

*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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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)

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katecrim@stthomas-church.net

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ccd@stthomas-church.net

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

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

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

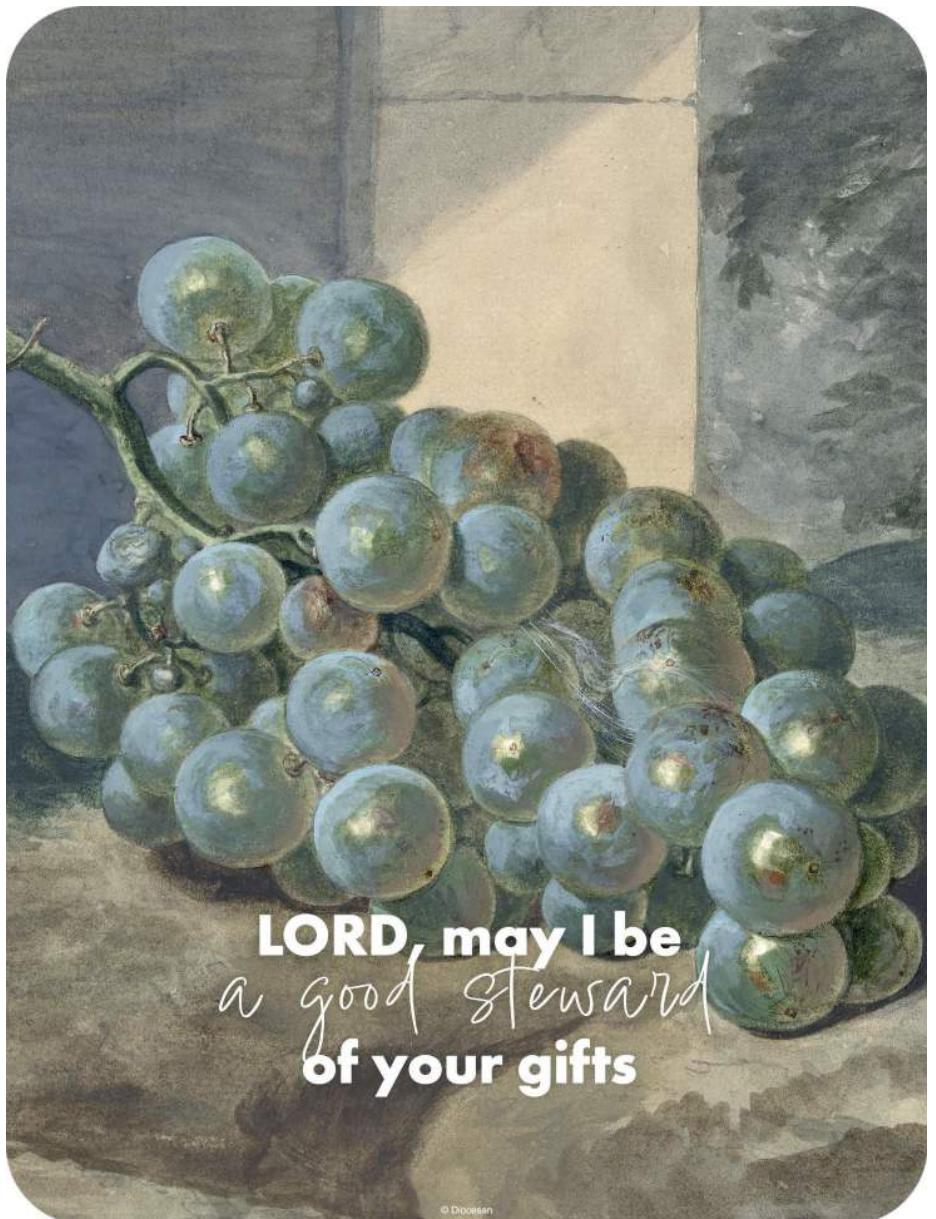
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Helpline (309) 264-5815

Stay in Touch

2. Join OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org or the My Parish App
3. 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



*October 4, 2026
Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*



**LORD, may I be
a good steward
of your gifts**

Full-Time Teaching Position

STS has an immediate opening for a Fourth Grade Teacher. Please share this with anyone you think might be a good fit at St. Thomas. The right candidate could come from a variety of backgrounds. We would welcome:

- A recently retired teacher who would enjoy returning to the classroom in a small-class setting with a supportive staff and team.
- A stay at home parent that has a teaching degree and wants to get back into the classroom
- A recent college graduate, whether in education or another field, who is interested in beginning a career in teaching.
- Someone with a bachelor's degree who is interested in transitioning from a career in business, science, mathematics, or another field into education.
- An experienced school aide with a bachelor's degree who is ready to take on a larger teaching role.

We are looking for someone who is caring, hard working, dedicated, and excited to be part of our STS community. We are also willing to provide direction and support for someone with a bachelor's degree that would like to pursue getting their teaching certificate.

If you know someone who may be a good fit, please share this opportunity with them or encourage them to reach out to me at maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

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.



Readings for the Week of October 4

Sunday	Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 5: 1-7; Phillipians 4: 6-9; Matthew 21: 21: 33-43
Monday	St. Faustina Kowalska Galatians 1: 6-12; Luke 10: 25-37
Tuesday	St. Bruno, Priest Galatians 1: 13-24; Luke 10: 38-42
Wednesday	Our Lady of the Rosary Galatians 2: 1-2, 7-14; Luke 11: 1-4
Thursday	Galatians 3: 1-5; Luke 11: 5-13
Friday	St. John Leonardi, Priest Galatians 3: 7-14; Luke 11: 15-26
Saturday	Galatians 3: 22-29; Luke 11: 27-28
Sunday	Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 25: 6-10a; Phillipians 4: 12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22: 1-14

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 5, 2026

7:00 a.m. Paul Hop Nguyen/Mai Dang

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

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

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

7:00 a.m. Teresa McCabe/The Elger Family
8:00 a.m. Angela Kenny/Joe & Sandy Whalen

Thursday, October 8, 2026

7:00 a.m. Patricia Callaway/Catholic Women's League
Schl Mass Serena Tolentino/Sarmiento & Tolentino Families

Friday, October 9, 2026

7:00 a.m. Annie Holland-Morrissey/Kevin Morrissey
8:00 a.m. Grandparents of Jim & Mets Ginoli

Saturday, October 10, 2026

8:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette/FSJB
5:00 p.m. Patricia McCauley/David McCauley

Sunday, October 11, 2026

8:00 a.m. Jerry McDonough/Eileen McDonough
10:00 a.m. For the People
5:00 p.m. Louise Picl/Rick & Melanie Picl

Week of October 4

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL & PANTRY COLLECTIONS At all Masses this weekend

COFFEE & DONUTS Sunday, October 4, after morning Masses

WHY IT'S GREAT TO BE CATHOLIC Monday, October 5, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

ROSARY Tuesday, October 6, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

CCD Wednesday, October 7, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, October 7, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

ST. IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY Thursday, October 8, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, October 8, 6:30 p.m.

TMIY Friday, October 9, 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

Octoberfest October 17
Progressive Dinner November 1

Our Sympathy

Jim Kelly, brother of John Kelly

Welcome New Staff

We are happy to welcome two new members of our Parish Office Staff. **Mary Tsoraides**, who has been working in our school is our new Finance and Tuition coordinator. Mary's email is marytsoraides@stthomas-church.net. **Kim Defers** is joining us as Music coordinator. Her email is kimdefers@stthomas-church.net.

If you see either of these ladies please introduce yourself and make them welcome. We are glad they are joining us.

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.

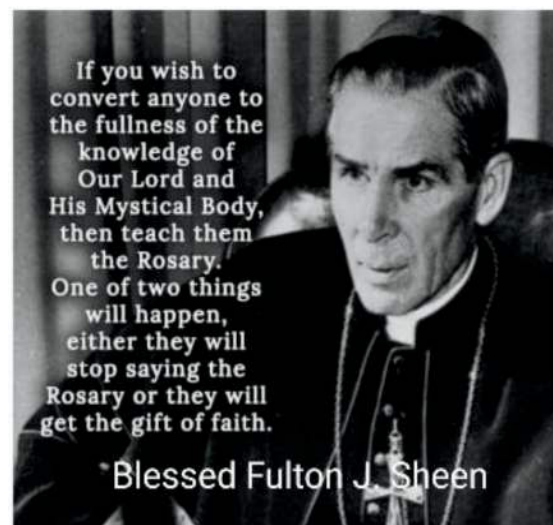
Weekly Collection

September 13, 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. Thank you for your support.

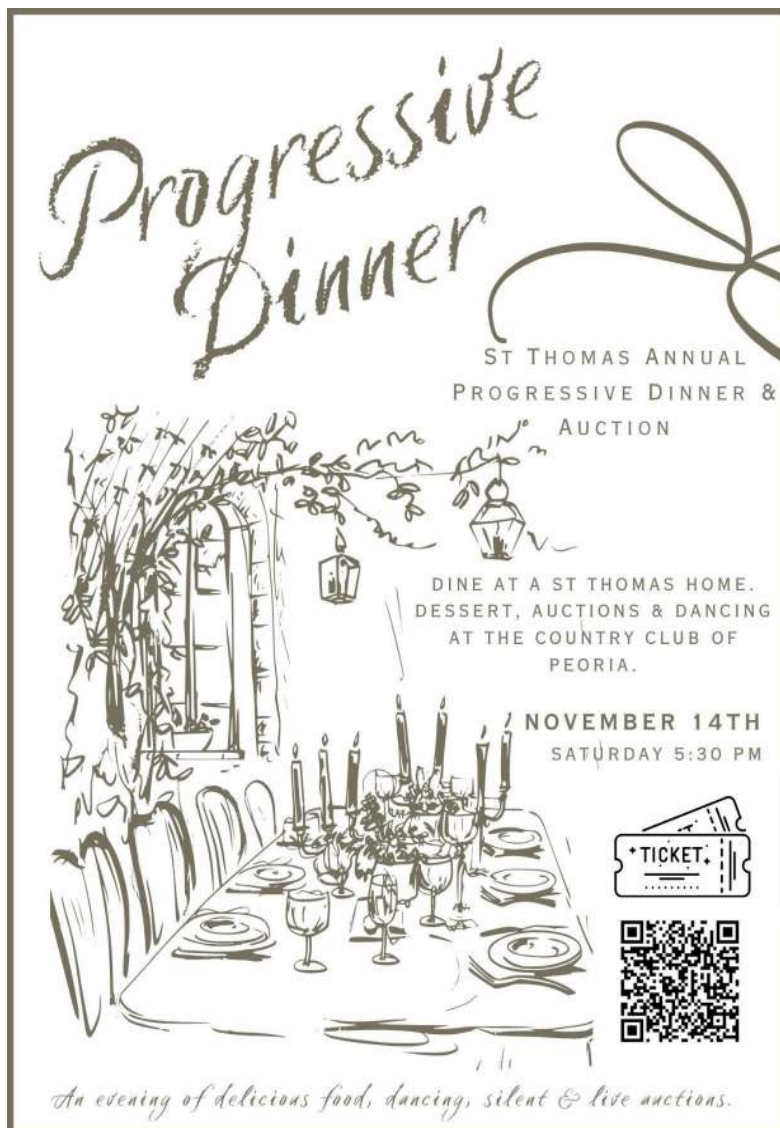


Sponsor of the Week



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- www.ehinsulation.com

Dave & David LaHood - Parishioners



Catholic Women's League of Peoria, IL

Hosts: Pathway Ministries Shower

Date: Sunday, October 11, 2026

Place: St Thomas the Apostle Church, Lower-Level 904 E Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights IL 61616

Time: 1:30-3:30 PM

Light Refreshments Served

Peoria Rescue Ministries, founded in 1955, changed its name in 2024 to Pathway 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 Pathway 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 at P. O. Box 9674, Peoria IL 61612-9674. (All monetary donations will be paid to Pathway Ministries by check from Catholic Women's League).

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

The men of Spalding Council Knights Of Columbus presented a check for \$25,000 to Msgr. Gray for The Sheen Experience.



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!



When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus

The good news of today's Gospel is that all we need to do is let God tend us and bring us to produce good fruit. All we need do is be faithful; God will take care of the rest.

God calls us to do good not for our own reputation, but for His love alone. When we ask others to donate to the Society, it is not for our sake but for the poor we serve. When we seek to act as a voice for the voiceless, it is not because of our special skills, but only our special knowledge of the friends, the neighbors, the God who has called us to this vocation.

---Society of St. Vincent De Paul contemplation

Please help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to bring the love and mercy of Jesus to those who feel left out and abandoned.

- Chris Clemons

In August 2026:

58 calls for help were recieved

\$17,506 assistance provided for our neighbors (about \$330 per family)

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



Spalding Council #427 Knights of Columbus



I.D. Drive (Tootsie Rolls)
Before & After All Masses
October 3rd & 4th

For more information please call
Dennis Goett at 309-550-1967



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!**

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.

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)



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 _____



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 -
- 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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