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Newsletter—December 6, 2024

We Teach Truth - Build Character - Inspire Service



Our student council elves have been busy! We shopped at Target for our Neighborhood House families. We wrapped all the presents! We are definitely feeling the Christmas spirit!

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to make this all possible!





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Letters to Santa
December 2nd-20th

PTO will provide holiday stationary with 'letter to Santa' template pre-printed + envelopes stamped to 'mail to North Pole' for pre3-4th grade starting Dec 2nd

Turn your letters into the mailbox located by the front office for Santa's Elves to collect & deliver!

ST. THOMAS PRESENTS
COMETS
Christmas
CHOIR & BAND CONCERT
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16TH
6:30 PM
STS GYM
ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND!

You're Invited To Our
CHRISTMAS SING
Thursday, December 12th
6:30 p.m.

Pre-3, Pre-4, Kinder, 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th
PLEASE HAVE ALL STUDENTS TO THEIR CLASSROOMS BY 6:15 PM
Enter through the GYM Doors!
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

COOKIE EXCHANGE & PICTURES WITH SANTA
DECEMBER 15TH
DIRECTLY AFTER 10 AM MASS
PARISH HALL

Cookies can be dropped off at the parish kitchen prior to the start of Mass!



REMINDER: Diocesan requirement for volunteers.

Please check to see if you have expired! Training is good for 5 years.

All volunteers of the school and parish (those who work with or have contact with children) must have completed the Safe Environment workshop prior to working with our children.

To complete the training go to

<https://cmgconnect.org/> online training hub

Find your Diocese - Peoria

Set-up an account

Complete Safe Environment Training for *Volunteers*—not employees

Create ONLY ONE user account. If you have forgotten your log in – email safeenvironment@cdop.org

If you have already completed the online training, it will show as complete when you log in.

If you have expired, you must take the RENEWAL Training – complete the background check and CANTS at the same time. These are uploaded – do not print and send to the office. Follow the prompts to submit.

We appreciate your support by completing these mandatory steps for volunteers. If you have any questions, please feel free to call.


CMGConnect

DIOCESE OF PEORIA




End-User Instructions

Getting Started:

1. Go to <https://Peoria.cmgconnect.org/>
2. Create a new account by completing all the boxes under the **Register for a New Account** area. This includes your address, primary parish, and how you participate at your parish or school. If you have questions please contact your parish/school coordinator.
3. Your dashboard will show you the required and optional training curriculums that have been customized for your particular role within the Diocese.
4. Click  under the Safe Environment Training-Peoria to begin.
5. On the last page of the curriculum, submit your background check information. *The curriculum will be marked "Resume" until your background check is processed and reviewed by the diocese. Processing can take up to 7-10 business days.*
6. If needed, you can access your completion certificate after you are certified by returning to the training dashboard and clicking **Print Certificate**.



For technical assistance, contact us via the  button found in the bottom right corner of the web page.

Last Updated: 02/13/20

Track It Forward is an app is available on the Apple app store and Google Play. You may also see it called Volunteer Time Tracking in the app store when searching for it. We encourage parents to download the Track It Forward app to their phone to ensure hours are logged upon completion. Go to: Find an Existing Site and type in St. Thomas the Apostle Peoria Heights. Click to register.



TRACK IT FORWARD



DOWNLOAD THE TRACK IT FORWARD APP

PLEASE ONLY CREATE ONE LOGIN PER FAMILY!

Email Questions to comethours@gmail.com



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John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship Fund Protocols & Procedures

The John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship is an endowment fund established with contributions from the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria. If you would like to make a donation that would provide families the opportunity of a Catholic education for their children, click on the button to go to our online giving page. Scholarships of \$700,000 were recently awarded for the 2024-2025 school year.

Applications for scholarship grants will be available for the 2025-2026 academic year beginning in November 2024. Assistance is open to students enrolling, or intending to enroll, in any Catholic school, grade kindergarten through 12, located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are parishioners in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed. Information about the grants and application procedure will be available here on the website or by contacting any Catholic elementary or secondary school in the Diocese of Peoria in January. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for next year must *reapply*.

John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship Fund Protocols and Procedures: 2025-2026

Deadline Date: Friday, April 25, 2025

PROTOCOLS:

- A family applying for Spalding Scholarship assistance must be an active member in good standing of a parish in the Catholic Diocese of Peoria.
- The student[s] for whom the aid is being sought must be enrolled in good standing [or seeking to be enrolled] in grades K through 12 in a Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria.
- All scholarship assistance will be based on a family's financial need objectively assessed. The diocese will use FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment Services to determine financial need.
- All scholarship assistance will also be dependent upon the recommendation of the pastor that the family is an active member of the parish in good standing
- If a student changes schools during a school year, tuition assistance grants will follow the student as long as the student is enrolled in and in good standing in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Peoria and the family is a member in good standing of a parish in the Diocese of Peoria.
- All awards are for one school year only. A family must apply for Spalding Scholarship assistance each school year.
- The number of grants and the amount of each grant for the school year will be dependent upon the funds available and the size and need of the applicant pool.

Payment of Spalding Scholarship Grants will be made twice a year directly to the Catholic school a student attends. These grants will be applied to the family's tuition obligation. It is anticipated that tuition assistance grants will be announced in early June 2025.

PROCEDURES:

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance from the Spalding Scholarship Fund must complete an online **FACTS Grant & Aid Application** at online.factsmgt.com/aid. **The application and required supporting tax documents must be received online by FACTS by the application deadline date of Friday, April 25, 2025.**

- The FACTS application, payment of the application fee, and any required supporting documents are to be transmitted online to FACTS according to their directions.
- Families must also request the pastor submit a recommendation to the Office of Catholic Schools verifying good standing in the parish.
- The application process is complete only when the pastor's recommendation has been submitted to the Office of Catholic Schools and when a completed parent financial aid application, required supporting documents, and the application fee have been uploaded and submitted to FACTS. **Only completed applications, which include supporting documents, submitted on or before the Friday, April 25, 2025 deadline will be considered when Spalding assistance awards are determined.**



Newsletter—November 22, 2024
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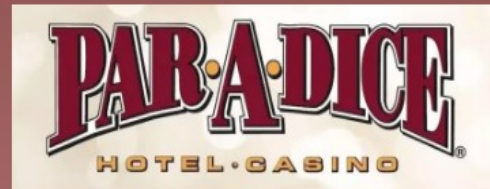
Thank you!

OUR PROUD SPONSORS OF THE MONTH

The Klesath Family

ROCHFORD & ASSOCIATES

The Hudson Family



The Long Family

The Pennell Family

The Scrivner Family



James A. Geraghty, M.D.

The Lynch Family

The Hedges Family

*"Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."
 Proverbs 11:25*