

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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msgrgray@stthomas-church.net
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paulstarksj@stthomas-church.net

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(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

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309-645-1364; ccd@stthomas-church.net

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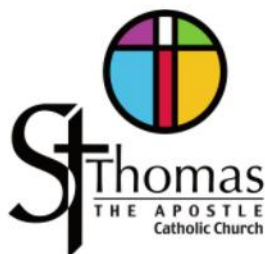
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erincraig@stthomas-school.net

Annulment Consultant:
John Mackoway.....699-5213

Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty.(x1350)
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Stay in Touch

1. Join Msgr. Gray for Mass. 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).



November 21, 2021

904 East Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights, Illinois
309-688-3446; stthomaspeoria.org

CHRIST THE KING





From Our Pastor

We celebrate Christ the King as the conclusion of our liturgical year. This means that a new liturgical year begins next weekend with the beginning of Advent as we prepare for the birth of Christ. It is good to make plans to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christ's coming through prayer and even through sacrifices offered up to the Lord. The Advent Season is often busy because of the coming holidays, so I recommend making deliberate plans to keep a Christ-centered focus in your spiritual lives during Advent.

I wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving. Please join us for Mass at 9 AM and know that you are invited to the Thanksgiving Dinner to be held in the cafeteria on the same day. Let us be thankful to God for every gift we have received from Him, especially our freedoms and blessings that we have in the United States. May God bless America.

Last year we raised funds during our end-of-year annual appeal to pay for our parish office renovations. The school also raised funds for the playground equipment that was installed last summer. Both efforts were very successful, even amidst the challenges of the pandemic last year.

This year, I am inviting every parishioner and every school family to contribute to this year's annual appeal for the windows in the school. The oldest windows are single pane glass and are worn and in need of replacement. Our annual appeal letter explains more information about ways to contribute. With your support, I know that we will be able to do great things for our school and make our building reflect the excellence in education that we have through our dedicated teachers and staff. St. Thomas the Apostle, pray for us.

— Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of November 21, 2021

Sunday	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 1:5-8; John 18:33b-37
Monday	St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr Daniel 1: 1-6, 8-20; Luke 21: 1-4
Tuesday	St. Columban, Abbot Daniel 2: 31-45; Luke 21: 5-11
Wednesday	St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21: 12-19
Thursday	St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr Daniel 6: 12-28; Luke 21: 20-28 or Sirach 50: 22-24; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Luke 17: 11-19
Friday	Daniel 7: 2-14; Luke 21: 29-33
Saturday	Daniel 7: 15-27; Luke 21: 34-36
Sunday	First Sunday of Advent Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2 Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 22, 2021	7:00 a.m. Dr. James N. Kenny, Sr./Family
Tuesday, November 23, 2021	7:00 a.m. Edith Yount/Michael & Whitney Axelson 9:15 a.m. Wanda Cyboran/Bernie Shekleton
Wednesday, November 24, 2021	7:00 a.m. Joe Connolly/Cari Connolly
Thursday, November 25, 2021	9:00 a.m. Ed Dotta/Ken Matheny
Friday, November 26, 2021	8:00 a.m. Paul & Elaine Oltman/Mary Camp
Saturday, November 27, 2021	8:00 a.m. Joe Maier/Robert & Joann Kinsella 5:00 p.m. Mary Carrigan/Jim & Mary Lawless
Sunday, November 28, 2021	8:00 a.m. Mary Ward/Paul & Ann Horst 10:00 a.m. Kevin Harmon/Ed Harmon 5:00 p.m. Ed Dotta/Sally

Week of November 21

ROSARY Tuesday, November 23, 10:00 a.m., Church

THANKSGIVING MASS Thursday, November 25, 9:00 a.m., Church

THANKSGIVING DINNER Thursday, November 25, 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m., School Cafeteria

FRIDAY MASS Friday, November 26, 8:00 a.m., Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adoration	December 3
Advent Market	December 4
St. Thomas Holy Hour	December 16

Thanksgiving Dinner

Please join us for Thanksgiving Dinner **November 25**
from **11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** in the school cafeteria.

Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up. Desserts are also needed.

Call or email the Parish Office at **688-3446**
or email parishoffice@stthomas-church.net
if you are able to help.



Weekly Collection

	November 14, 2021	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000	\$400,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$20,468	\$275,456
Electronic Collections.....	\$3,188	\$64,182
Total Collected.....	\$23,656	\$339,635
Over/(Short)	\$3,656	\$(60,365)

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.

Our Sympathy

Patricia Denton

Parish Christmas Open House

Saturday, December 11
After 5pm Mass

Sunday, December 12
After all Masses



Please join us in the lower level of the church to thank our parishioners who do so much to make St. Thomas a great community.

We are looking for volunteers to help set up and serve.
Please call the Parish Office or Denise Tascher @ 693-8633.



Pray with the Pope

November 2021
Artificial Intelligence

We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

RCIA

Nov. 24: No Class (Thanksgiving)

Dec. 1: Blessed Virgin Mary, Rosary

Dec. 8: Baptism, Confirmation

Dec. 15: Eucharist, Orders

Dec. 22: No Class

Dec. 29: No Class

Parish Council

Seeking Nominations for the Council

We invite parishioners to recommend members of the parish to serve on our Parish Council. Term of service starts in January. The Parish Council is composed of nine elected members who each serve for a three-year term, and one member who is a liaison from the Parish Finance Committee.

The Parish Council advises regarding all aspects of parish life, including the spiritual, educational, social, and financial concerns of the Parish. The Parish Council is assisted in studying the financial health of the parish by the Parish Finance Council.

You may present nominations to the Parish Office in writing or via email. Include the name of the person making the nomination, the person being nominated, and a short comment about the qualities that make the candidate a good nominee to the Parish Council. Each nominee will be asked if he or she will accept the nomination. Please consider nominating a fellow parishioner who can contribute to the building our parish.



Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is an important tradition at St. Thomas. We have gift tags in baskets as you leave Mass. We ask you to take one or more of the tags and purchase the requested gift. Please give new gifts only.

RETURN YOUR GIFTS IN GIFT BAGS WITH THE ORIGINAL TAG ATTACHED. You may leave them under the Giving Tree in the Narthex, or deliver to the Parish Office. Your generosity providing gifts under the Giving Tree has been incredibly helpful in the past. Last year we were able to distribute gifts to almost 300 individuals. This includes St. Thomas Families, Foster Children, Catholic Charities, and neighbors in our community.

MONETARY DONATIONS This year a monetary donation might work best for many people. You can make your donation on our website: stthomaspeoria.org. Go to GIVING, then DONATE NOW. As you complete the form please Apply your Donation to The Giving Tree.

Please make your monetary donation as soon as possible so our elves have time to shop before the deadline.

PLEASE RETURN GIFTS BY DECEMBER 14TH. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

SATURDAY • DECEMBER 4 • 9AM TO 12PM

**ST. THOMAS
ADVENT
MARKET**

ENJOY THE FUN AT THE
ST. THOMAS ADVENT MARKET!

FREE ADMISSION

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SANTA

ACTIVITIES
FOR KIDS

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LOCAL

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL, 904 E. LAKE AVE.



Each week we will highlight one of the volunteer opportunities available here at St. Thomas. This week it's *Parish Support*. You can call, or email, the Parish Office if you are interested in helping.

Parish Support

Our Parish Office is able to help you support St. Thomas in a variety of ways.

- ✦ **Envelopes:** Some parishioners prefer to contribute cash or check through weekly or monthly envelopes sent to your home.
- ✦ **Electronic Giving:** Some parishioners contribute electronically by setting up a regular monthly contribution from your bank.
- ✦ **Sponsor a Student:** You can contribute to help pay part of the tuition of a St. Thomas student with financial need, making Catholic education affordable.
- ✦ **Empower Illinois:** You can receive a tax credit for your Illinois State taxes by contributing to this non-profit that provides scholarships for St. Thomas students.

All members of the Parish are welcome at the December Ultreya, here at St. Thomas on Saturday, Dec.4, at the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

Please join Cursillo for our December Ultreya
St. Thomas Catholic Church
Guests are Welcome!
Families are Welcome!
on Saturday, Dec. 4 ; 5:00pm
beginning with the parish Mass

Join us for a Mass, talk and social time!
Reflection by Msgr. Jason Gray
Hosts: Todd and Karla Dennhardt
Social Time in the parish hall afterwards with snacks and beverages – individually wrapped

Outreach Mission Kickoff of Friend (Candidate) and Mentor (Sponsorship) Recruitment for 2022!!!!

You can contact the Cursillo Office at 309/676-5587, cursillopeoria@gmail.com for more information.
Please wear a mask to all in person events.



**Make a friend. Be a friend.
Be the life changer to bring
someone to Christ.**

**JOIN US FOR OUR
IN PERSON DECEMBER
ULTREYA!**

Matching Gifts Program

LIMITED TIME GIVING TUESDAY 2:1
MATCH OPEN NOW!

For a limited time (until 11/30/21 or the \$1.5M runs out!) Caterpillar is offering to give twice what you give.

When current CAT employees and retirees give between \$25-\$750, CAT will give double what is given; if you give \$750, CAT will give \$1500! What a wonderful way to multiply your gift and support Catholic education.

This 2:1 match is in addition to the original CAT 1:1 match up to \$10K for the 2021 year.

Be sure to fill out the match information at Caterpillar Foundation Matching Gifts Program by 11/30/21 to get the 2:1 match. St. Thomas the Apostle School is among the non-profits you can choose to share your match gift with!

We appreciate your support for our school and parish.

Cursillo Community Rekindle is Hosting
Advent Lessons & Carols
on Sunday, NOVEMBER 28, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.



Join us for prayer and music!
Sister Diane and the
Sisters of Immaculate Conception
De Colores!



The Cursillo Community is invited to join us at Blessed Sacrament in Morton in person or watch it on our Live Stream on the Peoria Cursillo Office Facebook page (or by visiting the Peoria Cursillo website: peoriacursillo.org for a link)

The Chicago Archdiocesan Commission on
Mental Illness Invites you to

Moving Forward in Hope

an evening of prayer, connection, and hope


Tuesday, Nov. 23, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

The Archdiocesan Commission on Mental Illness is pleased to offer *Moving Forward in Hope*, a monthly series of prayer, connection, and hope.


Our goal is to create a safe place where those living with, or caring for, someone with mental health concerns can come together to pray and share with one another.

We know connection is paramount to mental health and well-being. These *virtual meetings* will cover relevant topics and be held on the **fourth Tuesday of each month.**


For more information, and to get the registration link, email
Deacon Tom Lambert: tlambert@ourlmc.org



Please join Cursillo for our Rekindle Advent Program
Praying with Imagination in Advent
on Monday, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 ; 7:00 p.m.



Join us for prayer and music,
followed by the rosary.
Blessed Sacrament Church in Morton.



The Community is invited to join us at Blessed Sacrament in Morton in person or watch it on our Live Stream on the Peoria Cursillo Office Facebook page (or by visiting the Peoria Cursillo website: peoriacursillo.org for a link)
Please wear a mask to all in person events.

PEORIA NOTRE DAME DANCE TEAM CHRISTMAS CAMP 2021



DANCING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

The PND Dance Team will be having a Christmas Dance Camp for girls 4 years old to 8th grade.

It will be held from **8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.** on **December 4, 2021.**
The cost is \$40 per dancer

Visit: [PND DANCE TEAM - Home \(weebly.com\)](http://PND DANCE TEAM - Home (weebly.com)) and click on 2021 Christmas Camp to download the registration form.
Please contact **Coach Tally Sevier** at pnddanceteam@gmail.com if you have any questions.

MORNINGS AT PND

PEORIA NOTRE DAME
DECEMBER 1
@ 8:15 TO 9:15

Parents of K - 8th graders, join us in our Commons for coffee and donuts to learn more about the highly praised AP Capstone Diploma Program.

For questions or to RSVP, call Admissions Director Matt Blackford at 309-691-8741.

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) _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

New Parishioner _____ Change of address/phone _____

St. Thomas - Food Pantry

Current needs are: canned fruit, canned soup, jelly, meal helper, pasta sauce, peanut butter, and boxed side dishes

Thank you for your generosity

THE PEORIA AREA
Community Festival of
NATIVITIES

A Thrill of Hope

December 2-5, 2021
Thursday 5PM-9PM
Friday & Saturday 10AM-9PM
Sunday 12PM-6PM

— FREE ADMISSION —

3700 W. Reservoir Blvd., Peoria, Illinois
CommunityFestivalofNativities.com
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*I said a prayer
for you today,
asking God
to be with you
each and every
minute of this day.*

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 4:00-4:45pm & 6:00-6:30 p.m.

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












4 - Fr. Stark

0 - Terri- Administrative Assist.

1340 - Julie-Accounting

1341 - Pat-Tuition

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 5:00 p.m. every day.

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