

**St. Thomas the Apostle
Parish Staff**

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frpat@stthomas-church.net

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John Mackoway.....699-5213

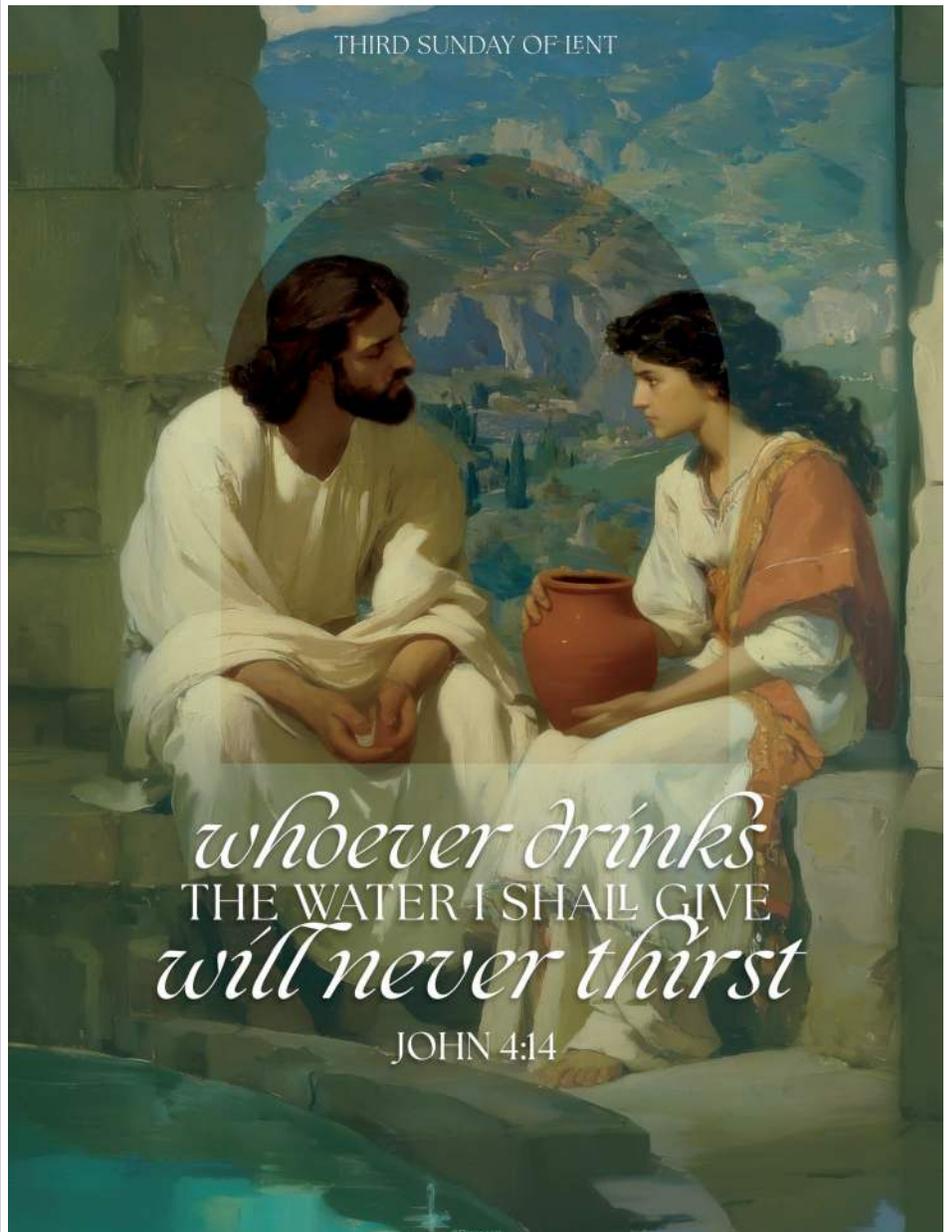
St. Vincent de Paul Society *HelpLine*.....
(309) 264-5815

Stay in Touch

1. Join Msgr. Gray for OCA 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 8, 2026
Third Sunday of Lent





From Our Pastor

There are many common practices we associate with Lent. We are encouraged to take time to confess our sins. We practice fasting and abstinence from meat. Beyond fasting, we should consider prayer and almsgiving. We can also take on voluntary penances to sanctify this season.

Another recommendation for this season is to allow for more silence. Especially today in our fast-paced world, silence is often hard to come by. Often we must deliberately make room for silence in our day. Silence has the benefit of enhancing our prayer which is already too distracted by other thoughts or interruptions. We can be inspired by Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the desert, a place where distractions are few and there is more time alone for quiet.

Silence can be uncomfortable. When we are not used to quiet, a time free of distractions can feel empty, as if we are missing something. It is too easy to fill quiet time by checking our phones and looking for messages or responses to entertain us.

Especially in the liturgy, we are encouraged to practice silence. When coming into the church, quiet reflection helps us prepare for Mass, just as quiet after Mass gives time for thanksgiving to God. Even during the Mass, some silence reminds us of the somber season of Lent in which we should reflect more deeply on God's call to us.

So I encourage you to make time for silence in private prayer. Let your time in church also benefit from silence before, during, and after Mass. Put the phone away. Be sure to silence the phone, as interruptions during Mass take away the silence that others may be seeking in prayer. In silence, listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit calling us into a deeper relationship with the divine life.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of March 8, 2026

Sunday	Third Sunday of Lent Exodus 17: 3-7; Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8; John 4: 5-42
Monday	St. Frances of Rome, Religious 2 Kings 5: 1-15ab; Luke 4: 24-30
Tuesday	Daniel 3: 25, 34-43; Matthew 18: 21-35
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9; Matthew 5: 17-19
Thursday	Jeremiah 7: 23-28; Luke 11: 14-23
Friday	Hosea 14: 2-10; Mark 12: 28-34
Saturday	Hosea 6: 1-6; Luke 18: 9-14
Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Lent 1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5: 8-14; John 9: 1-41

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 9, 2026

- 7:00 a.m. Velma Stear/George & Connie Burek
- 8:00 a.m. Intentions of Dr. Gary & Vivette Miller/Kevin Morrissey

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

- 7:00 a.m. Jim & Angela Kenny/Rich & Colleen Lavin & Family
- 8:00 a.m. Benefactors of the Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

- 7:00 a.m. Angie Kenny/Sue Ardis
- 8:00 a.m. Truyen Nguyen/Tan Tran

Thursday, March 12, 2026

- 7:00 a.m. Ava Malana/Kate Slevin
- Sch Mass Mary Ann O'Neill/Family

Friday, March 13, 2026

- 7:00 a.m. Kurt Rostetter/Kathleen Elledge
- 8:00 a.m. Mark Olson/Michele & Sarah Konecki

Saturday, March 14, 2026

- 8:00 a.m. Timothy Scroggins/Louis & Marilyn Scroggins
- 5:00 p.m. Teresa McCabe/Seminarian Support Group

Sunday, March 15, 2026

- 8:00 a.m. For the People
- 10:00 a.m. Betty Vonachen/Larry Resutko
- 5:00 p.m. Ransom Ray



Week of March 8

- EXTRA CONFESSIONS** following all Sunday Masses
- GRANDPARENTING & THE FAITH** Monday, March 9, 9:00 a.m., Parish Hall
- ROSARY** Tuesday, March 10, 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** Tuesday, March 10, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall
- CCD** Wednesday, March 11, 6:00 p.m., School
- OCIA** Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** Thursday, March 12, 1:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- ST. IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY** Thursday, March 12, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- MEN'S CLUB** Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m., Sullivan's in the Heights
- CONFIRMATION** Thursday, March 12, 7:00 p.m., Church
- TMIY** Friday, March 13, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall
- ADORATION/CONFESSIONS** Friday, March 13, 6:00 p.m., Church
- STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Friday, March 13, 7:00 p.m., Church
- CONFESSION** Saturday, March 14, following morning Mass
- CHURCH CLEANING** Saturday following 8:00 a.m. Mass, Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>LifeTeen</i>	March 15
<i>Devotion to Divine Mercy</i>	March 17
<i>Pancake Breakfast</i>	March 29

Pray with the Pope

March 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.



Weekly Collection

February 22, 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.

Our Sympathy

Pat Callaway

Joyce Zimmerman

Baptism Congratulations

Bennett White, son of
Megan & Brandon White

Harrison Michael Noel, son of
Julie & Westin Noel

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

OCIA Schedule

- 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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Divine Mercy The Second Greatest Story Ever Told



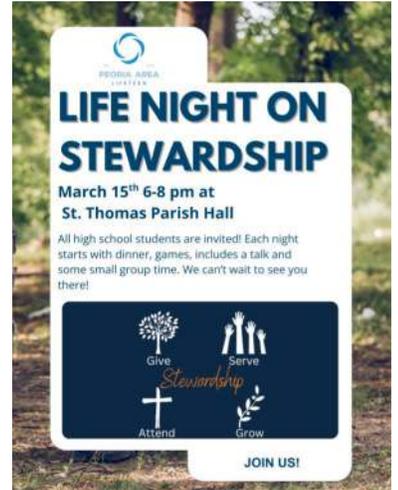
You may be familiar with the Image of *Divine Mercy*, but do you know the history, the inspiration and the extraordinary Graces tied to the devotion to *Divine Mercy*? If you're intrigued, or you're looking for something to help you grow spiritually during Lent, or you just have some free time on Tuesday 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.



From concept to completion, PND students in Sr. Jude Andrew's Winterim quilting class hand-made a beautiful keepsake quilt just for the **2026 Blue and Green Gala: PND Goes for Gold!** With the support and mentorship of Peoria's quilting guild, the Gems of the Prairie, students collaborated on every design decision - from color and layout, border choice, a pieced backing, and quilting patterns. Each student worked on a block, and several collaborated on other steps. The color wash of PND blues and greens gives the disappearing nine patch a modern twist. This lovely Irish Pride quilt can be yours by bidding at the auction on March 21, or **find out more about how you can bid remotely by emailing s.huenefeld@pndhs.org**.

PND Auction

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!



Please Join Us for a Faith-Filled Celebration!

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

Celebrate and Experience the Depths of God's Mercy

"The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened."
--699 Diary of St. Faustina

April 12, 2026 2-5 pm

Community of St. John Monastery
11223 Legion Hall Rd, Princeville, IL 61559



Jesus I Trust in You

2pm Adoration and Confession

3pm "God's Divine Mercy"--Fr. Antony, C.S.J.

Divine Mercy Chaplet (sung)

4pm Social - Pot Luck- Bring dish to share

ALL INVITED! FAMILIES WELCOME!

Provided By: Divine Mercy Cenacles

Questions? Paula Gottemoller (708) 925-1633

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.



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

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!

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

TOTUS TUUS




Make a memorable experience in a week of growing your relationship with Jesus and fun with friends. Incoming grades 1-6 during the day and grades 7-12 in the evenings.

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 28TH-
JULY 3RD



Stay tuned for more information!

katecrim@stthomas-church.net







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.

Celebrate **Catholic Spirit Radio's 15th Anniversary** with a **Pilgrimage to the National Shrines of Wisconsin** on **August 10-12, 2026**, to visit The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe (**founded by Cardinal Burke**) in LaCrosse, The Shrine of Our Lady of Champion (**the only approved Marian Apparition site in the U.S. & Adèle Brice, Servant of God**) in New Franken, Holy Hill – Basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians in Hubertus, and The Basilica of St. Josaphat (**Year of St. Francis Indulgence Site**) in Milwaukee. **There will be pickups in Normal and Rockford. Register before April 15, 2026 to receive a \$100 discount. Registration deadline is May 31, 2026. Go to catholicspiritradio.com to register. QUESTIONS? Call Carolyn at (309) 830-4164 or Kathy at (309) 828-6554**



Click the QR code for more information and to register



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 [Ra-chel.a.kress@gmail.com](mailto:Rachel.a.kress@gmail.com) with any sponsorship questions. The evening will include food, drinks, bingo games (with luxury prizes!) and a short presentation.

Central Illinois Right to Life Presents:

LIFE AND FREEDOM RALLY

KeyNote Speaker
Steven Mosher

A leading expert on China and global population policy, known for his decades of on the ground research and bestselling books. His firsthand exposure to coercive reproductive practices has made him a prominent anti-abortion activist and advocate for human rights



March 25, 2026 7:00 PM
Venue: St Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church:
904 E Lake Ave. Peoria Hts Illinois 61616

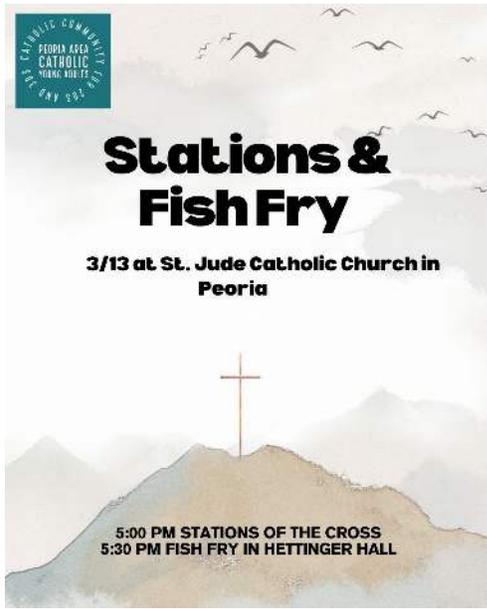
Steven Mosher
Free will offering
Refreshments to follow

SAVE THE DATE
March for Life Springfield Bus trip. March 19, 2026.
For more information call Bradley Shumaker 574-269-0011



Stations & Fish Fry

3/13 at St. Jude Catholic Church in Peoria

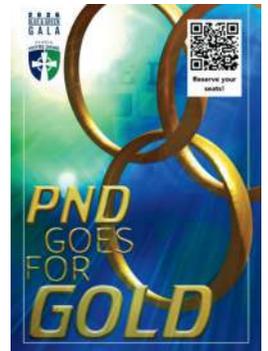


5:00 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS
5:30 PM FISH FRY IN HETTINGER HALL

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!



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** _____

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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St. Thomas class of 2026

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