

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

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.

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 26, 2016

THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

During the month of **JULY**, the Tridentine Mass will be offered at the following times and church:

St. Thomas - 7:30 AM, (Low Mass) Sunday 07/17/16; (Mon., Tues., Thur., Fri. at 7:45 AM)

(St. Patrick - Weston - 4:00 PM, Sunday 07/10/16.) (High Mass)

PRO-LIFE CORNER

"It is categorically impossible for the same person to state that he or she believes simultaneously both what the Catholic Church teaches and that abortion is just a choice."

~ Bishop Robert Vasa on Nancy Pelosi

MOUNTAINEER DAYS

Come and support the Knights of Columbus food booth on July 2nd during Mountaineer days. They will be selling their delicious Italian Sausage and pulled pork barbecue sandwiches. Proceeds will go to youth activities and the Knights of Columbus community park. All Knights are encouraged to come and help.

FIRST FRIDAY REMINDER



Just a reminder of our First Friday devotions with Mass at 1 PM at Cortland Acres, Adoration at 5 PM followed by Benediction and Mass at 6 PM at St. Thomas Aquinas. First Saturday Mass will be held at 9 AM at Our Lady of Mercy. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to spend time in our Lord's presence.

FOOD IS NEEDED!

Just a reminder to give to your local Food Pantry. Donations are down and your help with food and monetary donations is greatly needed. Please bring in your donations anytime during the month and leave them in the back of the church. Thanks to all who have already given so generously!

2016 CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL

St. Thomas.....**\$6,326.00 pledged**
(Goal: \$9,910.00) 64% of goal met.

Our Lady of Mercy**\$3,220.00 pledged**
(Goal: \$3,065.00) 105% of goal met.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

We offer our accolades to Abbey Eye, Seth Michael and Lukas Thompson who graduated from Tucker County High School and Emily Siler who graduated from Our Lady of Victory Homeschool. We offer our prayers and gratitude to God for this milestone in their lives.



BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

A bible study class on the "Gospel of John" will begin in a couple of weeks on Tuesday, July 12th following the 5:00 PM Mass in Thomas at 5:45 PM and on Wednesday, July 13th following the 9:00 AM Mass in Parsons. All are invited to attend.



EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

- June 26** - Cake immediately following the 11 AM Mass in Parsons to congratulate our graduates.
- July 05** - Society of St. Thomas Women will hold their monthly meeting at 7:00 PM in the Aquinas Hall.
- July 10** - Second collection for **Communications**.
- July 13** - Knights of Columbus meeting at 7:00 PM in the St. Thomas Center Knights room.
- July 21** - 4th degree Knights meeting in the St. Thomas Center Knights room.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JUNE 19, 2016

St. Thomas: \$1,949.06

Our Lady of Mercy: \$737.50

BLACKWATER MINISTRY FOOD PANTRY

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

FAITH IS NOT A FEELING

I was just reading a reflection about a Saint that keeps coming into my mind, St. Therese of Lisieux, and this particular excerpt from that reflection stood out to me as something that could help us all get through this next week.

Michael Novak writes at Crisis Magazine: "To say "saw" of Thérèse—she "saw" God's redeeming love—risks falsifying Thérèse's witness. "Often, for years on end, she saw nothing; she looked for her beloved, and no one appeared. It is wrong to imagine that Thérèse constantly experienced burning ardor, eyes afire with vision, faith alive with sight. She didn't. She spent years in darkness, seeing what you and I see, ordinary things, and of God, nothing at all.

"Faith is not a feeling, not even a feeling of devotion, not an ardor. It is often, so far as ordinary sentiments go, emptiness, an aridity, a dry torment, a mind jumbled with distraction, directionless, unfeeling. Faith is a calm and feelingless redirecting of mind and will toward the unseen love, notable more for its steadiness and willingness to go on acting just as it would if it had been carried along by transports of joy, instead of being left bereft of signs and comforts. Only in that way can faith be tested for truth, steadfastness, and authenticity. Only in that way is it shown to be the real thing."

Novak goes on to say that St. Therese experienced feelings of doubt and emptiness for years, and that during much of that time, she could not feel belief in God or heaven or eternal life. She was afraid she was deluded in her choice of life — in her living for, and loving, our Lord.

I am so thankful that our God gives us Saints who we can relate to so well. Because sainthood and sanctity can often feel so un-relatable — so out of reach, so impossible, etc. And here we have a young woman with so much love in her heart, a woman who felt so many things — and so deeply, and yet she also didn't feel the depths of God's love for her at many times in her life.

Can you imagine? Can you imagine feeling all the things around you so intensely — and not feeling God's love? It sounds torturous to me. It sounds like a version of hell, to be honest. When I look at these situations and hear of these stories — stories of saints who felt abandoned, who felt alone, who lived in darkness, and yet who still persisted in their faith, I think of two things: one, that that person(s) must have had someone close to them in their life to encourage them to keep their faith during those times, and two, that God's graces must have certainly been sufficient for them in their lives, in those moments.

A couple of years ago, when I was going through a particularly rough time, and was really struggling with not feeling God's love, my husband sent me a message that I'll never forget. It was this quote from St. Ignatius of Loyola: "If God causes you to suffer much, it is a sign that He has great designs for you, and that He certainly intends to make you a saint." That sentiment, along with my husband's encouragement, helped tremendously. And I have to believe that going to Mass, that receiving the Sacraments, that still speaking to God must have also brought along the graces to carry me through that time.

I imagine that one of St. Therese's confessors led her to believe what my husband shared with me. Novak says, "A new confessor at the convent told her this was a trial that many most loved by God had long endured; what matters is not our feelings, but the quiet witness of our daily actions (which express our will, despite our feelings). This is just what she herself believed, but she was much helped by knowing that she was walking a recognizable path. From then on, she flew. One day, some months later, as suddenly as it had descended, the cloud of doubt lifted." And that's sort of where I want to leave it for you today. With this reminder: that our feelings don't matter, but what does is the quiet witness of our daily actions. Like loving our husbands. And folding their laundry. And cooking them dinner. And making our houses homes. Doing these ordinary things. And doing these things for our children, too. And our other closest family & friends. And lastly, I'm wondering if you can think of a friend or family member who might need the reminder that their quiet witness is what matters most. That it's okay to not be feeling our faith today, or this month or this year. That God still loves them greatly and unconditionally even in their dark days. That God still sees them, even when they don't see Him.

PARISH ROSARIES PRAYED

Total Rosaries for 2 weeks.....310

Total Rosaries for the year.....1,389

Please pray the Rosary remembering reparation for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and For the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and for all those serving in our armed forces.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jun 27 Monday	Mary & Steve Wright	7:15 AM Thomas
Jun 28 Tuesday	Jerry Hickey	5:00 PM Thomas
Jun 29 Wednesday	Rev. Pete A. Giannamore	9:00 AM Parsons
Jun 30 Thursday	Joey Clem	5:00 PM Thomas
Jul 01 First Friday	James Quattro	1:00 PM C Acr.
Jul 01 First Friday	ADORATION & BENEDICTION	5:00 PM Thomas
Jul 01 First Friday	Rose Obiudu	6:00 PM Thomas
Jul 02 First Saturday	Joseph Bruzzese	9:00 AM Parsons
Jul 02 SATURDAY VIGIL	Deceased members of the Tekavec, Zadell & Cooper Families	5:00 PM Thomas
Jul 03 SUNDAY	Vivian Bozic	9:00 AM Thomas
Jul 03 SUNDAY	People of the Parish	11:00 AM Parsons

THOMAS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	READERS	ALTAR BOYS
07/02	Kathy & Pat Kotten	Beth Spencer	
07/03	Betty Woods	Diance Rader	Nathaniel Rader

PARSONS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	READER	ALTAR BOYS
07/03	Addie Buckley & Emily Siler	Tom Gutshall	Any and all Available!
Cleaning:	06/26 - 07/02: Cindy Long & Betty DiBacco		

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
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 Sunday of the month (except Jan., Feb., March) in the Parish Center after the 9:00 AM Mass. **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:
Champ Sedmock, "Sob" Gennantonio, Eleanor James, J. Pat Nichols, Mary Moore, Vincent DiBacco, Dan Ingram, Mary Johnson, Joe Sagace, Jim Willis, Russ Perando, Sherry Burns, Edward Brobst, Frank Hoffner, Darlene Sedmock and Pat Kotten.

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.