

## 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  
stthomaspeoria.org; 309-688-3446  
parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

Pastor: Msgr. Jason A. Gray.....(x3)  
msgrgray@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)

Director Faith Formation: Kate Crim....(x1310)  
katecrim@stthomas-church.net

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maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

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traceydeponai@stthomas-church.net

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peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net

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ccd@stthomas-church.net

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parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

Music Coordinator: Nathalie Corbett.....  
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 28, 2026*

*Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*



*Clergy Convocation  
Prayer and Fellowship*



©Diocesan



## From Our Pastor

This week we will have a Totus Tuus team to work with our children. Summers often are filled with vacations and a lot of activity, but I encourage you to send your children to grow in their faith and take part this week.

Teens (7<sup>th</sup> grade on up) meet in the evening from Sunday to Thursday. Younger children (going into 1<sup>st</sup> grade up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade) meet in the morning from Monday to Friday. There is also a parish dinner to honor St. Thomas on the vigil of his feast day. This will take place Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Please join me in congratulating Fr. Edward as he takes up his assignment at St. Mark Parish in Peoria. And with Fr. DeMeulemeester, let us warmly welcome Fr. John who will be the new pastor of St. Thomas.

I am grateful for the kind words and appreciation for my time at St. Thomas. I feel that I have pointed the parish in a direction, but that the work to accomplish all that has been done has come from you, the parishioners. It has been my joy and pleasure to be at St. Thomas.

At the same time, I trust that you will understand when I say that I can only do so much until I feel guilty for not giving the parish the attention that I believe it deserves. The promotion of the Beatification of Fulton Sheen will be a gift to Peoria and to the world, and I look forward to dedicating myself more wholeheartedly to this task. At the same time, I am happy to be at the Cathedral where Catholics from Peoria and all over the Diocese are welcomed, and I ask for your prayers for me.

God love you!

- Msgr. Gray

### *Mass Readers Needed*

We are looking for more volunteers to read at Daily Mass, for both the 7:00 am and 8:00 am Masses. Daily Mass readers are assigned to read for the entire week, and have one assignment approximately every 8-10 weeks. If you are interested in becoming a reader at Daily Mass, please contact George Burek at [georgeburek@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeburek@yahoo.com) before July 1<sup>st</sup>.



## Readings for the Week of June 28, 2026

- Sunday**      **Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
2 Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16a; Romans 6: 3-4, 8-11;  
Matthew 10: 37-42
- Monday**      **Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles**  
Acts 12: 1-11; 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16: 13-19
- Tuesday**      **The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church**  
Amos 3: 1-8; 4: 11-12; Matthew 8: 23-27
- Wednesday**      **St. Junipero Serra, Priest**  
Amos 5: 14-15, 21-24; Matthew 8: 28-34
- Thursday**      Amos 7: 10-17; Matthew 9: 1-8
- Friday**      **St. Thomas, Apostle**  
Ephesians 2: 19-22; John 20: 24-29
- Saturday**      **St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**  
Amos 9: 11-15 OR 1 Kings 3: 11-14 OR Isaiah 9: 1-6;  
James 3: 13-18 OR Colossians 3: 12-15; Matthew 9: 14-17  
OR Matthew 22: 15-21 OR John 20: 19-23
- Sunday**      **Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Zechariah 9: 9-10; Romans 8: 9, 11-13; Matthew 11: 25-30

## Mass Intentions

### **Monday, June 29, 2026**

- 7:00 a.m.      Intentions of Dr. Gary & Vivette Miller/Kevin Morrissey  
TTuus Mass      Msgr. William Watson/Loc & Linh Luong

### **Tuesday, June 30, 2026**

- 7:00 a.m.      Teresa McCabe/The Elger Family  
TTuus Mass      Steve Ardis/Sue Ardis

### **Wednesday, July 1, 2026**

- 7:00 a.m.      Melissa Chase/David & Rose Chase  
TTuus Mass      Mary & Necesio Militante

### **Thursday, July 2, 2026**

- 7:00 a.m.      Dr. Richard & Dottie Flores/Frank & Margaret Weinstein  
TTuus Mass      Mike Palkovic/Loc & Linh Luong  
5:30 p.m.      Barb Gusman/Sissy & Dick McCormack

### **Friday, July 3, 2026**

- 7:00 a.m.      Intentions of St. Thomas Parishioners/FSJB  
TTuus Mass      Manan Stahl/Nancy Becker

### **Saturday, July 4, 2026**

- 9:00 a.m.      Intentions of Johnny Christopher Barnes  
5:00 p.m.      Mark Olson/John & Kathy Lewis

### **Sunday, July 5, 2026**

- 8:00 a.m.      For the People  
10:00 a.m.      William Wombacher/Family  
5:00 p.m.      Angie Cassidy/Stoney & Liz Jockisch

## Week of June 28

**SIGN-UP FOR FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION** This Weekend after all Masses, narthex

**TOTUS TUUS** Monday-Friday, June 29-July 3, School

**ROSARY** Tuesday, June 30, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

**PARISH SOLEMNITY MASS** Thursday, July 2, 5:30 p.m., Church

**FEAST DAY CELEBRATION** Thursday, July 2, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED** Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day

**MASS FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY** Saturday, July 4, 9:00 a.m. (5:00 p.m. for Sunday)

**ADORATION** Friday, July 3, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Rosary Making	July 12
St. Thomas Holy Hour	July 16
Parish Picnic	August 16
Memorial Golf Outing	October 2
Progressive Dinner	November 14



**SAVE THE DATE**  
— ST. THOMAS MONSIGNOR WATSON —  
**MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING**

 **Friday, October 2, 2026**  
 **Mt. Hawley Country Club**

 Benefiting the  
St. Thomas Sponsor a Student  
Tuition Assistance Program

 **\$140**  
PER PERSON

More details and registration information coming soon

 FOR MORE INFORMATION: Tracey Deponai | (309) 688-3446 | parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

## Weekly Collection

June 21, 2026

	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,400 .....\$1,040,400
Sunday Collections.....	\$21,385 .....\$741,115
Electronic Collections.....	\$840.....\$315,532
Total Collected.....	\$22,225.....\$1,056,647
Over/(Short).....	\$1,825.....\$16,247

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

Joan Schaumburg, sister of Kathy Clary

## Baptism Congratulations

Eliana Taton Poderoso, daughter of  
Hope & Ramonette Poderoso

## Bye, Bye St. Thomas the Apostle Parish

I am grateful to Msgr. Gray Jason, my Pastor, Fr. Pat, Franciscan Sisters of John the Baptist, all staff Members of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Parish Council, Finance Council, friends, all the Christians of St. Thomas the Apostle for the welcome, care, and friendship you provided for the three months I have spent here. Using the words of Jesus, John 17, *I will always pray for you.*

Fr. Besigye Edward



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 **Mefs Ginoli at 773-517-7851** or [m\\_ravago@yahoo.com](mailto:m_ravago@yahoo.com)

## Totus Tuus Mass

There will be no weekday 8:00 a.m. Mass June 29-July 3 during Totus Tuus. Instead there will be a Mass for Totus Tuus. Regular weekday 8:00 a.m. Mass will resume July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Sponsor of the Week



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## St. Thomas Project Backpack 2026

Please help get some of our Peoria Heights K - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students ready to go back to school! Please fill a backpack with the above school supplies to be given to a Peoria Heights student who is in need. Please provide school supplies that can be used for both boys and girls. The backpacks themselves may be geared towards either boys or girls. Backpacks may be left in the collection tubs in the narthex or dropped off at the parish office by Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. Donations of empty backpacks or any of the above school supplies are also appreciated. If you would rather provide a monetary donation, we will do the shopping for you! Please put your donation in an envelope



marked "Backpacks" and place it in the Sunday collection plate or drop it off at the parish office. Please contact Diana Janda at [diana-janda1964@gmail.com](mailto:diana-janda1964@gmail.com) with any questions. Thank you for helping area students get off to a great start for the 2026-2027 school year!

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 8X5 Plastic Pencil Box <b>OR</b> 1 Pencil Pouch  | 2 24-Packs Crayola Crayons        |
| 4 1-Subject Wide-Ruled Spiral Notebooks  | 4 Plastic 2-Pocket Folders        |
| 24 #2 Yellow Pencils (not mechanical)  | 2 Large Pink Pearl Erasers        |
| 1 Pair Pointed School Scissors (5")  | 1 12-Pack Crayola Colored Pencils |
| 6 Jumbo Elmer's Glue Sticks <b>OR</b> 12 Small Elmer's Disappearing Purple Glue Sticks     |                                   |
| 1 Large Elmer's Liquid School Glue (7.6 oz.) <b>OR</b> 2 Small Elmer's School Glue (4 oz.) |                                   |
| 1 10-Pack of Wide Tip Crayola Classic Color Markers  |                                   |

### FIRST SATURDAY 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.

### 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.



### Pray with the Pope July 2026

**For Respect For Human Life**  
Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

## ST. THOMAS FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

The apostle Thomas is credited with bringing Christianity to India and the far east. In honor of our missionary patron, let's celebrate the various cultures and backgrounds of our parish and school community!

**Thursday, July 2, 2026**

**5:30pm** Vigil Mass for the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle (Main Church)

**6:30pm** Sample international cuisine from our St. Thomas family! (Parish Hall)

Want to share a favorite dish from your heritage? Scan QR code or contact [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net) 309.688.3446

## Save the Evening

ST THOMAS ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER & AUCTION

DINE AT A ST THOMAS HOME. DESSERT, AUCTIONS & DANCING AT THE COUNTRY CLUB OF PEORIA.

NOVEMBER 14TH SATURDAY 5:30 PM

*An evening of delicious food, dancing, silent & live auctions.*

## Well-Read Mom

READ MORE. READ WELL.

Coming to St Thomas in Fall of 2026  
Informational Meeting  
Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> 9am  
in the Parish Hall

Contact Laura Mouro with any questions.  
[mommamouro@yahoo.com](mailto:mommamouro@yahoo.com)

Learn more about the Well Read Mom Book Club

# Grazie Mille, Monsignor Gray

*A Night of Memories & Gratitude*

TICKETS





**FRIDAY AUGUST 21ST, 2026**  
**6:30 PM - CONNECTED EVENT CENTER**

PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT THE  
BLESSED FULTON J SHEEN MOSAIC  
IN HONOR OF MONSIGNOR JASON GRAY

**FOUR COURSE MENU - \$100 PER TICKET**

Please return with payment by July 31st to: St Thomas, 904E Lake Ave, Peoria Heights, IL 61616      Tickets @ \$100 - \_\_\_\_\_

Payee: \_\_\_\_\_      Tables @ \$800/Table of 8 - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_      If you would like to make a request to be seated with someone, or if you have dietary restrictions, please list those on the back.

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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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## Calling all Rosary Makers!

The Rosary Project at St. Thomas will be hosting **2 Rosary Making Sessions** on **July 12<sup>th</sup> & July 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall** in response to the World Mission Rosary Drive.



Our goal is to make 300 Rosaries for the Beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen in September. All materials will be provided. Extra hands are needed to thread the beads. If you have questions or interested in joining the Project, please contact **Mets Ginoli at 773-517-7851** or [m\\_ravago@yahoo.com](mailto:m_ravago@yahoo.com)

### 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



## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book

For the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Diocese of Peoria, a special historical commemorative book has been prepared that tells the story of the Diocese and of each of our parishes. This handsome and attractive book is being sold for \$40 and will be a keepsake. Please stop in the Parish Office to secure your copy.




# 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](mailto:maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net)



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Starting 8/7/18**

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- FLAG FOOTBALL**

#### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

*Registration is Open Now!*

REGISTRATION CLOSES **6/30**

VISIT: **NDJFL.COM**

*Scan me!*

#### INFORMATION

**COST:**  
Cheer & Flag - \$100  
Tackle - \$200

**WHEN:**  
Practices begin 7/22  
Monday-Thursday  
(will move to 3 days a week once school starts)

**WHERE:**  
Detweiller Park

**GAMES START ON**  
**8/22**

#### GET INVOLVED TODAY!

- REGISTER ONLINE
- LEARN MORE
- JOIN THE NDJFL FAMILY

**NDJFL.COM**

FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES

NOTRE DAME JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

### 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

Celebrate our 250th

### Memorial Mass

**SATURDAY, July 4, 9:30 am**  
Fr. William Miller, Presider

*St. Joseph of Arimathea Chapel  
Resurrection Mausoleum*

[www.ccapeo.org](http://www.ccapeo.org)  
309.691.5889  
7519 N Allen Rd, Peoria

## 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!*

**PDCCW Join or Renew Your Membership**  
The Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (PDCCW) warmly invites you to join or renew your membership for the 2026-2027 year. Membership dues are due by September 1, 2026, for the membership year of September 1, 2026, through September 1, 2027.

PDCCW supports, empowers, and connects Catholic women through spirituality, leadership, and service. Together, we strengthen our parishes, encourage one another in faith, and respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society.

Whether your parish or organization has been involved for many years or is considering joining for the first time, we welcome you to join this growing community of Catholic women throughout the Diocese of Peoria.

**Annual Membership Dues:**

- Individual — \$25.00

**Please make checks payable to:**  
Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (PDCCW)

**Mail dues to:**  
April Adams, President; 928 County Rd. 1500 N.; Metamora, IL 61548

Together, we continue to encourage, support, and inspire Catholic women throughout the Diocese of Peoria through Spirituality, leadership, & service.



### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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](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 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**  
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