

## St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
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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).



*April 26, 2026*



**THEY RECOGNIZE  
HIS VOICE**

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

© Diocesan



## From Our Pastor

It is a joy to have Fr. Marc Nkulu back for the weekend as he conducts a mission appeal for the support of the Society of African Missionaries. Each year, each parish is responsible for an appeal in support of the Church in mission territories. This weekend is Good Shepherd Sunday, which is a fitting time to support those who shepherd the flock in distant lands.

You will find envelopes and brochures that you can use for this appeal. Kindly make any checks payable to St. Thomas.

Thank you for your patience as we have completed the repair of the HVAC system in the church. Since the system is 25 years old, some repairs are to be expected. I believe this repair will serve the church well for years to come.

Next Saturday is First Communion for our second grade students. The children have prepared all year and are looking forward to this milestone in their faith. At the same time, each of us should consider the importance of the Eucharist in our spiritual life.

I encourage everyone to prepare yourselves for Sunday Mass, to examine your conscience and go to confession if needed, and to show reverence for the real presence of Our Lord. In addition, Archbishop Sheen gives us a noble example of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. We can deepen our faith by praying in the church, and by attending holy hours or adoration. The day before First Communion is a First Friday. Please volunteer to come and pray with the Lord Jesus.

- Msgr. Gray



## Readings for the Week of April 26, 2026

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> Acts 2: 14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 2: 20b-25; John 10: 1-10
<b>Monday</b>	Acts 11: 1-18; John 10: 11-18
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest</b> Acts 11: 19-26; John 10: 22-30
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin &amp; Doctor of the Church</b> Acts 12: 24—13: 5a; John 12: 44-50
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>St. Pius V, Pope</b> Acts 13: 13-25; John 13: 16-20
<b>Friday</b>	<b>St. Joseph the Worker</b> Acts 13: 26-33; John 14: 1-6
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Athanasius, Bishop &amp; Doctor of the Church</b> Acts 13: 44-52; John 14: 7-14
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> Acts 6: 1-7; 1 Peter 2: 4-9; John 14: 1-12

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, April 27, 2026

7:00 a.m. Intentions of Dr. Gary & Vivette Miller/Kevin Morrissey  
8:00 a.m. Mary & Gene Leihenseder/David & Rose Chase

### Tuesday, April 28, 2026

7:00 a.m. Eugene & Beatrice Maurer/Scott & Mollie Maurer  
8:00 a.m. Robert Newtson/Karen Thomas

### Wednesday, April 29, 2026

7:00 a.m. Deb Majewski/Ronnie & Roberta Duckworth  
Schl Mass Deb Majewski/Gary & Teresa Doll

### Thursday, April 30, 2026

7:00 a.m. Mark Olson/Trudy Morton  
8:00 a.m. Intentions of Barb Dolton/Mary Ann Noe

### Friday, May 1, 2026

7:00 p.m. Annie Holland-Morrissey/Kevin Morrissey  
8:00 a.m. Angela Kenny/Joanie & Tom Burke

### Saturday, May 2, 2026

8:00 a.m. Donald Doemling/Beth & Kevin O'Brien  
5:00 p.m. Intentions of Rick & Melanie Picl 10<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniv.

### Sunday, May 3, 2026

8:00 a.m. Kurt Rostetler/Roger & Ellen Umdenstock  
10:00 a.m. Mike Doran/The Wombacher Family  
5:00 p.m. For the People

## Week of April 26

- FR. NKULU MISSION APPEAL** At all Masses this weekend
- SIGN-UP FOR FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION** This Weekend after all Masses, narthex
- SHEEN BOOK CLUB** Sunday, April 26, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- ROSARY** Tuesday, April 28, 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- MILLIONS OF MONICAS** Tuesday, April 28, 7:00 P.m., Chapel
- PARISH COUNCIL** Tuesday, April 28, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office
- CCD** Wednesday, April 29, 6:00 p.m., School
- ST. IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY** Thursday, April 30, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- ADORATION** Friday, May 1, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.
- CHURCH CLEANING** Saturday, following 8:00 a.m. Mass, Church
- FIRST COMMUNION** Saturday, May 2, 10:00 a.m., Church

### UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>LifeTeen</i>	May 3
<i>Spring Band/Choir Concert</i>	May 11
<i>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation</i>	May 19
<i>St. Thomas Holy Hour</i>	May 21

## Pray with the Pope

April 2026  
For Priests In Crisis

Let us pray for Priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.



## Weekly Collection

April 19, 2026

	Fiscal YTD	
Collections needed.....	\$20,400.....	\$856,800
Sunday Collections.....	\$30,113.....	\$622,403
Electronic Collections.....	\$1,054.....	\$282,813
Total Collected.....	\$31,167.....	\$905,216
Over/(Short).....	\$10,767.....	\$48,416

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

John Stewart Mangis

## Baptism Congratulations

Kaliyah Jude Frickleton, daughter of Kirstin Frickleton & Jared Selburg

## *SMA MISSION APPEAL MESSAGE*

It is with great joy that I return to this parish, where I was blessed to serve two years ago. I remain deeply grateful for the faith, kindness, and support you shared with me during my time among you. As the Church continues to emphasize the call to mission, we are all reminded that by our baptism, each of us is sent to share the Good News of Jesus Christ both in our local communities and to the ends of the earth. This weekend **April 25-26, 2026, I come to you on behalf of the Society of African Missions (SMA) for our Mission Appeal.**

The SMA is dedicated in a special way to proclaiming the Gospel in parts of Africa where the Church is still growing and where many communities are in great need of pastoral care, education, and hope. Your prayers and generous support make it possible for SMA missionaries to continue this vital work. In supporting the missions, you are truly participating in the Church's universal mission.

I invite you to keep the missions in your prayers and, if you are able, to support us in this appeal. Thank you once again for your warm welcome and continued support. May God bless you and your families.

Father Marc NKULU, SMA

Sponsor of the Week



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## Prayer • Honor • Blessings – May 9, 2026

All women and graduates of the Peoria Diocese are warmly invited to a beautiful day of **prayer, honor, and blessings** as we celebrate **Mary, our Mother**.

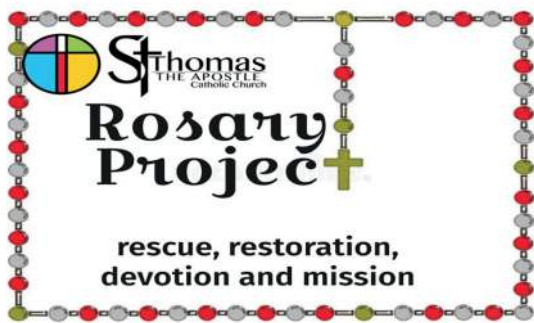
Join us for:

- **Marian Procession and May Crowning**
- **Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Chase Hilgenbrinck** at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Peoria
- **Celebration Tea** at the Spalding Pastoral Center

We will **honor Mother's Day as a blessing for all women**, and **all mothers and graduates will be recognized and celebrated at both the Mass and the Celebration Tea**.

**RSVP by April 20 to April Adams at 309-369-5110.**

Come celebrate faith, motherhood, and new beginnings with women across the Diocese!



Looking for new or old rosaries, rosary parts or rosaries with broken chains, missing beads to be rescued and/or restored back to praying hands. You can drop these in the boxes found at the narthex or by the table at the lower level entrance.

Blessed rosaries are available in the baskets the week before First Saturdays at no cost and are also intended for first communicants, OCIA, hospital/homebound, funerals, missions in Africa, or by request.

### Sheen Book Club



The *Fulton Sheen book club* will meet on **Sunday evening, April 26<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-7:30 pm** in the Parish Hall to discuss chapters 1-9 of *The World's First Love: Mary, Mother of God*.

## When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



*There is more happiness in rejoicing in the good of others, than in rejoicing in our own good.* Archbishop Fulton Sheen

I believe this is the epicenter of our Catholic faith. Not worrying about *How will we be taken care of?* but *How can we take care of others!*

During the Lenten season that we all just witnessed, lived and celebrated on Easter Sunday I had several encounters with our Vincentian "Friends in Need" who contacted our helpline in need of assistance.

When entering the home or apartment one finds not just a financial need but many times a spiritual one as well. I personally end our visit with the question "How did All of us get here today? 9 out of 10 will say God. In our SVDP ministry we want to acknowledge that Christ is our Leader and he is sending His help thru our teams and you, as Benefactors.

*If you judge people, you have no time to love them.* Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Before becoming a Vincentian, my biggest human fault was judging others. I still struggle with it today, but I know God has a plan for me and every soul. Who am I to get in the way of His plan.

Every home visit, every "Friend in Need" encounter brings with it the opportunity to not only offer Christ's assistance to another human being but to us as well. He works on both sides. He saves not one life but many. Know that when we are in a conversation you are in that conversation too, as His Benefactors. Pray for us always as we pray for you. Without you we cannot do His mission.

*Pray, Hope, & Don't Worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer.* St. Padre Pio

For most of us, we worry about things or life events that when stacked next to the poor are relatively small in stature. Especially in our youth and younger adult years. In my younger married life I was constantly thinking of how I could better my family, my business and rarely did I seek out my neighbor who might be struggling financially or emotionally. My dad would tell me from time to time, "remember to give back since that giving will come back a hundred fold." And in my later years, after I heeded his advice, it has. My wife celebrating a renewed 20 years of life after being told she had stage 4 breast cancer, four healthy children and our four (soon to be five) beautiful grandchildren. Many times I have witnessed His miracles thru this ministry. One of our "Friends in Need" will ask for assistance and we make a pledge (i.e. Ameren or rent) for \$300-\$400. They see that someone cares enough to offer help and they gain a sense of confidence in themselves, long since disappeared. God does hear each of our prayers and only asks that we in turn love Him thru others in need.

*The Blessed Virgin used me like a broom and then put me back in my place.* St. Bernadette of Lourdes

We can learn a lot from saints. Monsignor Gray gave a talk on the saints a few years back which inspired me to find out how they managed their daily lives. In almost all the stories I read it was a simple devotion to helping others.

They suffered tremendous hardships and weathered the storm with an end goal of reaching eternal peace in Heaven.

In closing, I would like to thank you for All of your support Past, Present & Future. We strive to make a difference in our community thru each one of you!

~ Brian Barkley

*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 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**2026 Opportunities Available:**

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

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

**BUS TRANSPORTATION TO THE BEATIFICATION OF ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN**

\$75 per passenger (includes a ticket for the beatification) Sign up



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stthomaspeoria.org



THURSDAY  
**September 24, 2026**  
ST. LOUIS, MO

**FIRST FIVE SATURDAYS DEVOTION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**  
requested by Our Lady on 10 December 1926\*

**Rosary** 7:35 am  
**Mass** 8:00 am  
**Confessions** available after Mass  
**Meditation** for 15 minutes  
on the Mysteries of the Rosary (self-guided)

*\*part of Our Lady of Fatima's PEACE plan from heaven – (1) penance & reparation, (2) daily rosary, (3) Five First Saturday devotion, and (4) consecration to her Immaculate Heart.*

*Blessed rosaries are available at the narthex at no cost.  
Rosary restoration and rescue are offered as part of the Rosary Project.*

**Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn & Their Mothers**

Join Pro-life Prayer Warriors and Knights of Columbus at a Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn on Monday, **May 4, from 7:00-8:00 pm at St. Mark's Church, Peoria.** Join us in Mary's month in offering a Spiritual Bouquet to our Blessed Mother so that every human life will be protected in law and welcomed in love. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the rosary, adoration, and Benediction.

## SAVE THE DATE!

9th Annual Golf Outing for  
**Building Hope in Kids - Uganda**  
**Sunday, Aug. 13, 2026**  
 12 noon shotgun start  
 Quail Meadows Golf Course  
 More information at [www.buildinghopeinkids.org](http://www.buildinghopeinkids.org)



**50th Wedding Anniversary**  
 Celebration for Mr. and Mrs.  
 Gary Thompson May 2, 2026  
 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 St. Thomas Parish Hall  
*All are invited*

**St. Thomas - Food Pantry**

While all donations are greatly appreciated, of particular need at this time are: jelly, peanut butter, green beans, corn and cereal

*Thank you!*

**EMMAUS DAYS 2026**

PEORIA VOCATIONS  
 OFFICE OF PREBENEDICTINE VOCATIONS

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

<https://www.cdop.org/emmaus-days>

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New Parishioner \_\_\_\_\_ Change of address/phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

**PEORIA NOTRE DAME YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

Click the QR code for more information and to register

**Last Weekend in April**  
**48<sup>th</sup> Lebanese Food Festival**

**Saint Sharbel LEBANESE FOOD FESTIVAL**

**Sunday, April 26, 2026**  
 Dine-In - OR - Drive-Thru  
**11:00AM-5:00PM**

Adult Meal (\$20) | Child Meal (\$15)  
 Bake Sale, Cash Raffle, & 50/50 All Day  
*a la carte menu items for sale in Marketplace after 5pm*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25 4PM-6PM** Order/Pay Online by Wednesday, 4/22 pick up in drive-thru Saturday afternoon

- ONLINE PREORDERS ONLY (individual meals or family packs) (must order/pay in advance; no orders taken on Saturday)
- select desserts/a la carte menu items also available

For additional details or to preorder online, visit [stsharbelchurch.org](http://stsharbelchurch.org)

**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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St. Thomas class of 2026

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