

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)
msggray@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

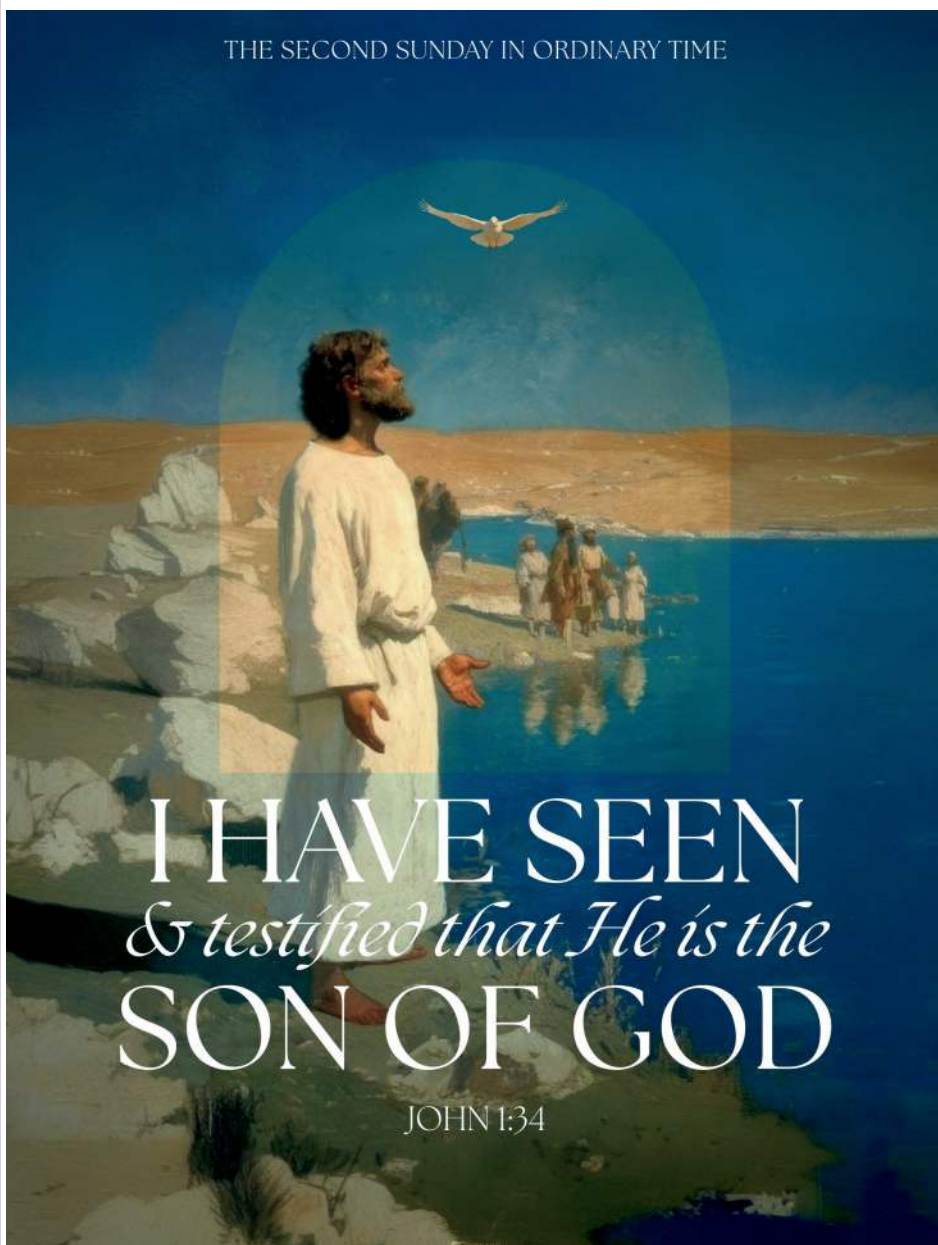
St. Vincent de Paul Society *HelpLine*.....
(309) 264-5815

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).



January 18, 2026
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time





From Our Pastor

Father Leo Mushobozi has been with us for a little more than a year and a half, but he has been serving in different parishes in the United States for five years and his religious visa is coming to an end in a month. Father Leo will return to Tanzania. Although his time with us was short, we want to recognize him and thank him for his service to St. Thomas.

Father Leo will be traveling some over the next several weeks. He has two scheduled mission appeals to conduct in this Diocese and he will take some of his vacation time to visit other friends in the United States before he returns to Tanzania. Sunday, February 15th, will be his final weekend with us and we will have a reception for Father Leo on that day. I invite you to mark your calendars.

We are approaching Catholic Schools' Week which begins January 25th. We look forward to the involvement of our St. Thomas School students at Masses. On the day prior, Saturday, January 24th, we will have an open house. This is geared toward 3-year-old pre-school students, 4-year-old pre-kindergarten students, and 5-year-old kindergarten students.

Please encourage any of your friends or family with little children to consider sending them to St. Thomas School. We have an excellent school with a dedicated staff and a strong educational program in a rich Catholic faith environment. See the bulletin for more details.

Our St. Thomas Food Pantry has been busy lately, and they are always thankful for your support. You are welcome to offer financial contributions marked for the pantry as well as food donations that can be dropped in the box in the narthex. Even better is your personal help by serving as a volunteer. The pantry is open most Mondays and Thursday from 9-11 AM. If you would like to volunteer your time to staff the pantry on individual Mondays or Thursdays, please reach out to the parish office. Diana Janda will be happy to include you on the schedule.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of January 18, 2026

Sunday	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3; John 1: 29-34
Monday	1 Samuel 15: 16-23; Mark 2: 18-22
Tuesday	St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr 1 Samuel 16: 1-13; Mark 2: 23-28
Wednesday	St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr 1 Samuel 17: 32-33, 37, 40-51; Mark 3: 1-6
Thursday	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children 1 Samuel 18: 6-9; 19: 1-7; Mark 3: 7-12
Friday	St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr 1 Samuel 24: 3-21; Mark 3: 13-19
Saturday	St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church 2 Samuel 1: 1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mark 3: 20-21
Sunday	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 8: 23—9: 3; 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17; Matthew 4: 12-23

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 19, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Katherine Bartley/Terry & Marty Best
8:00 a.m.	Donna Chance, 1 st Anniv/The Chance Family

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Frisca Flores/Marianita Cabucos
8:00 a.m.	Angela Kenny/Jeanie & Tom Burke

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Mike Palkovic/Family
8:00 a.m.	Jim Becker/Nancy Becker

Thursday, January 22, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Kurt Rostetter/Dennis & Pam Goett
Sch Mass	Mary Ann O'Neill/Family

Friday, January 23, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Donnie Kersh/Scott & Mollie Maurer
8:00 a.m.	Tho Dang/Mai Dang

Saturday, January 24, 2026

8:00 a.m.	Norman Stahl/Nancy Becker
5:00 p.m.	Mary Ambrosch/Tom Ambrosch

Sunday, January 25, 2026

8:00 a.m.	Robert Engelhart/The Scrivner Family
10:00 a.m.	Intentions of FSJB/George & Connie Burek
5:00 p.m.	For the People

Week of January 18

ROSARY Tuesday, January 20, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

PARISH COUNCIL Tuesday, January 20, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office

CCD Wednesday, January 21, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, January 21, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ST. IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY Thursday, January 22, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR Thursday, January 22, 7:00 p.m., Church

TMIY Friday, January 23, 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

PRE-K/K OPEN HOUSE Saturday, January 24, 9:00 a.m., School

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adoration	February 6
Grand-parenting & Faith	February 9

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.



OCIA Schedule

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

Weekly Collection

January 11, 2026

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,400.....	\$571,200
Sunday Collections.....	\$16,090.....	\$366,602
Electronic Collections.....	\$5,351.....	\$188,414
Total Collected.....	\$21,441.....	\$555,016
Over/(Short).....	\$1,041.....	\$(16,184)

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. Thank you for your support.

Our Sympathy

Debra Majewski



That Man Is You will return for the spring semester on **Friday, January 23, 2026.**

All men of the Parish are welcome to attend and invite others.



St. Thomas School Invites You to

Princesses & Pirates

All current & Potential Pre-3, Pre-4 & Kinder Families for the 2026-2027 School Year

Saturday, January 24th @ 9-11 a.m.

St. Thomas School Cafeteria

*meet the Princess Ballerinas

*face painting *snacks *bounce houses

*school scavenger hunt & more

Sponsor of the Week



We help the accused by listening, preparing, protecting, and caring.

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Maureen Williams, Owner/Parishioner




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.



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

Save the Date

St. Thomas
 Progressive Dinner and
 Auction 2026

November 14th, 2026



An evening of fine dining, dancing,
 live and silent auctions!

New Grief Group
For those who have lost a child.



For information:



For those searching for the hope of Christ

10 Week program: Jan. 12-Mar. 16, 2026
 Monday Evenings 6:30-8:00pm
 Epiphany Catholic Church Cenacle
 Rm, 1000 E. College, Normal 61701





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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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



Fr. Leo Farewell Reception

Please join us **February 15th**
As we thank Fr. Leo for his service here at St. Thomas, and bid him a fond farewell and best wishes back in Tanzania.

More details in an upcoming bulletin



STEUBENVILLE
CONFERENCES

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!

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 and type **stphilis** 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.

St. Mary's Kickapoo Men's Hamburger Fry

Robert C. Schmitt Gym
Sunday, February 1
12:00-5:00 p.m.

\$25 includes: burgers, popcorn, soda, beer, Raffles, & Door prizes

SAINT MARK MEN'S CLUB

BRIGID FEST

FEATURING LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY:
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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 5-10 PM

CORNER BEEF
& CABBAGE DINNER

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL - PEORIA

\$10 CHILD
\$20 PER PERSON
\$50 PER FAMILY

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 _____

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*



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JIM ROCHFORD
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JIM ROCHFORD & ASSOCIATES
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