

# *SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH*

*Mission: OUR LADY OF MERCY*

St. Thomas Aquinas  
Thomas, West Virginia

Our Lady of Mercy  
Parsons, West Virginia



Pastor: Rev. Timothy J. Grassi,

P.O. Box 300, Thomas, WV 26292 —Tel: 304-463-4488

Parish Website:

[www.stsite.com](http://www.stsite.com)

### **Sacrament of Baptism:**

Please contact the priest to make arrangements. Instructions for both parents are required.

Sponsors from outside the Parish need a letter of eligibility from their Pastors.

### **Sacrament of Matrimony:**

Arrangements should be made with the Pastor at least six months in advance of the intended date of marriage. Preparation classes with the Pastor are required.

### **Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick:**

If you know of anyone who is seriously ill, hospitalized, shut-in, or about to undergo surgery, Please contact the Pastor or the Parish office to let us know

### **Sacrament of Penance:**

Saturday 4:00 – 4:30 p.m., and 30 minutes before all weekday Masses and anytime upon request.

*All Souls' Day, November 02, 2014*

### THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

During the month of **November**, the Tridentine Mass will **NOT** be offered at the following times and church:

**St. Thomas** - 7:30 AM, Sunday NO MASS;  
**Our Lady of Mercy** - 12:30 PM, Sunday NO MASS.

(**St. Thomas** - Mon., Tues., Thur., Fri. at 7:45 AM)  
(No weekday Masses from 11/10 - 11/21)



### PRO-LIFE CORNER

"A Christian can never conform to a law which is in itself immoral, and such is the case of a law which would admit in principle the liceity of abortion. Nor can a Christian take part in a propaganda campaign in favor of such a law or vote for it ... On the contrary, it is the task of law to pursue reform of society and conditions of life in all its milieux, starting with the most deprived, so that always and everywhere it may be possible to give every child coming into this world a welcome worthy of a person." --Holy See (1974)

### SECOND COLLECTION TODAY

This weekend our parish will take up the Collection for the **Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS)**. The guiding mission of the AMS is to provide the sacraments—and the re-affirming Word of Christ—to the men and women serving in our armed forces, patients in VA Medical Centers, civilians working for the federal government beyond U.S. borders, and the families of these populations. To provide these services they need your help - the AMS receives no federal funding.

### CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE

The Society of St. Thomas Women is raffling off a **"HUGE" Christmas basket** with a multiple variety of great gifts (including a \$100 Wal-Mart card!) Be sure to get your \$5 chance today! Chances are also available in Parsons.

### REMINDER TO ALL CCD STUDENTS



All students are expected to attend Adoration, Benediction and Mass on First Friday, Nov. 7th at St. Thomas Church. This will replace your Sunday, November 9th religious education classes. All parents are encouraged to join us.

### PLENARY INDULGENCES FOR THE POOR SOULS

- From **Nov. 1st to Nov. 8th**: Visit a cemetery with mental prayer for the poor souls.
  - On **Nov. 2nd**: visit a church or an oratory with one Our Father and one Creed being recited.
- A partial indulgence can be obtained any time by visiting a cemetery and praying for the poor souls. The following prayer is especially recommended: ***Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.***

### EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

- November 02** - NO "ASK FATHER" meeting this month at Our Lady of Mercy.  
**November 04** - Society of St. Thomas Women will meet at 7:00 in the Rectory conference room.  
**November 07** - **First Friday** Adoration, Benediction and Mass in Thomas, for CCD children.  
**November 09** - Our Lady of Mercy Women's Guild meeting immediately following Mass in the Social Hall.  
**November 12** - Knights of Columbus meeting at 6:00 PM in Parsons.

### Contributions for October 26, 2014

**St. Thomas: \$1,758.69**  
**Our Lady of Mercy: \$519.00**

### BLACKWATER MINISTRY FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is in need of "valued" food items. This month we are seeking **Ravioli**. Each month we will let you know the items that are most needed.  
(PLEASE NO OUTDATED ITEMS.)

## **ALL SAINTS' DAY** (by: FR. WILLIAM SAUNDERS)

What are the origins of All Saints and All Souls Day. Are these linked with paganism and Halloween?

Both the Feast of All Saints and the Feast of All Souls evolved in the life of the Church independently of paganism and Halloween. However, elements of pagan practices were perhaps "baptized" by some cultures or attached themselves to the celebration of All Saints and All Souls.

Let us first address the Feast of All Saints. The exact origins of this celebration are uncertain, although, after the legalization of Christianity in 313, a common commemoration of Saints, especially the martyrs, appeared in various areas throughout the Church. For instance in the East, the city of Edessa celebrated this feast on May 13; the Syrians, on the Friday after Easter; and the city of Antioch, on the first Sunday after Pentecost. Both St. Ephrem (d. 373) and St. John Chrysostom (d. 407) attest to this feast day in their preaching. In the West, a commemoration for all the saints also was celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost. The primary reason for establishing a common feast day was because of the desire to honor the great number of martyrs, especially during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian (284-305), the worst and most extensive of the persecutions. Quite simply, there were not enough days of the year for a feast day for each martyr and many of them died in groups. A common feast day for all saints, therefore seemed most appropriate.

In 609, the Emperor Phocas gave the Pantheon in Rome to Pope Boniface IV, who rededicated it on May 13 under the title St. Maria ad Martyres (or St. Mary and All Martyrs). Whether the Holy Father purposefully chose May 13 because of the date of the popular celebration already established in the East or whether this was just a happy coincidence is open to debate.

The designation of Nov. 1 as the Feast of All Saints occurred over time. Pope Gregory III (731-741) dedicated an oratory in the original St. Peter's Basilica in honor of all the saints on Nov. 1 (at least according to some accounts), and this date then became the official date for the celebration of the Feast of All Saints in Rome. St Bede (d. 735) recorded the celebration of All Saints Day on Nov. 1 in England, and such a celebration also existed in Salzburg, Austria. Ado of Vienna (d 875) recounted how Pope Gregory IV asked King Louis the Pious (778-840) to proclaim Nov. 1 as All Saints Day throughout the Holy Roman Empire. Sacramentaries of the 9th and 10th centuries also placed the Feast of All Saints on the liturgical calendar on Nov. 1.

According to an early Church historian, John Beleth, Pope Gregory IV (827-844) officially declared Nov. 1 the Feast of All Saints, transferring it from May 13. However, Sicard of Cremona (d. 1215) recorded that Pope Gregory VII (1073-85) finally suppressed May 13 and mandated Nov.1 as the date to celebrate the Feast of All Saints. In all, we find the Church establishing a liturgical feast day in honor of the saints independent of any pagan influence.

Now for the pagan connection: Nov. 1 marked Samhain, the beginning of the Celtic winter. (The Celts lived as early as 2,000 years ago in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and northern France.) Samhain, for whom the feast was named, was the Celtic lord of death, and his name literally meant "summer's end." Since winter is the season of cold, darkness and death, the Celts soon made the connection with human death. The eve of Samhain, Oct. 31, was a time of Celtic pagan sacrifice, and Samhain allowed the souls of the dead to return to their earthly homes that evening. Ghosts, witches, goblins, and elves came to harm the people, particularly those who had inflicted harm on them in this life. Cats too were considered sacred because they had once been human beings who had been changed as a punishment for their evil deeds on this earth.

To protect themselves from marauding evil spirits on the eve of Samhain, the people extinguished their hearth fires and the Druids (the priests and spiritual teachers of the Celts) built a huge new year's bonfire of sacred oak branches. The Druids offered burnt sacrifices of crops, animals, even humans and told fortunes of the coming year by examining the burned remains. People sometimes wore costumes of animal heads and skins. From this new fire, the home hearths were again ignited.

Particular ethnic groups developed their own lore which was merged with the celebration. In Ireland, people held a parade in honor of Muck Olla, a god. They followed a leader dressed in a white robe with a mask from the head of an animal, and begged for food. (Ireland is also the source of the jack-o'lantern fable: A man named Jack was not able to enter heaven because of his miserliness and he could not enter hell because he played practical jokes on the devil; so he was condemned to walk the earth with his lantern until Judgment Day.)

The Scots walked through fields and villages carrying torches and lit bonfires to ward off witches and other evil spirits.

In Wales, every person placed a marked stone in the huge bonfire. If a person's stone could not be found the next morning, he would die within a year.

Besides the Celtic traditions in place, the Roman conquest of Britain in AD 43 brought two other pagan feasts: Feralia was held in late October to honor the dead. Another Autumn festival honored Pomona, the goddess of fruits and trees; probably through this festival, apples became associated with Halloween. Elements of these Roman celebrations were combined with the Celtic Samhain.

With the spread of Christianity and the establishment of All Saints Day, some of these pagan customs remained in the English speaking world for All Hallows Eve (or Halloween, All Saints Eve), perhaps at first more out of superstition and later, more out of fun. Nevertheless, All Saints Day clearly arose from genuine Christian devotion.

*As we pray the Rosary before our Masses in this month of November, we will pray In reparation for sins, for all those serving in our armed forces, for peace in the Middle East and For the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

### All Souls' Day

Nov. 03	Monday	Leonard Teranto	7:15 AM	Thomas
Nov. 04	Tuesday	Martha Kockenderfer	5:00 PM	Thomas
Nov. 05	Wednesday	Poor Souls in Purgatory	9:00 AM	Parsons
Nov. 06	Thursday	Isabel Ditota	5:00 PM	Thomas
Nov. 07	<b>First Friday (Anointing of the Sick)</b>	Frances Shaga	1:00 PM	Cort. Acr.
Nov. 07	<b>First Friday</b>	<b>ADORATION &amp; BENEDICTION</b>	5:00 PM	Thomas
Nov. 07	<b>First Friday</b>	Jack Lambruno	6:00 PM	Thomas
Nov. 08	Saturday	Michael Ditota	9:00 AM	Parsons
Nov. 08	<b>SATURDAY VIGIL</b>	Albert DiBacco	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Thomas</b>
Nov. 09	<b>SUNDAY</b>	Roy & Josephine Carr	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Thomas</b>
Nov. 09	<b>SUNDAY</b>	People of the Parish	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Parsons</b>

### THOMAS

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

### READERS

### ALTAR BOYS

11/08

Kathy Supak

John Ferguson

11/09

Betty Woods & Summer Snyder

Michelle Snyder

Isaac Quattro

### PARSONS

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

### READER

### ALTAR BOYS

11/09

Ariona Plumley & Addie Buckley

Jessica Gutshall

**Cleaning:**

11/02 - 11/08: Joanne Sikarskie & Terry Silk

Any and all Available!

## PRAYER LINE

If you would like to place someone on our prayer line call Mary Frances Evans - Thomas (463-4413)  
Paula Siler - Parsons (478-4104) or Cindy Long - Parsons (478-4833)

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. daylight savings time, (6:00 p.m. standard time), alternating in the Knights of Columbus room Thomas, and Social Hall, Parsons. Visit us at: [thomaskofc2010.org](http://thomaskofc2010.org)

## OUR LADY OF MERCY WOMEN'S GUILD

Meetings are held the second Sunday of the Month immediately after Mass in the Parish Hall.

## SOCIETY OF ST. THOMAS WOMEN

Every woman of the parish is a member of the Society. Monthly meetings are the first Tuesday of the month (except Jan., Feb., March) in the Rectory Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. **Cookbooks are still available. \$10.00**

**HOLY COMMUNION:** *We welcome to the Holy Mass all who share our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. While all are welcome here, we cannot extend to all an invitation to receive Holy Communion. This is not for lack of Christian hospitality. Rather, it is the recognition by the Catholic Church that real divisions of faith and practice do sadly exist among Christians. Practicing Catholics who go to Confession whenever needed are invited to receive Holy Communion. Non-Catholic Christians and those Catholics who should not receive Holy Communion (including those married outside the church and those in need of the sacrament of Penance) are asked to pray for a spiritual communion with the Lord Jesus and for the unity of His Church. Those who are not receiving Holy Communion but who would like to receive a blessing are invited to indicate this desire by crossing their arms across their chests as they approach the priest in the Communion procession.*

## Let us remember in prayer all of our sick and shut-ins:

Dorothy Breth, Champ Sedmock, Vivian Bozic, "Sob" Gennantonio, Eleanor James, J. Pat Nichols, Earl & Mary Moore, Eula Jean & Henry Udovich, Elizabeth Lane, Judy Gutshall, Vincent DiBacco, Dan and Mary Ingram, Mary Johnson, Joe Sagace, Jim Willis, Russ Perando, Jack Lambruno, Jo Ann Michael, Betty Stewart, Shari Burns, Michael Flanagan and Joan Brofka.

**We offer a hearty welcome to all of our visitors! If you would like to make a contribution to our parish, please use the visitor's envelope in the pew.**