

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Apr. 23 Monday	People of the Parish	7:15 AM Thomas
Apr. 24 Tuesday	Sheila Slater	5:00 PM Thomas
Apr. 25 Wednesday	Louis Maciulla	9:00 AM Parsons
Apr. 26 Thursday	Edwin Kaczmarek	5:00 PM Thomas
Apr. 27 Friday	Rev. Edwin F. Cupp	5:00 PM Thomas
Apr. 28 Saturday	Victor Bluj	9:00 AM Parsons
<b>Apr. 28 SATURDAY VIGIL</b>	Moore & Fortini Families	<b>5:00 PM Thomas</b>
<b>Apr. 29 SUNDAY</b>	People of the Parish	<b>9:00 AM Thomas</b>
<b>Apr. 29 SUNDAY</b>	Jacob & Frances DeBevits	<b>11:00 AM Parsons</b>

**THOMAS**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
04/28	Rita Johnson	Nancy Zizunas	Any available
04/29	Mary Sagace	Michelle Snyder	Drew Simmons

**PARSONS**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
04/29	Kaylee DiBacco & Ariona Plumley	Fred Sikarskie	Any available

Cleaning: 04/22: - 04/28: Lois Matlick & Susie Gutshall

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 **Â 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, **Â 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.

**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 05/13/18  
 Our Lady of Mercy - 12:30 PM,  
 (Low Mass) Sunday 05/20/18.

**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, Vincent DiBacco, Mary Johnson, Joanne Michael, Leo Pase Jr., Scott Hinkle, Jean Sagace, Stan and Darlene Sedmock and Martha Wolf.

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.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 22, 2018**



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.*

## CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL "ALMOST HEAVEN"

The Catholic Sharing Appeal, or the CSA, is an annual appeal that offers funds to a variety of ministries, services and programs throughout our diocese. Our parishes and missions also benefit greatly from the appeal. This year our goal for St. Thomas Aquinas Parish is \$11,715 and the goal for Our Lady of Mercy is \$4,395. The first 50% of our parish goal will support the diocesan case. Every dollar raised over the first 50% will be returned to our parish, including every dollar over goal.

The Catholic Sharing Appeal gives us all an opportunity to be part of something great. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the CSA. By contributing to the appeal you are providing service and love to so many across our beautiful state.

## SILENCE IN THE CHURCH

Adoration before our Lord present in the tabernacle fosters adoration before the Lord really and truly present in the Most Holy and Blessed Sacrament of the altar. When entering or leaving church please observe silence. If you want to talk to your fellow parishioners please whisper one line – "I'll meet you in the vestibule or outside."

## THE EASTER SEASON!

The fifty days from Easter to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better, as one "great Sunday." These above all others are the days for the singing of ALLELUIA. The days of the Easter octave from the "early hours: of this "great Sunday," with accounts of the Lord who rose early in the morning, and the early preaching of the disciples who were witnesses to His Resurrection.

## EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

May 01 – Society of St. Thomas Women monthly meeting at 7 PM in the St. Thomas Center.

May 06 – "ASK FATHER" after 11 AM Mass in Parsons.

May 09 – Knights of Columbus meeting at 7 PM in Parsons.

May 13 – Mother's Day & First Holy Communion.

May 20 – OLM Women's Guild meeting after the 11 AM Mass.

## PRO-LIFE CORNER

"...the contraceptive mentality causes abortion. When women and girls choose to sleep with men whose children they don't want, they will take steps to ensure those children aren't born. If contraception fails, they will abort. And because abortion is easily available, these women can be lax about using contraception, knowing there is a cheap and legal fall-back option. As long as women and men view sex as recreation and children as annoying consequences of fun time, the contraceptive mentality will produce a large demand for abortion. This isn't just a theory; it is what has actually happened again and again in recent decades in country after country." ~ Joseph A. D'Agostino

## PARISH ROSARIES PRAYED

Total Rosaries for 2 weeks.....200  
Total Rosaries for the year.....14,394  
(since May 2016)

## CONTRIBUTIONS FOR APRIL 15, 2018

St. Thomas: \$1,541.06

Our Lady of Mercy: \$1,038.00

## FOOD PANTRY

BLACKWATER MINISTERIAL FOOD PANTRY: The Food Pantry is in need of valued food items. This month we are seeking cereal. If you would like to make a monetary donation make checks out to Blackwater Food Pantry and send to St. Thomas Church, P.O. Box 300, Thomas, WV 26292

## ARE YOU A VICTIM OF SELF-PITY? (Part II)

Self-pity is marked by habitual failure and even refusal to think of, a) the things for which one should be grateful, b) the compensations and rewards that God has promised to those who suffer with resignation and cheerfulness. Since most of the time the victim of self-pity is spent in thinking of his aches and pains, his miseries and his sorrows, he naturally cannot bring himself to think of the reasons he has for gratitude and joy. Self-pity is really a powerful weapon of the devil; he encourages it wherever he can because he knows that its victims will gradually lose all sense of gratitude to God, of penance for their sins, of hope for a reward in heaven, of appreciation for the good things God has given them on earth together with the pain He has allowed them to suffer.

It is remarkable to notice what trivial things can sometimes blind the victims of self-pity to all the motives they have for gratitude and even joy. All human sufferings are trivial, of course, in relation to the joys of heaven. But sometimes you will find a fabulously rich man wallowing in self-pity because he cannot crash certain circles of society, or because somebody has been given an important office that he wanted. And sometimes people in middleclass circumstances, with much to be thankful for, make themselves wretched because they cannot step up to a higher social and economic level that some of their relatives have attained. They have so narrowed down their outlook that they can see nothing but some small thing that they want and do not have.

Self-pity is marked by bitter resentment against others, who are held responsible for the sufferings one must endure. There is no self-pity without some resentment against God. Those who become its victims have lost all sight of the goodness, the mercy, the providence of God, and of His promises of a reward for every cross. Something of the attitude of the unrepentant thief who died on a cross beside our Lord is theirs; they may not express it in the thief's words, but their self-pity is a way of saying like the thief, 'Take me down from my cross, and then I will believe in you. This resentment, against God usually overflows into bitterness against one's fellow man. The victim of self-pity has a keen sense of justice, but a very narrow sense of justice, namely, as it should be practiced toward himself by others. More than that, you would think, to hear him talk, that he was the only one who was ever treated so unfairly and unjustly in the history of the world. 'Why, he says, 'should I have to suffer all these things? What did I do to deserve such ill-treatment? (The answer you are expected to assume is 'nothing.) 'Why can't I get a little justice in this world?

In its extreme form this becomes the persecution complex called paranoia, a mental disease that makes those afflicted with it imagine all sorts of plots and conspiracies against their happiness. The victim of self-pity is not necessarily mentally diseased; he does suffer, like everybody else in the world, slights, unkindnesses, mistreatment, injustices, perhaps, from others. But he has never grown up enough to see in these things a part of the pattern of every human life, an opportunity for charity and forgiveness, an occasion for doing penance for his own sins, a source of merit and increased happiness in heaven. Nothing but his own concept of perfect justice will rescue him from self-pity, and that he will never receive.

As a result, the victim of self-pity makes a very unpleasant companion. His conversation, like his thoughts, centers around how much he is abused, how unjustly he is treated, how great is his-suffering. No one remains his friend who does not constantly sympathize with him and feed his self-pity. That is why he has few friends.

**Ask yourself these questions about this feature of self-pity:** Is the word 'injustice, meaning the injustice of others toward me, frequently on my lips? \*\*\* Do I resent the fact that, while God seems to favor others with wealth, with popularity, with positions of prominence and power, He left me, who deserve more than these others, poor, forgotten, unrecognized? \*\*\* Do I resent the fact that God, society and those around me seem to have conspired to make the course of my life an unhappy one? \*\*\* Do I resentfully blame God and other human beings because I'm single and cannot find a good mate for marriage? Do I resentfully blame God and my husband or wife because I'm married, and have found marriage to be no bed of roses? \*\*\* Do I constantly complain and grumble about my sufferings, nag at those around me for not treating me more justly, repeatedly run down and criticize those whom I think to be more favored than I am? \*\*\* Do I pout and bear grudges and refuse to speak to my family or friends for days, because I feel that they should suffer for their injustices to me?