

*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: Fr. Johndamaseni Zilimu.....(x3)  
frjohn@stthomas-church.net

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Patrick  
DeMeulemeester.....(x1420)  
frpat@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)

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

School Principal: Maureen Bentley.....(x1210)  
maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

Administrative Assistant: Tracey Deponai.....(x0)  
traceydeponai@stthomas-church.net

Bulletin Editor: Peggy Sullivan.....(x1301)  
peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net

Finance & Tuition:

CCD Coordinator: Liz Plaskon.....(309)339-4775  
ccd@stthomas-church.net

Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty.....(x1350)

Music Coordinator: Nathalie Corbett  
nathaliecorbett@stthomas-church.net

Annulment Consultant: John Mackoway.....  
.....699-5215

St. Vincent de Paul Society  
Helpline ..... (309) 264-5815

Stay in Touch

1. Join 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 mypari-shapp.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



September 20, 2026





Dear Parishioners and Catholic School Families:

As our children head back to the classrooms, I am writing to you about a significant opportunity to find additional funds to both public and nonpublic schools in our state. Congress passed a new federal tax credit program for 2027 that could generate hundreds of millions of additional dollars for both public and nonpublic school students in Illinois. For Illinois to participate in the program, Governor Pritzker must opt in.

As an advocate not only for Catholic education, but also for the education of all Illinois children, I ask that you contact the Governor to ask him say "yes" to this program. It will give Illinois taxpayers the choice to contribute to programs that will help all children in our state and receive a federal tax credit for their donation. These funds are truly needed. They could help Catholic school families cover tuition, after-school programming, supplies, technology or other much needed items.

Donations could also be directed to support programming and other needs for public school students and their families. It could benefit just about every child and every school in our state.

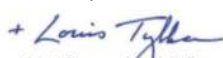
If Governor Pritzker does not opt in, you can still donate to programs such as this, but to receive the tax credit, you will need to donate to a school program in another state. Recent polling suggests that in one year, as much as \$2 billion could be generated to boost education programming in our state. According to that same poll, if Illinois does not opt in, Illinois taxpayers may send as much as \$1 billion for educational services in other states.

The program allows taxpayers a 100% federal tax credit for contributions up to \$1,700. Any family earning up to 300% of the regional median income may qualify for scholarship assistance. This means more than 90% of all K-12 students would be eligible for support in Illinois.

According to our polling data, Illinois taxpayers will contribute to the program regardless of whether Illinois opts in or not. Shouldn't Illinois dollars benefit Illinois school children?

Please visit <https://www.ilcatholic.org/federal-scholarship-tax-credit-program/> for more information and to learn how to send a message to the Governor and ask him to opt-in to the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit. You can also call the Governor's office directly at 217.782.6830.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
 ✦ Most Reverend Louis Tylka  
 Bishop of Peoria



## Readings for the Week of September 20

|           |                                                                                                                |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | <b>Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b><br>Isaiah 55: 6-9; Phillipians 1: 20c-24, 27a;<br>Matthew 20: 1-6a |
| Monday    | <b>St. Matthew, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b><br>Ephsians 4: 1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9: 9-13                        |
| Tuesday   | Proverbs 21: 1-6, 10-13; Luke 8: 19-21                                                                         |
| Wednesday | <b>St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest</b><br>Proverbs 30: 5-9; Luke 9: 1-6                                        |
| Thursday  | Ecclesiastes 1: 2-11; Luke 9: 7-9                                                                              |
| Friday    | Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11; Luke 9: 18-22                                                                            |
| Saturday  | <b>Sts. Cosmos &amp; Damian, Martyrs</b><br>Ecclesiastes 11: 9---12: 8; Luke 9: 43b-45                         |
| Sunday    | <b>Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b><br>Ezekiel 18: 25-28; Phillipians 2: 1-11; Matthew 21: 28-32       |

## M Mass Intentions

### Monday, September 21, 2026

7:00 a.m. Joe & Mary Basler/Mary Ann Noe

### Tuesday, September 22, 2026

7:00 a.m. Mark Olson/Candy & Dick Popp  
 Schl Mass Sarah Salmon/Family

### Wednesday, September 23, 2026

7:00 a.m. Mark Brewer/Loc & Linh Luong  
 8:00 a.m. Marianne Hunt

### Thursday, September 24, 2026

7:00 a.m. Adam & Elizabeth Weinstein Family/Jack & Margaret Weinstein

### Friday, September 25, 2026

7:00 a.m. Suzette Little Kennedy/John & Amy Kelly  
 8:00 a.m. John Ardis/Sue Ardis

### Saturday, September 26, 2026

8:00 a.m. Mark Olson/Dcn. Ed & Cathy Mallow  
 5:00 p.m. Roger Tramel/Lynn Tramel

### Sunday, September 27, 2026

8:00 a.m. Chip Chan/Julie & John Chan  
 10:00 a.m. Mary Ann O'Neill/Family  
 5:00 p.m. For the People

## Week of September 20

**WHY IT'S GREAT TO BE CATHOLIC** Monday, September 21, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

**ROSARY** Tuesday, September 22, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

**NOVENA TO ST. THERESA** Tuesday, September 22 - September 30, Pray for vocations, <https://angeluspress.org/pages/st-therese-of-lisieux-9-day-novena>

**MILLIONS OF MONICAS** Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

**CCD** Wednesday, September 23, 6:00 p.m., School

**OCIA** Wednesday, September 23, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

**TIYI** Friday, September 25, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

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

### Upcoming Events

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Memorial Golf Outing | October 2   |
| Octoberfest          | October 17  |
| Progressive Dinner   | November 14 |

## Our Sympathy

Jim Kelly, Brother of Maggie Kelly

Junior Reese, husband of Cheryl Reese

## Wedding Congratulations

Mary-Katherine Cain &

Zachary Herbert Wilkie

## Pray with the Pope

September 2026

### For The Care of Water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.



### Join Millions of Monicas

to pray together for their children who have left the faith. We meet once a month and pray together for each other's loved ones in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

**September 22 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**St. Thomas Daily Mass Chapel**

For more information visit [www.millionsofmonicas.com](http://www.millionsofmonicas.com)



# WE ARE HIRING



**St. Thomas has an immediate opening in our finance/tuition department.**

**This is a part-time position.**

**Core duties include budgeting and financial reporting of accounts receivable and payable for the church and church organizations.**

**Tuition management includes creating and maintaining tuition contracts.**

**Prior bookkeeping/accounting experience, knowledge of FACTS and Parish Soft accounting software is desirable.**

**Work Location: In person**

Resume and letter of interest can be mailed or emailed to the Parish Office at  
904 East Lake Avenue,  
Peoria Heights, IL 61616  
or [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net)

## Weekly Collection

September 6, 2026

### Fiscal YTD

|                             |           |            |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Collections Needed.....     | \$20,500  | \$184,500  |
| Sunday Collections.....     | \$15,015  | \$121,881  |
| Electronic Collections..... | \$1,020   | \$31,889   |
| Total Collected.....        | \$16,035  | \$153,770  |
| Over/(Short).....           | \$(4,465) | \$(30,730) |

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 website: [stthomaspeoria.org](http://stthomaspeoria.org). Thank you for your support.

### Sponsor of the Week

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# PARISH TALKS

Friday, September 25

Join us for an inspiring series of parish talks exploring the life, wisdom, and enduring legacy of Fulton Sheen. Led by knowledgeable speakers and Sheen experts, these presentations will help you deepen your faith and discover why his message continues to resonate with Catholics today.

**ST. JUDE**  
10811 Knoxville Ave, Peoria, IL

**+ 9:30 AM**

Blessed Fulton Sheen on  
Scripture and Spiritual Warfare  
- Dr. John Bergsma & Fr. Dave  
Tomaszycki

**+ 12:30 PM**

Blessed Fulton Sheen on  
Scripture and Spiritual Warfare  
- Dr. John Bergsma & Fr. Dave  
Tomaszycki

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**  
904 E Lake Ave, Peoria Heights, IL

**+ 12:30 PM**

Fulton Sheen and the American  
Century: Fully Catholic and Fully  
American - Dr. Seth Smith

**+ 2:30 PM**

The Legacy of Fulton Sheen in the  
American Catholic Community in  
the Age of AI - Dr. Richard Howick

**ST. PHILOMENA**  
1000 W Albany Ave, Peoria, IL

**+ 11:00 AM**

61 Minutes to a Miracle: The  
Story Behind Fulton Sheen's  
Miracle - Bonnie Engstrom

BEATIFICATION OF  
ARCHBISHOP  
**FULTON J.  
SHEEN**



DR. JOHN BERGSMA



FR. DAVE TOMASZYCKI



BONNIE ENGSTROM



DR. SETH SMITH



DR. RICHARD HOWICK

LEARN MORE & RSVP AT [CelebrateSheen.com/parish-talks](https://CelebrateSheen.com/parish-talks)



That Man Is You returns on Friday, September 11th! You can also register or get additional information by sending an email to

George Burek at [georgeburek@yahoo.com](mailto:georgeburek@yahoo.com). All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The theme for this year is Becoming A Man After God's Own Heart. Besides some outstanding presenters, this year's program provides an updated version of the foundational principles of the TMIY Program. We meet on Friday mornings. Doors open at 6:00 am for Continental Breakfast, the Video presentation starts at 6:30 followed by Table Discussion around 7:00 am, and we adjourn by 7:30. This will be our 11th year of That Man Is You at St. Thomas, and we hope you can join us.

## Job Opportunity – Music Coordinator

St. Thomas the Apostle Church has an immediate opening for a part time Music Coordinator. The Music Coordinator plans, organizes, and leads the music ministry for worship services. This role collaborates with clergy to align music with scripture and sermon themes, and directs rehearsals for choirs. The Music Coordinator will also provide music leadership for major seasonal celebrations like Christmas, Easter, weddings, and funerals.

Qualifications and skills should include strong vocal skills, competence on a piano and organ, familiarity with the Catholic Church music traditions. The qualified candidate should have a degree in music, liturgical music, or equivalent experience in church ministry.

Résumé and letter of interest can be mailed or emailed to the Parish Office at 904 East Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights, IL 61616 or [parishoffice@stthomas-church.net](mailto:parishoffice@stthomas-church.net).

## St. Thomas Food Pantry

While all donations are greatly appreciated, of particular need at this time are: peanut butter, saltines and pasta sauce.

Thank you!





All 1st-8th grade students not attending a catholic school are invited to CCD.

This is also the sacrament preparation for First Communion and Confirmation for students not attending a catholic school.

Scan for more information and registration.

To pay electronically please use the link at the end of the registration form. Tuition can also be paid via check or cash. Make checkspayable



St. Thomas CCD (may be dropped at church office or in marked envelope in collection basket at church).

Tuition:

- 1 Student \$90.00 (\$125 w/ sacrament)
- 2 Students \$135.00 (\$170 w/ sacrament)
- 3+ Students \$165.00 (\$200 w/ sacrament)

Contact information: Liz Plaskon,  
CCD Coordinator

[CCD@StThomas-Church.net](mailto:CCD@StThomas-Church.net) (309) 339-4775

### 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



## Save the Date

All Senior Citizens are  
invited for

Treats with  
Fr. John

Thursday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
at 10am  
in the Parish Hall.



Schultz

## OCTOBER LIFE NIGHT

All High School students are  
welcome! Bring a friend!  
Dinner is provided!



EST. 2024  
PEORIA AREA  
LIFE TEEN

OCT. 18  
6-8PM

See you at St. Vincent  
de Paul Parish Hall!

## Catholic Women's League of Peoria, IL

Hosts: Pathways Ministries Shower  
Date: Sunday, October 11, 2026  
Place: St Thomas, Parish Hall  
Time: 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
Light Refreshments Served

Peoria Rescue Ministries, founded in 1955, changed its name in 2024 to Pathways Ministries: From Poverty to Progress to focus on men and women clients who are on the journey to meet new life goals.

There is no fee to attend this event. Instead, we are asking you to bring one or more items from the Pathways Ministries Pantry's Need List:

*Items requested:* ALL - Twin Sheets & Pillowcases, Bus Passes, Band Aids, Book Bags  
WOMEN - Deodorant, Razors, Reading Glasses, Underwear (all sizes)  
MEN - Deodorant, Razors, Reading Glasses, Underwear (Boxers - All sizes)

Cash or check donations are accepted too. Checks should be made payable to Catholic Women's League. If you are unable to attend, but still want to participate, please mail your check to: Catholic Women's League, P.O. Box 9674, Peoria, IL 61612-9674 (All monetary donations will be paid to Pathways Ministries by check from Catholic Women's League.)

If you have any questions, please call or text Ann Gerardo - 630-464-8474.



**COMETS St. Thomas**  **St. Thomas**  
**Monsignor Watson Memorial**  
**GOLF OUTING**  
**Friday, October 2nd**  
**Mt. Hawley Country Club**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 25TH

REGISTRATION FORM 

**DIRECTLY SUPPORTS THE ST. THOMAS SPONSOR A STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

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

### St. Mary of Lourdes

Men's Club

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

Sunday, October 4 7:00 am-12:00 noon

To pre-order sausage call or text Bill Kessling at 309-645-7795

**\*\*Last Day to Pre-Order - September 27\*\***

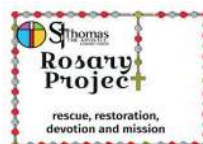
Sausage orders must be picked up on  
SUNDAY - OCTOBER 4

7:00 am - 12:00 noon

St. Mary of Lourdes Parish Center  
Metamora, IL

### Does your rosary need repair?

Place it inside the envelope with your name and phone number. Leave it in the red repair/donation bin on the table at the right side of the narthex, or contact Mets Ginoli at 773-517-7851. You can your collect repaired rosary in a week.



Still accepting broken, old, or new rosaries and rosary parts (beads, centers, and crucifixes) to be rescued and donated.

**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. Email Kate Crim at [kate-crim@stthomas-church.net](mailto:kate-crim@stthomas-church.net) to schedule the class.

**Confessions**  
Saturday 8:30 a.m. and 4:00-4:45pm.

#### 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 - Fr. John
- 0 - Tracey – Administrative Assist. 1341 -
- 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 the Apostle's Sunday Bulletin

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