

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Apr. 03 Monday	*Fr. Mark Gallipeau	7:15 AM Thomas
Apr. 04 Tuesday	Jean Lomanto	5:00 PM Thomas
Apr. 05 Wednesday	Poor Souls in Purgatory	<b>5:00 PM Parsons</b>
Apr. 06 Thursday	Matthew David Skinner	5:00 PM Thomas
<b>Apr. 07 First Friday</b>	Victoria Kaczmarek	<b>1:00 PM Cortland Acres</b>
<b>Apr. 07 First Friday</b>	People of the parish	<b>4:00 PM Thomas</b>
<b>Apr. 07 First Friday</b>	*Mr. & Mrs. Colton Hood	<b>5:00 PM Thomas</b>
Apr. 08 Saturday	Rev. Colombo F. Bandiera	9:00 AM Parsons
<b>Apr. 08 SATURDAY</b>	Diane Ulch & Dr. Imelda Stevenson	<b>5:00 PM Thomas</b>
<b>Apr. 09 SUNDAY</b>	People of the Parish	<b>9:00 AM Thomas</b>
<b>Apr. 09 SUNDAY</b>	Mary Buckley	<b>11:00 AM Parsons</b>

### THOMAS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
04/08	Rita Johnson	Beth Spencer	Any available
04/09	Brittany Cross	Diane Rader	Nathaniel Rader

### PARSONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
04/09	Becca Siler & Ariona Plumley	Fred Sikarskie	Any available

Cleaning: 04/02 - 04/08: Cindy Long & Betty DiBacco

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 - 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, A 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](http://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.

## 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)

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

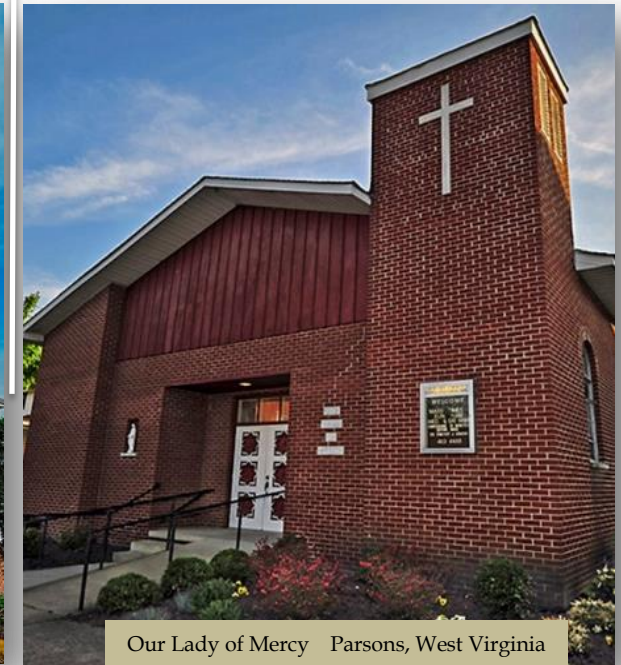
Champ Sedmock, "Sob" Gennantonio, Eleanor James, J. Pat Nichols, Mary Moore, Vincent DiBacco, Mary Johnson, Joanne Michael, Joe Sagace, Jim Willis, Edward Brobst, Frank Hoffner, and Robin Bolasky

**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.**

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, April 02, 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](http://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 - 4:50 p.m., and 30 minutes before all weekday Masses and anytime upon request.

**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.*

## 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 **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)

## THOMAS COMMUNITY MEETING

Please come to the Thomas Community Meeting on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Thomas Education Center. Development is coming with Corridor H. Thomas Planning Commission needs your input to help us promote, protect, and preserve Thomas! This first public meeting will cover topics such as land use planning, infrastructure, housing, public services, and economic development.

## PIES, PIES AND MORE PIES!

The Our Lady of Mercy Women’s Guild has reached their pie limit! All pies will be ready for pick-up on Good Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> between 2:00 – 4:00 PM at Our Lady of Mercy Church social hall. All Thomas pie orders will be delivered to the St. Thomas Center on Good Friday in the afternoon. We will call to let you know that your pies are ready for pick-up. Questions call Melinda at 478-3814.

## PRO-LIFE MESSAGE

“Truly children are a gift from the Lord;  
the fruit of the womb is a reward” ++  
Psalm 127:3

## 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!!!

**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 - 7:00 PM, at the St. Thomas Center and

Our Lady of Mercy church social hall on Mar. 31,  
and Apr. 7.



## CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MARCH 26, 2017

**St. Thomas: \$4,627.00**

**Our Lady of Mercy: \$852.00**

## 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.

## 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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.) **Fr. DeViese will have Mass in Parsons on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM with confessions following.**

## WHY DO WE COVER CROSSES & IMAGES IN LENT?

Excerpts from Fr. Edward Macnamara & Phillip Kosloski

The custom of veiling the images during the last two weeks of Lent hails from the former liturgical calendar in which the Passion was read on the Fifth Sunday of Lent (hence called "Passion Sunday") as well as on Palm Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, and Good Friday. For this reason the period following the Fifth Sunday of Lent was called Passiontide. A remnant of this custom is the obligatory use of the first Preface of the Lord's Passion during the Fifth Week of Lent.

It seems strange that during the most sacred time of year we cover everything that is beautiful in our churches, even the crucifix. Shouldn't we be looking at the painful scene at Calvary while we listen to the Passion narrative on Palm Sunday?

While it may appear counterintuitive to veil statues and images during the final weeks of Lent, the Church recommends this practice to heighten our senses and build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. It is a tradition that should not only be carried out in our local parish, but can also be a fruitful activity for the “domestic church” to practice. But why go through such lengths to cover up images that are designed to raise our hearts and minds toward heaven?

First of all, we use veils to alert us of the special time that we are in. When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready. Secondly, the veils focus our attention on the words being said at Mass. When we listen to the Passion narrative, our senses are allowed to focus on the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the scene. Third, the Church uses veils to produce a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday. This is further actualized when you attend daily Mass and see the veils each day. You don't want them to be there because they are hiding some very beautiful images.

And therein lies the whole point: the veils are not meant to be there forever. The images need to be unveiled; it is unnatural for them to be covered.

The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a “veiled” world, in exile from our true home. It is only through our own death that the veil is lifted and we are finally able to see the beauty of everything in our lives.

## 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.