

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

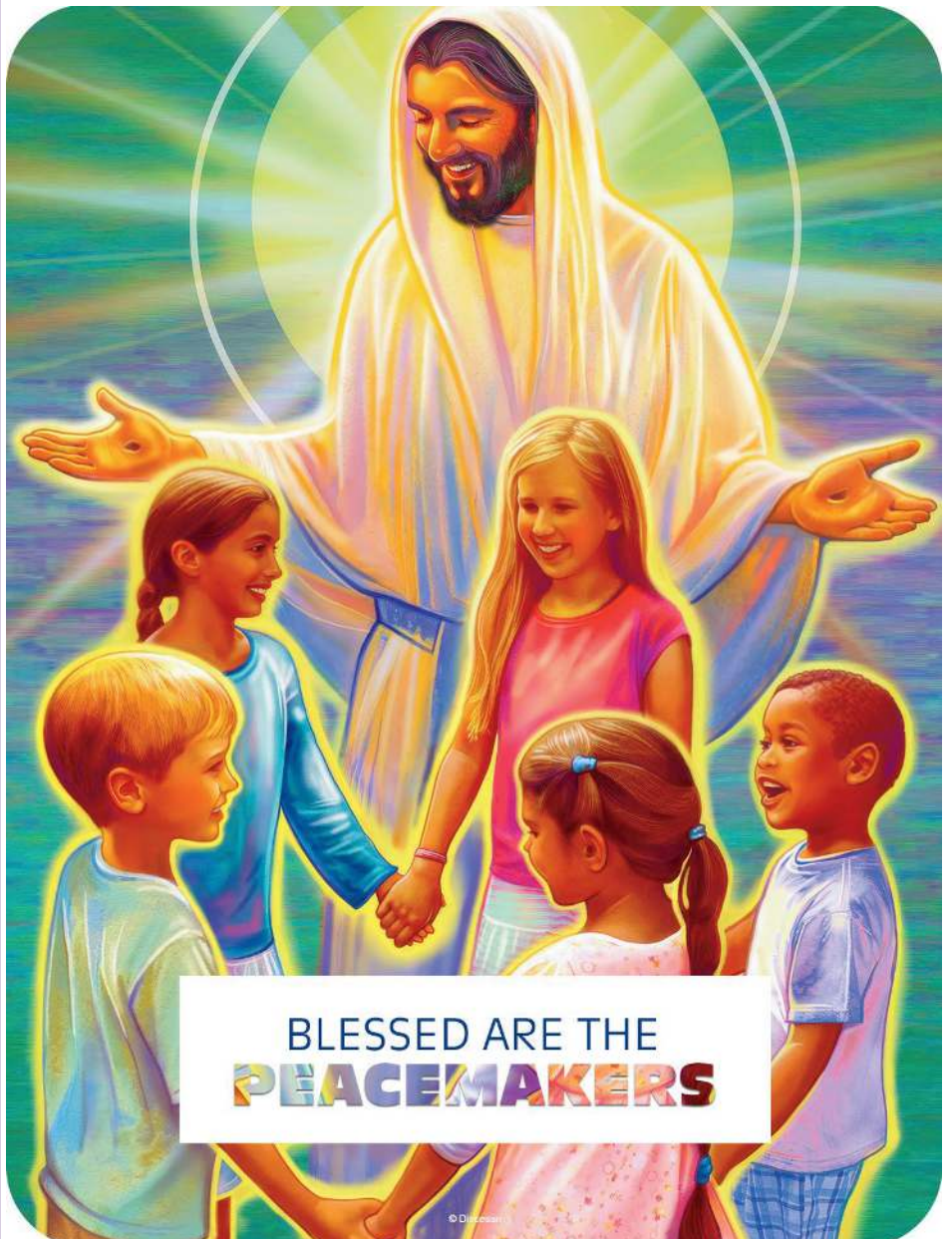
St. Vincent de Paul Society *HelpLine*.....
(309) 264-5815

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).



February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time





From Our Pastor

Next Monday there is a special feast day that is connected with Christmas. February 2nd is the traditional day to celebrate the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, 40 days after Christ's birth. This marks the end of the Christmastide.

On this day, we remember Mary and Joseph taking Jesus into the Temple for his purification. This was done to fulfill the law. At the same time, the Holy Spirit inspired Simeon and the Prophetess Anna to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. This mystery is recalled in the fourth Joyful mystery of the Rosary.

This day, also called Candlemas, is a traditional day to bless candles when the light of Christ came into the temple. At the 7 AM Mass on Monday, February 2nd, we will bless candles for use in the church and will have a procession from the narthex into the church for Mass. Please join us for daily Mass for this special feast day.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of February 1, 2026

Sunday	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Zephaniah 2: 3; 3: 12-13; 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31; Matthew 5: 1-12a
Monday	The Presentation of the Lord Malachi 3: 1-4; Hebrews 2: 14-18; Luke 2: 22-40
Tuesday	St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr 2 Samuel 18: 9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19: 3; Mark 5: 21-43
Wednesday	2 Samuel 24: 2, 9-17; Mark 6: 1-6
Thursday	St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr 1 Kings 2: 1-4, 10-12; Mark 6: 7-13
Friday	St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs Sirach 47: 2-11; Mark 6: 14-29
Saturday	1 Kings 3: 4-13; Mark 6: 30-34
Sunday	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 58: 7-10; 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5; Matthew 5: 13-16



Farewell Celebration Honoring Father Leo

Please join us as we gather in gratitude and celebration to honor Father Leo for his faithful service and time at St. Thomas the Apostle.

February 15th
Following the 10am Mass
Refreshments in the Parish Hall

All parishioners and friends are warmly invited to celebrate Father Leo and wish him well as he returns home to Tanzania.



GOD is *Good*,
all the time.

Pray with the Pope

February 2026

For Children With Incurable Diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.



Mass Intentions

Monday, February 2, 2026

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Dr. Gary & Vivette Miller/Kevin Morrissey
8:00 a.m. Truyen Nguyen/Tan Tran

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

7:00 a.m. Betty Vonachen/Carolyn Mitchell
8:00 a.m. Teresa McCabe/Tom & Marilyn McCabe

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

7:00 a.m. Rose Sullivan/Kitty Bienemann
8:00 a.m. Special Intention of Johnny Barnes

Thursday, February 5, 2026

7:00 a.m. Mark Olson/Jim & Mary Stickelmaier
Sch Mass Intentions of Rachel Davis/Dcn. Ed & Cathy Mallow

Friday, February 6, 2026

7:00 a.m. Joseph P. Kelly/John & Amy Kelly
8:00 a.m. Angela Kenny/Denis & Pam Goett

Saturday, February 7, 2026

8:00 a.m. Mary Ann O'Neill/Family
5:00 p.m. Patricia McCauley/David McCauley

Sunday, February 8, 2026

8:00 a.m. For The 551 Families Visited by SVdP Last Year
10:00 a.m. Ronald Stear/George & Connie Burek
5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of February 1

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL & PANTRY COLLECTIONS This weekend

SIGN-UP FOR FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION This Weekend after all Masses, narthex

COFFEE & DONUTS Sunday, February 1, after morning Masses

LIFETEEN Sunday, February 1, 6:00 p.m., St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall

ROSARY Tuesday, February 3, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

CCD Wednesday, February 4, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, February 4, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ST. IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY Thursday, February 5, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

TMIY Friday, February 6, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

ADORATION Friday, February 6, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION Saturday, February 7, Rosary at 7:35 a.m., Mass 8:00

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adoration	February 6
Grand-parenting & The Faith	February 9
Fr. Leo Reception	February 15
Ash Wednesday	February 18

Lenten Devotions

Every Friday in Lent from Feb. 20th through Mar 27th

6 pm - Adoration and confession; 7 pm - Stations of the Cross

Weekly Collection

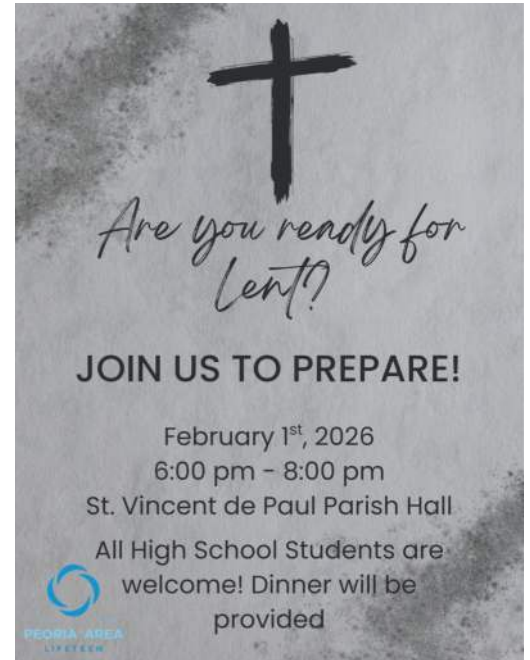
January 25 2026

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,400.....	\$612,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$24,149.....	\$405,283
Electronic Collections.....	\$3,044.....	\$196,258
Total Collected.....	\$27,193.....	\$601,541
Over/(Short).....	\$6,793.....	\$(10,459)

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

Anita Nickels



OCIA Schedule

Feb 4: Prayer, Universal Call to Holiness

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

Feb 18: No Class—Ash Wednesday

Feb 25: Commandments 2-3-4

Mar 4: Commandments 5, 7, 8

Mar 11: Commandments 6, 9, 10

Mar 18: Biblical History, Bible Timeline

Mar 25: History of the Church, Preparation for confession

Apr 1: Practice

Apr 4: Easter Vigil

Apr 15: Mystagoga

Sponsor of the Week



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ST. THOMAS BIDDY BASKETBALL PROGRAM

We are excited to offer a Biddy Basketball Skills and Drills Program for students in Grades 1-4 who attend St. Thomas School. This program is designed to help our Junior Comets build basketball fundamentals in a fun and supportive environment.

DATES: MARCH 16TH-APRIL 24TH (NOT OVER SPRING BREAK)
TWO PRACTICES PER WEEK - MON/WED OR TUES/THURS

Grades 1 & 2: 5:00-6:00 PM
Grades 3 & 4: 6:00-7:00 PM

When signing up, please indicate which two days your child prefers. We understand schedules may change and are flexible--this is simply to help us gauge interest.

We are also in need of parent volunteers to help make this program a success. Volunteer time will count toward required volunteer hours.



REGISTER NOW
NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 20TH

\$25

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Catholic Women's League
of Peoria, IL presents:

Women at the Well. If you want
living water, where is your bucket?
Lenten Reflection

Thursday, February 19th from 10 am - 12 pm
at St. Philomena Parish Center in Peoria, IL
1000 W. Albany, Peoria, IL 61604
Coffee & Donuts provided

Holy Hour for the Unborn and their Mothers!

Celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple on Feb. 2 by engaging in prayer and action for vulnerable unborn children and their mothers.

Join Pro-life Prayer Warriors and Knights of Columbus at a Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn on **Monday, Feb. 2**, 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.

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus

Have you been thinking about it?



We enjoyed our conversations with some of you at the ministry fair recently held here at St Thomas, AND we are blessed and grateful that several of you are now exploring the possibility of joining our group of Vincentians!

It's not for everyone, nor just for anyone, but being a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul – being a Vincentian – IS for some. As members of SVdP, we put our faith into action. The Vincentian vocation is the intimate desire to participate personally and directly in helping the needy by person-to-person contact and by the gift of one's heart and friendship, doing so within the communal spirit of a conference of lay persons.

From the SVdP Manual

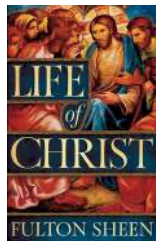
Our object is not only to relieve material misery, a very laudable purpose in itself, but to aspire, especially, through the practice of that most sublime of virtues – charity- to render ourselves better and more fervent Christians...

From a circular letter by the president of SVdP to the organization in 1877 We once again invite you to join us in this journey. Please call 309-472-9450 for more information. We thank all of you for your prayers and support of this work.

~ Mary Kay Pilat

Fulton Sheen Book Club

If you are interested in reading books by Archbishop Fulton Sheen, please consider joining the **Fulton Sheen Book Club**. We meet on Sunday evenings from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. once or twice a month in the parish hall, and we have a group text discussion as well. We will soon be choosing a book with a Lenten theme.



If interested, please contact **Rhonda Bachman** by phone, text or email, 309-678-3905 or rhondabachman1@gmail.com.

~ God love you!



EMMAUS KNIGHTS FOR YOUNG MEN GRADES 7-12

FEB 1/ MAR 8 / APRIL 19
FROM 4:30PM - 6:30PM

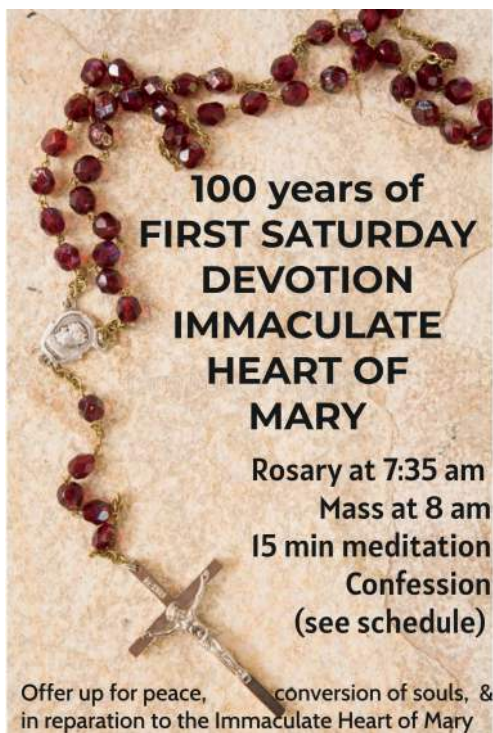
Join Fr. Chase for a Sunday night of faith, fraternity,
and formation at the Emmaus House
2327 W. Heading Ave., West Peoria

EMMAUS KNIGHTS IS AN EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG MEN
WHO DESIRE TO GROW IN FRIENDSHIP
AND FAITH WITH SOME FOOD AND SOME FUN.
IF YOU LOVED EMMAUS DAYS, COME AND CHECK OUT
EMMAUS KNIGHTS.

**FATHERS, DROP YOUR SONS OFF AND
STAY FOR A TIME OF FRATERNITY**

Scan the code to
let us know you
are coming and
to have your
parent fill out a
digital permission
form!





**100 years of
FIRST SATURDAY
DEVOTION
IMMACULATE
HEART OF
MARY**

**Rosary at 7:35 am
Mass at 8 am
15 min meditation
Confession
(see schedule)**

Offer up for peace, conversion of souls, &
in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Welcome Fr. Pat

My name is Fr. Patrick DeMeulemeester. I realize the name may scare you, but I have good news, you can call me Fr. Pat. Many have asked me the nationality of my name and they pick up a slight accent when I speak. My parents are immigrants to this country from Belgium. The language we spoke at home was Flemish, which is mostly Dutch with a little French.



I grew up in East Moline, the Quad Cities. I attended elementary school at St. Mary's Catholic School and then United Township High School, graduating in 1982. I worked as a janitor for St. Mary's from my sophomore year of high school until 1988 when I entered the seminary.

I attended Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell Connecticut in 1988 for four years. Then I attended Mt. St. Mary's Seminary for three years and was ordained a priest for Peoria in 1995.

I was a parochial Vicar for two years at Holy Family in Lincoln. Then became a pastor for six years at St. Patrick's Elkhart, St. Thomas Aquinas, Mt. Pulaski. Then I moved to Rock Island where I became Pastor of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's for two years. Then I was assigned for three years to St. Philomena in Monticello. Then for over seventeen years I was Pastor at Sacred Heart in Granville and St. Patrick's in Hennepin. Then as you probably already know, I was assigned to OSF as assistant chaplain on November 1 until January 30.

Now, I am overjoyed at returning to parish life as parochial vicar at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. I pray that Jesus may bless our time together and lead us ever closer to Himself.

You are invited
to
Catholic Charities Seniors

Sweetheart
TEA & COFFEE SOCIAL



10 FEB 2026 | AT 1:00 - 2:30 PM

615 NE Jefferson Ave
Peoria, IL 61603

RSVP: 309.218-3714 (Sr. Clare Key, DSF)

Catholic Charities
Division of Peoria

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!

**EMMAUS
DAYS
2026**



College & Adult Men Junior & Senior Men	Session I Session II	June 5th - 7th June 26th - 29th
9th & 10th Grade Men 7th & 8th Grade Men	Session III Session IV	July 12th - 15th July 15th - 17th



Save the date, register next year!



<https://www.cdop.org/emmaus-days>

Rosary for Peace

Every Tuesday at
10:00 a.m.

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 a Few
Spontaneous
Intercessory Prayers

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



"The Church Must Breathe with Her Two Lungs"
- St. Pope John Paul II



Because the unity of the Eastern and Western traditions is important in the life of the Church, St. Sharbel Maronite Church would like to invite you to celebrate the Feast of Saint Maron, the founder of the Maronite Church, with Bishop Lou Tylka presiding.



Sunday, February 8, 2026
Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am
Followed by a luncheon

RSVP by scanning the QR code or by visiting stsharbelchurch.org
Deadline to RSVP is February 1



2920 W. Scenic Dr., Peoria, IL 61615 | 309.886.5460



SUPER BOWL SQUARES

Join the Game!



The Super Bowl is just a week away, and the Peoria Notre Dame FAN Club is once again hosting Super Bowl Squares. You can join in the fun by purchasing one or more squares at \$100 each. There are more than 15 ways to win cash, so purchase your squares now at <https://www.pndhs.org/super-bowl>.

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 _____

SAINT MARK MEN'S CLUB

BRIGID FEST

FEATURING LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY:
BOGSIDE ZUKES - FLYNN'S IRISH DANCERS - SKIBBEREEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 5-10 PM

CORNER BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER **ST. MARK'S SCHOOL - PEORIA**

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

Maggie Bertram Foundation' Irish Fest and Fish Fry

Kick off St. Patrick's Day weekend at the Maggie Bertram Foundation' Irish Fest and Fish Fry - **Friday, March 13th** at the **Holy Family School Gym**. This family fun event includes live music, Irish Dancers and the best fish fry in town. The **festivities kick off at 4pm and end at 9pm. Meals will be served between 4pm and 7:30pm.** Admission to the event is free. All proceeds go towards the Maggie Bertram Foundation's fine arts education grants. To be a financial sponsor or make a donation to the silent auction, contact Tim Campbell at 309-303-1155

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 **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.

Attention Spalding-AOL Class of 1961

We'll hold our **65th Class Reunion on May 16** at the Lariat in Peoria.

To RSVP or ask questions, please contact any of these classmates: Bob Knott @ 309-253-7757 or bobknott@sbcglobal.net; Larry Cooksey @ 309-745-9442 or ljc236@comcast.net; Alma Meeks Holm @ 309-635-8702 or j.holm@mchsi.com; Sheila Flaherty @ 309-253-0092 or tsirish@mtco.com.



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

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St. Thomas class of 2026

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drochford@rochfordlaw.com

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