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

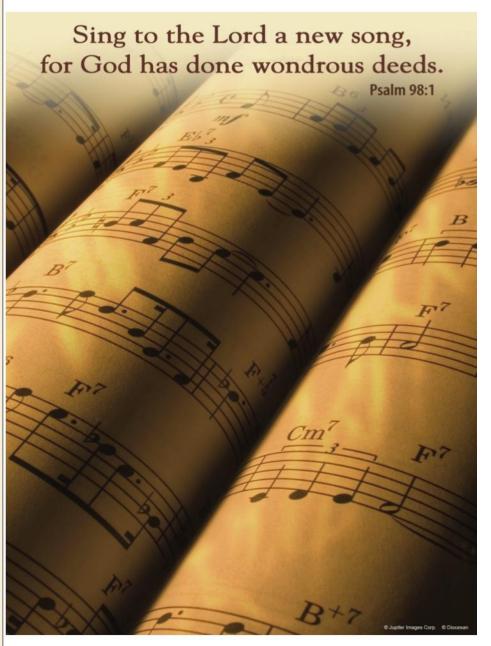
St. Vincent de Paul Society HelpLine.....(309) 264-5815

Stay in Touch

- 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).



October 12, 2025 Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time





From Our Pastor

Last week I attended a retreat with about 50 other priests of his Diocese at the Sacre Coeur Retreat Center near Henry. I am thankful for this time apart to withdraw and spend time in prayer and to visit with the other priests who serve the Church in this area. From time to time, you may hear of retreats that are offered. I think we all benefit from the quiet that comes with spending more focused time with Our Lord.

I have been working with a small number of parishioners who have been going through an Evangelical Catholic training program. The goal of this program is to identify and encourage other members of the parish to become more active in giving witness to their faith. There are different ways to help spread the Gospel, and different people may have different ways of proclaiming Jesus Christ according to their own gifts and abilities.

One ministry that is looking for more volunteers is our ushers. There are some Masses that would benefit by having additional ushers to help at Mass. The ushers help take up the collection and find volunteer gift bearers. But they also are the first point of contact with parishioners and visitors to St. Thomas to offer a friendly welcome. They can also help people who need a little help, especially the handicapped and those who need Communion brought to them. Both men and women are welcome as ushers.

If you are interested in taking a more active role at Mass when you come to St. Thomas, ask one of our ushers if they need help and we can explain more about this duty.

- -Msgr. Gray

Calendar Note

There will be **no Inclusion on Monday, October 13th**. Our sessions will resume on Monday,
October 20th at 7:00 pm.

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 12, 2025

Sunday Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monday Indigenous Peoples Day/Columbus Day

Romans 1: 1-7; Luke 11: 29-32

Tuesday St. Callistus I, Pope & Martyr

Romans 1: 16-25; Luke 11: 37-41

Wednesday St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church

Romans 2: 1-11; Luke 11: 42-46

Thursday St. Hedwig, Religious

Romans 3: 21-30; Luke 11: 47-54

Friday St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr

Romans 4: 1-8; Luke 12: 1-7

Saturday St. Luke, Evangelist

2 Timothy 4: 10-17b; Luke 10: 1-9

Sunday Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 17: 8-13; 2 Timothy 3: 14-4: 2; Luke 18: 1-8

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 13, 2025

7:00 a.m. Souls in Purgatory/Tam & Phan Vu 8:00 a.m. Thomas Penn/David & Laurie Williams

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

7:00 a.m. Nancy Wilson/Margaret Thomas

8:00 a.m. Meinardo Ravago

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

7:00 a.m. Benefactors of FSJB 8:00 a.m. Mary Truitt/John Truitt

Thursday, October 16, 2025

7:00 a.m. Melvin Noe/Mary Ann Noe Sch. Mass Oral & Jesse Harris/Family

Friday, October 17, 2025

7:00 a.m. Mike Palkovic/Michael & Mary Lou Bartley 8:00 a.m. Dr. Larry Harman/John & Julie Chan & Family

Saturday, October 18, 2025

8:00 a.m. Fr. Tom Taylor/Bill & Ann Fulton 5:00 p.m. Roger Tramel/Lynn Tramel

Sunday, October 19, 2025

8:00 a.m. Lou Betti/Cathleen Schisler
10:00 a.m. Bob Pruitt/Cathleen Schisler

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of October 12

PARISH OFFICE & SCHOOL CLOSED Monday, October 13, Indigenous Peoples Day

ROSARY Tuesday, October 14, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Tuesday, October 14, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

CCD Wednesday, October 15, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, October 15, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ST. IGNATIUS BIBILE STUDY Thursday, October 16, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR Thursday, October 9, 7:00 p.m., Church

THAT MAN IS YOU Friday, October 17, 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

LifeTeen October 19
Grandparenting & Faith October 20
Fr. Leo Mission Appeal October 26
150th CDOP Adoration @ St. Thomas Adoration November 7
Progressive Dinner November 8

Why Safety Matters in Our School

This year monies earned from the *Progressive Dinner* (Saturday, November 8^{th}) will be used for safety measures for our STS students. ALL members of the Parish are invited to participate in this fun evening that benefits our School and Parish. Are you still undecided about attending? Maybe this video can help you make up your mind.

Click here: https://youtu.be/CFwBjilfOMc

We hope to see many of you at the Dinner!!

October - Respect Life Month/ Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Every life is precious, every person a gift.

Life is sacred from conception to natural death. Teach children that every person—born or unborn, elderly or disabled—deserves love and protection. *Tip:* Pray a decade of the Rosary this month for life. Attend a local Life Chain or pro-life event together.

Weekly Collection

October 5, 2025

		115Cai 115
Collections needed	\$20,400	\$285,600
Sunday Collections	\$14,518	\$171,693
Electronic Collections	\$3,255	\$74,397
Total Collected	\$17,773	\$246,090
Over/(Short)	\$(2,627)	\$(39,510)

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

Warren Oppe





MONDAY, OCTOBER 20TH 9AM ST THOMAS PARISH HALL



JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION ON HOW

GRANDPARENTS CAN HELP GROW THE

FAITH OF OUR YOUNGEST FAMILY MEMBERS

COFFEE & MUFFINS PROVIDED

Sponsor of the Week



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Parishioner –
 JAMES A. GERAGHTY, M.D.



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



OCIA Schedule

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





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.

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.

Names of attendees: _ Email address: __

Phone Number:

October 2025

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).

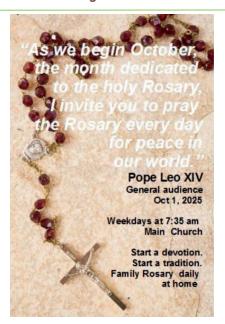
Family members (of both adults and children), caregivers, volunteers and interested parties are invited to come and learn about this new

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@amail.com







Dear friends in Christ.

Each October we celebrate the World Mission Month. We do this to prompt our reflection on the central mission of the Church: sharing Christ and the Good News to the ends of the earth. I therefore write you in the name of the missionaries who are proclaiming the Gospel around the world.

This year, under the theme chosen by the late Pope Francis, Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples, we are invited to appreciate more the meaning of hope in the Christian life. St. Paul reminds us, Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Romans 5:5)

Christian hope is the fruit of divine love – alive in us and active through us! That is why our missionary efforts, our sacrifices, and above all, our proclamation of Christ crucified and risen are powerful acts of hope, especially for communities suffering from poverty, violence or religious persecution.

By our baptism we are invited to be *Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples*. Let us join our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, and all missionaries in showing our care for and commitment to proclaiming the Gospel all across the globe.

Peace and Prayers,

Most Reverend Louis Tylka
Bishop of Peoria

Extraordinary Ministers Needed

Please consider joining our team of volunteer *Extraordinary Ministers at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center*. Join us in the hospital's Gandhi meeting room for an informational meeting on Tuesday October 28th at 6:00 p.m. and training session on Monday November 3rd at 6:00 p.m. These volunteers perform a great service to the Church, by distributing Holy Communion to God's people on those occasions where they are hospitalized.

If you are interested in learning about this ministry to the sick, please scan to register

For more information contact: John R. Phillips, Administrative Secretary, Pastoral Care Department *john.r.phillips@osfhealthcare.org* (309) 655-2084

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 pledge 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



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

Thank you!

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 encourgaed 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.

Spiritual Warfare & Discernment of Spirits Are you anxious about many things? Have you ever

thought about the thoughts/voices in your head? Not all of them are your own! Join us for a small group on Spiritual Warfare & Discernment of Spirits. Study the wisdom of St. Ignatius of Loyola with Dan Burke in a video series and learn to push back the darkness by taking every thought captive to live in the peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding.

Sessions will held on Tuesdays at 4 pm starting on October 14th in the Sacred Heart Church Hall. The series will run for 6 weeks (until November 18th) and each session will last about an hour and a half. Each session will include prayer, a video lesson, individual reflection and group discussion. If you are interested in attending and haven't signed up yet, please contact Kelly Ramirez at 217-620-3743 or by email at KelRamirez82@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.

ast Name	 	
First Name(s)	Mr Mr	s Ms
Email		
Phone	 	
Address	 	

Phone __ Change of address/phone

PEORIA NOTRE DAME <u>INFORMATION NIGHT</u>

October 15, 2025

MHOS

AUDITORIUM



New Parishioner

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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> Parishioner -JAMES A. GERAGHTY, M.D.



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