

## 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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msggray@stthomas-church.net

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Leopold Mushobozi.. (x4)  
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Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB  
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Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735  
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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).



*November 9, 2025*

## *The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*



THE TEMPLE OF GOD  
**WHICH YOU ARE**  
IS HOLY





## From Our Pastor

We opened the month of November last weekend by marking the need to pray for the poor souls in Purgatory on All Souls Day. Throughout the month, we will continue to keep the Book of the Dead in the narthex. If you haven't recorded the names of the faithful departed who are dear to you, you are encouraged to add their names to the book.

Throughout the month of November, please pray for all the faithful departed, remembering those whose names are written in the Book of the Dead.

I also encouraged us to offer our own prayers for the faithful departed. Even better, we can ask for the perfect prayer of the Mass to be offered for the faithful departed. When you ask for a Mass to be offered for a loved one, it is not only your own prayer that is offered, but also the prayer of Jesus to the Father in the Holy Mass.

The customary Mass offering is \$10. Your requested Mass intentions can be sent to the Parish Office where the schedule of Masses is kept. The tradition of requesting Masses for the needs of the faithful is a noble and charitable act.

We also recently welcomed Fr. Patrick DeMuelemeester, a priest of our Diocese who has been assigned to OSF St. Francis Medical Center with residence at St. Thomas. While he will live at St. Thomas, and you may see him from time to time, his primary responsibility will be as a chaplain at the OSF Hospital. Please welcome him to St. Thomas.

- Msgr. Gray

## November – Gratitude Grows Grace

*Give thanks in all circumstances.* – 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Thanksgiving isn't just a holiday—it's a way of life. Families that practice gratitude foster joy and resilience.

**Tip:** Start a gratitude jar. Each night, have family members write one thing they're thankful for. Read them aloud at Thanksgiving.

*Peoria Diocesan council of Catholic Women, Marriage and Family commission*



## Readings for the Week of November 9, 2025

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</b> Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3: 9c-11, 16-17; John 2: 13-22
<b>Monday</b>	<b>St. Leo the Great, Pope &amp; Doctor of the Church</b> Wisdom 1: 1-7; Luke 17: 1-6
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>St. Martin of Tours, Bishop</b> Wisdom 2: 23—3: 9; Luke 17: 7-10
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>St. Josaphat, Bishop &amp; Martyr</b> Wisdom 6: 1-11; Luke 17: 11-19
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin</b> Wisdom 7: 22b—8: 1; Luke 17: 20-25
<b>Friday</b>	Wisdom 13: 1-9; Luke 17: 26-37
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Albert the Great, Bishop &amp; Doctor of the Church</b> Wisdom 18: 14-16; 19: 6-9; Luke 18: 1-8
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Malachi 3: 19-20a; 2 Thessalonians 3: 7-12; Luke 21: 5-19

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, November 10, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Tessa Caster/Amy & John Kelly
8:00 a.m.	Judith Maroney/Family

### Tuesday, November 11, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Betty Little/Amy & John Kelly
8:00 a.m.	Jim Becker/Nancy Becker

### Wednesday, November 12, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Paul Hop Nguyen/Mai Dang
8:00 a.m.	Paul Hop Nguyen/Linh Luong

### Thursday, November 13, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Souls in Purgatory/Tam & PhanVu
Sch. Mass	Intentions of Jacob Snyder/James Snyder

### Friday, November 14, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Mary Truitt/John Truitt
8:00 a.m.	Truyen Nguyen/Tan Tran

### Saturday, November 15, 2025

8:00 a.m.	Nancy Wilson/Dayton & Mary Stephens
5:00 p.m.	Thomas Penn/David & Laurie Williams

### Sunday, November 16, 2025

8:00 a.m.	For the People
10:00 a.m.	Fr. Paul Stark, S.J. 4 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
5:00 p.m.	Rita Williams/The Mallow Family

## Week of November 9

**INCLUSION** Monday, November 10, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**ROSARY** Tuesday, November 11, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** Tuesday, November 11, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

**EDUCATION COMMISSION** Tuesday, November 11, 6:30 p.m., School

**CCD** Wednesday, November 12, 6:00 p.m., School

**OCIA** Wednesday, November 12, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**WOMEN OF THE WORD** Thursday, November 13, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

**MEN'S CLUB** Thursday, November 13, 6:30 p.m., Sullivan's in the Heights

**THAT MAN IS YOU** Friday, November 14, 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	November 16
St. Thomas Holy Hour	November 20
Millions of Monicas	November 25
Extra Confession Sunday	November 30
Adoration	December 5

## Pray with the Pope

November 2025

For the prevention of suicide

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.



## Schedule Reminder

There will be **no TMiy** on Friday **November 21<sup>st</sup>** or Friday **November 28<sup>th</sup>**.

**TMiy will resume** with two more sessions on **December 5<sup>th</sup>** and **12<sup>th</sup>**.

## Weekly Collection

November 2, 2025

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,400.....	\$367,200
Sunday Collections.....	\$18,256.....	\$236,097
Electronic Collections.....	\$800.....	\$88,346
Total Collected.....	\$19,056.....	\$324,443
Over/(Short).....	\$(1,344).....	\$(42,757)

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

Theresa McCabe



## OCIA Schedule

**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

**Jan 7:** Liturgical year, Church tour, Mass practice

Sponsor of the Week

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Diocese will soon take up the national collection for the *Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)*. Your support for this collection brings change to communities across the country and empowers those living in poverty to transform their communities into reflections of the Kingdom of God. For more than 50 years, CCHD has helped low-income people address the root causes of poverty and injustice by funding local organizations that empower low-income people to make positive impacts in their own communities. This grassroots model allows people to use their experiences and knowledge to build coalitions of faith leaders, local businesses, and other neighbors to work together to find solutions that benefit everyone.

With CCHD funding, the Community Lighthouse program, developed by Together New Orleans, has transformed churches and other neighborhood institutions into solar-powered facilities where people can shelter when natural disasters cause power outages. In 2023, Together New Orleans expanded its project to nine facilities, and it garnered recognition and project funding to expand the program even further. In addition, the organization implemented solar power training programs at the Community Lighthouses while working with local governments to reform regulations, making solar power more available to low- and middle-income residents.

This record success shows how your support for CCHD makes a positive impact in vulnerable, under-resourced communities across the country. When you give to the CCHD collection, you make an impact nationally and at home, because 25% of your contribution stays within our own diocese. This way you help your own community build on this legacy of success while also helping communities across the country.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help CCHD this year. Thank you for joining us to work on the margins and break the cycle of poverty.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ Most Reverend Louis Tylka  
Bishop of Peoria

**PLEASE JOIN US**  
**NOVEMBER 28, 2025**  
**1PM - 3PM**

Meet Emanuele Fontanini of the world-renowned House of Fontanini – makers of Italian nativities for more than 110 years.

**Lagron-Miller Company**  
4517 N Sterling Ave.  
Peoria, IL  
(309) 681-9171

This exclusive figure is only available at stores hosting a tour stop and can be signed at the event.

Mila, Villager

## 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!

**Seminarian Fund Turkey Sale**

**BENEFITTING SEMINARIANS FROM THE PEORIA DIOCESE**

**Price**  
Frozen Turkey  
Approximate size 11-13 lbs. **\$35**

Deep Fried Turkey  
Approximate size 11-13 lbs. **\$65**

**ORDER ONLINE BY NOVEMBER 11TH**  
[stclementkofc.org/onlineorder.php](http://stclementkofc.org/onlineorder.php)

Support seminarians of the Diocese of Peoria by ordering your Thanksgiving turkey through the Knights of Columbus, St. Clement Council.

Don't need a turkey, you can buy a frozen turkey which will be donated to the local food bank to help local families in need.

**PICK UP DATES**  
at St. Jude Catholic Church, 10811 N Knoxville Ave - Hettinger Hall  
**Frozen Turkeys** distributed after Masses on November 22nd and 23rd.  
**Fried Turkeys** available Wednesday, November 26th from 10AM  
Schedule a time when ordering  
Fried turkeys are prepared by our Knights and come in foil pans with giblets and reheating instructions.

**Peoria Notre Dame Theater Presents:**  
**A Shakespeare Double Feature**

**Much Ado About Nothing and As You Like It**

Thursday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> - 7 PM  
Saturday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> - 2 and 7 PM

Tickets available at door  
(Adults: \$10, Students & Seniors 65+: \$5)

## Prayers for the Souls in Purgatory for the month of November

(include after blessing before meals)

V. Eternal rest grant unto (name)/them, O Lord.  
R. And let the perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Each day in November, remember a departed  
loved one. Also, pray for all those who do not have  
anyone to pray for them.

**PRAY IT FORWARD.**



**COATS  
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Site**

Drop off your **new** or **gently used**  
**infant, child, and adult** coats here!

Donations can be placed in  
bins at the top and bottom  
of the church staircase  
from Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> - Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>

## Thanksgiving at Sophia's Kitchen

Sophia's Kitchen celebrates Thanksgiving with our guests a week early, on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. We expect to feed 600 sit down meals that day.

We will need approximately 80 pumpkin pies. If you'd like to donate one, they may be dropped off at 105 N Richard Pryor Place Monday through Friday from 8 to 3 PM. Monetary donations can be mailed to the kitchen, or visit [CatholicPeoria.org](http://CatholicPeoria.org) to make an online donation. Sorry, no homemade pies - Health Department regulations ask for only commercially prepared foods.

## Emmaus Knights

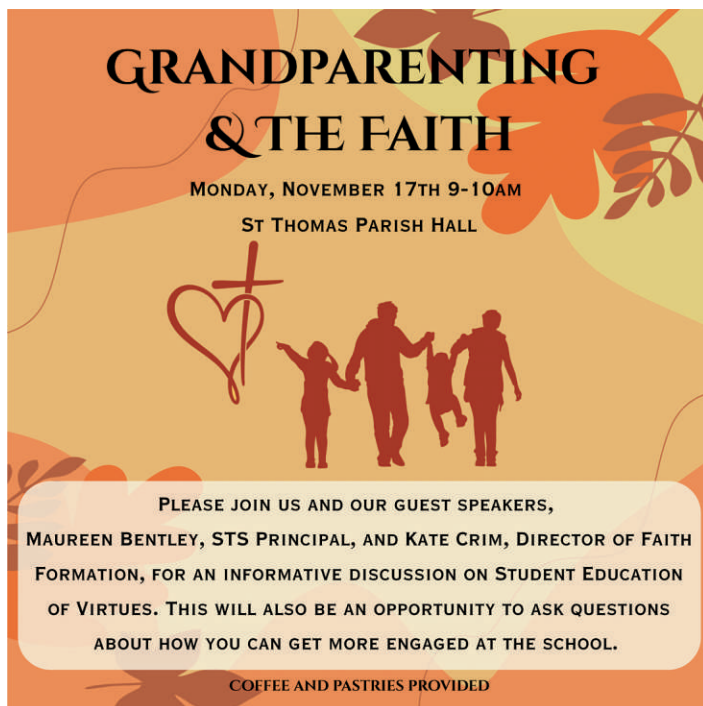
For young men grades 7-12  
Nov 9

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.

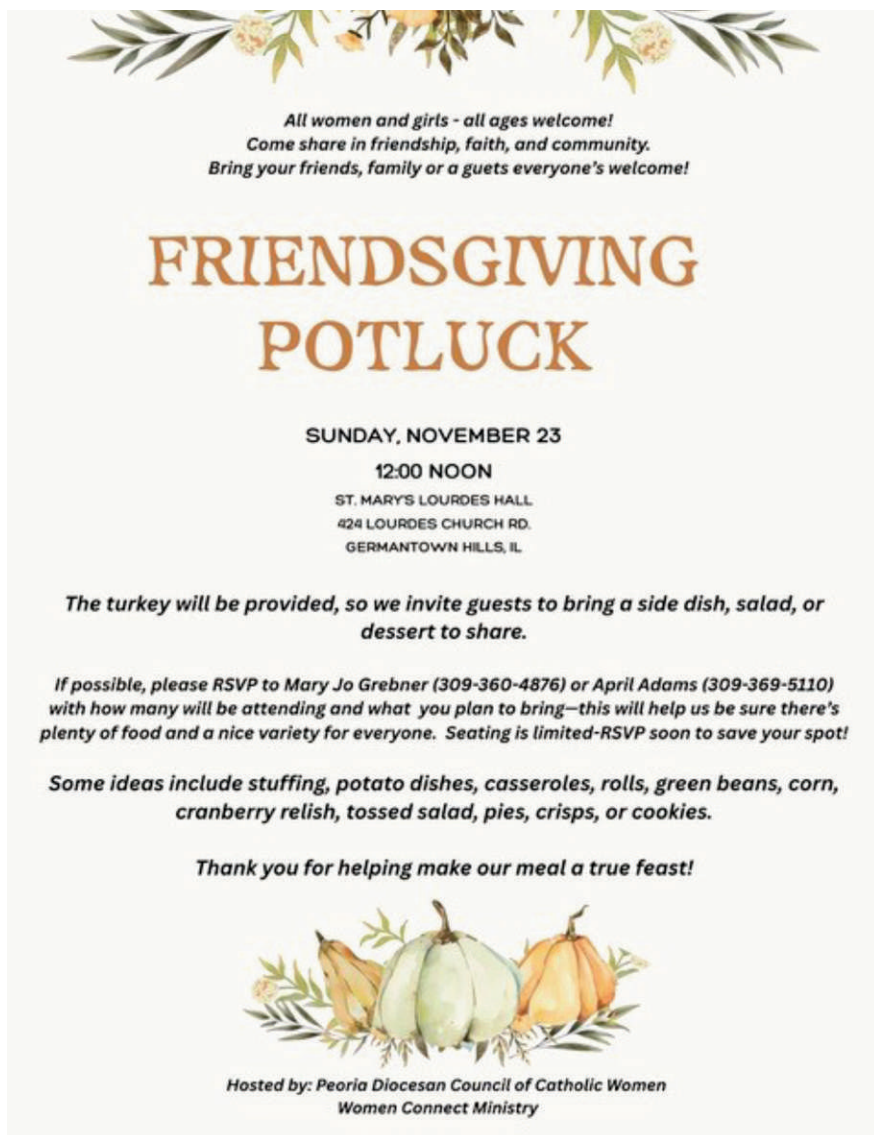


## GRANDPARENTING & THE FAITH

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH 9-10AM  
ST THOMAS PARISH HALL

PLEASE JOIN US AND OUR GUEST SPEAKERS,  
MAUREEN BENTLEY, STS PRINCIPAL, AND KATE CRIM, DIRECTOR OF FAITH  
FORMATION, FOR AN INFORMATIVE DISCUSSION ON STUDENT EDUCATION  
OF VIRTUES. THIS WILL ALSO BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS  
ABOUT HOW YOU CAN GET MORE ENGAGED AT THE SCHOOL.

COFFEE AND PASTRIES PROVIDED



All women and girls - all ages welcome!  
Come share in friendship, faith, and community.  
Bring your friends, family or a guests everyone's welcome!

## FRIENDSGIVING POTLUCK


SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23  
12:00 NOON  
ST. MARYS LOURDES HALL  
424 LOURDES CHURCH RD.  
GERMANTOWN HILLS, IL

The turkey will be provided, so we invite guests to bring a side dish, salad, or  
dessert to share.

If possible, please RSVP to Mary Jo Grebner (309-360-4876) or April Adams (309-369-5110)  
with how many will be attending and what you plan to bring—this will help us be sure there's  
plenty of food and a nice variety for everyone. Seating is limited-RSVP soon to save your spot!

Some ideas include stuffing, potato dishes, casseroles, rolls, green beans, corn,  
cranberry relish, tossed salad, pies, crisps, or cookies.

Thank you for helping make our meal a true feast!



Hosted by: Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women  
Women Connect Ministry





# COCOA & KINDNESS

## POP-UP EVENT

Come enjoy sweet treats and festive shopping while supporting Sophia's Kitchen's mission to feed and care for our neighbors.

- Buy **homemade cookies and holiday treats** at our festive bake sale
- Take home a **cocoa & mug gift set** filled with our signature cocoa mix
- Sip a **hot cup of cocoa** while you shop and mingle
- Shop **limited-edition ornaments**, including rare vintage pieces from the Sisters of St. Francis



**Saturday, November 29**  
1:00 - 3:30 pm



**Sophia's Kitchen**  
105 N. Richard Pryor Pl, Peoria

## St. Patrick School Vendor & Craft Sale

**Saturday, November 15 from 9:00am-2:00pm.**

100 N. Harvey, Washington.

Over 30 vendors, bake sale, coffee/cocoa bar, food truck, and raffle. Please help us raise money for a new boiler. Contact Chris Kapraun at [kapraun77@aol.com](mailto:kapraun77@aol.com).



Peoria Notre Dame's

## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

CASH AND CAR RAFFLE



Tickets: \$75 each,  
3 for \$200  
5 for \$300  
10 for \$550  
12 for \$600



Peoria Notre Dame High School is teaming up with **Scherer Mazda of Peoria** for the 8th annual 12 Days of Christmas Cash and Car Raffle! Cash prizes will be drawn daily, beginning Monday, December 1 through Thursday, December 11. The Grand Prize of a **2025 Mazda CX-50** (MSRP \$31,990) will be drawn at 11:45 am on Friday, December 12, 2025.

Tickets may be purchased online at [www.pndhs.org/12days](http://www.pndhs.org/12days), or from a staff member or student of PND.

Scan for details and tickets!



## 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** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Yes, please send \_\_\_\_\_ (# of tickets) to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket Seller: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Enclosed is my: ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card #

Visa \_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_

CC# \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

CVC# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

OR check payable to:

Peoria Notre Dame, 5105 N. Sheridan Rd. Peoria, IL 61614

### 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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