

**Jesus said to
them, “I am the
bread of life;
whoever comes
to me will never
hunger, and
whoever
believes in me
will never
thirst.”**

John 6:35

August 1, 2021

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
904 East Lake Avenue,
Peoria Heights, Illinois
309-688-3446; stthomaspeoria.org



18
ORDINARY
TIME



From Our Pastor

As We approach the beginning of the new school year in a couple of weeks, we anticipate it should be much more *normal*. While we will continue to maintain a clean, safe, and healthy environment, we will not have to be as restrictive as last year. Our students will most certainly appreciate the additional property and playground equipment!

I thank all those who donated to the *Sponsor-a-Student* fund who have helped provide tuition assistance for our families in need. Donations to the *Msgr. Watson Scholarship Fund* have also benefited the school by increasing the funds that generate ongoing tuition assistance for students now, and in the future. In addition, many of you have claimed the tax credit offered by the State of Illinois for donations to *Empower Illinois*, which directly fund student tuition. Thank you all for your generosity!

Amidst the recent challenges of finding employees to fill openings, I am proud of the work Mrs. Bentley has done to fill our teaching positions at St. Thomas School. We have an excellent faculty members who will serve our families well. Please encourage and pray for all our faculty and staff at St. Thomas School. If you know any students, including pre-schoolers, who should check out St. Thomas School, please encourage them to contact us in the next few weeks.

I will ask all of our parishioners to consider ways in which you can volunteer, get more involved in activities, and serve St. Thomas Parish. As we return to *normal* life, I look forward to resuming more of our regular activities. By volunteering, and by participating in our spiritual and social functions, you will help our parish grow stronger.

In particular, please pray for and encourage those who might want to become Catholic. More RCIA information will appear in upcoming weeks.

— Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of August 1, 2021

Sunday	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15; Ephesians 4:17, 20-24; John 6:24-35
Monday	St. Peter Julian Eymard, Priest Numbers 11:4b-15; Matthew 14:13-21
Tuesday	Numbers 12:1-13; Matthew 14:22-36
Wednesday	St. John Vianney, Priest Numbers 13:1-2, 25—14:1, 26a-29a, 34-35; Matthew 15:21-28
Thursday	The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major Numbers 20:1-13; Matthew 16:13-23
Friday	The Transfiguration of the Lord Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Mark 9:2-10
Saturday	St. Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs Deuteronomy 6:4-13; Matthew 17:14-20
Sunday	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Kings 19:4-8; Ephesians 4:30—5:2; John 6:41-51

Mass Intentions

Monday, August 2, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Deceased Members of Beyler Family/Mike & Tracy Seyfert
8:00 a.m.	Kevin Harmon/Ed Harmon

Tuesday, August 3, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Salvation of the USA/Jack & Margaret Weinstein
8:00 a.m.	Msgr. William Watson/The Secular Carmelite Community

Wednesday, August 4, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Joseph P. Kelly/Steve Kelly
8:00 a.m.	Len Kuchan/Mark & Ann Lucas

Thursday, August 5, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Janet Keithley/Family
8:00 a.m.	Catherine Anna Loffredo/Ed & Cathy Mallow

Friday, August 6, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Marie Sola/Mary Camp
8:00 a.m.	Jack McClernon/Mark & Marlynn Kelsch

Saturday, August 7, 2021

8:00 a.m.	Joe Maier/Robert & Joann Kinsella
5:00 p.m.	Jason Rutherford/Family

Sunday, August 8, 2021

7:00 a.m.	Joe Maier/The Rainvilles
9:00 a.m.	Paul Doran/Bill & Pat Wombacher
11:00 a.m.	Dan Connolly/Cari Connolly
5:00 p.m.	For the People

Week of August 1

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS this weekend

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION SIGN-UP after all Masses this weekend in the Narthex

ROSARY Tuesday, August 3, 10:00 a.m., Church

ADORATION Friday, August 6, after 8:00 Mass until Benediction at 8:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Picnic	August 15
St. Thomas Holy Hour	August 19
St. Thomas Volunteer Fair	August 29
Septoberfest	September 25

Our Sympathy

John Smith, brother of Don Smith

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Pray with the Pope

July 2021
Our Families

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.



August 2021
The Maritime World

We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen, and their families.



Some people argue that changing laws will not eliminate abortions. It is certainly true that a change of heart is more important than a change of law. What is forgotten, however, is that the law is the great teacher. Children grow up believing that if a practice is legal, it must be moral.

~ Cardinal John O'Connor

RCIA

Do you know someone who might be interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic Faith?

RCIA classes will begin in mid-September. The *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults* is a series of weekly classes that run through the fall and spring, leading up to Easter. Classes will take place generally on Wednesday evenings in the Parish Hall.

Now is the time to invite someone you may know to consider joining our RCIA class in a little over a month. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

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Weekly Collection

	July 25, 2021	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000.....	\$80,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$6,956.....	\$45,233
Electronic Collections	\$3,188.....	\$13,174
Total Collected.....	\$10,144.....	\$58,407
Over/(Short)	\$(9,856).....	\$(21,593)

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.

St. Thomas Family Picnic

**Sunday,
August 15, 2021
Noon**

Join St. Thomas families in a time of fellowship and fun after the 11am Mass. Men's Club will be grilling up the hotdogs! We will supply the hotdogs & fixings, drinks, and paper products. Come out and relax while enjoying the great afternoon.

Join your kids on the new playground or grassy hill for fun times.

Grill and food will be on the back parking lot.
In case of rain, we will move to the gym.



Open House at Sacré-Coeur Retreat Center

Sunday, August 1

From 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Ribbon cutting & Blessing at 3:30 p.m.

All are Welcome

8508 County Road 100N
Magnolia, IL 61336
(site of the former retreat center, Kings House)

For any questions or more information call
Deacon Terry Stalsberg at 309-409-5519



Project Backpack

Please help us get area K - 8th grade students ready to go back to school!

Please donate a new backpack(s) filled with the following items by **Sunday, August 8th**:

- * 2 Wide-Ruled Notebooks
- * 2 2-Pocket Poly Folders
- * 1 Pack of Wide-Ruled Loose Leaf Paper
- * 1 12-Pack #2 Lead Pencils
- * 1 Pack Black or Blue Pens
- * 1 Pink Eraser
- * 1 Metric/English ruler
- * 1 10-Pack of Crayola Markers
- * 1 24-Pack Crayola Crayons
- * 1 12-Pack Crayola Colored Pencils
- * 1 4 oz. Bottle Elmer's School Glue
- * 2 Elmer's Glue Sticks
- * 1 Pair School Scissors
- * 1 Pencil Pouch



Backpacks may be left in the collection tubs in the narthex or dropped off at the St. Thomas Food Pantry (M and Th, 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM). Donations of 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 or drop it at the parish office.

Please contact Diana at diana-janda1964@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you for helping area students get off to a great start for the 2021-2022 school year!

Holy Hour for the Rights of the Unborn

Saint Mark Church,
1113 W. Bradley Avenue, Peoria.

August 2, the first Monday, 7:00 p.m.

If you have received the vaccine, face masks are not required, if you have not received please wear a mask.

Holy Hour consists of Benediction, the Rosary, and other prayers. Please join us in prayer for the protection of these innocent lives and the restoration of their Constitutional rights.

Support Groups Through Catholic Charities

Wounded Healer Support Group

Wednesdays, August 4—October 27, 5:30-7:00 p.m., via Zoom

For more information call **Deacon Tom Mueller** at **309-251-1868** or e-mail him atrelleum.mof.nocaed@gmail.com.

Register at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1kx-mzEyafox_1AMDp_iJynYOupvFNB9UUdakDEYtsEQo/edit?usp=sharing

The Seasons of Hope Bereavement Group

A Grief and Faith Sharing Group

Tuesdays, August 3—September 7, 9:00 a.m., via Zoom

Prayer, scripture, faith sharing, and fellowship

With the support of the faith community, give voice to unique journeys of grief and find healing and spiritual growth. The bereavement process is centered on God, and grounded in the healing wisdom, traditions and practices of the Church.

For participation, or more information, please contact:

Lorraine Kim, MSW,

Catholic Charities

Good Samaritan program

Call or text: **217-7213489** or email: Lorraine.kim@cdop.org

Read Msgr. Gray's Bulletin Columns, all Together

Msgr. Gray's columns on the Eucharist and being in full Communion are posted on-line. Visit www.jgray.org/st_thomas to read them together.

When you go the poor, you encounter Jesus



The St. Vincent de Paul Society has assisted clients throughout the pandemic, with your generous support. Most of the people who call Catholic Charities, and directed to us, do not have much savings and many have lost jobs in businesses that shut down. The programs that provided funds to help

people get by are ending as summer winds down, so we expect to receive many more calls for help. We always confirm information given by clients so we are good stewards of your money, and we ask you to consider increasing your donations as we enter an expected increase in need.

We stay as informed as possible of resources available through the government and other agencies, and we have access to job information that we share with clients, but many times people have immediate needs, or fall through the cracks, and we are there to help them.

Please remember our brothers and sisters who struggle. Thank you for giving the St. Vincent de Paul Society the resources to assist friends in need and for keeping them in your prayer. You're the best.

John & Pat Pusey

Septemberfest ~ Volunteers Needed



Septemberfest will be here before we know it ~ **September 25th**

We need *your help* to make this a success.

The 5 areas of need:

- Set-up, on 9/25, beginning at noon
- Kitchen help, 3:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.
- Beverage station, 3:00 p.m.—11:00 p.m.
- Ticket counter, 3:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.
- Tear down, beginning at 10:30 p.m.

If you have questions or are able to **volunteer for two (2) hours** in one of the areas, please call Gary Doll at 309-369-9617, Todd Dennhardt 309-472-7178, or Tom Majewski 309-657-3402

Ticket pre-sale for the event will begin the weekends of September 11/12 and September 18/19

Be Sure to Mark Your Calendar

Men of the Parish

For many years the Men's Club has been a staple of life here at St. Thomas. While gathering for fun and fellowship, the men's Club of the Parish have done much to support the financial needs of the Parish.

At this time we, thank out-going President **Pete Lynch** for his dedicated service. We also welcome the new co-presidents Todd Dennhardt and Tom Majewski.

The Men's Club meets the **3rd Thursday** of each month at 6:30 p.m. For now, meetings will be held at Rudy's Mexican Cantina & Grill, 3311 N. Sterling, Peoria.

We hope to see all men of the Parish at the meetings!

Help Wanted



St. Thomas is looking for someone to help clean the Parish Hall and Kitchen, part time. We were able to find an employee to clean the church, but we could use someone available for 1-2 hours per week to help keep the Parish Hall clean.

Please contact the parish office if you are inter-

Peoria Notre Dame 25th Annual Golf Classic



To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Peoria Notre Dame Golf Classic, the annual outing will take place this year on **Wednesday, September 8 at the Country Club of Peoria.**



Gather your foursome for lunch, a round of golf on a pristine course, drinks, and dinner along with great prizes.

Hole sponsorships and event sponsorships are also available. You can register for golf and sponsorships at pndgolfclassic.maxgiving.golf.

Questions? Contact Sarah Huenefeld at s.huenefeld@pndhs.org or **691-8741**.

St. Thomas Food Pantry

Current needs are: canned fruit, canned soup, jelly, meal helper, pasta sauce, peanut butter, and personal hygiene items

Thank you for your generosity

Back to School Uniform Sale

August 2—August 14

20% Off

Lagron-Miller Company
4517 N. Sterling, Peoria • lagronmiller.com

On A Mission to Help Fund Tuition

The 3rd annual **Randy Simmons Tuition Assistance** fundraising event will be on **August 21, 2021**.

In-person or virtual: walk or run the 5k/1 mile event. Registration includes: t-shirt, magnet, discount coupon to RC Outfitters, drink ticket to Pour Bros. and a live concert at Pour Bros. the evening of the event.

To register: **2021 — Randy Simmons Memorial 5K Run — Race Roster — Registration, Marketing, Fundraising** If you are not able to participate, a donation can be made to the **RS PND tuition assistance fund**, and sent to **PO Box 10582, Peoria IL 61612**. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

Stay in Touch

1. **Join Msgr. Gray for Mass.** Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org or the Parish App
2. **Bookmark the Parish Blog** which will feature regular updates (jgray.org/st_thomas).
3. **Download My Parish App** to receive push notifications (Visit myparishapp.com/download).
4. **Receive the Bulletin** and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email parishoffice@stthomas-church.net to sign up).
5. **Bookmark the parish webpage** (stthomaspeoria.org).

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** _____

Parish Office Hours

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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 Assistant

1340 - Julie-Accounting

1341 - Pat-Tuition

If you have items to deliver for the Parish Office, you are welcome to put them under the door 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.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish • 309-688-3446 904 East Lake Avenue, Peoria Heights, IL 61616 stthomaspeoria.org parishoffice@stthomas-church.net			Administrative AssistantTerri Moon (x0) terimoon@stthomas-church.net		
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SacristanMother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB.....(688-3500) fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com			Tuition CoordinatorPat Wombacher(x1341) patwombacher@stthomas-school.net		
Deacon Dcn. Mark Kelsch (692-4908) Dcn. John Nelson (981-2716) Dcn. Ed Mallow (360-7735)			CCD CoordinatorAngie Robenstein 309-645-1364 ccd@stthomas-church.net		
School Principal Maureen Bentley(x1210) maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net			Music Coordinator Ann Horst (682-5507)		
Sacrament of Baptism Parents participate in a Baptism class before the Baptism of their first child. Contact the Parish Office to schedule the class.			Choir Director Erin Craig erincraig@stthomas-school.net		
Confessions Saturday 4:00-4:45pm & 6:00-6:30 p.m.			Annulment ConsultantJohn Mackoway (699-5213)		
			How to Submit Bulletin Information Send information for the bulletin to parishoffice@stthomas-church.net with subject <i>Bulletin</i> . 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.		

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