

## 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](http://stthomaspeoria.org); 309-688-3446  
[parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net)

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[msgrgray@stthomas-church.net](mailto:msgrgray@stthomas-church.net)

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Leopold Mushobozi.. (x4)  
[Fr\\_Leo@stthomas-church.net](mailto:Fr_Leo@stthomas-church.net)

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DeMeulemeester  
OSF Chaplain

Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB  
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Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735  
Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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Annulment Consultant:  
John Mackoway.....699-5213

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

### Stay in Touch

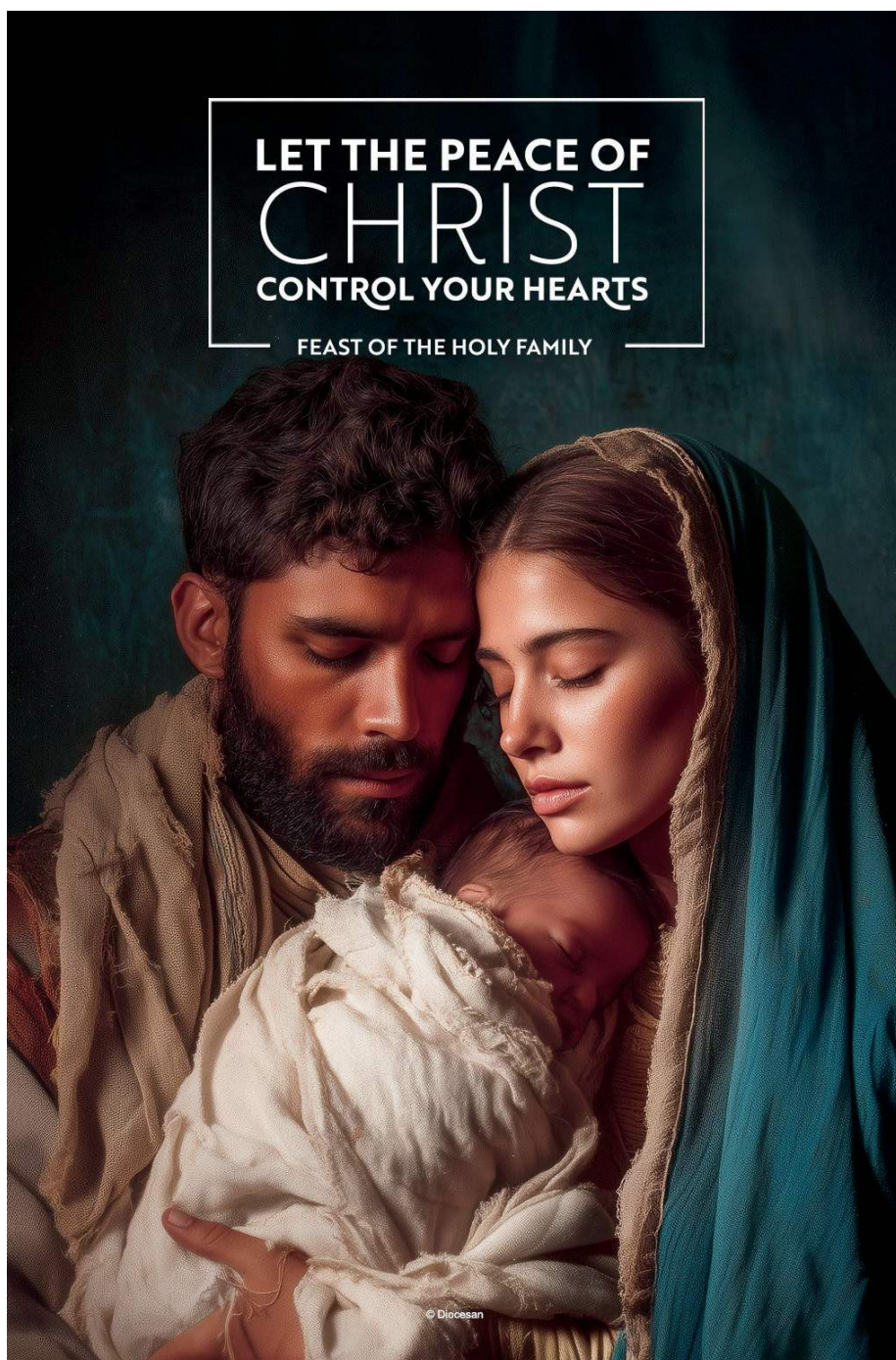
1. Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, [stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org) or the My Parish App
2. Download My Parish App to receive push notifications (Visit [myparishapp.com/download](http://myparishapp.com/download)).
3. Receive the Bulletin and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net) to sign up).
4. Bookmark the parish webpage ([stthomaspeoria.org](http://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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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 11<sup>th</sup>, the Christmas season comes to a close and we resume Ordinary Time.

- Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of December 28, 2025

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

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, December 29, 2026

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

### Tuesday, December 30, 2026

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

### Wednesday, December 31, 2026

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 Newtonson/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

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

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## 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!



**ST. THOMAS SCHOOL INVITES YOU TO**  
**Princesses & Pirates**  
**AHOY MATEYS**

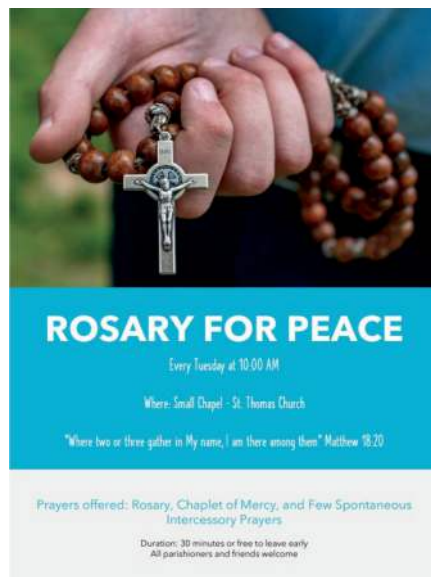
ALL Current & Potential Pre-3, Pre-4 & Kinder Families for the 2026-2027 School Year!

Saturday, January 24th @ 9-11 am  
St. Thomas School Cafeteria

- \* Meet the Princess Ballerinas
- \* Face Painting \* Snacks \* Bounce Houses
- \* School Scavenger Hunt & More!

See you there or WALK THE PLANET! :)

THE ZOOLODY ZOO CREW



**ROSARY FOR PEACE**

Every Tuesday at 10:00 AM

Where: Small Chapel - St. Thomas Church

"Where two or three gather in My name, I am there among them" Matthew 18:20

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

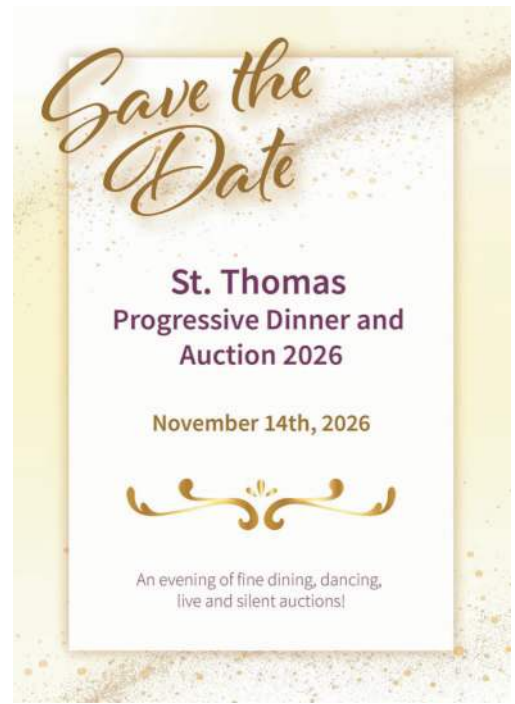
In Kind Assistance	\$23,999
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As you can see, the impact is great. It is our honor to represent you, your generosity and your caring to people living in poverty.

#### 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](#).





**STUEBENVILLE  
CONFERENCES**

Registration is now open

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

Open to all current 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students!

sign up here!





**PEORIA NOTRE DAME**  
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Students carrying canned foods to pack them into boxes.





One of our groups ready for packing & sorting!

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.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_



*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!!!**




**All women of the Parish are Invited!**

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## 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](http://Peoriatec.org).**  
**All denominations welcome.**  
**Scholarships available.**



#### 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.



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



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(St. Thomas class of 2026)

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