

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.

2nd Sunday of Lent, March 12, 2017

THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

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

St. Thomas - 7:30 AM, (Low Mass) Sunday 03/12/17;

Our Lady of Mercy - 12:30 PM, Sunday 03/19/17.
(Low Mass)

PRO-LIFE CORNER

"Courage and humility, justice and perseverance, do have power. Good does win. And the sanctity of human life will endure. If you speak up for the unborn child in this life, someone will speak up for you in the next, when we meet God face to face."

++ Archbishop Charles J. Chaput

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LENTEN FISH FRY



Please come to our delicious Fish Fry on ALL Fridays during Lent!

Dinner includes an 8 oz fish fillet with tartar or cocktail sauce; dinner roll with butter; coleslaw; green beans; macaroni n' cheese; fruit dessert; coffee or punch.

Cost: Adults \$8.00 Kids 12 & under \$4.00 CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE!

The dinner will be at both locations from 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM, at the St. Thomas Center and Our Lady of Mercy church social hall on Mar. 17, Mar. 24, Mar. 31, and Apr. 7.

CHECK IT OUT!

Sign up for Best Lent Ever, a **FREE**, video-based email program featuring internationally acclaimed speaker and *New York Times* bestselling author Matthew Kelly. From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, Matthew will help you identify what stands between you and happiness . . . and what to do about it.

Are you ready for your best Lent ever?

PIES FOR SALE!

The Our Lady of Mercy Women's Guild will once again be making three different homemade pies to sell just in time for Easter: chocolate, coconut cream & lemon meringue! The cost is \$10. Please see one of the guild members to reserve a pie or simply add your name to the pie fundraiser form in the back of the church. You may also call Melinda at 478-3814.

LENTEN SACRIFICE

During Lent, the Knights of Columbus suggest one of these sacrifices:

a) 40 Cans of Food for the Food Pantry; or **b) a Monetary donation, (suggested donation: \$20).**

Of course any amount of canned foods or money is greatly appreciated, the important thing is that all of us can have the opportunity to practice the corporal works of mercy, one of which is feeding the Hungry.

LENT SCHEDULE - Stations of the Cross

WEDNESDAYS - immediately after the 5:00 PM Mass at Our Lady of Mercy. (*Wednesday Mass during Lent will be at 5:00 PM.*)

FRIDAYS - immediately after the 5:00 PM Mass at St. Thomas.

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

March 12 - Women's Guild Meeting immediately following the 11 AM Mass.

March 19 - Diocesan Priests' Retirement Fund—2nd collection

March 26 - No CCD - afternoon Stations of the Cross in Parsons following Mass.

March 26 - Catholic Relief Services—2nd collection.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MARCH 05, 2017

St. Thomas: \$2,761.53

Black & Indian Missions: \$234.00

Church in Central & Eastern Europe: \$177.00

Our Lady of Mercy: \$780.00

Black & Indian Missions: \$180.00

Church in Central & Eastern Europe: \$58.00

BLACKWATER MINISTRY FOOD PANTRY

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

THE SEASON OF LENT

The annual Lenten Season is a fitting time to climb the holy mountain of Easter.

The character of the Lenten Season is to spiritually prepare for the paschal mystery. Catholics are reminded of their Easter Duty—to receive Holy Communion during the Easter Season. Therefore, we are also reminded of the Sacramental Confession necessary to prepare for this duty. Please take this time of Lent to prepare and make a good and thorough confession in preparation for the great feast of Easter. Lent runs from Ash Wednesday until the Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive on Holy Thursday.

CALLING ALL MEN

All men are invited to a Lenten day of reflection on Saturday, April 8th, from 9 AM until Mass at 5 PM. This will take place in the St. Thomas Center and in the St. Thomas Church. Deacon David Galvin, Father Alban, Fr. DeViese and I will be presenting spiritual topics for men. Lunch will be provided. (There will be time for prayer and confessions as well.) More Information to follow in the upcoming weeks.

"ASK FATHER" QUESTION OF THE MONTH

ARE CATHOLICS SUPPOSED TO ABSTAIN FROM MEAT ON ALL FRIDAYS DURING THE YEAR?

In short, the answer is "yes. Sadly, many Catholics are not aware that the Friday abstinence rule is still in effect. The post-Vatican-II modification in Church law only allowed the consumption of meat **if some other sacrifice or good work was substituted in its place**, such as praying the Stations of the Cross, saying extra Rosaries, or some other additional similar offering. Let's look to Canon Law for clarity.

Canon 1250: All Fridays through the year and the time of Lent are penitential days and times throughout the entire Church.

Canon 1251: Abstinence from eating meat or another food according to the prescriptions of the conference of bishops is to be observed on **Fridays throughout the year** unless (nisi) they are solemnities; abstinence and fast are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on the Friday of the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Canon 1252: All persons who have completed their fourteenth year are bound by the law of abstinence; all adults are bound by the law of fast up to the beginning of their sixtieth year. Nevertheless, pastors and parents are to see to it that minors who are not bound by the law of fast and abstinence are educated in an authentic sense of penance.

Canon 1253: It is for the conference of bishops to determine more precisely the observance of fast and abstinence and to substitute in whole or in part for fast and abstinence other forms of penance, especially works of charity and exercises of piety.

Abstinence The law of abstinence requires a Catholic 14 years of age until death to abstain from eating meat on Fridays in honor of the Passion of Jesus on Good Friday. Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl. Also forbidden are soups or gravies made from them. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles and shellfish are permitted, as are animal derived products such as margarine and gelatin which do not have any meat taste.

On the Fridays **outside of Lent** the U.S. bishops conference obtained the permission of the Holy See for Catholics in the US to substitute a penitential, or even a charitable, practice of their own choosing. They **must do some penitential/charitable practice on these Fridays**. For most people the easiest practice to consistently fulfill will be the traditional one, to abstain from meat on all Fridays of the year. **During Lent** abstinence from meat on Fridays is obligatory in the United States as elsewhere. There are no substitutions during Lent.

PARISH ROSARIES PRAYED

Total Rosaries for 2 weeks.....254

Total Rosaries for the year.....6,475

(since May 2016)

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.

MASSSES FOR THE WEEK
Second Sunday of Lent

Mar. 13 Monday	Andrew DiBacco	7:15 AM Thomas
Mar. 14 Tuesday	Janet Mosco	5:00 PM Thomas
Mar. 15 Wednesday	People of the Parish	5:00 PM Parsons
Mar. 16 Thursday	Joan Riley	5:00 PM Thomas
Mar. 17 Friday	*Patty Hoffner	5:00 PM Thomas
Mar. 18 Saturday	Stefanie Krumm	9:00 AM Parsons
Mar. 18 SATURDAY	Rev. Colombo F. Bandiera	5:00 PM Thomas
Mar. 19 SUNDAY	People of the Parish	9:00 AM Thomas
Mar. 19 SUNDAY	Bob Greaser	11:00 AM Parsons

THOMAS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	READERS	ALTAR BOYS
03/18	Kathy & Pat Kotten	Nancy Zizunas	
03/19	Titi Ferguson	John Ferguson	Wesley Snyder

PARSONS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	READER	ALTAR BOYS
03/19	Dee Oldaker & Ariona Plumley	Joanne Sikarskie	Any and all Available!
Cleaning:	03/12 - 03/18: Pat Usnik & Debbie Scarberry		

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)

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is committed to the protection of its children and young people. The Diocese complies with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People by maintaining an Office of Safe Environment. To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families/Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513 Å FREE. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact one of the Bishop's designees at 888.434.6237, Å FREE (toll free) or 304.233.0880: Sister Ellen Dunn, ext. 264; Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Msgr. Frederick Annie, ext. 267, or Msgr. Anthony Cincinnati, 270. For more information on the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment, please go to www.dwc.org, then click the "Diocese" tab, then click "Office of Safe Environment" under the "Offices" menu. To learn more about the Catholic Church's efforts in preventing sexual abuse of children in the United States, please visit <http://www.usccb.org>. Under "Issues and Action," click "Child and Youth Protection" from the drop down menu.

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, Mary Johnson, Joe Sagace, Jim Willis, Jean Lomanto, Edward Brobst, Frank Hoffner, and Charles Siler.

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.