

## 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  
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msggray@stthomas-church.net

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Patrick  
DeMeulemeester.....(x1430)  
frpat@stthomas-church.net

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

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Music Coordinator: .....

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).



*March 22, 2026*  
*Fifth Sunday of Lent*



*Congratulations to all our  
8th Grade Confirmands*



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## From Our Pastor

Please be aware that we will still be several weeks without air conditioning until necessary repairs can take place. The weather on Saturday will be quite warm and will affect the church building.

On March 25, we remember the passing in 1983 of our first pastor, Msgr. Bernard Rank. In his honor, we recall the faithful departed who passed over the last year, including our second pastor, Msgr. William Watson, who died on April 27, 2021. You are invited to Mass that evening at 5:30 pm to pray for our beloved dead. All are invited, but especially the family and friends of those who have passed in the last year.

Next week will be the beginning of Holy Week with the celebration of Palm Sunday. As we have done in the past, we will have the more solemn entrance, carrying our palms, at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. You are welcome to join us in the narthex as we begin that Mass.

Please be aware of our schedule of Masses for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil. These special celebrations take place only one time each year and it is a privilege to enter into these liturgies as we pass with Our Lord from the upper room to Golgotha, and to the empty tomb.

Please pray for our candidates who are preparing to enter the Church at the Easter Vigil. This is a special journey for those who have prepared all year for this great day. We wish them well and welcome them into the Catholic Church and into St. Thomas Parish.

- Msgr. Gray

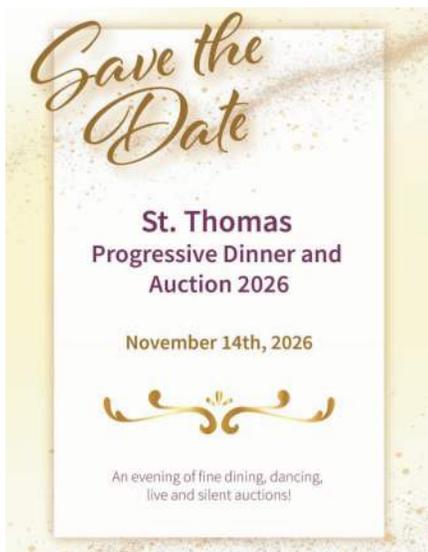


## Readings for the Week of March 22, 2026

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> Ezekiel 37: 12-14; Romans 8: 8-11; John 11: 3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
<b>Monday</b>	<b>St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop</b> Daniel 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; John 8: 1-11
<b>Tuesday</b>	Numbers 21: 4-9; John 8: 21-30
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>The Annunciation of the Lord</b> Isaiah 7: 10-14; 8: 10; Hebrews 10: 4-10; Luke 1: 26-38
<b>Thursday</b>	Genesis 17: 3-9; John 8: 51-59
<b>Friday</b>	Jeremiah 20: 10-13; John 10: 31-42
<b>Saturday</b>	Ezekiel 37: 21-28; John 11: 45-56
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b> Reading for Blessing of Palms: Matthew 21: 1-11 Isaiah 50: 4-7; Philippians 2: 6-11; The Passion of the Lord - Matthew 26: 14—27: 66

## Mass Intentions

<b>Monday, March 23, 2026</b>	
7:00 a.m.	Katherine Bartley/Terry & Marty Best
8:00 a.m.	Intentions of Dr. Gary & Vivette Miller/Kevin Morrissey
<b>Tuesday, March 24, 2026</b>	
7:00 a.m.	Mickey Kelly/John & Amy Kelly
8:00 a.m.	Mary Nelson/John & Sonia Nelson
<b>Wednesday, March 25, 2026</b>	
7:00 a.m.	Paul Hop Nguyen/Tan Tran
8:00 a.m.	Jerry McDonough/Eileen McDonough
5:30 p.m.	Msgrs. Rank/Watson Memorial Mass
<b>Thursday, March 26, 2026</b>	
7:00 a.m.	Mark Olson/Norma Lovell & Family
Sch Mass	Mary Ann O'Neill/Family
<b>Friday, March 27, 2026</b>	
7:00 a.m.	Sr. Bernadette/FSJB
8:00 a.m.	Debra Majewski/Dianna & Chris Russick
<b>Saturday, March 28, 2026</b>	
8:00 a.m.	Angela Kenny/Mary Lou & Michael Bartley
5:00 p.m.	Jason Rutherford/Sauer Family
<b>Sunday, March 29, 2026</b>	
8:00 a.m.	Wesley & Barbara/ Scott & Mollie Maurer
10:00 a.m.	Dave Ryon/Family
5:00 p.m.	For the People



## Week of March 22

- EXTRA CONFESSIONS** following all Sunday Masses
- SHEEN BOOK CLUB** Sunday, March 22, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- ROSARY** Tuesday, March 24, 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- MILLIONS OF MONICAS** Tuesday, March 24, 7:00 p.m., Chapel
- CCD** Wednesday, March 25, 6:00 p.m., School
- OCIA** Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- LIFE & FREEDOM RALLY** Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 p.m., Church
- WOMEN OF THE WORD** Thursday, March 26, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall
- TMIY** Friday, March 27, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall
- ADORATION/CONFESSIONS** Friday, March 27, 6:00 p.m., Church
- STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Friday, March 27, 7:00 p.m., Church
- CONFESSION** Saturday, March 28, following morning Mass
- CHURCH CLEANING** Saturday following 8:00 a.m. Mass, Church

### UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>Pancake Breakfast</i>	<i>March 29</i>
<i>LifeTeen</i>	<i>April 12</i>

## 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

March 15, 2026

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,400.....	\$754,800
Sunday Collections.....	\$19,634.....	\$541,222
Electronic Collections.....	\$3,093.....	\$254,378
Total Collected.....	\$22,727.....	\$795,600
Over/(Short).....	\$2,327.....	\$40,800

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

Pat Hagemann  
Donald Tascher, father of Denise Tascher  
Paul Carroll

## 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

Extra confessions - following Saturday morning Mass & all Sunday Masses



Millions of Monicas is a ministry in the Diocese of Peoria for women to pray together for their children who have left the faith. This is not a support group or a self-help group. We simply meet once a month and pray together for each other's loved ones in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Join with other mothers, grandmothers, step-mothers, aunts, Godmothers, etc., as we pray to grow in holiness and humility, and for our children's faithful return to the Catholic Church.

**March 24 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**St. Thomas Daily Mass Chapel**

For more information visit  
[www.millionsofmonicas.com](http://www.millionsofmonicas.com)

## OCIA Schedule

- Mar 25:** History of the Church, Preparation for confession
- Apr 1:** Practice
- Apr 4:** Easter Vigil
- Apr 15:** Mystagogia

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## Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 29 ~ Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 2 ~ Holy Thursday  
Mass of the Lord's Supper ~ 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 3 ~ Good Friday  
Passion of Our Lord ~ 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 4 ~ Holy Saturday  
Mass of the Easter Vigil ~ 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 5 ~ Easter Sunday  
Masses ~ 8:00, 10:00 a.m.  
(NO 5:00 p.m.)



**For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. – Matthew 25: 35**



The St. Thomas Food Pantry offers an excellent opportunity for students needing service hours! On Monday and Thursday mornings, federal holidays excepted, the pantry distributes groceries to neighbors in need in the Peoria Heights area. Packing groceries, registering pantry guests, restocking shelves, repackaging food and helping guests to their vehicles are tasks that students will perform while under adult supervision. An additional service opportunity occurs one Thursday afternoon per month when we receive a truckload of food products from Midwest Food Bank. On these days, students help adult volunteers unload the truck, repackage food, rotate stock and stock shelves. Students interested in earning service hours at the food pantry should contact Diana Janda at dianajanda1964@gmail.com by Friday, May 15th.

### 2026 Opportunities Available:

Monday and Thursday mornings – 8:30 - 11:30 AM  
June 1st through August 13th

Monthly Food Delivery – 1:30 - 3:30 PM  
Thursdays June 11th, July 16th and August 13th

### 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

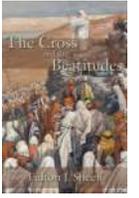
Prayers offered: Rosary, Chaplet of Mercy, and a Few Spontaneous Intercessory Prayers

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



## Fulton Sheen Book Club

The Fulton Sheen Book Club will meet on  
**Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**, at  
**6:00 pm in the Parish Hall**  
Discussion of: *The Cross and the Beatitudes*



## Catholic Women's League 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tea

(Rescheduled 2025 Christmas Tea – Seats Available)

**When:** Sunday, May 3, 2026

**Where:** St. Philomena Parish Center, 1000 W. Albany, Peoria, IL

**Time:** 1:30 – 3:30 pm

**Price Per Person:** Adult - \$35.00

Teen - \$20.00 (13-18)

Child - \$10.00 (5-12)



**RSVP:** April 17, 2026

Mail your check payable to Catholic Women's League mail to P. O. Box 9674, Peoria IL 61612. Include your name, phone number and guests' names.

Questions: Call or Text Ann Gerardo 630-464-8474.

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**

← Congratulations to our Spelling Bee Champion, Runner-Up and all participants! You're on your way to great things!



## Holy Thursday Pilgrimage with Bishop Lou

Altars of repose are a tradition that reflect on Christ's Passion. At each church there will be a reflection and an opportunity for quiet prayer.

### You're Invited

9:00pm on Holy Thursday, April 2, 2026 (After the 7:15pm Mass)  
Pilgrimage route will begin and end at St. Mary's Cathedral with prayerful stops at the churches of St. Mark (Peoria), St. Vincent de Paul (Peoria), and St. Philomena (Peoria).

Free buses with limited seating will be provided by the Catholic Diocese 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!

Celebrate **Catholic Spirit Radio's 15<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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: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



Steven Mosher

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

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

## EAGLE EYE TEEN SUMMER INSTITUTE

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**July 11th - 19th**

Ages 16 -18 years old

St. Joseph Priory, Princeville, IL

Register at [eagleeyeministries.org](http://eagleeyeministries.org) or scan the QR code

For questions, contact Kathy at [kathykimar@gmail.com](mailto:kathykimar@gmail.com)

### 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** \_\_\_\_\_

**PEORIA NOTRE DAME**  
 PRESENTS:

## BYE BYE BIRDIE

Directed by Peggy Hupp  
**Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**  
**Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM and 7 PM**

Tickets are \$10 for adults | \$7 for students  
 Tickets will be available at the door.



**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.



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## St. Thomas the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin



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