

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

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

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

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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).



June 14, 2026





From Our Pastor

After celebrating Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi, and the Friday Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, we now return to 11th Sunday of Ordinary Time. Perhaps ordinary time doesn't seem special, but every time we have an encounter with the Lord Jesus, this is a privileged time.

During Summer, the lighter schedule and planned vacations may disrupt our regular routines. However, I encourage every family to make Sunday Mass a priority in your week. Even when traveling, it is important to look for Catholic Churches where you can attend Mass. This is easier than ever with our modern technology.

On Monday, June 15, the priests of this Diocese will go away for a convocation with our Bishop. This is a time of prayer, reflection, and renewal. This means that there will not be any priests present for Masses and only limited help for emergencies from Monday through Thursday, June 18. I ask for your understanding as the Bishop has asked us all to be present.

Therefore, there will not be any daily Masses from Monday through Thursday. In its place, our Deacons will offer a Communion service with the Liturgy of the Word, a homily, and the distribution of Holy Communion. For those who want to attend Mass, I understand that one of the priests who is staying behind will offer Mass on these days at 7 AM at St. Philomena. If there is an emergency, please contact the parish office and they will try to find a priest.

We are looking forward to the Beatification of Fulton Sheen. Tickets went live this past week with the first round of tickets posted at Ticketmaster. The Diocese has reserved a substantial number of tickets according to the group requests we have already received. Over the coming weeks, any remaining tickets will be made available. If you haven't reserved a ticket, there is still an opportunity to attend. Stay tuned for news. The Beatification will also be carried on EWTN and on a livestream, so everyone, even from Peoria, can still join in the celebration.

- Msgr. Gray

Mass During Clergy Convocation

Msgr. Jerry Ward
Will Celebrate Mass
7:00 a.m., Monday-Thursday, June 15-18
St. Philomena Church, Peoria



Readings for the Week of June 14, 2026

Sunday	Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Exodus 19: 2-6a; Romans 5: 6-11; Matthew 9: 36—10: 8
Monday	1 Kings 21: 1-16; Matthew 5: 38-42
Tuesday	1 Kings 21: 17-29; Matthew 5: 43-48
Wednesday	2 Kings 2: 1, 6-14; Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18
Thursday	Sirach 48: 1-14; Matthew 6: 7-15
Friday	St. Romuald, Abbot 2 Kings 11: 1-4, 9-18, 20; Matthew 6: 19-23
Saturday	2 Chronicles 24: 17-25; Matthew 6: 24-34
Sunday	Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time Jeremiah 20: 10-13; Romans 5: 12-15; Matthew 10: 26-33

Mass Intentions

Monday, June 15, 2026

7:00 a.m. Communion Service

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

7:00 a.m. Communion Service

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

7:00 a.m. Communion Service

Thursday, June 18, 2026

7:00 a.m. Communion Service

Friday, June 19, 2026

7:00 a.m. Angela Kenny/Joe & Sandy Whalen

8:00 a.m. Paul Hop Nguyen/Mai Dang

Saturday, June 20, 2026

8:00 a.m. Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters of St. John the Baptist

5:00 p.m. Jim & Eileen Brereton/The Breretons

Sunday, June 21, 2026

8:00 a.m. For the People

10:00 a.m. Mark Brewer/Phan & Tam Vu

5:00 p.m. Mary Beth Janovetz/Family

Week of June 14

CLERGY CONVOCATION Monday-Thursday, June 15-18, Priests away, Communion Service at 7:00 a.m. each morning

ROSARY Tuesday, June 16, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

ST IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY Thursday, June 18, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

MORNING MASSES RESUME Friday, June 19, 7:00 & 8:00 a.m., Church

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Millions of Monicas	June 23
St. Thomas Holy Hour	June 25
Totus Tuus	June 29-July 3

Our Sympathy

Kathleen Travers

Wedding Congratulations

Emily Collins & Tom Bannan

Stella Auer & Zachary Ventress

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

June 2026

For The Values Of Sports

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity and personal growth.



Weekly Collection

May 31, 2026

Fiscal YTD

Collections needed.....	\$20,400.....	\$958,800
Sunday Collections.....	\$12,399.....	\$681,231
Electronic Collections.....	\$3,761.....	\$305,752
Total Collected.....	\$16,160.....	\$986,983
Over/(Short).....	\$(4,240).....	\$28,183

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.

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

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IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

June 13, 2026



The Saturday following the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Church celebrates the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This celebration is intimately linked with the previous day's solemnity and highlights the deep union between the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary is the perfect reflection of the Heart of Christ and a model for every Christian. Celebrating it means recognizing Mary as a spiritual mother and faithful guide, entrusting ourselves to her maternal love, and imitating her virtues in fulfilling God's will.

Just as a mother's heart is the center of love in every family, so the Heart of Mary is a refuge, a source of safety and tenderness. Consecrating oneself to her Heart means fully entrusting oneself to her, accepting her maternal care, and allowing her to lead us to God, offering our whole selves to her so that she may present us to Jesus.

To consecrate ourselves to her Heart also means to follow her as a model, allowing her to shape us so that we may live a deeper, fuller, and more authentic faith, as is required of us by our baptism.

In the apparitions at Fatima, especially on June 13, 1917, Our Lady said to Lucia: *Jesus wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. To those who embrace it, I promise salvation.*

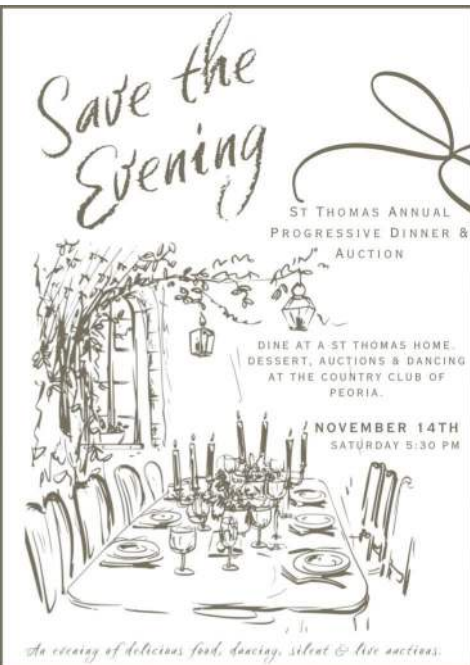
This devotion is not merely an external practice but a profound commitment—a true offering of oneself to Mary in order to grow in love for God.

Also on June 13, Our Lady showed the three shepherd children her Heart, surrounded by thorns, symbolizing the offenses caused by the sins of humanity. She requested reparation for these wounds.

In the apparition of July 13, 1917, the Virgin explicitly asked for the consecration to her Immaculate Heart and prayers for sinners.

Later, in the visions at Pontevedra and Tuy, she reiterated this request and introduced the First Five Saturdays devotion, as a means of reparation to her Heart.

To learn more please visit the Vatican City State at: [June 28: The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)



Need a rosary repaired and returned?



Do you have new or old rosaries, blessed rosaries with broken chains, parts or missing beads to donate and be rescued and restored back to praying hands?

You can drop them in the boxes found in the narthex or by the table at the lower entrance.

If you want to learn how to make cord rosaries and spread the devotion to Our Blessed Mother by helping to make mission rosaries, please contact Mets Ginoli at 773-517-7851 or m_ravago@yahoo.com

FIRST FIVE SATURDAYS DEVOTION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

as requested by Our Lady 100 years ago
The Vatican has declared a Jubilee year from 10 Dec 2025 until 10 Dec 2026

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 –
(1) penance & reparation,
(2) daily rosary, (3) Five First Saturday devotion,
and (4) consecration to her Immaculate Heart.

Blessed rosaries are available in the narthex at no cost.

Rosary restoration and rescue are offered as part of the Rosary Project.



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:
parkerbrytonm@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:

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)



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



Tuesday, **June 23rd** we will have our 150th Anniversary Vicariate Mass with the Bishop at **St. Jude Church; 5:00 p.m.**



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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WE ARE HIRING

STS is seeking TWO FULL TIME TEACHER AIDES
Monday-Friday 8:15-3:45 pm

These individuals will work to support student learning, monitor student behavior and assist teachers with additional tasks, as needed.

STS is also seeking a PART TIME AFTERCARE WORKER
Monday-Friday 3:30-5:30 pm

This would be ideal for a retired individual, a high school (junior/senior) or college student. This individual will work with our aftercare team to monitor behavior and help support student interactions and play.



Please send us your letter of interest & resume to :
Maureen Bentley, Principal
maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

2026-2027
School Year
Starting 8//18

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Teach Truth, Build Character, and Inspire Service!

Belovedness Event & Concert

St. Vincent de Paul Parish is hosting the Belovedness Event & Concert with Sarah Kroger. Sarah is a nationally known Catholic singer-songwriter who many may recognize from events such as the National Eucharistic Congress and Steubenville conferences. This will be a beautiful evening of worship, prayer, storytelling, and encouragement for men and women of all ages. The event is family-friendly and centered on the message that we are deeply known and unconditionally loved by God.

Event Details:

Belovedness Event & Concert with Sarah Kroger
Friday, June 19, 2026

Doors Open: 6:30 PM | Event Begins: 7:00 PM

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
6001 N. University St., Peoria, IL

Tickets: Adults \$10 | Students/Children \$5

Tickets are available at:

svdppeoria.ejoinme.org/sarahkroger

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!

PND Youth Summer Camps

Soccer, golf, volleyball, basketball,
cheerleading, more
Sign up now →



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** _____



Join Our Mission!

Male Campus Minister

The St. Joseph Newman Center on the campus of Bradley University is seeking a full-time male Campus Minister. Scan here for more details:



Duties include: student mentorship, development/alumni relations, retreat prep, & administrative support

PEORIA TEC RETREATS
NEW SCHEDULE, SAME POWERFUL EXPERIENCE!

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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!



Saturday, July 11, 2026
Metamora Fields Golf Course
801 Progress St.—Metamora, IL 61548

Events: 5K Run & 5K Non-competitive Walk

Start Time: 7:30 am (Check in 6:30-7:10 am)

Location: Metamora Fields Golf Course, Metamora, IL

Entry Fee:

- Children (12 and under): \$15, \$20 after July 4
- Adults (13 and older): \$30, \$35 after July 4
- Family entry fee maximum: \$100, \$120 after July 4 (immediate family members only)
- IVS Grand Prix participants receive a \$5 discount. Please email the Grand Prix administrator at bh26.2m@gmail.com for discount code.

Age Groups:

Male & Female: 9 & under, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-69, 70+

To register visit: [2026 — Run for Life 5K — Race Roster — Registration, Marketing, Fundraising](#)



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



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St. Thomas class of 2026

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