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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msgrgray@stthomas-church.net

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Fr_Leo@stthomas-church.net

Priest in Residence: Fr. Patrick

DeMeulemeester **OSF** Chaplain

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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steveharms@stthomas-church.net

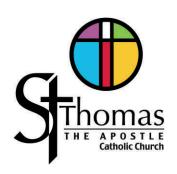
Annulment Consultant:

John Mackoway......699-5213

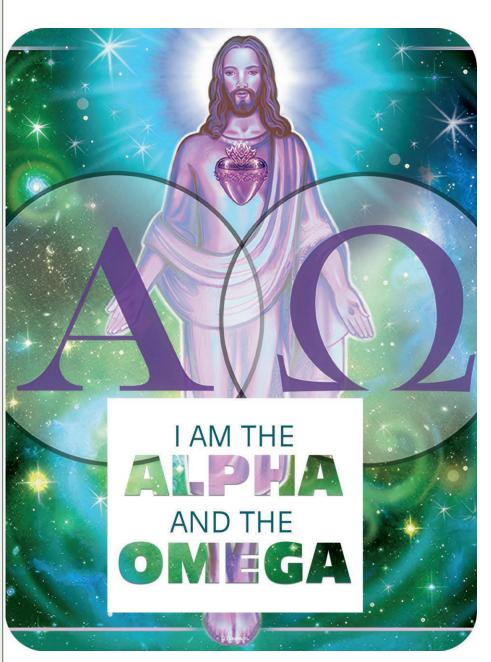
St. Vincent de Paul Society HelpLine..... (309) 264-5815

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 23, 2025 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe





From Our Pastor

We celebrate the last Sunday of the Church year this weekend with Christ the King. The Kingship of Christ is shown most perfectly in the Gospel reading of Jesus reigning from the cross. This is a good point of meditation for each of us as we consider the crosses and sufferings that we are called to offer up in union with Our Lord.

This weekend, and during the weekends of Advent, we will add additional confession times. Confessions will be heard after all Masses, including on Sundays. Please take advantage of this opportunity for reconciliation as we prepare for Christmas.

During the Thanksgiving break, we will have some parking lot repairs made. This will only affect those who attend daily Mass, but please be aware that some parts of the parking lot will be off limits as this work is done.

Next weekend the Diocese of Peoria asks us to take up a collection for our seminarians by supporting the Msgr. George Carton seminarian endowment. This helps to defray some of the costs of educating our college seminarians preparing for the priesthood. More information is here: https://www.cdop.org/donate-vocations

From time to time, it is good to remind you of the resources on My Parish App. You can find the app for your mobile devices at https://myparishapp.com/download/. This app has many resources, including access to our bulletins, staff directory, parish calendar, Mass readings, and more. This app can be a useful advent resource for you to take advantage of.

- -Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of November 23, 2025

Sunday Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

2 Samuel 5: 1-3; Colossians 1: 12-20; Luke 23: 35-43

Monday St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, & Companions, Martyrs

Daniel 1: 1-6, 8-20; Luke 21: 1-4

Tuesday St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr

Daniel 2: 31-45; Luke 21: 5-11

Wednesday Daniel 5: 1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21: 12-19

Thursday Thanksgiving Day

Daniel 6: 12-28 OR Sirach 50: 22-24; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Luke 21: 20-28

Friday Daniel 7: 2-14; Luke 21: 29-33

Saturday Daniel 7: 15-27; Luke 21: 34-36

Sunday First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2: 1-5; Romans 13: 11-14; Matthew 24: 37-44

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 24, 2025

7:00 a.m. Thomas Penn/Joe & Sandy Whalen

8:00 a.m. Tho Dang/Tan Tran

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

7:00 a.m. Hafner & Smith Familes/Fred Hafner 8:00 a.m. Peggy Hesslings/Mike & Barb Chance

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

7:00 a.m. Nancy Wilson/Margaret Thomas 8:00 a.m. Elaine & Paul Oltman/Mary Camp

Thursday, November 27, 2025

9:00 a.m. Elaine Duffy/Mai Dang

Friday, November 28, 2025

8:00 a.m. Thomas Burek/George & Connie Burek

Saturday, November 29, 2025

8:00 a.m. Christine Pilat/Adora Taylor 5:00 p.m. Violet Horst/Ann Horst

Sunday, November 30, 2025

8:00 a.m. Gregory Lantz/Kelley & Tim Messmer 10:00 a.m. Thomas Penn/David & Laurie Williams

5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of November 23

EXTRA CONFESSION SUNDAY Sunday, November 23, after all Masses

ROSARY Tuesday, November 25, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

MILLIONS OF MONICAS Tuesday, November 25, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

THANKSGIVING MASS Thursday, November 27, 9:00 a.m., Church

HOLIDAY CLOSURES STS all week, Parish Office closed November 27, 28

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent Confession November 30 December 5 Adoration The Immaculate Conception December 8



Advent Confessions Before Christmas confession times include:

Saturday, Nov. 22 & 29; Dec. 6, 13, & 21, 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23 & 30; Dec. 7, 14, & 20, 9:00 & 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 pm



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.

> November 25th at 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas Daily Mass Chapel For more information visit www.millionsofmonicas.com

Weekly Collection

November 16, 2025

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$20,400	\$408,000
Sunday Collections	\$11398	\$260,411
Electronic Collections	\$17,037	\$112,988
Total Collected	\$28,435	\$373,399
Over/(Short)	\$8,035	\$(34,601)

Your support of St. Thomas Parish is important to sustain our mission. Please remember to contribute regularly 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

Jo Ann Masterson

Giving Tree



The Giving Tree is an important tradition at St. Thomas. The gift tags can be found in the baskets in the narthex. We ask you to take one or more of the tags and purchase the requested gift. Please give new gifts only.

RETURN YOUR GIFTS IN GIFT BAGS WITH THE ORIGINAL TAG ATTACHED. You may leave them under the Giving Tree in the Narthex, or deliver to the Parish Office. Your generosity providing gifts under the Giving Tree has been incredibly helpful in the past. Last year we were able to distribute gifts to almost 300 individuals. This includes St. Thomas Families, Foster Children, Catholic Charities, and neighbors in our community.

MONETARY DONATIONS This year a monetary donation might work best for many people. You can make your donation on our website: stthomaspeoria.org. Go to GIVING, then DO-NATE NOW. As you complete the form please Apply your Donation to The Giving Tree.

Please make your monetary donation as soon as possible so our elves have time to shop before the deadline.

PLEASE RETURN GIFTS BY DECEMBER 8TH. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

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.

Sponsor of the Week



- Blown Insulation
- Fiberglass Batts
- Spray Foam
- Insulation Removal www.ehinsulation.com

Dave & David LaHood - Parishioners



A THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT ALL YEAR LONG

> SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 SUNDAY DECEMBER 14 AFTER ALL MASSES

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE CHURCH





Holy Hour Knights of Columbus 4th Degree

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 7:00 pm Chapel

Fr. Leo will lead the Holy Hour

Food Pantry Family Advent Calendar of Giving

In the spirit of the preparation of our hearts for the coming of our Savior, here is a meaningful way to share our treasures with neighbors who are struggling with food insufficiency. Place one food item in a box each day from December 1st through December 24th. When the box is complete, bring it to the church as a donation to the food pantry. The items below are representative of the Canned goods each food pantry family receives each month.

Merry Christmas to you and yours from the Food Pantry!

Mac and Cheese 12/1 12/2 Mac and Cheese 12/3 Bag of Rice 12/4 Boxed Side Dish Box of Cereal 12/5 12/6 Box of Saltines Can of Meat 12/7 12/8 Pasta Sauce 12/9 Can of Fruit 12/10 Can of Fruit 12/11 Peanut Butter 12/12 Skillet Dinner Kit



12/13 Dry Pasta
12/14 Can of Soup
12/15 Can of Soup
12/16 Can of Veggies
12/17 Can of Veggies
12/18 Can of Veggies
12/19 Can of Veggies
12/20 Can of Veggies
12/21 Bag of Dried Beans
12/22 Jelly
12/23 Can of Chili or Stew
12/24 Box of Cereal Bars

Holy Hour for the Unborn and their Mothers!

Let's honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the unborn, whose feast we celebrate in December, and pray for every child at risk of abortion. Join Pro-life Prayer Warriors and Knights of Columbus at a Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn on **Monday, Dec. 1, from 7:00-8:00 pm** at St. Mark's Church, 1113 W.

Bradley Ave., Peoria. For more information, contact John Wikoff, Knights Life Director, at jpw61552@gmail.com.

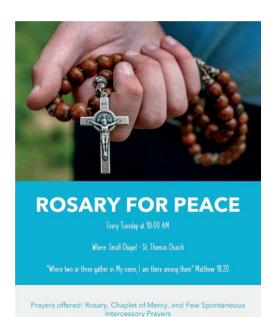
Volunteers Needed

A few good women, or men, are needed to fill Usher positions at the 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass.

You can sign up for one, or more, Sundays each month. Go to: <u>Login</u> for the Ministry Scheduler Pro (link is also on the Parish website) and register if you are a new user, or sign-in, and choose your dates.

If you have any questions about Ushering please see any of our current Ushers.





Duration: 30 minutes or free to leave early

Get your Christmas shopping done early! Visit the PND apparel store anytime during school hours! We

have new items including padded stadium chairs with seat backs for \$65!

Enter through the business office door (Door #13) at the back of the building off Sheridan Rd. Or order online at stores.inksoft.com/ peoria notre dame.

For questions, contact Cindy Dermody at <u>c.dermody@pndhs.org</u>. The deadline for Christmas orders is Black Friday, November 28.



Schedule Reminder

There will be **no TMIY** on Friday November 21st or Friday November 28th.

TMIY will resume with two more sessions on December 5th and 12th.

OCIA Schedule

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

Respect Life ~ Prayer & Action

Prav

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

To those who care for the sick, the scene of the Cross provides a way of understanding that even when it seems that there is nothing more to do there remains much to do, because "remaining" by the side of the sick is a sign of love and of the hope that it contains. Healed by Jesus, we become men and women called to proclaim his healing power and provide care for our neighbors, until the very end.

Act (Choose One)

- Prayerfully reflect on the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:29-37) and what the Lord reveals about caring for the sick through it.
- Sacrifice snacking today. Enjoy three small, simple meals but refrain from eating in between.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month's intention.

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!





At St. Mary's Cathedral Sunday November 30 at 4pm

Sunday December 7 at 4pm

Sunday December 14 at 4pm

Sunday December 21 at 6:30pm rith seminarians of our Diocese)



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. Last Name First Name(s) _______ Mr __ Mrs __ Ms ___ Email _____ Phone _____ City _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ New Parishioner _____ Change of address/phone ______

Thanksgiving at Sophia's Kitchen

Sophia's Kitchen will be closed November 26, 27, & 28 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you to all who have made this month of Thanks so special!

We invite you to fill our Little Free Pantry while we are closed. This cabinet hangs on the outside of the building at 105 N Richard Pryor Place to allow 24 access to food. Nonperishable canned goods are always welcome. Soups, canned meats, individual pudding cups, nuts and beef jerky are favorites. Pop top cans are easy for the homeless to open.



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

CASH AND CAR RAFFLE





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 II. The Grand Prize of a 2025 Mazda CX-50 (MSRP S31,990) will be drawn at II:45 am on Friday, December 12, 2025.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.pndhs.org/12days, or from a staff member or student of PND.



Yes, please	send	(# of tickets) to:
Name:		
Address:		
City:		
State:Zip:		
Phone:		Ticket Seller:
Email:		
Enclosed is my: Visa MasterCa		Credit Card # ver American Express
CC#		
CVC#	_Exp	/
Signature		
OR check payable Peoria Notre Dam		eridan Rd. Peoria, IL 61614



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.



Mcomm Group, Inc. Channel Marketing Alumnus/Parishioner





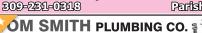


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