

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
904 East Lake Avenue,
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stthomaspeoria.org; 309-688-3446
parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

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msggray@stthomas-church.net

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

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Edward Besigye.....
fredward@stthomas-church.net

Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB
(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

Deacon: Dcn. John Nelson.....981-2716
Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735
Dcn. Mark Kelsch... (Senior Status)

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katecrim@stthomas-church.net

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maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

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parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

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nathaliecorbett@stthomas-church.net

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).



May 24, 2026
Pentecost Sunday



Congratulations Graduates

Caden Atkins	Onyx Martin
Jonah Beyer	Isabella Menchaca
Natalie Braet	Amalea Mouro
Kennedy Cook	Evelyn Olson
Jaxton Cowan	Christina Pag-ong
McKinley Dennhardt	Mazzy Parry
Alexis Dinh	Aberdeen Rasch
Jack Gebhards	Dyana Reese
Ezekiel Hernandez	Riley Reusch
Juliana Hudson	Emelia Ritterbusch
Morghan James	Andrew Rodriguez
Colton Kepple	Ella Schmidt
Katie Lai	Paul Schramm
Bryan Le	Noelle Shields
Marisa Leon	Zoe Torres Ravelo
Cruz Madrigal	Caleb Whitten





From Our Pastor

We brought this year at St. Thomas School to a successful conclusion this week as we look forward to Memorial Day. I am grateful to the parents for your support and to all the faculty and staff for their hard work. Our parishioners are immensely generous in supporting Catholic education, which allows us to make St. Thomas School accessible to anyone looking for a quality education for their children.

On Memorial Day, be aware that we will have one Mass at 9:00 a.m. as we pray for our country and for those who have served and protected our freedoms.

Looking ahead, Corpus Christi will be on Sunday, June 7. Like previous years, we will have a procession with the Blessed Sacrament around the campus after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Join us for this devotion to the Eucharist. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

Later in the summer, we will have Totus Tuus, a Catholic vacation Bible school program from June 28 to July 3. There will be a daytime program for the students going into grades 1-6 and an evening program for the teens going into grades 7-12. Please watch the bulletin to register your children. Also, let the office know if you want to volunteer.

The Diocese of Peoria has prepared a history of the Catholic Diocese to celebrate its 150th anniversary. Copies of this handsome and beautiful book are available for purchase. Please contact the parish office.

- Msgr. Gray

Sheen Book Club Welcomes New Members

The next book we will be reading is **Go to Heaven**, and discussion will begin on **June 15th**.

All are welcome 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 24, 2026

Sunday	Pentecost Sunday Vigil: Genesis 11: 1-9; Romans 8: 22-27; John 7: 37-39 Sunday: Acts 2: 1-11; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-7, 12-13; John 20: 19-23
Monday	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church Genesis 3: 9-15, 20; John 19: 25-34
Tuesday	St. Philip Neri, Priest 1 Peter 1: 10-16; Mark 10: 28-31
Wednesday	St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop 1 Peter 1: 18-25; Mark 10: 32-45
Thursday	1 Peter 2: 2-5, 9-12; Mark 10: 46-52
Friday	St. Paul VI, Pope 1 Peter 4: 7-13; Mark 11: 11-26
Saturday	Jude 17, 20b-25; Mark 11: 27-33
Sunday	The Most Holy Trinity Exodus 34: 4b-6, 8-9; 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13; John 3: 16-18

Mass Intentions

Monday, May 25, 2026	9:00 a.m. Intentions of Dr. Gary & Vivette Miller/Kevin Morrissey
Tuesday, May 26, 2026	7:00 a.m. Charley & Peggy Hessling/Dcn. Ed & Cathy Mallow 8:00 a.m. Truyen Nguyen/Tan Tran
Wednesday, May 27, 2026	7:00 a.m. Jodi Odum/Marjorie Schwebel 8:00 a.m. Deb Majewski/Ronnie & Roberta Duckworth
Thursday, May 28, 2026	7:00 a.m. Charles & Liz Zeman/Jack & Margaret Weinstein 8:00 a.m. Angie Cassidy/Kitty Bienemann
Friday, May 29, 2026	7:00 p.m. Mary Ambrosch/Tom Ambrosch Schl Mass Annie Holland Morrissey/Kevin Morrissey
Saturday, May 30, 2026	8:00 a.m. Mary Ann O'Neill 5:00 p.m. Patricia McCauley/David McCauley
Sunday, May 31, 2026	8:00 a.m. Craig Maurer/Scott & Mollie Maurer 10:00 a.m. For the People 5:00 p.m. Fr. Tom Taylor, 1 st Anniv/Dcn. Ed & Cathy Mallow

Week of May 24

- PARISH OFFICE CLOSED** Monday, May 25, For Memorial Day
- MEMORIAL DAY MASS** Monday, May 25, 9:00 a.m. only, Church
- ROSARY** Tuesday, May 26, 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- MILLIONS OF MONICAS** Tuesday, May 26, 7:00 p.m., Chapel
- ST. IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY** Thursday, May 28, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- CHURCH CLEANING** Saturday, following 8:00 a.m. Mass, Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adoration	June 5
Clergy Convocation	June 15-18
Communion Service Only	June 15-18
Millions of Monicas	June 23
St. Thomas Holy Hour	June 25
Totus Tuus	June 29-July 3

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.



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



Weekly Collection

May 17, 2026

Fiscal YTD

Collections needed.....	\$20,400.....	\$938,400
Sunday Collections.....	\$11,441.....	\$668,832
Electronic Collections.....	\$8,355.....	\$301,991
Total Collected.....	\$19,796.....	\$970,823
Over/(Short).....	\$(604).....	\$32,423

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

Please pray for those who have died this week



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.

May 26 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Daily Mass Chapel

For more information visit
www.millionsofmonicas.com

KICK IT WITH LIFETEEN

Freshmen Welcome Night!

JUNE 7
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
St. Thomas Parish in Peoria Heights

Event Includes:

- Free Dinner provided
- Meet other teens from Peoria
- Friendly Kickball competition
- Learn about LifeTeen

All High School students are welcome including new freshmen

No registration needed!

Peoria Area LifeTeen
@peorialifeteen
peorialifeteen@gmail.com

Sponsor of the Week

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richardjunedds.com

Parishioner

309-693-7200

Trumpeter



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. PHLOMENA,**
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

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!



ST. THOMAS FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

SAVE THE DATE

THURS. JULY 2, 2026
MASS 5:30PM
FELLOWSHIP 6:30PM

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!

Beatification Update

As excitement continues to grow for the Beatification, we encourage pilgrims and visitors to begin making hotel reservations on **May 8, 2026**. Go to CelebrateSheen.com to reserve your hotel rooms in St. Louis and Peoria.

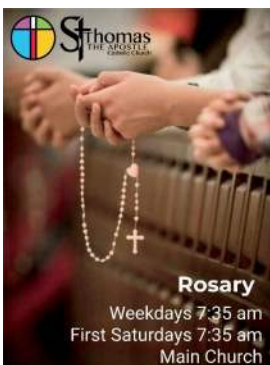
We anticipate that ticket sales for the Beatification Mass and surrounding events will open in June 2026.

Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus


As part of the ongoing celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Peoria, we are consecrating our diocese to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. **The Consecration Mass is on June 12, 2026 - the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - at The Cathedral of Saint Mary at 5:00 p.m.**



Learn more about the Consecration of our Diocese to the Sacred Heart of Jesus by visiting cdop.org/sacred-heart.



Rosary
Weekdays 7:35 am
First Saturdays 7:35 am
Main Church



Memorial Day Mass

MONDAY, May 25, 9:30 am
Msgr. Jerry Ward, Presider

www.ccapeo.org
309.691.5889

*St. Joseph of
Arimathea Chapel
Resurrection Mausoleum*
7519 N Allen Rd, Peoria

For Bus Tickets to the Beatification

Sign up on our
website: [stthom-
aspeoria.org](http://stthom-
aspeoria.org) or
call the Parish
Office



PEORIA
NOTRE-DAME

congratulations
to the Class of 2026 Graduates – St. Thomas
Alumni & Parish Members

<p>Gracie Anderson Rylie Bare Jack Bartoletta Hailey Beck James Beyer Blake Buckardt Celest Cogdal Michael Guingrich</p>	<p>Remington Joesting Brendan Krider Jacob LaBarre William Lynch Haven Mouro Andrew Plaskon Michael Plaskon Julian Sturm Julia Watts</p>
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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, repack 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

+

Thank You & Farewell

Join us for a special celebration honoring Monsignor Gray and all of the dedication, faith, and hard work he has given to St. Thomas.

Come share your appreciation, well wishes, and memories as we send Monsignor Gray off with our prayers and heartfelt thanks. All are welcome!

Saturday, June 27th
Following 5 pm Mass

Sunday, June 28th
Following all Masses

Location: Parish Hall

"Bye now; and God love you!"
~ Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

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Women's Read-Along

Join us to learn more about St. John Paul II and his words on the dignity of women through a parish summer read-along and guided discussion. An opportunity to stay engaged and avoid any spiritual summer slumps.

RSVP to Bryton Parker:
parkerbryton@gmail.com

6:30pm in the Parish Hall.
Childcare is available.

Online versions of the texts found here: Use the title, year, and bolded writing type below to find.

Please read the specified writing by the meeting dates below:

A JP2 SUMMER

June 11: Mulieris Dignitatem, an apostolic letter on the dignity of women (1988)

July 9: Letter to Women, a letter about the rights of women and the challenges modern women face (1995)

August 6: Evangelium Vitae, a papal encyclical on the sanctity of human life (1995)



Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession

Sunday, June 7, 2026
Following the 10:00 a.m. Mass

TOTUS TUUS

Summer catechetical experience

- FUN AND GAMES
- FANTASTIC STAFF
- DAILY MASS
- CATECHESIS

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

Pray about sharing in this Faith-filled Opportunity!!

Catholic Women's League of Peoria, IL Day Bus Trip to:



White House Jesuit Retreat Center



We are SO FORTUNATE Our Tour Guide will be....
Rev. Richard Hermes, SJ., Executive Director

When: Monday, June 22, 2026

Where: St. Louis, Missouri

Departure Time: 6 am from St. Philomena Parking Lot (Peoria)

Return Time: 6 pm St. Philomena Parking Lot

Transportation: Peoria Charter Coach

Entire Trip Fee: \$125 per person
RSVP and payment are due by June 5, 2026

All are welcome (Women & Men)
Includes Retreat, Mass, & Lunch

For reservations and questions please contact:
Bonnie Stroot – 309-688-8063 or strootb@yahoo.com

Mail check payable to Catholic Women's League
P O Box 9674, Peoria, IL 61612

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 _____

PEORIA TEC RETREATS
NEW SCHEDULE, SAME POWERFUL EXPERIENCE!

PEORIA XE1

A LIFE-CHANGING WEEKEND. A FAITH THAT LASTS.

Based on feedback from our teens, Peoria TEC retreats will now begin Friday evening and conclude Sunday after lunch—making it easier to participate while still offering the same deep, spiritual impact.

Parents and the TEC community are invited to join us for **SUNDAY LUNCH!**

We're committed to the same powerful retreat experience—now with a schedule that better meets the needs of our teens and families.

Come. Encounter Christ. Be Transformed.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE & SIGN UP TODAY!
PEORIATEC.ORG

UPCOMING RETREAT DATES

GIRLS TEC #383
Friday, June 19, 2026 at 5PM
Sunday, June 21, 2026 after lunch

BOYS TEC #384
Friday, July 10, 2026 at 5PM
Sunday, July 12, 2026 after lunch

ENCOURAGE A TEEN. SPOTS FILL QUICKLY!

EMMAUS DAYS 2026

PEORIA VOCATIONS OFFICE OF HOLY 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

EMMAUS DAYS Est. 1984

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

Holy Hour for the Unborn and their Mothers

This month, we celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi on June 7. Pope St. John Paul II wrote in The Gospel of Life: *It is from the blood of Christ that all find strength to commit themselves to promoting life.* Join Pro-life Prayer Warriors and Knights of Columbus as we find strength in prayer and in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament to promote Life at a **Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn on Monday, June 1, from 7:00-8:00 pm at St. Mark's Church, Peoria.**



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.



Diocesan is proud to be printing

St. Thomas the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin



You are invited to help support our Parish!
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Happy 8th Grade Graduation
 St. Thomas class of 2026

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