

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Third Sunday of Lent

Mar. 27 Monday	Mary & Joseph Deegan	7:15 AM Thomas
Mar. 28 Tuesday	Fr. Lino Ebejer	5:00 PM Thomas
Mar. 29 Wednesday	Diane Ulch & Dr. ImeldaStevenson	5:00 PM Parsons
Mar. 30 Thursday	Donnie Johnson	5:00 PM Thomas
Mar. 31 Friday	Joseph & Mary Deegan	5:00 PM Thomas
Apr. 01 Saturday	*Brian Sparvieri	9:00 AM Parsons
Apr. 01 SATURDAY	Marguerite Zizunas	5:00 PM Thomas
Apr. 02 SUNDAY	Diane Ulch & Dr. Imelda Stevenson	9:00 AM Thomas
Apr. 02 SUNDAY	People of the Parish	11:00 AM Parsons

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, Joanne Michael, Edward Brobst, and Frank Hoffner.

THOMAS

	04/01	04/02
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Kathy & Pat Kotten	Mary Sagaace
READERS	Nancy Zizunas	Michelle Snyder
ALTAR BOYS	Any Available	Mateo Hinkle

PARSONS

	04/02	04/02 - 04/08 Cleaning
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Addie Buckley Kaylee DiBacco	Joanne Sikarskie & Terry Silk
READERS	Betty Jane DiBacco	
ALTAR BOYS	Any and all Available!	

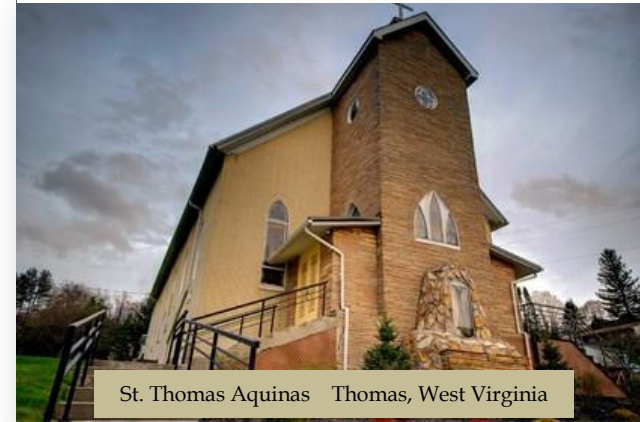
PRAYER LINE

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)

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.

4th Sunday of Lent, March 26, 2017



St. Thomas Aquinas Thomas, West Virginia



Our Lady of Mercy Parsons, West Virginia

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

Mission: OUR LADY OF MERCY

Pastor: Rev. Timothy J. Grassi, P.O. Box 300, Thomas, WV 26292 Tel: 304-463-4488 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.

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.

THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

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

St. Thomas - 7:30 AM, (Low Mass) Sunday 04/09/17;
Our Lady of Mercy - 12:30 PM, Sunday 04/16/17.
(Low Mass)

CHILDREN’S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Today, Sunday, March 26th, there will be no morning CCD classes, instead we will have Stations of the Cross beginning after the 11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Parsons. Food will be provided.
(All CCD students expected to attend!)

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.

PRO-LIFE MESSAGE

“Have no fear. The outcome of the battle for life is already decided, even though the struggle goes on against great odds and with much suffering.”
++ Pope John Paul II

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

April 02 - “ASK FATHER” immediately following the 11 AM Mass in Parsons.

April 04 - Society of St. Thomas Women’s monthly meeting at 7 PM in the rectory conference room.

April 09 - Our Lady of Mercy Women’s Guild monthly meeting immediately following the 11 AM Mass.

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 - 6:00 PM, at the St. Thomas Center and Our Lady of Mercy church social hall on Mar. 31, and Apr. 7



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MARCH 19, 2017

St. Thomas: \$2,341.79
Diocesan Priests’ Retirement Fund: 326.00
Our Lady of Mercy: \$735.00
Diocesan Priests’ Retirement Fund: 627.00

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.

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.

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Envelopes are available in the back of the church if you would like to make a donation towards Easter flowers, in memory of loved ones or deceased family members.

WITH SYMPATHY

We remember in our prayers Jean Lomanto who was buried from our parish this past week. Please pray for the consolation of her family as well.

CHRIST IN THE DESERT

By J.D. Flynn

On Saturday, I watched good friends carry a miniature white casket up the aisle of our parish church, to be laid before the altar for a funeral Mass. Their son was stillborn last week. Our parish had come to the church to pray for them as they laid their son’s body to rest.

My friends have entered the season of Lent in a profound way.

During Lent, we remember Jesus, fasting and praying in the Judean desert. We remember that Jesus was weak, and tired, and alone, and that, relying on the word of God, he overcame the empty promises of Satan.

Like Christ, my friends will likely feel weak, tired, and alone this Lent. C. S. Lewis said that grief feels much like fear, and I suspect they’ll sometimes feel afraid. He also said that grief is an amputation, and I suspect they’ll sometimes feel crippled.

And like Christ, my friends will face temptations. They may be tempted to turn on each other. They may be tempted to turn from God. They may be tempted to pretend they don’t need help – human or divine – when, in fact, they surely do. I suspect my friends will overcome those temptations, by grace. But if they don’t, I know they’ll seek God’s mercy, and I know he’ll give it freely.

During Lent, most of us offer up small sacrifices – pittances, really – to spend more time in prayer. We limit our comforts, just a little. We give alms, usually from our excess, and rarely from our need. And somehow God, in his mercy on us – his pity for our pitiful sacrifices – gives these tiny sacrifices meaning, and uses them to draw us closer to him.

Sometimes, though, we see Lent as a proof of our endurance, an annual test of our strength and resolve as believers. It is easy to think that during Lent, our little sacrifices take us out into the desert to be with Christ. We don’t readily see that Christ is the one who has come out into the desert, to be with us.

We often have trouble admitting that we are already in the desert, already weak and without food, and already tempted. Often we forget that Christ conquered temptation not for himself, but for us – so that we can rely on him to conquer Satan’s lies, which are whispered to us in the moments of great suffering, in the desert of this life.

Lent, at its best, is a discovery that Christ is already next to us. We silence our distractions to discover the Lord’s love, his steadfast presence, the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

My friends have been driven into the desert of loss this Lent; I hope they will find that Christ is there with them. I hope that in their weakness, they will encounter the savior who can “sympathize with our weakness,” who “in every respect has been tempted as we are.”

Many of us are in deserts of loneliness, or mourning, or despair, or fear. We are thirsting for living water. I hope this Lent we will find the Christ who has come out to the desert to meet us.

PARISH ROSARIES PRAYED

Total Rosaries for 2 weeks.....242
Total Rosaries for the year.....6,717
(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.