

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

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msggray@stthomas-church.net

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frpat@stthomas-church.net

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(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

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Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735
Dcn. Mark Kelsch... (Senior Status)

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John Mackoway.....699-5213

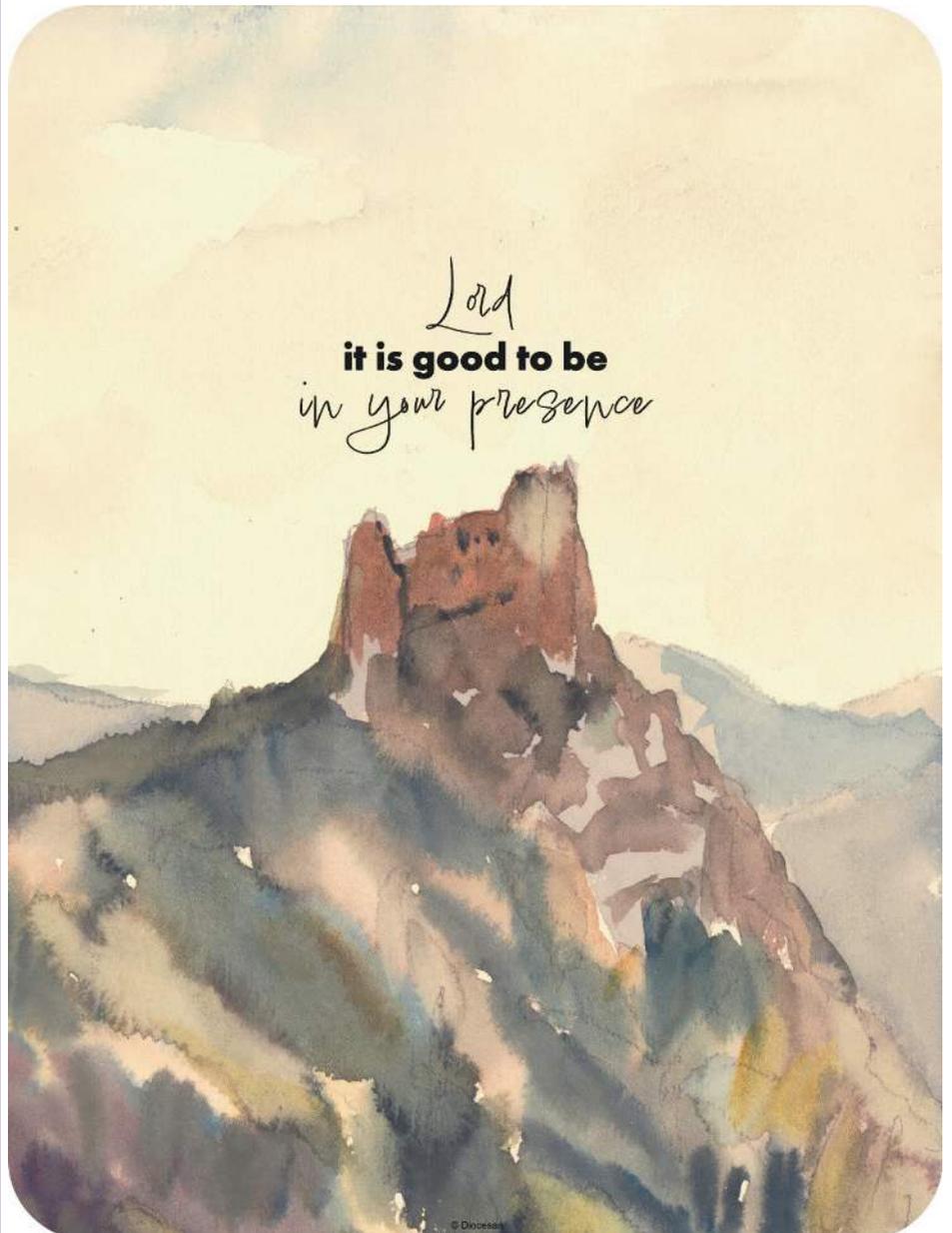
St. Vincent de Paul Society *HelpLine*.....
(309) 264-5815

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).



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday of Lent





From Our Pastor

Last weekend the Bishop invited those in OCIA to come to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election. Hundreds of people from around the Diocese are preparing to be baptized or to become Catholic. I was pleased to present 16 candidates preparing to receive sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Please pray for those who are preparing to enter the Church at the conclusion of Lent.

We look forward to the Men's Club Fish Fry. This event is a great social opportunity for our school and parish family to gather together. Many thanks to the Men's Club and the volunteers who work very hard on this event. You are encouraged to purchase Fish Fry tickets in advance to help the Men's Club.

I have received a request about confession times. During Lent, we expand the times for confession beyond Saturday afternoon before and after our evening Mass. We are adding confessions after all our Sunday Masses. We also are adding confessions on Friday afternoons from 6 to 7 PM just before Stations of the Cross.

As an experiment, I would also like to add confessions on Saturday mornings after the morning Mass. Reconciliation will be available at 8:30 a.m. for as long as there may be people interested in coming. I hope this may be a helpful time for some of our parishioners who might otherwise find it difficult to take advantage of this sacrament.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of March 1, 2026

Sunday	Second Sunday of Lent Genesis 12: 1-4a; 2 Timothy 1: 8b-10; Matthew 17: 1-9
Monday	Daniel 9: 4b-10; Luke 6: 36-38
Tuesday	St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin Isaiah 1: 10, 16-20; Matthew 23: 1-12
Wednesday	St. Casimir Jeremiah 18: 18-20; Matthew 20: 17-28
Thursday	Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Luke 16: 19-31
Friday	Genesis 37: 3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21: 33-43, 45-46
Saturday	Sfs. Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20; Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32
Sunday	Third Sunday of Lent Exodus 17: 3-7; Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8; John 4: 5-42

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 2, 2026

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Dr. Gary & Vivette Miller/Kevin Morrissey
8:00 a.m. Thu Dinh/Mai Dang

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

7:00 a.m. Truyen Nguyen/Phan & Tam Vu
8:00 a.m. Intentions of Bishop Daniel Jenky/FSJB

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

7:00 a.m. Mark Olson/Bill & Mary Voorhees
8:00 a.m. Mary Ann O'Neill/Family

Thursday, March 5, 2026

7:00 a.m. Don & Bonnie Strieder/Dcn. Ed & Cathy Mallow
Sch Mass Mark Brewer/Phan & Tam Vu

Friday, March 6, 2026

7:00 a.m. Mary Ambrosch/Tom Ambrosch
8:00 a.m. Teresa McCabe/Ann Horst

Saturday, March 7, 2026

8:00 a.m. Carol Picl/Rick & Melanie Picl
5:00 p.m. Roger Tramel/Lynn Tramel

Sunday, March 8, 2026

8:00 a.m. Patricia McCauley/David McCauley
10:00 a.m. Mary Ann Hrdlicka
5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of March 1

- EXTRA CONFESSIONS** following all Sunday Masses
- ST. VINCENT DE PAUL & PANTRY COLLECTIONS** this weekend
- SIGN-UP FOR FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION** This Weekend after all Masses, narthex
- MEN'S CLUB FISH FRY TICKET SALES** After all Masses February 28/March 1
- ROSARY** Tuesday, March 3, 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- DEVOTION TO DIVINE MERCY** Tuesday, March 3, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall
- CCD** Wednesday, March 4, 6:00 p.m., School
- OCIA** Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- WOMEN OF THE WORD** Thursday, March 5, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- TMIY** Friday, March 6, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall
- ADORATION** Friday, March 6, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.
- MEN'S CLUB FISH FRY** Friday, March 6, 5:00 p.m., School
- ADORATION/CONFESSIONS** Friday, March 6, 6:00 p.m., Church
- STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Friday, March 6, 7:00 p.m., Church
- CONFESSION** Saturday, March 7, following morning Mass
- CHURCH CLEANING** Saturday following 8:00 a.m. Mass, Church

Pray with the Pope

February 2026

For Disarmament And Peace

Let us pray that nations move to effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



Our Sympathy

Bennett Bare

James Snyder, father of Mary Clare Geraghty

Lenten Devotions

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

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

Extra confessions - following Saturday morning Mass & all Sunday Masses

Weekly Collection

February 15, 2026

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,400.....	\$693,600
Sunday Collections.....	\$45,799.....	\$494,712
Electronic Collections.....	\$22,490.....	\$234,345
Total Collected.....	\$68,289.....	\$729,057
Over/(Short).....	\$47,889.....	\$35,457

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

- 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

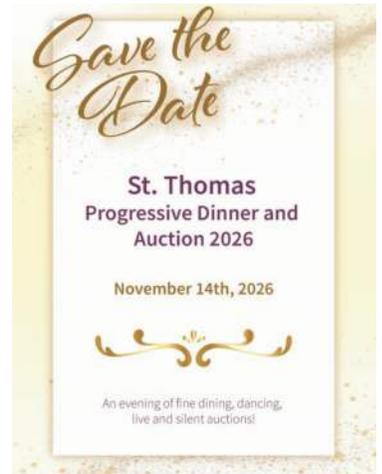
We help the accused by listening, preparing, protecting, and caring.

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Maureen Williams, Owner/Parishioner



Members of our OCIA class participated in the Rite of Election at St. Mary Cathedral, an important step in their preparation for Easter and fully entering the Catholic Church



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 3rd and March 17th**, 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.



SAVE THE DATE



Catholic Spirit Radio is hosting a Wisconsin pilgrimage on **August 10-12, 2026** to The Basilica of St. Josaphat (Year of St. Francis Indulgence Site) in Milwaukee, Holy Hill – Basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians in Hubertus, The Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in Franken, and The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse. There will be pickups in Normal and Rockford. Details for registration will be announced later. For questions, please contact Carolyn at (309) 830-4164 or Kathy at (309) 828-6554

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.

Saturday, March 21, 2026

10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

Sacr -Coeur Retreat Center; 8508 county road north, Magnolia, IL
Sr. M. Clare Key, DSF (309) 218-3714 \$30 per person



When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus

A few weeks ago, on February 7, the church celebrated the Feast of Sister Rosalie Rendu D.C. Sister was a member of the Daughters of Charity and she served the poor of the slums of Paris for 54 years in the early part of the 19th century. She found that she never prayed so well as when traveling those streets to help another family. Two thirds of the poor families lacked enough firewood, food or clothes. She continually found ways to help using all her skills and creativity. The Daughters of Charity was an order of sisters living according to the example and teachings of St. Vincent de Paul. He shared these words with the sisters, *You will go and visit the poor ten times a day, and ten times a day you will find God there!*

Blessed Sr. Rosalie was a great influence at the start of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. When our founder, Frederic Ozanam and his companions decided to serve the poor, he asked for Sr. Rosalie to direct them. She began by giving them a list of poor families, but later instructed them in the manner and skills needed to serve them with dignity and compassion. She has taught us over the years that *It is Jesus himself we are going to serve*. Our members are reminded of this charge each time we receive a call to help. We honor Blessed Rosalie Rendu along with our founders and patron each time we meet.

Thank you for your support of the work of St. Vincent de Paul. Your prayers and financial support are much appreciated and we pray for you often.

~ Tom Pilat

St. Patrick's Day Mass

Bishop Louis Tylka will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception on **Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.** The Mass is being hosted by the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Peoria County. May God continue to bless you as you bless others.



Holy Hour for the Unborn and their Mothers!

March 25th marks the anniversary of St. John Paul II's Evangelium Vitae, The Gospel of Life. In it, he appeals to all that we must respect, protect, love, and serve every human life. Join Pro-life Prayer Warriors and Knights of Columbus at a Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn on **Monday, March 2, from 7:00-8:00 pm at St. Mark's Church**, Peoria. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the rosary, adoration, and benediction.

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!



MEETING INVITATION

We warmly invite you to join us for our March Meeting

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!

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



Come Magnify the Lord

A Lenten Morning of Prayer for All

First Saturday
Saturday, March 7, 2026
St. Mary's Church, Metamora

All are warmly invited – parishioners and friends from the wider community – to step away for a few sacred hours this Lent for prayer, reflection, and worship.

This morning is designed for anyone seeking a time of spiritual renewal.

Morning Schedule

✠ 8:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration
(Rosary to honor Mary for First Saturday, with Confessions Available)
🌸 9:00 AM The Most Holy Mass – Celebrant:
Father David Kijfer

Come as you are.
Bring your heart.

Step away, be renewed, and encounter the Lord.

🍪 Cookies & Coffee to follow



2016 - 2026

Celebrating
10 YEARS
of the
St. Thomas
Men's
Club

Fish Fry

FUNDRAISER

Join us for the 10th ANNIVERSARY
Fish Fry Dinner!

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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*Baked Fish sold as single servings

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Desserts provided by
the Women of St. Thomas

ALL YOU CAN EAT



PRE-ORDER ONLINE



G.K. Chesterton Plays in Peoria!

- When: Thursday, March 12th, 6:30pm
- Where: Chesterton Academy of the Sacred Heart, 4020 N Brandywine Dr., Peoria
- Tickets at the door. \$10/person or \$40/family

One man show performed by John Walker, award winning actor.

Come and enjoy the wit and wisdom of one of the greatest Catholic authors.

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 for more information or to purchase tickets contact Rachel Kress at Rachel.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

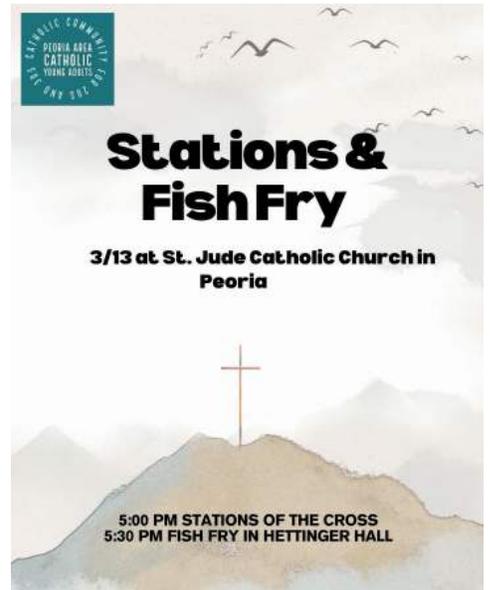
Registration Fee \$35 includes charism assessment and lunch
Check, cash or Venmo @svdpwg

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.



3/13 at St. Jude Catholic Church in Peoria

5:00 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS
5:30 PM FISH FRY IN HETTINGER HALL



Click the QR code for more information and to register



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 _____

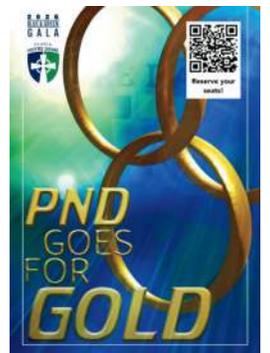
Phone _____

New Parishioner _____ **Change of address/phone** _____

PND GALA

Join us for the 43rd Annual PND Blue & Green Gala.

Learn about the sacrifices and grit that it takes to be an Olympian from Anna Peplowski, silver medalist in the 4x200 meter freestyle relay at the 2024 Paris games. Bid on a live, in-person motivational speaking session with Anna during the PND Blue & Green Gala: PND Goes for Gold on March 21. The live auction item will include a motivational speaking session for up to 20 people at The Table Peoria and catering will be provided by Todd and Karla Dennhardt and Sam Harris Uniform. Available speaking dates are August 17-20, 2026. So hurry and get your tickets for the gala, or visit <https://pndhs.ejoinme.org/PNDGala2026> for more information on how you can bid remotely!



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.



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St. Thomas the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin



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