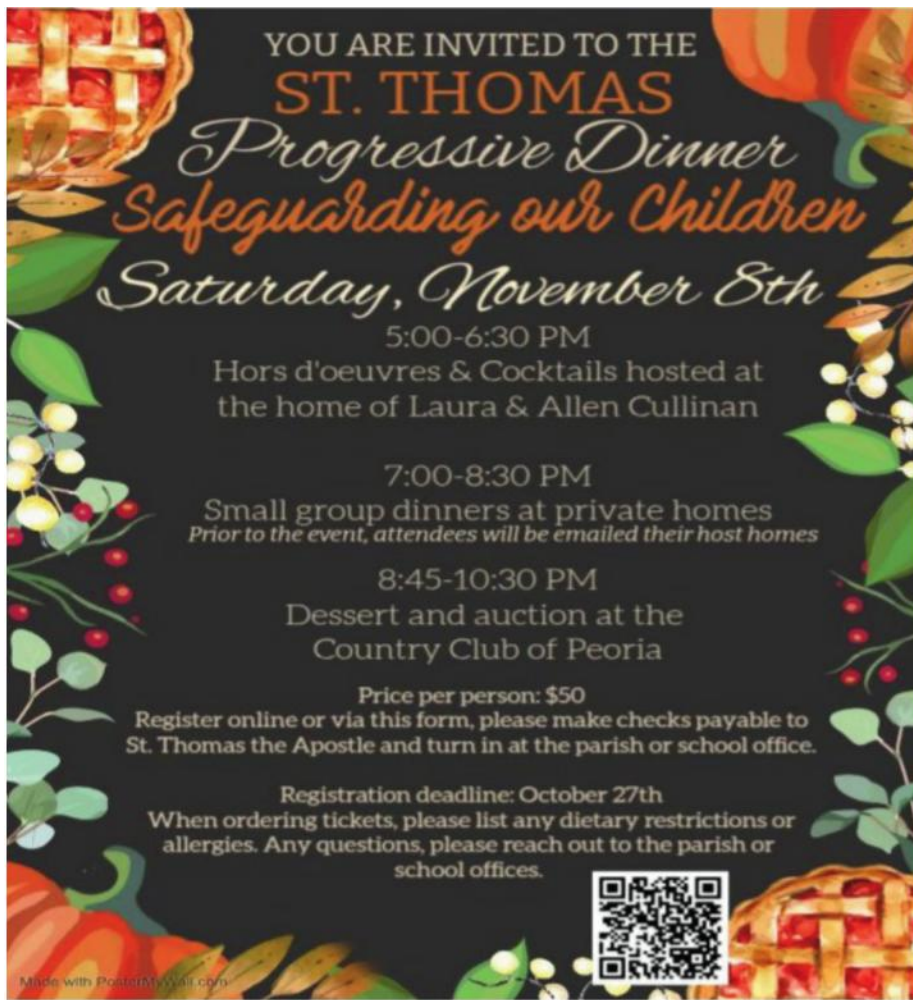


Sponsor of the Week



[www.monicalspizza.com](http://www.monicalspizza.com)





Please return to the parish or school office with cash or check. **PROGRESSIVE DINNER**

Names of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary restrictions/allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

## Parish Council Openings

The Parish Council is a group of nine individuals who were selected to represent the Parish by advising and assisting the pastor in the following ways:

- by promoting the Catholic faith in the Parish and in the community;
- by developing a pastoral plan and facilitating the participation of parishioners;
- by monitoring Parish activities for effectiveness;
- by coordinating charitable works for those in need in the Parish and community.

Members of the Council commit to a three-year term and meet once per month for one hour, generally on the third Tuesday of each month, with breaks for holidays.

Prospective candidates should be practicing Catholics who support St. Thomas and are engaged in the life of the Parish. It is helpful if the candidate brings some familiarity or involvement in the activities of the Parish or the School

If you would like to be considered for an open position on the Parish Council, or if you would like to nominate someone to be considered, please contact the parish office.

## OCIA Schedule

- 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  
**Oct 29:** Liturgy, Sacraments; and Saints
- Nov 5:** Baptism, Confirmation  
**Nov 12:** Eucharist  
**Nov 19:** Penance, Anointing, Funerals  
**Nov 26:** No Class ~ Thanksgiving
- Dec 3:** Blessed Virgin Mary, Rosary  
**Dec 10:** Orders, Religious Life



## First Saturday Devotion Immaculate Heart of Mary

October 4, 2025

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

Rosary at 7:30 a.m.

Mass at 8:00 a.m.

Confessions as scheduled

Blessed rosaries available in the narthex

### Daily Rosary

Let us pray the Rosary together for peace in the  
world and our special intentions

Weekdays, 7:30 a.m. in Church

Holy Mary, Mother of God pray for us sinners  
now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

### Holy Hour for the Unborn and their Mothers!

October is Respect Life Month with the theme:

*LIFE—Our Sign of Hope!*


Join Pro-Life Prayer Warriors and

Knights of Columbus

**Monday, Oct. 6, 7:00 p.m. Saint Mark Church**

Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacra-  
ment, the rosary, adoration, and benediction.

For more information,  
contact John Wikoff, Knights Life Director, at  
[jpw61552@gmail.com](mailto:jpw61552@gmail.com).



**MY BROTHER'S**  
*Keeper*

ISSUE LIFE  
NIGHT ON  
PRO-LIFE

OCT. 5

6PM IN ST.  
VINCENT DE PAUL  
PARISH HALL

ALL HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS ARE WELCOME!  
DINNER IS PROVIDED

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



I've served in our St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference since November 2009, when home visits with those in need were introduced. We explain that our presence in their home – our practice of coming to them rather than having them come to us – is a response to Jesus, who asked us to share his love by our service to others, especially *the least of our brothers*. Everyone who calls us has a story; join us and become a positive part of their story.

Sixteen years later, we have many guidelines or *how tos* based on experiences as well as provided by the National Conference. We also have some *how not tos* that represent what I refer to as experience. The following story from the early days contains some *how not tos* that my fellow Vincentians will recognize. The following is a set of notes from 2015, five years after this 2010 encounter took place:

Today (8/11/15) is the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my visit with Ed, so I wanted to call him and find out how he was doing. Here is the background from 5 years ago:

St. Thomas' office had referred me to Ed, who needed a job, and the people he had been staying with wanted him and his pregnant girlfriend out ASAP. He had a job opportunity if he could get to an office off Pioneer Parkway to fill out the necessary paperwork, but he had no way to get there. I asked Ed where he was staying, and he gave me a Marquette St. address on the south side. I said, "I'll be there in about 20 minutes."

When I arrived, Ed was sitting beside his girlfriend on the steps of a small house... not a Norman Rockwell moment! He strolled over to my car as she disappeared into the house. He wore blue jeans and a muscle shirt, displaying arms saturated with tattoos. They complemented his ponytail and the numerous pins, rings, and studs in his ears and lips. I learned more about Ed as we drove out to Pioneer Parkway. He was not eligible for workers' comp or unemployment because he had not had a job for some time. He had helped a cousin mow grass and was making some money as a tattoo artist. I believed that! I asked him what he did before mowing grass, and learned that he had been released from prison about a year ago. He had served 3 1/2 years of a 6-year sentence for breaking and entering along with some kind of aggressive behavior... while trying to procure a water heater for his ex-wife because their kids lived with her on weekends, and her water heater was broken. He was confronted by police while carrying a water heater from a nearby vacant home where he had removed it in the middle of the night! I'm hearing all this as we drive to Pioneer Parkway!

When we arrived at a cleaning services office on Pioneer Lane, a lady gave him papers to fill out. He was applying for the job that his buddy just lost since he was going to jail on an aggravated battery and trespassing charge. His buddy was the boyfriend of the woman who owned and rented the house that Ed had been asked to leave. He admitted that he and his buddy were not friends at this time.

As we drove back to Marquette St., Ed's cell phone rang; he had the job to clean PHA homes for \$12.34 an hour! We cheered! The only thing spiritual was me saying "praise God, who works in mysterious ways", as we speculated that the lady who wanted him out might reconsider now that her previous source of rent income was in jail and Ed had his job! Relationships get complicated! That's the background.

I couldn't locate Ed this morning (8/11/15) by phone, so I drove back to the cleaning services office. They remembered him; he had worked for them for three years. The lady at the office called Ed on a different number than I had, and he answered, so she handed her phone to me. Ed remembered me! He said that he now runs a tow truck service and was still with the same girl, and they have three children and have moved from the house on Marquette St. Ed claimed that he remembered that day we drove together 5 years ago; a new start for him, he said. And he reminded me of a piece of advice I'd given him to be successful in his new job that he had passed on to others... show up!

~ Don Smith



Most Reverend Louis Tylka cordially invites you to the

# FOUNDATION Gala

An event to celebrate and support the Diocese of Peoria during its 150th Anniversary



**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025**  
CIVIC CENTER BALLROOM | PEORIA, IL

6:00 P.M. | COCKTAILS  
7:00 P.M. | DINNER  
8:00 P.M. | DANCING

A religious painting will be created during the evening and auctioned  
Live music by **3 and a Half Men**  
Dress Attire Business Casual

RSVP Due October 20, 2025.  
Online Reservations at [www.cdop150.org/gala](http://www.cdop150.org/gala).  
Call 309.671.1550 with questions.

**Visit the Relics of St. Faustina**  
**St. Sharbel Parish | Peoria (October 2-5)**  
St. Sharbel Church (2920 W. Scenic Drive | Peoria) invites you to join us Thursday, October 2 - Sunday, October 5 (Feast of St. Faustina) for daily devotions to include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Stations of the Cross, Rosary, Meditations, Divine Liturgy, and Veneration of the Relics of St. Faustina. Movies about St. Faustina and Divine Mercy will be shown in the parish hall on Saturday and Sunday.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Emmaus Knights

For young men grades 7-12

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.



## Girls TEC #381 October 11-13, 2025

Learn more and register online at

[peoriatec.org](http://peoriatec.org)

All denominations 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!

## Chesterton Academy of the Sacred Heart,

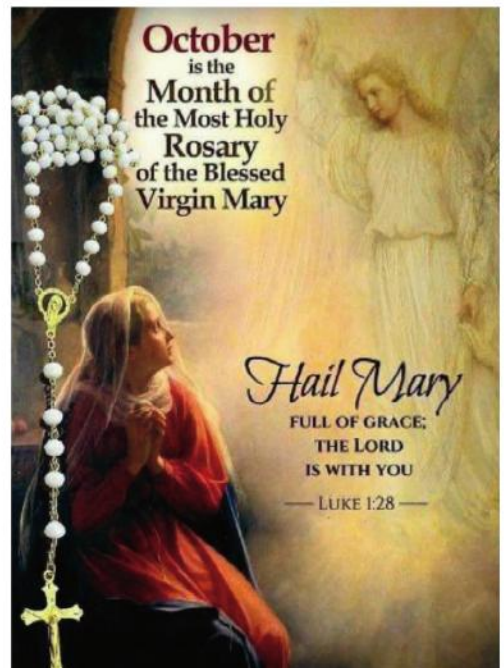
an independent Catholic high school in the Diocese of Peoria, invites parishioners to come learn more about who we are and what a classical education has to offer during an informational evening hosted by the Kennelly's.

**Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 p.m.**

The Kennelly Home  
2919 W Playden Drive  
Peoria, IL 61615

Please rsvp: [mkoszarek@chestertonpeoria.org](mailto:mkoszarek@chestertonpeoria.org)

Questions call: 309-213-3958



### 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.

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