

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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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)

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

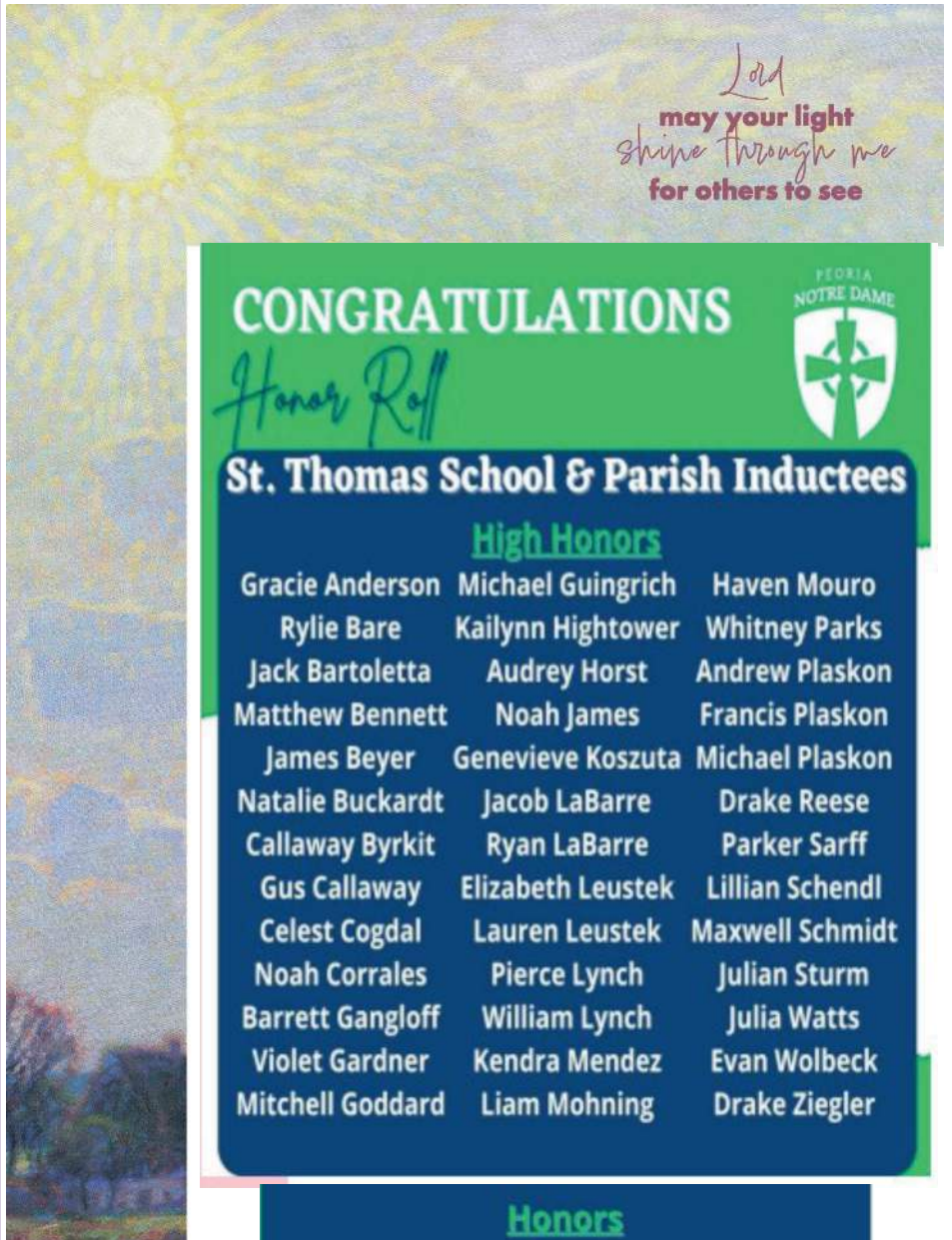
St. Vincent de Paul Society *HelpLine*.....
(309) 264-5815

Stay in Touch

1. Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org 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 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Lord
may your light
shine through me
for others to see

CONGRATULATIONS

Honor Roll



St. Thomas School & Parish Inductees

High Honors

Gracie Anderson	Michael Guingrich	Haven Mouro
Rylie Bare	Kailynn Hightower	Whitney Parks
Jack Bartoletta	Audrey Horst	Andrew Plaskon
Matthew Bennett	Noah James	Francis Plaskon
James Beyer	Genevieve Koszuta	Michael Plaskon
Natalie Buckardt	Jacob LaBarre	Drake Reese
Callaway Byrkit	Ryan LaBarre	Parker Sarff
Gus Callaway	Elizabeth Leustek	Lillian Schendl
Celest Cogdal	Lauren Leustek	Maxwell Schmidt
Noah Corrales	Pierce Lynch	Julian Sturm
Barrett Gangloff	William Lynch	Julia Watts
Violet Gardner	Kendra Mendez	Evan Wolbeck
Mitchell Goddard	Liam Mohning	Drake Ziegler

Honors

Jorge Almonazi
Jacob Anderson
Luke Bare
Remington Joesting
Matthew Kilian
Dominic Langholf



From Our Pastor

Monsignor Gray is traveling this week. He will return the weekend of February 14th & 15th when we will hear all his news.

- Msgr. Gray



2026 Souper Bowl Kick-Off



Let's team up for a **Souper Bowl** win against hunger! Please help us reach our goal of 1000 cans of soup donated to the St. Thomas Food Pantry by the end of February. The food pantry dispenses an average of 350 cans of soup per month, so 1000 cans will get us through the rest of winter and on into spring. Bringing just a few cans to each mass you attend from now until the end of February will go a long way towards helping us achieve our goal. Donations may be placed in the **Feed The Hungry** box in the church narthex. Thank you so much for helping us score in the fight against food insecurity!



Readings for the Week of February 8, 2026

Sunday	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 58: 7-10; 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5; Matthew 5: 13-16
Monday	1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Mark 6: 53-56
Tuesday	St. Scholastica, Virgin 1 Kings 8: 22-23, 27-30; Mark 7: 1-13
Wednesday	Our Lady of Lourdes 1 Kings 10: 1-10; Mark 7: 14-23
Thursday	1 Kings 11: 4-13; Mark 7: 24-30
Friday	1 Kings 11: 29-32; 12: 19; Mark 7: 31-37
Saturday	Sts. Cyril, Monk, & Methodius, Bishops 1 Kings 12: 26-32; 13: 33-34; Mark 8: 1-10
Sunday	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sirach 15: 15-20; 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10; Matthew 5: 17-37

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 9, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Joe Bushell/The Park Family
8:00 a.m.	Peggy Hessling/Chris & Dianna Russick

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Angela Kenny/Joe & Sandy Whalen
8:00 a.m.	Mary Ann O'Neill/Family

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Rena Jaska/The Rolett Family
8:00 a.m.	Truyen Nguyen/Mai Dang

Thursday, February 12, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Kurt Rostetter/Jack & Margaret Weinstein
Sch Mass	Tara Petrakis/Dcn. Ed & Cathy Mallow

Friday, February 13, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Angela Kenny/Mark & Barbara Ruff
8:00 a.m.	Marcia Williams/Sue Ardis

Saturday, February 14, 2026

8:00 a.m.	David Riekert/Nancy Becker
5:00 p.m.	Roger Tramel/Lynn Tramel

Sunday, February 15, 2026

8:00 a.m.	For the People
10:00 a.m.	Mary Ann O'Neill/Family
5:00 p.m.	Intentions of Peoria Seminarians & Priestly Vocations/FSJB



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.

Week of February 8

GRANDPARENTING & THE FAITH Monday, February 9, 9:00 a.m., Parish Hall

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

CCD Wednesday, February 11, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, February 11, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

WOMEN OF THE WORD Thursday, February 12, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, February 12, 6:30 p.m., Sullivan's in the Heights

TMIY Friday, February 13, 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

CARMELITES Saturday, February 14, 11:00 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fr. Leo Reception February 15
Ash Wednesday February 18

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.



Our Sympathy

Rosalie Shealy

Robert Nickels

Tere Wood

Baptism Congratulations

Kolbi Sue Cuevas, daughter of
Lakin & Carson Cuevas

Masses for Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026. While Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation all Roman Catholics are encouraged to attend Mass on Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence, intended to prepare the church membership for Easter.

Mass Schedule

7:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m., School Mass,
and 7:00 p.m.



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

February 1, 2026

Fiscal YTD

Collections needed.....	\$20,400.....	\$632,400
Sunday Collections.....	\$14,898.....	\$420,181
Electronic Collections.....	\$3,281.....	\$199,539
Total Collected.....	\$18,179.....	\$619,720
Over/(Short).....	\$(2,221).....	\$(12,680)

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.

OCIA Schedule

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: Mystagogia

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

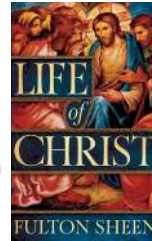
St. Thomas - Food Pantry

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!

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 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>



GRANDPARENTING & THE FAITH

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH 9-10AM
ST THOMAS PARISH HALL

"THROUGH GRANDPARENTS, GOD REMINDS US THAT FAITH IS A GIFT MEANT TO BE HANDED DOWN WITH LOVE."



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!



St. Philomena Marriage Workshop
Saturday, Feb. 21. 9 am - 2 pm
St. Philomena Parish Center
Banquet Room
1000 W. Albany Ave., Peoria

8:00 am Mass (optional)
 8:30 am Check-in
 9:00 am Family Culture & Formation of Children
 11:00 am Belonging & Mission
 12:30 pm Lunch
 1:30 pm QA
 2:00 pm Close

Register here


with mike & alicia hernon

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615 NE Jefferson Ave
 Peoria, IL 61603

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



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 friends welcome



February 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Years of war in Ukraine have profoundly affected both Ukrainian society and the Church in Ukraine. From the beginning, the laity have played a significant role in responding to the needs of displaced families, orphaned children, and other victims of the conflict. In the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church's Exarchate of Lutsk, laypeople such as catechists, parish pastoral and economic council members, and priest's wives have been called upon to provide faith formation, carefully manage parish resources, and provide emotional and spiritual support to members of the local parish communities.

These laypeople have heeded their call to holiness by bringing their talents and abilities to serve God and their neighbors. The exarchate, with crucial funds received through the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, has answered the call of Pope Leo to empower and form the laity to help bring the Gospel to the world. The exarchate is hosting formation seminars and trainings for priests' wives, parish pastoral and financial advisors, and catechists so that they might foster spiritual healing and economic recovery amid the devastation of war.

By donating to this special collection when it is taken up in our diocese, you help the Church in Ukraine and more than 25 other countries in Central and Eastern Europe to witness to Christ's mercy, even in the midst of terrible hardship.

For more information about the collection and who it supports, visit www.usccb.org/ccce. Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Louis Tylka*
 + Most Reverend Louis Tylka
 Bishop of Peoria

BILINGUAL

HOLY HOUR


WITH BISHOP LOU TYLKA

TO CELEBRATE THE FOUNDING OF THE DIOCESE OF PEORIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH 6PM

An evening of prayer and music to celebrate our Diocese on the anniversary of its founding. A reflection will be given in English and Spanish by Fr. Chase Hilgenbrinck.

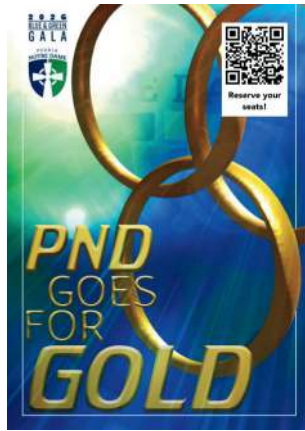
In person and live-streamed from the Cathedral of St. Mary
 607 NE Madison Ave Peoria, IL



PND GALA

Join us for the 43rd Annual

PND Blue & Green Gala. The fun evening which will include dinner and entertainment will take place on **Saturday, March 21** in the PND gym. Start gathering your friends and reserve a table for the event at <https://pndhs.ejoinme.org/pndgala2026>. This year's theme is **PND Goes for Gold**. Ready, set, go!



Saturday, February 14th

Happy Valentine's Day



Illinois Pro-Life Mass and March

On Thursday, March 19, you are invited to join thousands of pro-life advocates, being a joyful witness to life and raising your voice for the voiceless at the Illinois Pro-Life Mass and March. The day begins with **Mass at 10 a.m. at the Exposition Building on the grounds of the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield**, celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki of the Diocese of Springfield and concelebrated by bishops and priests from across the state. **Bishop Louis Tylka of the Diocese of Peoria will be the homilist.** You must register for the Mass at dio.org. The building is not temperature-controlled, so dress accordingly.

After the Mass, there is a rally at the Capitol at 1 p.m. with guest speakers and then a march around the Capitol at 2 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will also be going on at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield from noon to 5 p.m. Confessions at the Cathedral will also be available from noon to 1 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m.

Last year, about 2,000 people attended the Illinois Pro-Life March. Students from Catholic grade schools, high schools, and Newman Centers; Priests, seminarians, religious, and the lay faithful from every corner of the diocese and the state also showed up in strong numbers.

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** _____



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*



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St. Thomas class of 2026

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