

## St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

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msgrgray@stthomas-church.net

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Fr\_Leo@stthomas-church.net  
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(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

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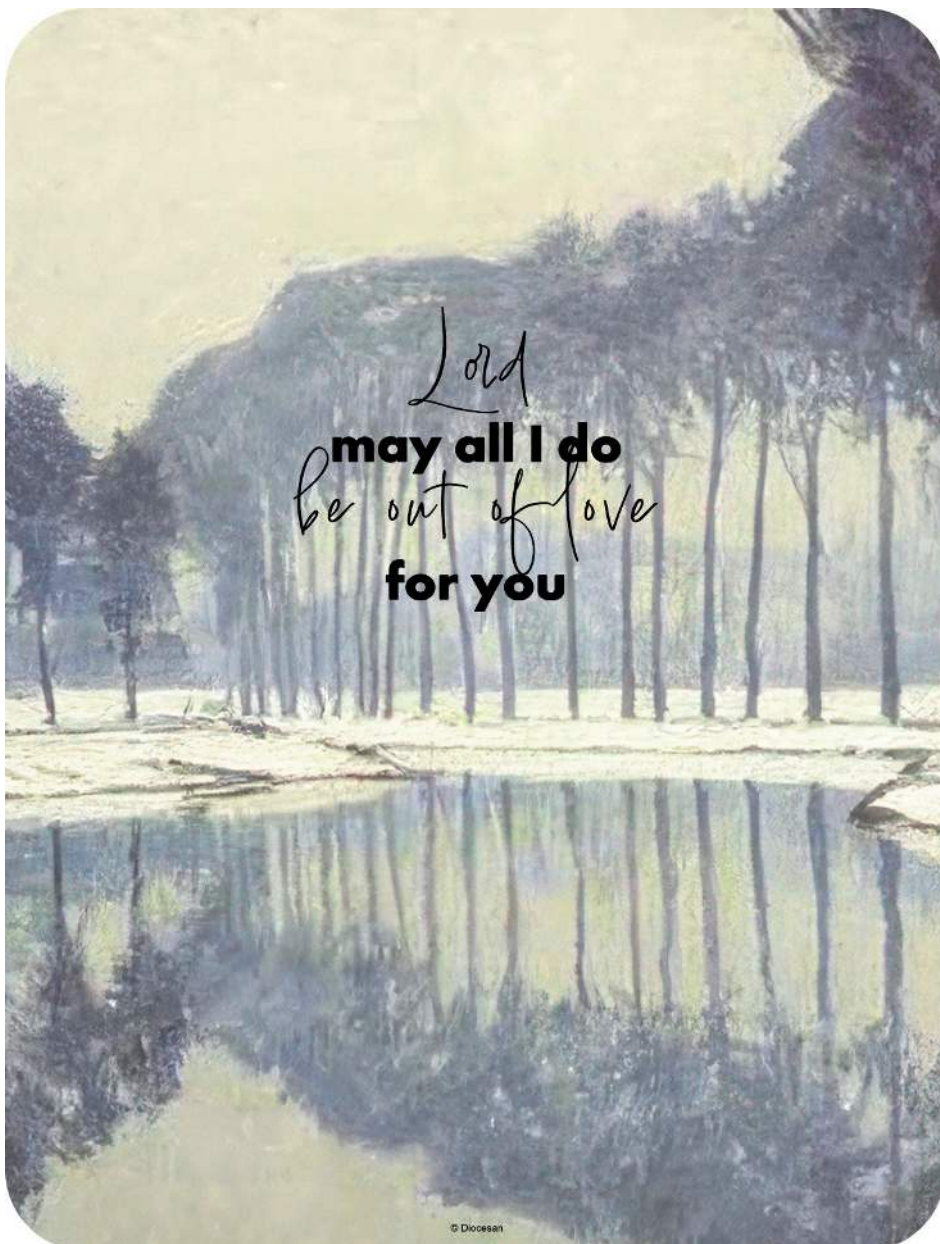
St. Vincent de Paul Society *HelpLine*.....  
(309) 264-5815

### 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).



*February 15, 2026*  
*Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*



© Diocesan



## From Our Pastor

By now, I'm sure that everyone has heard the news that the Beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen can go forward. There is no information available yet about the date and time of the ceremony. That will be determined between Bishop Tylka and the Holy See. Let us all rejoice at this long-awaited, good news.

We also bid farewell this weekend to Fr. Leo who will be recognized at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Everyone is welcome to join him after Mass as we have a reception downstairs in the Parish Hall. I am grateful for his faithful assistance in caring for St. Thomas Parish over the last year-and-a-half. Thank you also for your generosity toward him and his home diocese in Tanzania which has been generously supported by our last mission collection.

This Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. Please look ahead to see the Mass times for Ash Wednesday so we can prepare to enter into this holy season of self-denial. Receiving ashes is a sign of our repentance and a concrete reminder of our own mortality. While Mass attendance is not obligatory on this day, those over 14 are reminded of the obligation to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. Those 18-59 are reminded of the obligation to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

In addition to observing Ash Wednesday, we will continue to offer additional confessions after all Sunday Masses throughout the Lenten season. I have been encouraged by the greater number of people coming to confession and it is a priest's privilege to dispense the Lord's mercy and forgiveness in this sacrament.

On the Fridays of Lent we observe the traditional celebration of the Stations of the Cross. Each Friday of Lent, we will have confessions and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. Please join us for this blessed devotion and reminder of the depth of the Lord's love for us.

- Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of February 15, 2026

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Sirach 15: 15-20; 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10; Matthew 5: 17-37
<b>Monday</b>	James 1: 1-11; Mark 8: 11-13
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order</b> James 1: 12-18; Mark 8: 14-21
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Joel 2: 12-18; 2 Corinthians 5: 20—6: 2; Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18
<b>Thursday</b>	Deuteronomy 30: 15-20; Luke 9: 22-25
<b>Friday</b>	Isaiah 58: 1-9a; Matthew 9: 14-15
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Peter Damian, Bishop &amp; Doctor of the Church</b> Isaiah 58: 9b-14; Luke 5: 27-32
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Genesis 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7; Romans 5: 12-19; Matthew 4: 1-11

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, February 16, 2026

7:00 a.m.	St. Bernadette/FSJB
8:00 a.m.	Paul Hop Nguyen/Tan Tran

### Tuesday, February 17, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Jim & Angela Kenny/Rich & Colleen Lavin & Family
8:00 a.m.	Intentions of Godchildren/Mets Ginoli

### Wednesday, February 18, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Intentions of Fr. Leo
12:15 p.m.	Leopoldo & Petra Flores
Sch Mass	Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of John the Baptist
7:00 p.m.	All Deceased Vincentions of the St. Thomas Conference

### Thursday, February 19, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Teresa McCabe/Eileen McDonough
8:00 a.m.	JoAnn Masterson/Ronald & Roberta Duckworth

### Friday, February 20, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Souls in Purgatory/Mai Dang
8:00 a.m.	Intentions of Jenny Williams

### Saturday, February 21, 2026

8:00 a.m.	Diane West/Kitty Bienemann
5:00 p.m.	Rita Clark/The Sauer Family

### Sunday, February 22, 2026

8:00 a.m.	Richard Kauffman/Dcn. Ed & Cathy Mallow
10:00 a.m.	For the People
5:00 p.m.	Susan Hessian

## Week of February 15

**FR. LEO RECEPTION** Sunday, February 15, 11:00 a.m., Parish Hall

**ROSARY** Tuesday, February 17, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

**CCD** Wednesday, February 18, 6:00 p.m., School

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES** Wednesday, February 18, 7:00 a.m., 12:15, School Mass, & 7:00 p.m., Church

**ST. IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY** Thursday, February 19, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

**ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR** Thursday, February 19, 7:00 p.m., Church

**TMIY** Friday, February 20, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

**ADORATION/CONFESSIONS** Friday, February 20, 6:00 p.m., Church

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Friday, February 20, 7:00 p.m., Church

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

**MEN'S CLUB FISH FRY TICKET SALES** After all Masses February 21/22

### UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>Millions of Monicas</i>	<i>February 24</i>
<i>Divine Mercy</i>	<i>March 3</i>
<i>Adoration</i>	<i>March 6</i>
<i>Men's Club Fish Fry</i>	<i>March 6</i>

## 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.



## Weekly Collection

February 8, 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](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Thank you for your support.

## Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week

## 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. 20<sup>th</sup> through Mar 27<sup>th</sup>

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



## 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 15<sup>th</sup>  
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,  
at the time.

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## Divine Mercy The Second Greatest Story Ever Told



You may be familiar with the Image of Divine Mercy, but do you know the history, the inspiration and the extraordinary Graces tied to the devotion to Divine Mercy? If you're intrigued, or you're looking for something to help you grow spiritually during Lent, or you just have some free time on Tuesday evenings, then join us on **Tuesdays, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup>**, at 6:30 pm. We will cover the history behind Divine Mercy, explain the Image, and review the Revelations made to St. Faustina. *The Second Greatest Story Ever told* ties Divine Mercy to St. Pope John Paul II, Fatima, and much more. We will meet in the St. Thomas Parish Hall. To register or if you have questions, contact George Burek via email at [georgeburek@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeburek@yahoo.com).

### LIFE NIGHT ON STEWARDSHIP

**March 15<sup>th</sup> 6-8 pm at St. Thomas Parish Hall**

All high school students are invited! Each night starts with dinner, games, includes a talk and some small group time. We can't wait to see you there!

**JOIN US!**

**Ash Wednesday**  
Mass, February 18, Noon  
Msgr. Jerry Ward, Presider  
*St. Joseph of Arimathea Chapel*  
*Resurrection Mausoleum*  
7519 N Allen Rd, Peoria

[www.ccapeo.org](http://www.ccapeo.org)  
309.691.5889

## 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!*

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 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 am - 12 pm**  
at St. Philomena Parish Center in Peoria, IL  
1000 W. Albany, Peoria, IL 61604  
Coffee & Donuts provided

## EMMAUS DAYS 2026

**PEORIA VOCATIONS**  
Group of Men & Women

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>

EMMAUS DAYS  
Est. 1984

### St. Philomena Marriage Workshop

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

**Register here**

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

**the messy family PODCAST**  
LISTEN NOW

For couples with young to school aged children looking to gain practical tools for family life.

**with mike & alicia hernon**

[MESSYFAMILYPROJECT.ORG](http://MESSYFAMILYPROJECT.ORG) f y t @MESSYFAMILYPROJECT

**Lenten RETREAT**  
 With Fr. Donald Roszkowski

As we enter the sacred season of Lent, we invite our senior community to mark your calendars for a special time of prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal. Journey of the Heart will be a gentle and meaningful retreat focused on deepening faith, finding peace, and renewing the spirit.

**\$30**  
Per Person

**Saturday, March 21, 2026**  
 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

Sacré-Coeur Retreat Center  
 8508 county rd 100 north, Magnolia, IL

Sister M. Clare Key, DSF  
 (309) 218-3714

## MEETING INVITATION

We warmly invite you to join us for our March Meeting

**March**  
**Monday 02 2026**

10:00 AM, SPALDING PASTORAL CENTER



This meeting is an opportunity to learn more about who we are, what we do, and how you can be part of our mission and ministry serving the women of the Diocese of Peoria. Whether you are curious or feeling called to be more involved, we welcome you.

For those who are unable to travel or live too far to be physically present, we are pleased to offer the opportunity to participate via ZOOM. Connection details will be shared upon RSVP.

RSVP: April Adams 309-369-5110 or Peoriadccw@gmail.com

We look forward to connecting with you!



## 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!

## 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



## 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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Help raise funds for the St. Thomas School  
 Counseling Fund

**Friday  
 March 6th**

at St. Thomas Catholic School  
 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**\$15** Dinner includes: fried fish, french  
 fries, coleslaw, bread, salad bar  
 and drink

Children (6-12) \$10 or Grilled Cheese \$5  
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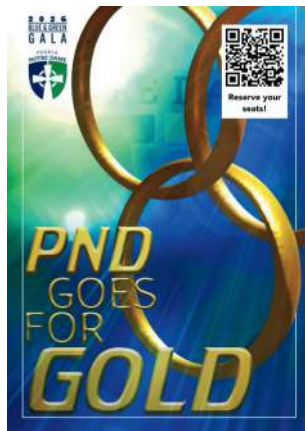
Desserts provided by  
 the Women of St. Thomas



## 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!



The Women's  
Care Center's

### Luxury Bingo

event will be held on **April 29th at the Country Club of Peoria**. All proceeds benefit the Peoria Women's Care Center and their incredible programs. Please visit: [www.luxurybingopeoria.com](http://www.luxurybingopeoria.com) for more information or to purchase tickets contact Rachel Kress at [Ra-chel.a.kress@gmail.com](mailto:Ra-chel.a.kress@gmail.com) with any sponsorship questions. The evening will include food, drinks, bingo games (with luxury prizes!) and a short presentation.

St. Vincent de Paul Women's Guild

## Women's Lenten Retreat

Discerning and using your charisms  
to be a disciple of Christ

Featuring national speaker Jill Simons

**Saturday, March 21, 2026**  
**7:45 am to 12:30 PM**

Registration Fee \$35 includes charism assessment and lunch  
Check, cash or Venmo @svdpwg

**SCHEDULE**  
7:45 AM - Mass in church  
8:30 AM - Light breakfast & speaker to follow in SVdP Parish Hall  
11:30 AM - Lunch  
12:30-2 PM - Confession and Adoration available.

Register by March 12

Contact svdpwomensguild@gmail.com with questions.

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

**Knights of Columbus - St. Clement Council**  
**FRIDAY NIGHT LENTEN FISH FRY**  
Hettinger Hall • 5:00 - 7:00 pm  
10811 N. Knoxville Ave., Peoria

**KID'S MEAL**  
(Served with chips) \$5  
• Fish Sandwich  
• Cheese Pizza

**FAMILY DEAL**  
2 Adult Meals & 2 Kid's Meals \$37

**SEAFOOD MEALS**  
(Served with baked potato, vegetable and slaw)  
• Fried Catfish \$15  
• Baked Lemon Cod  
• Deep Fried Shrimp

**FISH PO'BOY SANDWICH**  
(Served with chips and slaw) \$12

**2026 Dates & Beneficiaries:**  
February 20 Knights of Columbus Charities and Parish and Religious Intentions  
March 6 Parish Youth Activities and Military Chaplain Scholarship  
March 13 Pre-Life Support (Women's Care Center & Destiny for Women)  
March 20 St. Jude Catholic School to PND Scholarship  
March 27 Community Charities (Christ Child Society / American Wheelchair Mission)

### Euchre Tournament

The Men's Club Euchre Tournament will be held on **Sunday, March 1 at 1:00 pm at St. Mary of Lourdes Church**. The tournament will be located at the parish hall. This is a fun-filled afternoon with snacks provided during the tournament. You do not need to have a partner to participate. After the tournament is finished, we will be having dinner and a meeting at approximately 4:15 pm. If you plan to play Euchre and/or come to the meeting and dinner, please contact the parish office: [secr-tary@stmarylourdes.org](mailto:secr-tary@stmarylourdes.org)

**JOIN THE PEORIA TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST (TEC)**

**BOYS TEC #382 - FEBRUARY 14-16, 2026**  
**GIRLS TEC #383, JUNE 2026 and BOYS TEC #384, JULY 2026**

TEC IS A SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT FOR TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS.

IT BEGINS WITH A RETREAT WEEKEND FILLED WITH DYNAMIC REFLECTIONS, MUSIC, SACRAMENTS, ADORATION, SMALL GROUP DIALOGUE, AND PRAYER. AFTERWARDS, THE TEC COMMUNITY EVOLVES INTO A NETWORK OF SUPPORT THAT BOTH REINFORCES PARISH INVOLVEMENT AND PERSONAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER ONLINE AT [PEORIATEC.ORG](http://PEORIATEC.ORG)

ALL DENOMINATIONS 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 - 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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