

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.sttsite.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.

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 17, 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

"More than four thousand innocent lives are taken each day in this land of the free and home of the brave, whose lady holds high the torch of welcome to human life."

-John Powell, Abortion: the Silent Holocaust

JUST FOR SOME SUMMERTIME LAUGHS!

I know you have been laying awake at night wondering why baby diapers have brand names such as "Luvs", "Huggies", and "Pampers", while undergarments for old people are called "Depends". Well here is the low down on the whole thing. When babies crap in their pants, people are still gonna Luv'em, Hug'em and Pamper'em. When old people crap in their pants, it "Depends" on who's in the will!

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**\$3,720.00 pledged**
(Goal: \$3,065.00) 121% of goal met.

FLOOD RELIEF CONTRIBUTIONS

We would like to thank all who gave so generously to our last minute **Flood Relief Collection** two weeks ago. A total of \$3,776.00 was collected at St. Thomas and \$672.23 was collected at Our Lady of Mercy. This gives us a grand total of **\$4,448.23!** Your generosity is truly over-whelming and humbling.

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Come to our weekly Bible study class on the "Gospel of John" this Tuesday, July 19th following the 5:00 PM Mass in Thomas at 5:45 PM and on Wednesday, July 20th following the 9:00 AM Mass in Parsons. All are invited to attend.



EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

- July 21** - 4th degree Knights meeting in the St. Thomas Center Knights room at 7PM.
- Aug 2** - Society of St. Thomas Women monthly meeting at 7:00 PM in the rectory conference room.
- Aug 10** - Knights of Columbus monthly meeting at 7:00 PM in the St. Thomas Center.
- Aug 21** - Parish Picnic at the Knights of Columbus Park beginning at 1:00 PM.
- Aug 18** - Fourth Degree Knights meeting at 7:00 PM in Parsons.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JULY 10, 2016

St. Thomas: \$1865.20
Communications: \$363.00

Our Lady of Mercy: \$846.00
Communications: \$219.00

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.)

THINK OF OTHERS FOR TRUE HUMILITY

By Patti Maguire Armstrong on March 16, 2015 Articles from Our Contributors, Faith Resources

"Foolish" is an apt adjective to partner with pride. It's what it does to us. How ironic that while getting puffed up with self-importance, we essentially make a fool of ourselves. It is a tempting thought. After all, if we work hard and receive our just reward, don't we deserve the credit? I once spoke with a man that made national news for accomplishing an amazing feat. Most anyone else would have died in his place but he survived against all odds. He was looking for someone to ghost write his book. We interviewed each other, assessing our compatibility. I brought up God. "What went through your mind when death seemed inevitable?" I asked. "Did you call out to God for help?" I did not anticipate his answer. "I don't believe in God," he stated. Referring to his accomplishment he said, "Everything I did, I did myself. It's like I'm my own God." Well now, what could I say to that? Or rather what would he have listened to? Words escaped me. I prayed for him and someone else wrote his book. Those with faith, live in union with God. This man did not see God but only saw himself. We are the ones that can put our gifts to good use, so yes, we have a part in our success, but we cannot give ourselves specific abilities or control the circumstances surrounding us. I can never be a famous singer or a top world athlete. I can put in the same amount of hours practicing as the top people do, but it will never have the same results. Determination can overcome many odds, but no one can completely control their destiny. Pride causes successful people to forget where it all came from and give full measure to their own contribution.

Holy Forgetfulness: During a Lenten retreat, Msgr. Chad Gion spoke on humility. The title of one of his talks, "Holy Forgetfulness" intrigued me. What could be holy about forgetfulness? Fr. Chad presented pride as not just thinking you are better than others, but the problem of thinking too much about yourselves at all. It is a preoccupation with self. Even the desire to be humble can become an all-about-you activity, which negates the whole endeavor. "Humility only comes in self-forgetting, when I am not at the center," he explained. "Christ lowered himself for us because love requires self-emptying. His death is the model of humility because he did not do it for himself. Christ did not die in our place to show us how great he was but he did it to show us how great his love was for us and through it, he did show us his greatness."

Fr. Chad described humility as elusive, as something that can only be achieved by abandoning it. "If we focus on it, praying: 'Lord make me a humble man' and then we serve others all the while looking inward, the more we focus on it the less likely we are achieving it. Inward concern about my humility contradicts the entire process." He explained that in the end, "Doing everything you can to make yourself humble, makes it all about you." So even lowering yourself by saying, "Oh, I'm not so great," or "they are better than me," is still self-focused. The bottom line is to simply forget about you. Holy forgetfulness is when we think about others; loving and serving them out of love rather than doing it for ourselves.

Farmer Boy: More and more, it is the individual that counts at the expense of collective groups and communities. This issue struck me while reading the book *Farmer Boy* by Laura Ingalls Wilder to my two youngest boys. The main character, a boy named Almonzo, put the needs of his family and others before himself. He had an enthusiastic and humble desire to work in order to help his family—he was other-centered. Even though becoming accomplished at ever-difficult tasks meant he would have more work to do, he delighted in it because it meant giving more help for his family. It struck me that this is a difficult trait to nurture among today's children and requires humility. Humility does not just change our family life, but it changes everything. How often do athletes think more about the good of the team than their own egos? What about at work? Are people working as a unit and seeking to serve clients more than serve themselves? Extend that to our communities. Think about the times you went to a park or beach and found all kinds of litter around. It was a lack of humility—a self-focus rather than other-focus. Most people don't litter in their back yards yet, those that do litter do so for their own convenience and don't care about others. From families to boardrooms to beaches and communities, pride takes away. Fighting against pride and living humbly, reaches into every facet of our lives. This is not to say that it's wrong to take care of ourselves at all. When Jesus told us to love our neighbor as ourselves, it assumed we would love ourselves. No doubt there are people that struggle with loving themselves enough. Self-hatred is not humility. Remember, that too is self-centered thinking. Humility is other-thinking, caring for others for no other reason than love of your brother and love of God. It is gratefully looking at our gifts and talents and seeing God, then doing our best to use those gifts to serve God and others. Jesus is our ultimate example. All that he did was for us. There was nothing in it for him. "Learn of me, because I am meek, and humble of heart: and you shall find rest to your souls" (Matthew 11:29).

PARISH ROSARIES PRAYED

Total Rosaries for 2 weeks.....505

Total Rosaries for the year.....1,894

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

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jul 18 Monday	Alice Fortini	7:15 AM Thomas
Jul 19 Tuesday	Michael Durkin	5:00 PM Thomas
Jul 20 Wednesday	Rev. Pete A. Giannamore	9:00 AM Parsons
Jul 21 Thursday	Rocco & Rose Deorio	5:00 PM Thomas
Jul 22 Friday	Dominick & Mary Florini	5:00 PM Thomas
Jul 23 Saturday	Joseph Bruzzese	9:00 AM Parsons
Jul 23 SATURDAY VIGIL	Vivian Bozic	5:00 PM Thomas
Jul 24 SUNDAY	Diane Ulch	9:00 AM Thomas
Jul 24 SUNDAY	People of the Parish	11:00 AM Parsons

THOMAS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	READERS	ALTAR BOYS
07/23	Rita Johnson	Nancy Zizunas	
07/24	Brittany Cross	Don Woods	Mateo Hinkle

PARSONS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	READER	ALTAR BOYS
07/24	Addie Buckley & Kaylee DiBacco	Kathy DiBacco	Any and all Available!
Cleaning:	07/17 - 07/23: Lois Matlick & Susie Gutshall		

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.