

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

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)

Director of Faith Formation:
Kate Crim.....(x1310)
katecrim@stthomas-church.net

School Principal: Maureen Bentley.....(x1210)
maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

Administrative Assistant: Tracey Deponai.(x0)
traceydeponai@stthomas-church.net

Bulletin Editor: Peggy Sullivan.....(x1301)
peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net

Finance & Tuition: Sheris Catton.....(x1341)
sheriscatton@stthomas-church.net

CCD Coordinator: Liz Plaskon...(309)339-4775
ccd@stthomas-church.net

Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)
parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

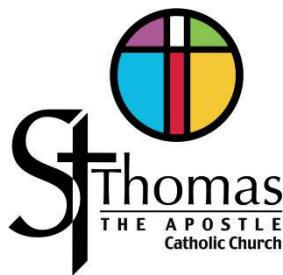
Music Coordinator: Steven Harms.....
steveharms@stthomas-church.net

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
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).

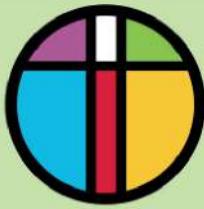


December 28, 2025

January 4, 2026

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
The Epiphany of the Lord*





From Our Pastor

Merry Christmas! Christ is born for us! The fact that the Word of God has become flesh and has dwelt among us is at the heart of the Christian mystery. Praised be to God for his love for us and for drawing near to us. Let us humbly welcome the Christ child who is both mighty God and newborn baby.

We continue the Christmas Season by honoring the Holy Family on Sunday, December 28th. We recognize that Christ came to us through a virgin and through a family. We honor the Blessed Ever Virgin Mary who is a mother to us all. We honor good St. Joseph who is guardian of the Holy Family. Mary and Joseph are models for all mothers and fathers who raise and protect their children.

The Christmas Season continues with a Holy Day of Obligation for Mary, Mother of God on January 1st. Please be aware of the Mass schedule for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day and make plans to attend. Here we honor Mary who is true mother of Jesus and therefore the Mother of God. The close bond of love between Mary and Jesus can inspire us to draw closer to Our Lord in love.

The Christmas Season continues with the Epiphany on January 4th. This celebration recalls the moment when the light of Christ began to shine more clearly to the world. Jesus is manifested to the world as represented by the three wise men from the East. This feast day also recalls other moments when Jesus was also manifested to the world, at his baptism, and at the wedding feast of Cana.

After the Baptism of the Lord on January 11th, the Christmas season comes to a close and we resume Ordinary Time.

-Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of December 28, 2025

Sunday	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3: 12-21; Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23
Monday	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr 1 John 2: 3-11; Luke 2: 22-35
Tuesday	1 John 2: 12-17; Luke 2: 36-40
Wednesday	St. Sylvester I, Pope 1 John 2: 18-21; John 1: 1-18
Thursday	Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Numbers 6: 22-27; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 16-21
Friday	Sts. Basil The Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church 1 John 2: 22-28; John 1: 19-28
Saturday	The Most Holy Name of Jesus 1 John 2: 29—3: 6; John 1: 29-34
Sunday	The Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2: 1-12

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 29, 2025

7:00 a.m. Souls in Purgatory
8:00 a.m. Angela Kenny/Dan & Pam Dillon

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

7:00 a.m. Gene & Bern Paproki/Dave McCauley
8:00 a.m. For the People

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

7:00 a.m. Betty Vonachen/Joe & Sandy Whalen
8:00 a.m. Mary Ann O'Neill/Patty Crotz
5:00 p.m. Thomas Penn/David & Laurie Williams

Thursday, January 1, 2026

8:00 a.m. For the People
10:00 a.m. Betty Vonachen/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley
5:00 p.m. Robert Newton/Karen Thomas

Friday, January 2, 2026

7:00 a.m. Angela Kenny/George & Connie Burek
8:00 a.m. Truyen Nguyen/Tan Tran

Saturday, January 3, 2026

8:00 a.m. Shawn White/Scott & Mollie Mauer
5:00 p.m. Patricia McCauley/David McCauley

Sunday, January 4, 2026

8:00 a.m. Mary Ann O'Neill/Family
10:00 a.m. Intentions of Ed & Cathy Mallow
5:00 p.m. For the People



Readings for the Week of January 4, 2026

Sunday	The Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2: 1-12
Monday	St. John Neumann, Bishop 1 John 3: 22—4: 6; Matthew 4: 12-17, 23-25
Tuesday	St. André Bessette, Religious 1 John 4: 7-10; Mark 6: 34-44
Wednesday	St. Raymond of Peñafort, Priest 1 John 4: 11-18; Mark 6: 45-52
Thursday	1 John 4: 19—5: 4; Luke 4: 14-22a
Friday	1 John 5: 5-13; Luke 5: 12-16
Saturday	1 John 5: 14-21; John 3: 22-30
Sunday	The Baptism of the Lord Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7; Acts 10: 34-38; Matthew 3: 13-17

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 5, 2026

7:00 a.m. Katherine Bartley/Terry & Marty Best
8:00 a.m. Tho Dang/Tan Tran

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

7:00 a.m. John Kersch/Scott & Mollie Mauer
8:00 a.m. Fred Bohnhof/Eileen McDonough

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

7:00 a.m. Kurt Rostetter/George & Connie Burek
8:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the Cunningham Family/Dcn. Ed & Cathy Mallow

Thursday, January 8, 2026

7:00 a.m. E. A. Presley/Jack & Margaret Weinstein
Sch. Mass Nannette Scrivner/Family

Friday, January 9, 2026

7:00 a.m. Mike Palkovic/The Family
8:00 a.m. Angela Kenny/Karen Metzinger

Saturday, January 10, 2026

8:00 a.m. Rose Sullivan/Trudy Morton
5:00 p.m. Bryan R. Wilson/Kelley & Tim Messmer

Sunday, January 11, 2026

8:00 a.m. Mike Palkovic/Julie & John Chan
10:00 a.m. Mary Ambrosch/Tom Ambrosch
5:00 p.m. Peggy Hessling/Ed & Cathy Mallow

Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week

Pray with the Pope

December 2025

For Christians in Areas of Conflict



Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Pray with the Pope

January 2026

For Prayer With The Word Of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Sponsor of the Week

KELLY GLASS INC.
2400 S.W. Adams
www.kellyglass.com • (309) 676-3573



Week of December 28

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED December 24 through January 1

SIGN UP FOR FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION in the Narthex

ROSARY Tuesday, December 30, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASSES Thursday, January 1, Masses: Wednesday, Dec. 31; 5:00 p.m. Thur., Jan. 1 at 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

ADORATION Friday, January 2 beginning after 8:00 a.m. Mass, closing with Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

CCD & OCIA Resume	January 7
Women of the Word	January 8
St. Ignatius Bible Study	January 15
St. Thomas Holy Hour	January 22
TMiY Resumes	January 23



Week of January 4

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL & PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

ROSARY Tuesday, January 6, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

CCD Wednesday, January 7, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, January 7, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WOMEN OF THE WORD January 8, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, January 8, 6:30 p.m., Sullivan's in the Heights

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

MOMS & MIMOSAS Saturday, January 10, 10:00 a.m., Clink in the Heights

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Ignatius Bible Study	January 15
St. Thomas Holy Hour	January 22
TMiY Resumes	January 23

OCIA Schedule

Jan 7: Liturgical year, Church tour, Mass practice

Jan 14: Great Commandments; Divine/Natural Law; Commandment 1

Jan 21: Individual aspects of the Moral Life

Jan 28: Community and Moral Law, grace

Feb 4: Prayer, Universal Call to Holiness

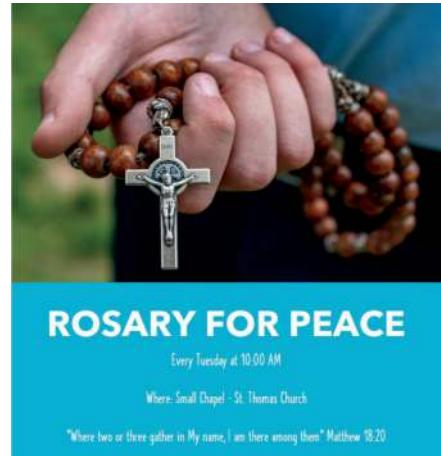
Feb 11: Our Father, Hail Mary, other prayers, prepare for Lent

Feb 18: No Class—Ash Wednesday

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!



Prayers offered: Rosary, Chaplet of Mercy, and Few Spontaneous Intercessory Prayers

Duration: 30 minutes or free to leave early
All parishioners and friends welcome

Thank You

Dearest Members of the Martha Group,

As a ministry we believe in human kindness and we are made better by our service to the families of St. Thomas who have lost a loved one. Of all our purists none are greater than a life well loved in the name of Jesus our Savior. Your prayers for the deceased and their family are thus part of our service.

I wish you a Christmas that's clothed in the same peace and presence as the very first and a New Years which is deeply fulfilling.

Mary Camp, Coordinator of the Martha Group



St. Vincent de Paul Society Annual Report St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Fiscal Year October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

Your St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference offers this annual report to you, our prayer supporters and donors:

Total Visits with Neighbors in Need	551
Total Number of People Served	1175
Estimated Hours Served by Vincentians	4016
Estimated Number of Miles	8896

Receipts:

Parishioner/ Conference Member Donations.	\$113,599
Disaster Relief Donations	\$1,300
Memorial Donations	\$1,069
Peoria Heights Village Grants	\$4,000
Twinning (given to us by other diocesan conferences)	\$4,500
Partnership with other Peoria church	\$6,200
Employer Matching Funds	<u>\$5,007</u>
Total	\$135,675

Expenses:

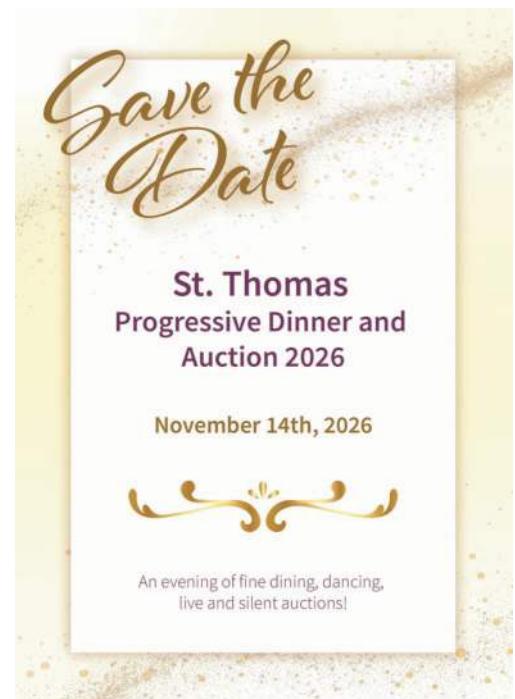
Total cash assistance provided	\$129,136
\$68,725 (rent/housing)	
\$59,011 (utilities, transportation, other)	
Dues, Helpline Costs, Operating Expenses	<u>\$4,875</u>
Total	\$134,011
In Kind Assistance	\$23,999

As you can see, the impact is great. It is our honor to represent you, your generosity and your caring to people living in poverty.

Vincentian Prayer:

"We thank You, Lord, for the many blessings which we receive from those whom we visit. Help us to love and respect them, to understand their deeper needs, and to share their burdens and joys as true friends in Christ."

Mary Kay Pilat, President
309-472-9450



Knights of Columbus Spalding Council #427

Chili

Cook-Off

January 11 @ 1:00 pm

St. Thomas Parish Hall

904 E Lake Ave., Peoria Heights

Proceeds to WOMEN'S CARE CENTER



And Liquor Basket Raffle

All Parishioners Are Invited and Welcome!



Join Our St. Thomas Meal Train Ministry

Bringing love and comfort one meal at a time

When someone in our church or school faces illness, surgery, a new baby or any other challenging season, our meal train steps in to provide home cooked meals and encouragement. It's a simple way to show the love of Christ through food, fellowship, and care.

How you can help:

1. **Join Our Mailing List:** Sign up to receive email notifications regarding needs within our community.
2. **Respond to Opportunities:** When a need arises, we will send an email detailing the opportunity to help. There is no obligation to sign up every time; simply volunteer when you are able.
3. **Provide Support:** Opportunities often involve delivering a home-cooked meal or sending a gift card to the home being assisted.

*Sign up
today!*

Fill out the form
linked [here](#).



STEUBENVILLE
CONFERENCES

sign up here!



Registration is now open

The Sheen's Teens are going to Joliet on
June 26-28th, 2026.

Open to all current 8th - 12th Grade Students!



PEORIA NOTRE DAME
Community. Faith. Knowledge. Service



Students carrying canned foods to pack them into boxes.



Thank you for the support of our 2025 Christmas Basket Drive! With your help, our students prepared 360 baskets of food that were distributed through the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Sophia's Kitchen, and our local parish food pantries.



One of our groups ready for packing & sorting!

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 _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

New Parishioner _____ Change of address/phone _____



Thom's Moms Yoga & Mimosas

Saturday, January 10th
Clink in the Heights

Take a morning just for you! Join fellow Comet Moms & Friends for a blend of relaxation, connection, and fun at our Yoga & Mimosas event. Come whenever you can — the morning is yours to enjoy!

Event Schedule

10:15-10:45 AM — Yoga with Tracy Schendl
A calming, all-levels session to start your day right. Please bring a yoga mat or a towel.

10:45 AM-12:45 PM — Drinks & Brunch
Stay for mimosas, brunch, and great conversation.
(Drinks and food available for purchase — cash or credit card.)

Cost: \$10.00
Please send cash or a check made out to PTO to the school office by January 8th.

Whether you come for the yoga, the mimosas, or simply a moment to breathe, we can't wait to spend the morning with you.
Friends are welcome!!!

Clink
BAR AND EVENTS

All women of the Parish are Invited!

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Holy Hour for the Unborn and their Mothers!

Resolve to engage in prayer and action for defenseless unborn children and their vulnerable mothers in the New Year. Join Pro-life Prayer Warriors and Knights of Columbus at a Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn on **Monday, Jan. 5**, from 7:00-8:00 pm at St. Mark's Church, 1113 W. Bradley Ave., Peoria. The Holy Hour includes: the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, rosary, adoration, and Benediction.

GIRLS TEC #381 - JAN 17-19, 2026

BOYS TEC #382 - FEB 14-16, 2026



Sign up today at PeoriaTec.org.

All denominations welcome.

Scholarships available.



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.



Diocesan is proud to be printing St. Thomas the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin

You are invited to help support our Parish!
For opportunities to advertise, please call 800-783-1623

H&M **HEDIGER & MEYERS**
Insuring Your Business, Your Family, Your Future.
4208 PARTRIDGE WAY • P.O. BOX 3858 • PEORIA, IL 61612
— Parishioners —
WWW.HEDIGERANDMEYERS.COM **309.691.5001**
COLLINS VOORHEES JAKE VOORHEES WILLIAM VOORHEES

Tazewell County
ASPHALT CO.
INC. **TCA**
EAST PEORIA 698-8404 **www.tazewellcountyasphalt.com**
CARL KAUFMAN
SPECIALIZING IN ASPHALT PAVING • ASPHALT SEALING

RASHID
Plastic Surgery
804 W. Trailcreek Dr. Peoria, IL
Call: 309-670-0700
Text: 309-328-3248
www.rashidps.com

Grandview Capital Group at Morgan Stanley
Bob Manning
Senior Vice President
Financial Advisor
(309) 671 4653
211 Fulton St., Suite 500A, Peoria, IL 61602
© 2025 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC, Member SIPC

KGI
KELLY GLASS INC.
2400 S.W. Adams
www.kellyglass.com • (309) 676-3573

L & Q Landscaping-Construction
Saul Leon / Owner Serving Central Illinois
Residential & Commercial • Free Estimates!
309-513-1342 • 309-550-4906
Mulch • Rock/Gravel • Patios • Roofing • Electrical • Concrete • and MORE!
Parishioners/STS parents of Monce, Nick & Sophia Leon

BBI **BISHOP BROS. INC.**
* General Construction
* Design Build
* Commercial & Residential
* Construction Management
* Pre Engineered Structures
DESIGNERS & CONTRACTORS
Dennis Bishop, Parishioner
243-5599
2800 W Alta Rd.

EWTN.COM/RADIO
EWTN Global Catholic Radio
TUNE IN

MONICAL'S PIZZA
RESTAURANT
www.monicalspizza.com

myParish
The App for Catholic Life Every Day
www.myParish.App.com

DMI Heating-Cooling-Refrigeration Residential & Commercial
(309) 633-1313 www.dmiheatingandair.com
24 hour emergency service
"free estimates on new equipment installation"
329 N. Western

We help the accused by listening, preparing, protecting, and caring.
309.999.1177
Maureen Williams, Owner/Parishioner

INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.
REPRESENTING
FCSLA Life and FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION
LIFE INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES WITH FRATERNAL BENEFITS
DON'T MISS OUR QUARTERLY FRATERNAL MEETINGS WHERE YOU CAN TRACE YOUR FAMILY HERITAGE FREE OF CHARGE!
309-682-3314 WWW.THEISCOMPANIES.COM

interim Always There When You Need Care
• Complimentary Evaluation • Transportation
• Personal Care • Post Surgical Care
(309) 296-0056 interimhealthcare.com/PeoriaIL

VONACHEN GROUP
Beyond A Cleaning Company®
vonachengroup.com

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

