

*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
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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

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Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735 Dcn.
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Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty... ..(x1350)

Music Coordinator: Kim Deters
kimdeters@stthomas-church.net

Annulment Consultant: John Mackoway... ..
..... (309) 699-
5215

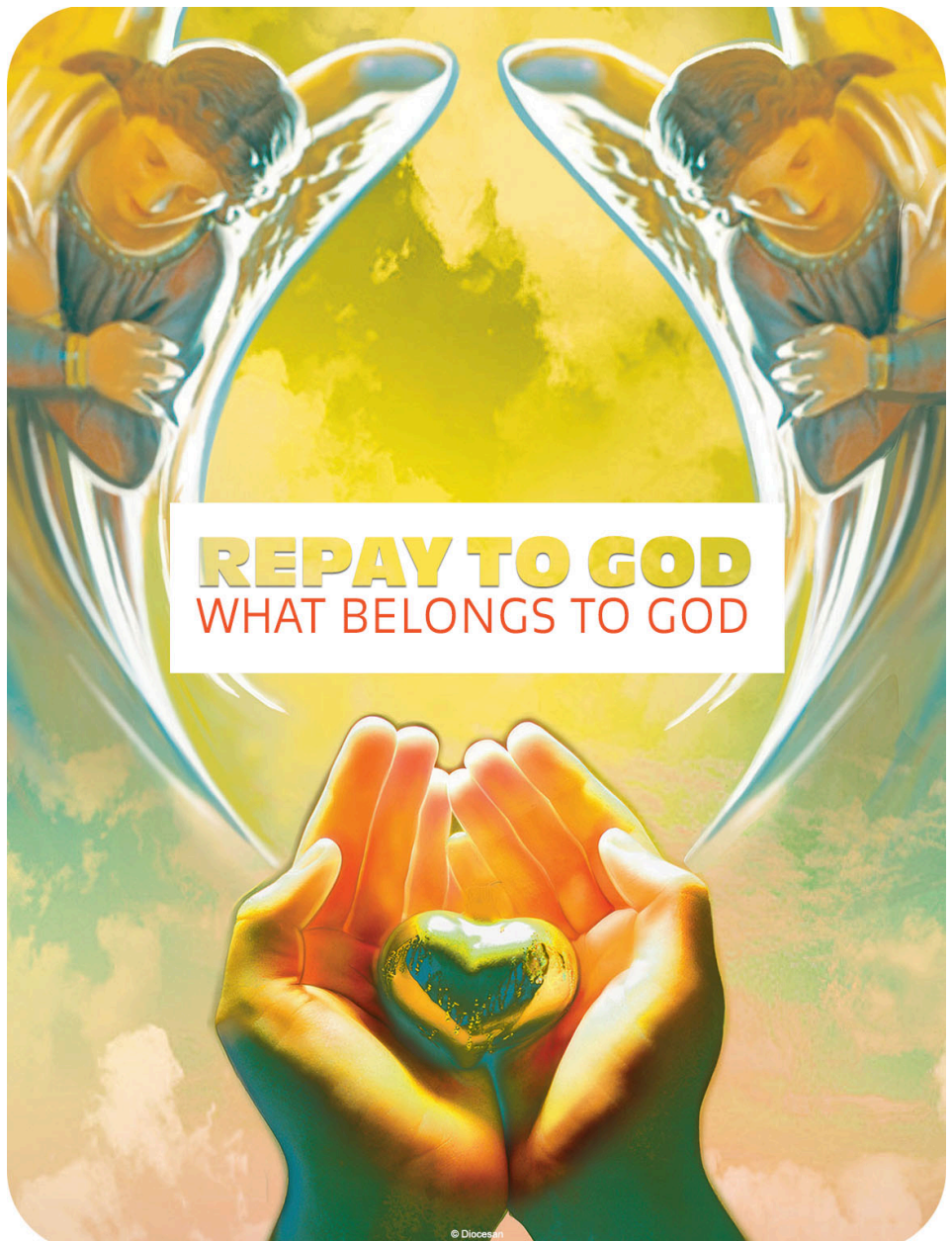
St. Vincent de Paul Society Helpline
..... (309) 264-5815

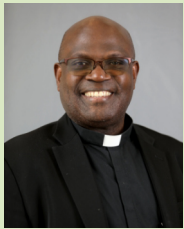
Stay in Touch

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 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



*October 18, 2026
Twelfth-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*





Pastor's corner

St. Paul wrote 13 beautiful letters: Letters to the Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. His letter to the Galatians has been called the "charter of Christian freedom" in its affirmation of a Christian's liberation from Jewish ritual practices as necessary for salvation. It might more accurately be called the "charter of Christian identity" because it emphasizes the cross of Jesus Christ as our sole source of salvation.

The letter was occasioned by the activities of some "Judaizers" who insisted that the Gentile converts to Christianity observe certain Jewish ritual practices. St. Paul reacts to this because it detracts from the complete salvation won for us in Christ.

St. Paul is concerned about the Galatians' diminishing the power of Christ's redemption on the cross. If the cross needs any supplementation, then it is deficient, incomplete and emptied of power.

St. Paul warns the Galatians that they have in the cross the sure way of salvation. If they adopt the practices of the old law, they are selling themselves into slavery and surrendering the freedom they have in Christ. It is not that the Jewish practices are wrong but for the Christians, they are not necessary.

St. Paul also warns us that what we do as our traditions, customs or practices as Americans or parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle or as people who live in Peoria should not destruct us from Catholic practices. There are things we do such as Halloween celebrations, sports, vacations, though they are not sinful in nature, they should not take priority in our life. In other words, they should not stop us from worshipping Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

It is easy for us to diminish the power of the cross in our life when we start to depend on practices and beliefs that are apart from the Gospel. The practices of other religions show us our yearning for salvation. Only Christ brings salvation. We should put from our lives anything that diminishes our complete and total trust in Jesus Christ.



Readings for the Week of October 18

Sunday	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5b; Matthew 22: 15-21
Monday	Sts. John de Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs Ephesians 2: 1-10; Luke 12: 13-21
Tuesday	St. Paul of the Cross, Priest Ephesians 2: 12-22; Luke 12: 35-38
Wednesday	Ephesians 3: 2-12; Luke 12: 39-48
Thursday	St. John Paul II, Pope Ephesians 3: 14-21; Luke 12: 49-53
Friday	St. John of Capistrano, Priest Ephesians 4: 1-6; Luke 12: 54-59
Saturday	St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop Ephesians 4: 7-16; Luke 13: 1-9
Sunday	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Exodus 22: 20-26; 1 Thessalonians 1: 5c-10; Matthew 22: 34-40

M

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 19, 2026

7:00 a.m. Rosalie Shealy/Sandy Whalen

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

7:00 a.m. Thuyen Nguyen/Loc & Linh Luong

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

7:00 a.m. Donald Tascher/David & Patricia Donnelly
8:00 a.m. Helen Fontana/The Majewski Family

Thursday, October 22, 2026

7:00 a.m. Lynda Holman/Nancy Becker
Schl Mass Dr. James & Patricia Callaway/Dcn. Ed & Cathy Mallow

Friday, October 23, 2026

7:00 a.m. Annie Holland-Morrissey/Kevin Morrissey
8:00 a.m. Mark Brewer/Loc & Linh Luong

Saturday, October 24, 2026

8:00 a.m. Eunice Galsky/Kathy Clary
5:00 p.m. Bob & Rose Sullivan/Peggy Sullivan

Sunday, October 25, 2026

8:00 a.m. Mark Olson/Diane & Gary Bussman
10:00 a.m. Jodi & Lew Odum/Dcn. Ed & Cathy Mallow
5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of October 18

LIFETEEN Sunday, October 18, 6:00 p.m., St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall

WHY IT'S GREAT TO BE CATHOLIC Monday, October 19, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

ROSARY Tuesday, October 20, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

PARISH COUNCIL Tuesday, October 20, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office

CCD Wednesday, October 21, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, October 21, 6:30 p.m., Church

SENIOR MORNING WITH FR. JOHN Thursday, October 22, 10:00 a.m., Parish Hall

WOMEN OF THE WORD Thursday, October 22, 7:00 p.m., Church

TMIY Friday, October 23, 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

Adoration	November 6
LifeTeen	November 8
Progressive Dinner	November 14
Grandparenting & The Faith	November 9
Holy Hour	November 19



Pray with the Pope

October 2026

For Mental Health Ministry

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

Weekly Collection

October 11, 2026

Fiscal YTD

Collections Needed.....	\$20,500.....	\$
Sunday Collections.....	\$10,750.....	\$
Electronic Collections.....	\$570.....	\$
Total Collected.....	\$11,320.....	\$
Over/(Short).....	\$(9,180).....	\$

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. Thank you for your support.

Our Sympathy

Please pray for those who have died this week

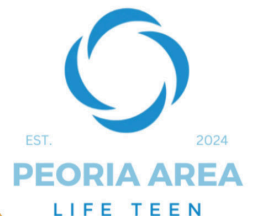
Pilgrimage With Fr. Pat

Fr. Pat will be holding an information meeting about the Pilgrimage on

October 18th at 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

OCTOBER LIFE NIGHT

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



OCT. 18
6-8PM

See you at St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall!

Sponsor of the Week
Krumholz Brothers



Help Support St. Thomas Pantry with Your Thrift Shopping!

Support the St. Thomas Food Pantry by shopping at the Helping Hands Thrift Store **during the week of October 27 - 31**. Proceeds from sales during that week will benefit our food pantry and the people it serves! Helping Hands Thrift Store is located at 921 E. War Memorial Drive in Peoria Heights.



Adult Choir

St. Augustine says that "Qui cantat, bis orat," literally "He who sings, prays twice!". With that being said: **IT'S CHOIR TIME!** I would like to invite you to join our Adult Choir. Having the ability to read music is not necessary, but having a love for music and a willingness to share your voice and talent is essential! Choir **rehearsals will begin Tuesday, Oct 13, 6:30-7:30pm in the Music Room**. Hope to see you there!

All Interested in Helping Catholic Education

Illinois has a huge opportunity to help schools through the Federal Tax Scholarship Program! We need Governor Pritzker on board. Please use this link to learn more and consider sending him a quick e-mail!

<https://www.ilcatholic.org/take-action/action-center/>



All Senior Citizens are invited for Treats with Fr. John on Thursday, Oct. 22nd at 10am in the Parish Hall. Fr. John will answer questions about our faith and share information about himself. RSVP's welcomed, but not required. RSVP to carolharn@yahoo.com

Fr. John's Email Phished!

If you received an email from Fr. John asking for money please know this was phishing. It is not Fr. John. Father will never ask for money, or anything else via email. Please do not open, and never reply to one of these phishing emails, delete as soon as possible.

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!



Most Reverend Louis Tylka
Diocese of Peoria
Office of the Bishop

October 2026

Dear friends in Christ,

This year marks the 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday. Established by Pope Pius XI, the annual observance was instituted to remind the entire Church of the missionary call of the Gospel to proclaim our faith in Jesus Christ.

At the same time, we celebrate the Church's newest "Blessed," our own Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. A significant part of Archbishop Sheen's life and ministry was spent in support of the missions, serving as the Director of the Pontifical Mission Society here in the United States. Blessed Sheen, through his experience of working with and for the missions, saw the world as his parish. He saw firsthand how the support gained by the faithful of the United States had a transformative impact for the work of missionaries who literally spanned the globe to share our faith in Jesus.

It is even more fitting that as we observe World Mission Sunday this year that we renew our support for the missions. This year's theme is "One in Christ, United in Mission." Indeed, we are united in the Lord's great commission to go into the world to proclaim our faith in Him. I encourage each of us to pray for and contribute to the collection for the Pontifical Mission Society as they continue the great task of bring Christ to the world.

May Blessed Fulton Sheen, who loved the missions, inspire us for our efforts to be missionary disciples here at home and through the efforts of the mission society around the globe!

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Louis Tylka

+ Most Reverend Louis Tylka
Bishop of Peoria

Parish Council Openings

The Parish Council is a group of nine individuals who were selected to represent the Parish by advising and assisting the pastor. Members of the Council commit to a three-year term and meet once per month for one hour, generally on the third Tuesday of each month, with breaks for holidays.

Prospective candidates should be practicing Catholics who support St. Thomas and are engaged in the life of the Parish. It is helpful if the candidate brings some familiarity or involvement in the activities of the Parish or the School.

If you would like to be considered for an open position on the Parish Council, or if you would like to nominate someone to be considered, please contact the Parish office

You're invited to join 6th Grade as they present their
ALL SAINTS DAY - LIVING SAINTS WAX MUSEUM
NOVEMBER 2nd - CHURCH HALL - 1:30-3:00 pm



OPEN TO ALL PARISH AND SCHOOL FAMILIES!



America 250 Highlights Blessed Sheen

Archbishop Fulton Sheen *Servant to All*

Watch *Servant to All* |

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Giant Screen Theater at the Peoria Riverfront Museum

5:30 p.m. | Conversation and Q&A with Bishop Tylka and Monsignor Gray

6:30 p.m. | "Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen: *Servant to All*" documentary screening

Join Bishop Louis Tylka and Monsignor Jason Gray for a short presentation on Sheen's life and enduring legacy, followed by a question-and-answer portion to share and educate on the process of sainthood. This presentation will be followed by a short one-hour documentary exploring Sheen's Midwestern roots, pioneering work in television, and his enduring spiritual impact that led to his candidacy for sainthood.

*Please pray for
the recovery and
health of our Holy
Father, Pope Leo*

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

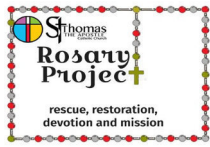
Prayers offered: Rosary, Chaplet of Mercy, and a Few
Spontaneous Intercessory Prayers

Duration: 30 minutes or free to leave early
All parishioners and friends welcome



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.

Communion Ministers Needed

Please consider joining our team of volunteer Extraordinary Ministers at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center. Join us in the hospital's Gandhi meeting room for an informational meeting on Tuesday October 27th at 6:00 p.m. and training session on Tuesday November 3rd at 6:00 p.m. These volunteers perform a great service to the Church, by distributing Holy Communion to God's people on those occasions where they are hospitalized.

If you are interested in learning about this ministry to the sick, please scan to register

Contact information
John R. Phillips, Administrative Secretary,
Pastoral Care Department
john.r.phillips@osfhealthcare.org
(309) 655-2084



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 _____

LEARN THE COMPELLING STORY
OF THE FIRST CHRISTIANS IN

Acts

A 20-PART BIBLE STUDY FEATURING
JEFF CAVINS



Dates – Times – Location

Monday Evenings: 7:00 - 8:30 pm
or Tuesday Mornings: 9:30 - 11 am
20 Classes

Part A: Nov. 9/10 - Dec. 14/15, 2026
(2 week break)

Part B: Jan. 4/5 - Apr. 19/20, 2027
St. Jude Catholic Church, Peoria
Hettinger Hall

Cost – Registration

\$40 for Workbook (only) -
individual video access not included
(which is optional)
Registration deadline: Oct. 12, 2026

For More Information

Contact Lori Cusack at 309-408-4924
or
E-mail: Adultfaith@stjudecatholic.com

Acts is the story of how a few Christians empowered by the Holy Spirit were chosen to bring Christ and the Good News to the ends of the earth. They faced secular forces, internal strife, and hostile crowds, and despite all this, they brought the kingdom of God to a broken world and the love of God to the hearts of men.

Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom will help you to see your place in the Church as a disciple of Christ.

“Once you start learning, he makes you hunger for more. Jeff pulls everything you need to know out of the Bible, and it all starts to make sense like it never did before.”

—Margaret T.



Visit ascensionpress.com to learn more!

October is Respect Life Month

During the month of October, we are especially called to recognize, cherish, and defend the God-given dignity of every human life, from conception to natural death.

The Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (PDCCW) invites the faithful throughout our parishes to join us in prayer for the protection of human life, for the strengthening of families, and for our legislators and leaders who are entrusted with decisions that affect the dignity and protection of every person.

Prayer for the Sanctity and Protection of Human Life

God, our loving Father, Creator and Lover of all life,
You fashioned every human person in Your own image and likeness.

Give us the strength and courage to defend and protect human life from conception to natural death. Help us to serve actively in upholding the sanctity and dignity of every human life.

We pray that our legislators and leaders may be guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit to act courageously and responsibly in defense of human life.

Strengthen our families and help us to follow the loving example of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the faithful witness of St. Joseph. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

St. Rose of Lima, pray for us.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us.

Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
(PDCCW)
Respect For Life Commission; Joan Blindt

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 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 - Mary -- Finance Manager

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.
