

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

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msgrgray@stthomas-church.net

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DeMeulemeester.....(x1430)
frpat@stthomas-church.net

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fredward@stthomas-church.net

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(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).



May 10, 2026
Sixth Sunday of Easter



First Eucharist Congratulations

Nic Rigel Aborido
Anna Achterberg
Paul Matteo Macaranas Alivia
Jonathan Almonazi
Alora Arnold
Eugene Armando Teano Asuncion
Egan Blackburn
Mateo Lucas Pascual Badilla
Emma Eggena
Oliver Hulteen
Olivia Hulteen
Julian Kaeding
Nolan Klusendorf
Charles Knecht
Chapman Lees
Sianna Marie Matula
Aleiyah Menchaca
Jameson Peitzmeier
Leo Radosavlyev
Aurelius Shirk
Fletcher Suydam
Chloe Tamburro
Cyllis Trapps

God took the fragrance
of a flower...
The majesty of a tree...
The gentleness of
morning dew...
The calm of a quiet sea...
The beauty
of the twilight hour...
The soul
of a starry night...
The laughter of a
rippling brook...
The grace of a bird
in flight...
Then God fashioned
from these things
A creation like no other.
And when his
masterpiece was through
He called it simply -
Mother.
- Herbert Farnham

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From Our Pastor

Last weekend, announcements were made about clergy transfers. On the first of July, I will become rector of St. Mary's Cathedral and pastor of Sacred Heart Parish.

I mentioned that my first instinct was to ask to stay at St. Thomas, however, after reflecting, I believe this would have been for selfish reasons. Many are aware of the work on the Beatification of Archbishop Sheen, but there are also other responsibilities that I have in the Tribunal and with some other canonical cases. I could try to hold on to everything, but I don't believe it would be wise or healthy for me not to cut back somewhat.

Being at the Cathedral will be helpful for the Sheen Cause and I'm sure that I will see many people from time to time at the Cathedral or at Sacred Heart.

Your new pastor will be Father Johndamaseni Zilimu who is currently the pastor of St. Matthew Parish in Champaign. Father John has been a priest in this diocese for 26 years and incardinated as a permanent member of our presbyterate in 2014. He has been on the Presbyteral Council and is an excellent priest who will be a good leader for this parish.

Father Patrick DeMeulemeester will remain, which I believe is an important point of continuity for the parish.

Toward the end of June, we will have an opportunity for farewells both for myself and for Father Edward who will become parochial vicar at St. Mark Parish in Peoria.

--Msgr. Gray

Sheen Book Club Welcomes New Members

The current book is: **The World's First Love**.
**The next meeting will be on Sunday, May 17th,
at 6:00 p.m. to discuss chapters 10-15.**

The next book we will be reading is **Go to Heaven**, and discussion will begin on June 15th, if anyone would like to join this summer! We also have an online discussion. If interested in joining the book club, please contact Rhonda phone, text, or email, 309-678-3905, rhondabachman1@gmail.com.



Readings for the Week of May 10, 2026

Sunday	Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3: 15-18; John 14: 15-21
Monday	Acts 16: 11-15; John 15: 26—16: 4a
Tuesday	Sfs. Nereus & Achilleus, Martyrs Acts 16: 22-34; John 16: 5-11
Wednesday	Our Lady of Fatima Acts 17: 15, 22—18: 1; John 16: 12-15
Thursday	St. Mathias, Apostle Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26; John 15: 9-17
Friday	St. Isidore Acts 18: 9-18; John 16: 20-23
Saturday	Acts 18: 23-28; John 16: 23b-28
Sunday	The Ascension of the Lord Acts 1: 1-11; Ephesians 1: 17-23; Matthew 28: 16-20

Mass Intentions

Monday, May 11, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Ward, Nyla, & Needra Bell/Jack & Margaret Weinstein
8:00 a.m.	Mary Ambrosch 1 st Anniv./Dcn. Ed & Cathy Mallow

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Mark Olson/Pam Cohen
8:00 a.m.	Hafner & Smith Families/Fred Hafner

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist
8:00 a.m.	Don Grebner/Nancy Becker

Thursday, May 14, 2026

7:00 a.m.	Robert Maurer/Scott & Mollie Maurer
Schl Mass	Elita Kayyaly/The Bachman Family

Friday, May 15, 2026

7:00 p.m.	Mary Lang/Carole Rogers
8:00 a.m.	Tony Ardis/Sue Ardis

Saturday, May 16, 2026

8:00 a.m.	Angela Kenny/Dan & Pam Dillon
5:00 p.m.	Kurt Rostetter/Paul Sauer

Sunday, May 17, 2026

8:00 a.m.	For the People
10:00 a.m.	Nham Vu/Phan & Tam Vu
5:00 p.m.	Intentions of Steve Harms

Week of May 10

GRANDPARENTING & THE FAITH Monday, May 11, 9:00 a.m., Parish Hall

SPRING BAND/CHOIR CONCERT Monday, May 11, 6:00 p.m., School

ROSARY Tuesday, May 12, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

ST. IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY Thursday, May 14, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, May 14, 6:30 p.m.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

8 th Grade Graduation	May 19
St. Thomas Holy Hour	May 21
Millions of Monicas	May 26
Adoration	June 5
Clergy Convocation	June 15-18

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



Pray with the Pope

May 2026

That Everyone Might Have Food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.



Our Sympathy

Diane Rians, Aunt of Mary & Mark Gschwend

Gary Cecil

*Happy Mother's Day
To all our*

*Mothers,
Grandmothers, &
Godmothers*



Dear Fathers, Reverend Sisters and Dear Parishioners,

I write to you with a heart full of gratitude after my recent visit to your parish for the SMA Mission Appeal. Returning to a community where I once served was truly a moment of great joy and deep emotion for me. I was sincerely touched by the warm welcome you gave me. Your kindness, support, and joyful spirit made my visit a beautiful and memorable experience. I felt home. The enthusiasm with which you received me and supported the mission is a powerful witness to your living faith and your commitment to the work of the Church.

I am especially grateful for your openness to the needs of the missions and for your generous support of the SMA Fathers' mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Through your prayers and contributions, you are making a real difference in the lives of many girls who are victims of the ongoing conflict in the Congo. Please be assured of my continued prayers for you all. May God bless you abundantly for your goodness, and may Saint Thomas parish continue to grow in faith, love, and unity.

With heartfelt thanks and prayers,

Father Marc NKULU, SMA

Weekly Collection

May 3, 2026

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,400.....	\$897,600
Sunday Collections.....	\$15,198.....	\$645,918
Electronic Collections.....	\$2,268.....	\$285,366
Total Collected.....	\$17,466.....	\$931,284
Over/(Short).....	\$(2,934).....	\$33,684

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.

Sponsor of the Week



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About the
Beatification**

Visit celebratesheen.com for more information about attending, obtaining tickets when they become available, and preparing spiritually for the Beatification.

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Beatification**

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*Don't just attend—
make it a pilgrimage.*

Come early. Stay longer.

*Enter into prayer, community,
and celebration as we mark
this historic moment in the life
of the Church.*

*Learn more and get tickets for
events at celebratesheen.com.*

Plan your pilgrimage today!

OFFICIAL ROSTER OF EVENTS

TICKET INFORMATION AVAILABLE SOON

PEORIA

Tuesday, September 15

9-Day Novena Begins
Novena of Holy Hours
Cathedral of St. Mary | 7 PM

Tuesday, September 15 - Wednesday, September 23

9-Day Novena of Holy Hours, Cathedral of St. Mary | 7 PM

Sunday, September 20

Anniversary Mass of Sheen's Ordination
Cathedral of St. Mary | 3 PM
TICKET REQUIRED

ST. LOUIS

Wednesday, September 23

Vespers at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis | 5 PM
TICKET REQUIRED

Thursday, September 24

Expo at The Dome at America's Center | 8 AM - 6 PM
Adoration & Confession | 9 AM
Pre-Mass Show | 10 AM

Beatification Mass | 2 PM

The Dome at America's Center
Live stream and broadcast available
TICKET REQUIRED

Veneration of Relic | 4 - 6 PM

PEORIA

Friday, September 25

Masses of Thanksgiving | 9 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM
Parish Talks | 10:30 AM/ST. JUDE, 12:30 PM/ST. PHILOMENA,
2:30 PM/ST. THOMAS
Sheen Award Gala, Peoria Civic Center | 6 PM
TICKET REQUIRED

Saturday, September 26

Masses of Thanksgiving
Byzantine Rite Mass of Thanksgiving,
Cathedral of St. Mary

**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!

New Tax Deduction for Non-Itemizers

Under current law, taxpayers who take the standard deduction (those who do not itemize) generally cannot deduct charitable contributions. **Beginning in 2026**, the new law restores an above-the-line deduction for cash gifts made to qualified public charities. This means that even if you do not itemize, you can still deduct charitable gifts up to:

- \$1,000 for single taxpayers
- \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

Your generosity now goes even further! By making a cash gift to St Thomas, you can support our parish and school while taking advantage of this new tax benefit.

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

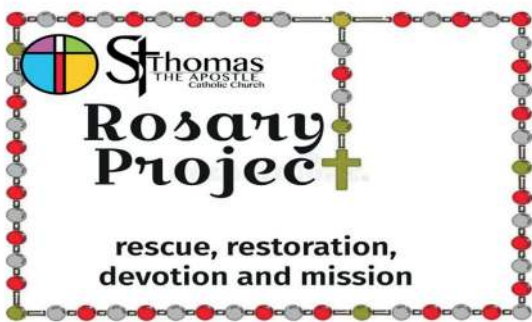


The St. Thomas Food Pantry offers an excellent opportunity for students needing service hours! On Monday and Thursday mornings, federal holidays excepted, the pantry distributes groceries to neighbors in need in the Peoria Heights area. Packing groceries, registering pantry guests, restocking shelves, 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



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.



Dear Friends,

April 16, 2026

The priests of the Diocese of Peoria will gather for their first ever clergy convocation from Sunday evening, June 14 through Thursday, June 18. These are important days for the presbyterate to come together for prayer and reflection, fraternity and respite. Days such as these renew a priest's spirit for their ministry.

All our priests have been invited to participate in the convocation. Since those who have accepted this invitation will be away from the parish these days, it will be necessary to cancel weekday Masses. However, Masses may be celebrated in some areas where a priest is available. I am asking the parishes, if possible, to plan celebrations of the Eucharist in the Absence of a Priest or some other prayer service during the convocation. In cases of emergency, parishioners should contact the parish staff who will try to refer the matter as is appropriate.

I invite the faithful of the diocese to support their priests during this special opportunity for them to gather. First, pray for the priests. Know that you will be carried in their prayers throughout the convocation. Second, offer encouragement to the priests for their participation. It is a great affirmation that we give our priests this opportunity. Finally, be understanding and patient of the changes that must happen which disrupt our normal daily schedule and availability.

Peace and Prayers,

+ *Louis Tylka*
✦ Most Reverend Louis Tylka
Bishop of Peoria

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Summer catechetical experience

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The Totus Tuus summer catechetical program is a week long parish mission for Catholic youth in grades 1st-12th. It is dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic Faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship.

SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 28-JULY 3, 2026
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

DAY PROGRAM (1ST-6TH)
MONDAY-FRIDAY, 9 AM - 2:30 PM

TEEN PROGRAM (7TH-12TH) SUN-THURSDAY 6:30 - 8:15 PM

REGISTER TODAY AT THE PARISH OFFICE

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



EMMAUS DAYS 2026



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>



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TUESDAY, MAY 12
7:00 PM

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DONATIONS APPRECIATED

Job Title: Campus Minister – St. Joseph Catholic Newman Center Location: Curia – Peoria, IL Reports to: Chaplain Job Type: Full-time **About St. Joseph Catholic Newman Center** The Newman Center is situated on the campus of Bradley University and serves students on campus as well as other college-aged individuals in Greater Peoria. The center is adjacent to St. Mark’s parish and partners with its clergy and staff to help students encounter Jesus, stay rooted in his Church, and grow as his disciples. **About the Role** Together the two Campus Ministers work together to oversee all day-to-day activities of the Newman Center under the direction of the Chaplain/Director. They work closely with the Director, Student Leadership Council, and the Student Koinonia Retreat Core Team. If interested **submit your application** to sara.petty@ncbu.org **before June 1, 2026.**

Star Wars arrives

at **the Lindenhof**, 7403 Radnor Road,
Peoria on **May 17th**.

Join us for a fun Galactic evening of dance to benefit Sophia’s Kitchen. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. There will be a variety of Star Wars themed music and ballroom, Latin and Swing dancing. Enjoy FREE Beverage, coffee, Popcorn and Mix Snacks.

Doors Open at 5:45pm
 Social Dance: 6pm to 9pm
 Cost: \$10 per person or canned goods.
 Purchase tickets online at www.youngdanceinc.com See you on the dance floor!

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 _____

Would you like to be contacted by the New Parishioner Welcoming Committee? Yes _____ No _____

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 8:30 a.m. and 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 class of 2026

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