

# St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

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Fr\_Leo@stthomas-church.net

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

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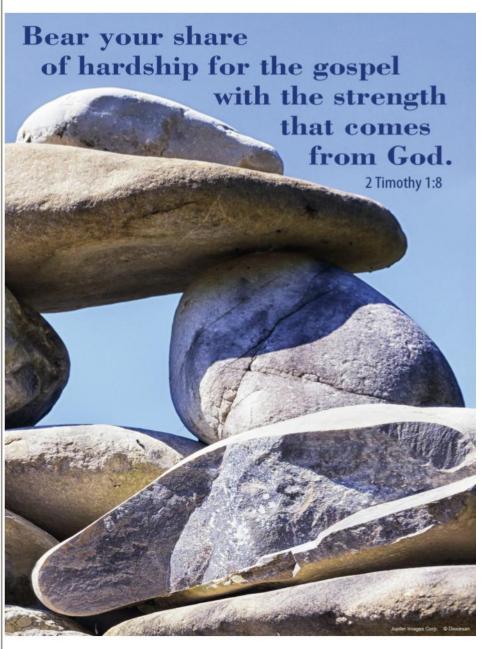
St. Vincent de Paul Society HelpLine.....(309) 264-5815

#### 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).
- 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).



# October 5, 2025 Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time





#### From Our Pastor

The dedication of any Church is an important anniversary to be remembered each year. For St. Thomas, we look back to October 6, 2002, when this new church building was dedicated by Bishop Jenky. This year, the dedication falls on Monday. We will observe this solemnity at our 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. Masses on Monday morning. You are encouraged to attend.

We continue to raise pledges to our Annual Diocesan Appeal goal of approximately \$110,000. I know that there have been many generous donors who have made their pledge. If you haven't yet responded, you can help us to go over our goal with your pledge. Everything over our goal is returned to the parish for our local needs. Thank you in advance.

Please see the information about the Parish Council in the bulletin. Nominations are being accepted through the month of October. If you or someone you know would be a good addition to the Parish Council, please make this nomination known through the parish office.

Finally, there is excitement building around the Progressive Dinner as several parishioners have volunteered to host a dinner for a group of participants in their individual homes. Now is the time to sign up to take part. The Progressive Dinner will take place on November 8th. Join in the festivities to support security in our school and chairs in our parish hall.

- -Msgr. Gray

# Pray with the Pope

October 2025

For collaboration between different religious traditions Let us pray that believers in different

religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.





# Readings for the Week of October 5, 2025

Sunday Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Habakkuk 1: 2-3: 2: 2-4: 2 Timothy 1: 6-8, 13-14:

Luke 17: 5-10

Monday St. Bruno. Priest

Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12: Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24:

John 4: 19-24

Tuesday Our Lady of the Rosary

Jonah 3: 1-10: Luke 10: 38-42

Wednesday Jonah 4: 1-11: Luke 11: 1-4

St. Denis, Bishop, & Companions, Martyrs Thursday

Malachi 3: 13-20b; Luke 11: 5-13

Friday Joel 1: 13-15: 2: 1-2: Luke 11: 15-26

Saturday St. John the XXIII. Pope

Joel 4: 12-21; Luke 11: 27-28

Sunday Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 5: 14-17; 2 Timothy 2: 8-13; Luke 17: 11-19

### **Mass Intentions**

#### Monday, October 6, 2025

7:00 a.m. Michael Doyle/Joe & Sandy Whalen

8:00 a.m. Charles Ginoli

#### Tuesday, October 7, 2025

7:00 a.m. Dave Lang/Barbara Lynch

8:00 a.m. Thomas D. Rochford/Jim & Deb Rochford

#### Wednesday, October 8, 2025

7:00 a.m. Michael Quigley/Tom & Becky Frakes 8:00 a.m. Adrian & Helen Truitt/John Truitt

#### Thursday, October 9, 2025

7:00 a.m. Magdalena & Alfonso Ang

Sch. Mass Betty Ginoli

## Friday, October 10, 2025

John Snyder/James Snyder 7:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. Dolores Oppe/Warren Oppe

#### Saturday, October 11, 2025

8:00 a.m. Patty Resutko/Larry Resutko Elita Kayyaly/Rhonda Bachman 5:00 p.m.

## Sunday, October 12, 2025

8:00 a.m. Peoria Seminarians & Priestly Vocations

10:00 a.m. For the People

5:00 p.m. Beverly Chambers, mother of Crystal Swearingen/

Cathleen Schisler

# Week of October 5

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TOOTSIE ROLL SALE After all Masses this weekend

**COFFEE & DONUTS** Sunday, October 5, after morning Masses

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE Sunday, October 5, 12:30 p.m., Parish Hall

**LIFETEEN** Sunday, October 5, 6:00 p.m., St. Vincent de Paul Parish

**SOLEMNITY OF DEDICATION OF ST. THOMAS** Monday, October 6, Morning Masses

INCLUSION Monday, October 6, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ROSARY Tuesday, October 7, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

CCD Wednesday, October 8, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, October 8, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WOMEN OF THE WORD Thursday, October 9, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, October 9, 6:30 p.m., Sullivan's in the Heights

**THAT MAN IS YOU** Friday, October 10, 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, October 11, 11:00 a.m., Parish Hall

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

| St. Thomas Holy Hour                          | October 16 |
|---|------------|
| LifeTeen                                      | October 19 |
| Fr. Leo Mission Appeal                        | October 26 |
| 150 <sup>th</sup> CDOP Adoration @ St. Thomas | October 30 |
| LifeTeen                                      | November 2 |
| Adoration                                     | November 7 |
| Progressive Dinner                            | November 8 |
|   |            |

# Weekly Collection

September 28, 2025

|                        |           | Fiscal YTD |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Collections needed     | \$20,400  | \$265,200  |
| Sunday Collections     | \$9,037   | \$157,175  |
| Electronic Collections | \$8,593   | \$71,142   |
| Total Collected        | \$17,630  | \$228,317  |
| Over/(Short)           | \$(2,770) | \$(36,883) |

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.

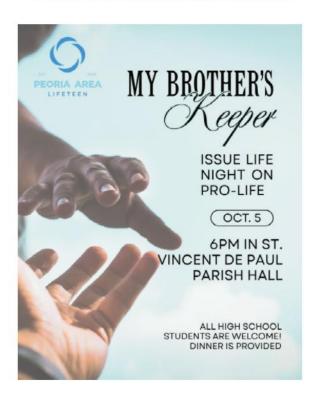
# **Our Sympathy**

Keith Parks

Angela Kenny

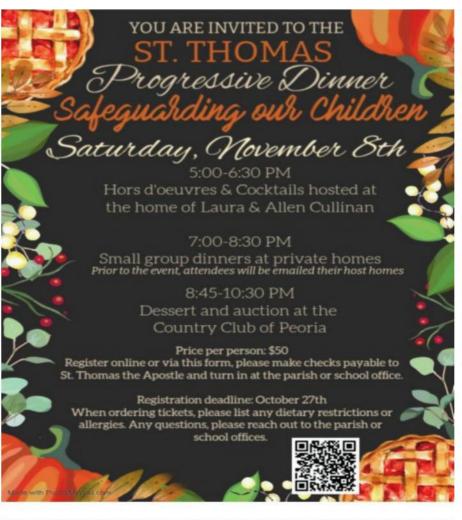
# **Baptism Congratulations**

Palmer Sonnenberg, daughter of Heather & Derek Sonnenberg



Sponsor of the Week





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 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

Dec 17: Marriage Dec 24: No Class Dec 31: No Class



# SAVE THE DATE: Informational Luncheon

McGivney Homes, a new non-profit organization that is establishing Catholic homes for adults with developmental disabilities in the Peoria diocese, is sponsoring an Informational Luncheon on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025 at 11 a.m. at the Family Resource Center (415 NE Monroe Street, Peoria).

Family members (of both adults and children), caregivers, volunteers and interested parties are invited to come and learn about this new

ministry. Lunch is provided. Please RSVP to **bmmh813@gmail.com** or with the following QR code:

For further information, email bmmh813@gmail.com, or Janet

Fischer, Secretary: fischerjd.8@gmail.com, or Carol Meyer, President:

meyer.carol.marie@gmail.com

# Daily Rosary

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

Weekdays 7:35 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 Sacrament, the rosary, adoration, and benediction.

For more information, contact John Wikoff, Knights Life Director, at <a href="mailto:jpw61552@gmail.com">jpw61552@gmail.com</a>.



# When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



I've worked in our St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference here at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish since November 2009, when the practice of home visits with the needy began. Our Conference ministers primarily to our Neighbors in Need in the communities of

61616 (Peoria Heights) and 61603 (East Bluff).

Before I think about stepping aside at some point, I'd like to reflect on three essential elements of our St. Vincent de Paul Society work: 1) The St. Thomas members (Vincentians) who make up our Conference, 2) The people we serve, and 3) You, the family of St. Thomas parishioners that support us.

First, the members of our St. Vincent de Paul Conference. This family of volunteers has become like a special "church within the church" to me, especially during Covid. It has been a source of spiritual nourishment and growth I didn't foresee 16 years ago! You are invited to consider joining us; come and see.

Secondly, the Neighbors in Need, the people who ask for financial assistance, that we help when we visit them in their homes. We address material poverty and often help with spiritual poverty as well. We give them hope and explain our presence is in response to Jesus, who revealed the unconditional love of the Father and asked us to share that love by our service to others. Everyone who calls St. Vincent de Paul has a story; in many instances, we can become a positive part of their story.

Lastly, you and your fellow St. Thomas parishioners that make this ministry possible. You are like the boy with several loaves and fish in the story about Jesus feeding the multitude. The boy's offering seemed insignificant, but Jesus took care of the rest. Please continue to give whatever financial support you can and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us to use it wisely and effectively. We can "serve the multitude" only with your support; thank you!

~ Don Smith

# Join us for Coffee and Donuts after Sunday morning Mass this weekend



# 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal

# Proclaiming Christ yesterday, today, forever.

Thanks to the generosity of a number of parish families, we are well on our way towards our goal of \$110,554. Each gift is important to the mission of the diocese. If you have not yet had the opportunity, please return a pleage card with your response today. There are cards on the tables in the back of church. Your gift helps support the central ministries of our diocese including religious education of our young people, faith formation of adults, training of our future priests, Newman Centers on our college campuses and much more. Every dollar raised over our goal will be kept in the parish to help us with future needs. To those who have contributed, we are most grateful.

# **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

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!

40DAYS FORLIFE September 24th till November 2nd

**40 Days for Life** September 24 - November 2 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Come to the sidewalk at Planned Parenthood, 2709 N Knoxville Ave, Peoria, and pray with other prayer volunteers. People are encouraged to sign up at **www.40daysforlife.com/ peoria** and to see when others plan to be there too.

If you have not signed up before or need a refresher, a YouTube video is linked at *illinoislife.blogspot.com*.

## Annual Heart of Illinois Life Chain:

Sunday, October 5 from 2—3 pm at Planned Parenthood. Just come there then to pray. Contact Dan Smith at 309-691-3611 for more information.

#### Rachel's Vineyard Post-Abortion

**Retreat**, October 10 - 12. Register at **Rachel's Vineyard** — **Catholic Diocese of Peoria** or call 309-264-1489 or email to **rvrpeoria@gmail.com**.

# **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.           | raismoner Registration, complete and sobiting |  |  |



# INFORMATION NIGHT

DATTE

October 15, 2025 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

MHOS

Junior high students & parents-guardians are invited to attend!

AUDITORIUM

Brief presentation for all followed by tours with student ambassadors



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.

Maureen Williams, Owner/Parishioner

#### 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 ጲ

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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(St. Thomas class of 2026)



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