

## St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
904 East Lake Avenue,  
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msgrgray@stthomas-church.net

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Fr\_Leo@stthomas-church.net

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DeMeulemeester  
OSF Chaplain

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Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735  
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steveharms@stthomas-church.net

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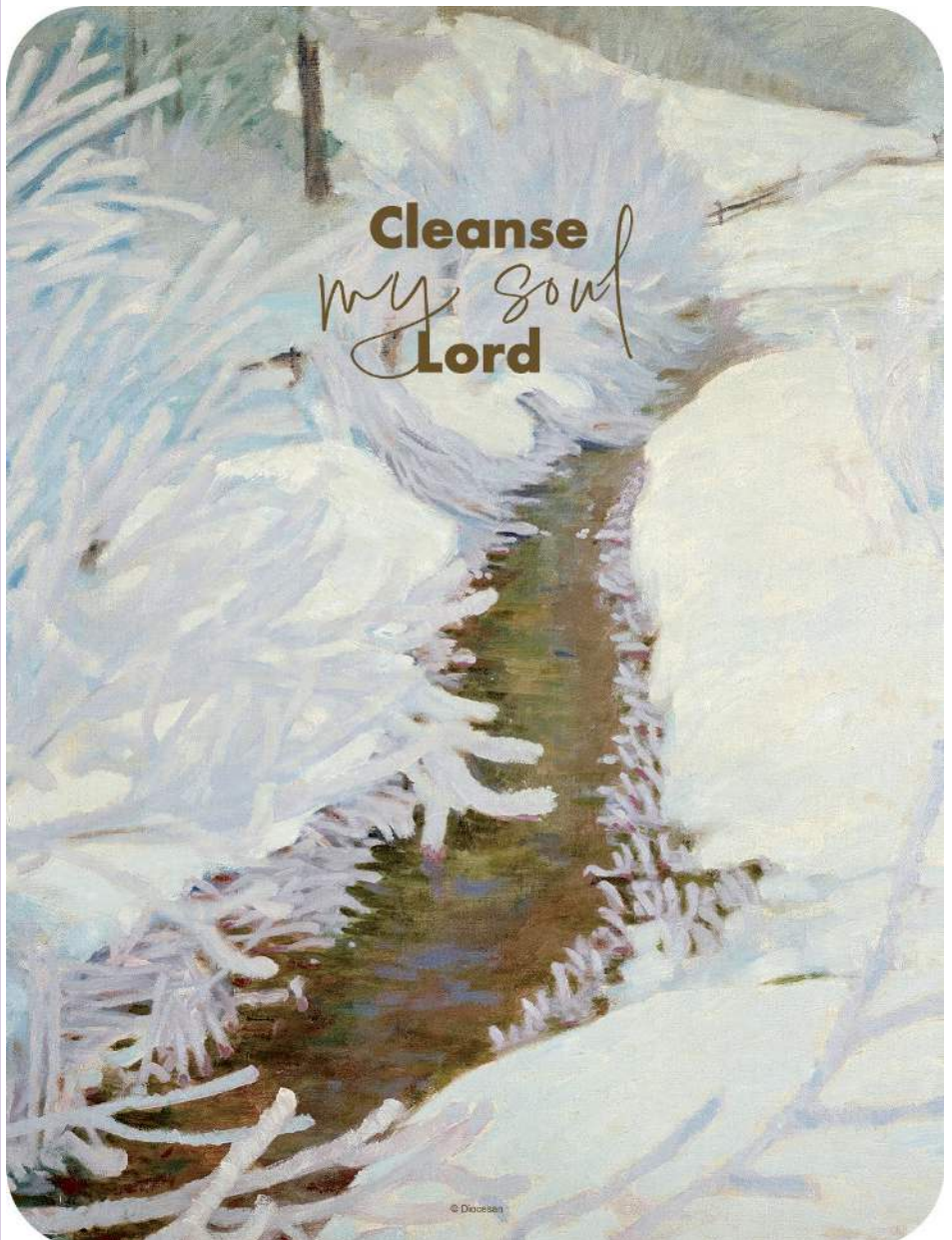
St. Vincent de Paul Society HelpLine.....  
(309) 264-5815

### 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).



*January 11, 2026*  
*The Baptism of the Lord*





## From Our Pastor

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord! This Baptism is the moment in which Jesus began his public ministry, and so today marks the end of the Christmas Season and the return to Ordinary Time. Let us recall our baptismal promises and recommit ourselves to living our refusal to be mastered by sin and our profession of faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We also pray for our school children as they begin a new semester after break. This weekend, we will have our grade school children assist at Mass followed by coffee and donuts after the Sunday morning Masses.

I am grateful for the many cards and gifts offered at Christmas time. Please know of my gratitude for your generosity and your support of me and of St. Thomas Parish. While the days around Christmas and the new year are vacation for many people, they are a more active time for your priests. I will be traveling for vacation this week and I ask for your prayers for safety in travel. I look forward to seeing you next weekend.

I am most grateful for the increased interest in the Cause for Archbishop Fulton Sheen. Since Bishop Tylka announced the renovation of Spalding Institute, increased excitement has surrounded the Cause. The decision to begin again the celebration of a Sheen Mass in New York has added to the enthusiasm. Even beyond Peoria, many of the faithful from around the world seem to be growing in their devotion. It is my hope that this sense among the faithful of Sheen's reputation of holiness will lead to progress on the Cause in Rome.

- Msgr. Gray

Join us for Coffee  
and Donuts after  
Sunday morning  
Mass this weekend



## Readings for the Week of January 11, 2026

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b> Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7; Acts 10: 34-38; Matthew 3: 13-17
<b>Monday</b>	1 Samuel 1: 1-8; Mark 1: 14-20
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>St. Hilary, Bishop &amp; Doctor of the Church</b> 1 Samuel 1: 9-20; Mark 1: 21-28
<b>Wednesday</b>	1 Samuel 3: 1-10, 19-20; Mark 1: 29-39
<b>Thursday</b>	1 Samuel 4: 1-11; Mark 1: 40-45
<b>Friday</b>	1 Samuel 8: 4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2: 1-12
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Anthony, Abbot</b> 1 Samuel 9: 1-4, 17-19; 10: 1; Mark 2: 13-17
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3; John 1: 29-34

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, January 12, 2026

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Dr. Gary & Vivette Miller/Kevin Morrissey  
8:00 a.m. Angela Kenney/Katy Mitchell

### Tuesday, January 13, 2026

7:00 a.m. Don & Bonnie Strieder/Dcn. Ed & Cathy Mallow  
8:00 a.m. Betty Vonachen

### Wednesday, January 14, 2026

7:00 a.m. Jim & Angela Kenny/Rich & Colleen Lavin & Family  
8:00 a.m. Raymundo Aguila Sr./Juanita Corrales

### Thursday, January 15, 2026

7:00 a.m. Mariano Tolentino/The Sarmiento Family  
Sch Mass Tho Dang/Phan & Tam Vu

### Friday, January 16, 2026

7:00 a.m. Tom Burek/George & Connie Burek  
8:00 a.m. Tho Dang/Linh Luong

### Saturday, January 17, 2026

8:00 a.m. Mary Ann O'Neill/Family  
5:00 p.m. Roger Tramel/Lynn Tramel

### Sunday, January 18, 2026

8:00 a.m. Peggy Hessling/John & Sonia Nelson  
10:00 a.m. For the People  
5:00 p.m. Betty Vonachen/Dcn. Ed & Cathy Mallow

## Week of January 11

**COFFEE AND DONUTS** After Sunday morning Masses this weekend

**K of C CHILI COOKOFF** Sunday, January 11, 1:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**LIFETEEN** Sunday, January 11, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**GRANDPARENTING & FAITH** Monday, January 12, 9:00 a.m., Parish Hall

**ROSARY** Tuesday, January 13, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** Tuesday, January 13, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

**CCD** Wednesday, January 14, 6:00 p.m., School

**OCIA** Wednesday, January 14, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**ST. IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY** January 15, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>St. Thomas Holy Hour</i>	<i>January 22</i>
<i>TMIY Resumes</i>	<i>January 23</i>

## 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.



## Weekly Collection

January 4, 2026

### Fiscal YTD

Collections needed.....	\$20,400.....	\$550,800
Sunday Collections.....	\$11,094.....	\$350,512
Electronic Collections.....	\$11,525.....	\$183,063
Total Collected.....	\$22,619.....	\$533,575
Over/(Short).....	\$2,219.....	\$(17,225)

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

Mark Olson, father of Jane Golowski and Patti Keegan, grandfather to Katelyn Klusendorf and great-grandfather to Nolan and Bauer Klusendorf, and Bode Olson

Mary Jean Lang

## Baptism Congratulations

Theodore Joseph Stear, son of  
Kelsey & Drew Stear

Let's take a moment to deepen our understanding of God's Word together! All high school students are welcome. Dinner is provided!

**JANUARY 11TH**

6:00PM - 8:00PM ST. THOMAS PARISH HALL

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**You're Invited!**  
 St. Thomas School warmly invites you to join us for a special and joyful occasion as we celebrate the Blessing of our School Gym by Bishop Tylka.

**Date: January 27th**  
**Time: 9:00 AM**  
**Location: St. Thomas School Gym**

We are honored to welcome Bishop Tylka as he blesses our newly completed gym. Following the ceremony, we invite all adults present to join us for a small reception.

We look forward to sharing this meaningful moment with our school families, parish community, and friends.

## GRANDPARENTING & THE FAITH

MONDAY, JANUARY 12TH 9-10AM  
 ST THOMAS PARISH HALL



WE WILL BE VIEWING A MESSAGE FROM POPE LEO ON THE IMPORTANCE IN OUR FAMILIES OF THE FAITH AND PRAYER OF GRANDPARENTS. AFTER VIEWING HIS MESSAGE, OUR GROUP WILL ENGAGE IN A DISCUSSION ABOUT SOME OF HIS MOST SALIENT POINTS.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

COFFEE AND PASTRIES PROVIDED

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!

### Bible in a Year Discussion Group

If you are doing the Bible in a Year with Father Mike Schmitz from Ascension Press and would like to discuss with other St. Thomas parishioners, please call **Susan at 703-403-1108**. Our discussion group is on Tuesday mornings at 8:45 a.m., lasting about an hour. You can still join us.




**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 PLANK!** ;)







## 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!*





Join Us For Our

# Catholic School's Week OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, January 25th**

Pack the Pews @ 10 am Mass  
Wear Your STS Spiritwear  
Open House Immediately Following Mass Until 12:00 pm.

*School Tours Available!  
Come & See all STS has to offer!*

- Christ-Centered Learning Environment
- Exemplary Academics
- Safe, Secure Campus
- Athletics & Extra-Curriculars
- Pre-Care & After-Care Services
- Financial Assistance Opportunities

Pre-3, Pre-K & Kinder 2026-2027  
Reserve your spot today!  
**Donuts, Coffee & Juice**





## WE ARE HIRING

ST. THOMAS IS LOOKING TO FILL AN IMMEDIATE FULL-TIME TEACHER'S AIDE POSITION DAILY MONDAY-FRIDAY.

Please contact:  
Maureen Bentley, Principal  
maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

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**HEAVEN  
WAS OPENED AND  
THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DESCENDED UPON HIM  
IN BODILY FORM  
LIKE A DOVE.**  
*Luke 3:21-22*

## John Lancaster Spalding SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

\$700,000 in scholarship funds were allocated to students across the Diocese of Peoria for the 2025-2026 school year!



### PROTOCOLS

- ✓ K-8 student enrolled in a school within Diocese of Peoria
- ✓ Awards are for one school year only
- ✓ Need-Based Scholarship
- ✓ Active member of the parish, in good standing

**APRIL 24, 2026**

Contact your school for more information!

<https://www.cdop.org/john-lancaster-spalding-scholarship>

*This scholarship opportunity is for students in grades K-12*



STEUBENVILLE  
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!



## 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!

## Kelly Needham Memorial Blood Drive

**The Kelly Needham Memorial Blood Drive** will be **Saturday, Feb 21, 2026 from 8am-12pm** in the **St. Philomena Parish Center**. To make an appointment, go online to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and type **stphils** in the box at the top that says Find a Blood Drive. You may also call St. Philomena at 309-682-8642, ext. 2112.

Kelly was a Peoria native and graduate of both St. Philomena School and Peoria Notre Dame High School. Since our first drive in his memory in 2013, we have collected 703 pints - each pint helping three people. Please give blood in Kelly's memory.

**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.



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



## 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





#### 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 - Terri- Administrative Assist.

1341 - Sheris—Finance & Tuition

1310 - Mary-Faith Formation

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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