

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Nov 26 Monday	Moore & Fortini Families	7:15 AM Thomas
Nov 27 Tuesday	Frank Okolish	5:00 PM Thomas
Nov 28 Wednesday	J. Pat Nichols	9:00 AM Parsons
Nov 29 Thursday	Connie Finnerty	5:00 PM Thomas
Nov 30 Friday	Stan Sedmock	5:00 PM Thomas
Dec 01 First Saturday	Michelle Friary	9:00 AM Parsons
Dec 01 SATURDAY VIGIL	Christina Douglas Marshall	5:00 PM Thomas
Dec 02 SUNDAY	Angelo Grassi	9:00 AM Thomas
Dec 02 SUNDAY	People of the Parish	11:00 AM Parsons

THOMAS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
12/01	Kathy & Pat Kotten	Nancy Zizunas	Any available
12/02	Titi Ferguson	John Ferguson	Aaron Quattro

PARSONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
12/02	Lillian Plumley & Dee Oldaker	Tom Gutshall	Any available

Cleaning: 11/25 - 12/01: Joanne Sikarskie & Terry Silk

THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

During the month of November, the Tridentine Mass will be offered at the following times and church:
St. Thomas - 7:30 AM, (Low Mass) 12/09/18;
Our Lady of Mercy - 12:30 PM,
 (Only when requested in advance.)

PRAYER LINE

If you would like to place someone on our prayer line call
Mary Frances Evans - Thomas (463-4413)
Susie Gutshall - Parsons (478-3217)
Or Cindy Long - Parsons (478-4833)

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

Champ Sedmock, "Sob" Gennantonio, Eleanor James, Vincent DiBacco, Mary Johnson, Joanne Michael, Leo Pase Jr., Scott Hinkle, Jean Sagace, Ed Kepner, Loretta DiMaio, Martha Wolf, Karen Renzelli & Jimmy Quattro.

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.

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, November 25, 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

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.*

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. 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, (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.

**29th ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT
OF PRAYER FOR LIFE**

COME PRAY WITH US! Join in Prayer across America to seek the Lord's mercy and restore life, liberty, the faith and the family! "If my people...humble themselves and pray, and seek my presence and turn from their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven and pardon their sins and REVIVE THEIR LAND" —2 Chronicles 7:12. America needs the Blessed Mother's intercession!
St. Thomas Aquinas Church — December 8/9, 2018 — 9 PM
Saturday to 1:00 AM Sunday. National Hour of Unity is 12:00 AM to 1:00 AM.

**THE DARLENE SEDMOCK
CHURCH PROJECT FUNDRAISER**

The Society of St. Thomas Women will be raffling off three prizes this holiday season in honor and memory of Darlene Sedmock.

First Prize: A beautiful Christmas Quilt.

Second Prize: Christmas Basket with a \$50 gift card.

Third Prize: \$50 gift card.

Chances are \$5 each with 3 chances to win. Proceeds will benefit church projects. Tickets also available in Parsons.

NOVENA FOR VOCATIONS

The Office of Vocations in the Diocese has asked all parishes to pray a Novena for Vocations. We will pray it at the end of Mass on Sunday and at the weekday Masses. If you are not able to attend Mass please pray it at home. Copies of the Novena are available in the back of the churches. Let us take this nine days to beg God to send us fishers of men.

BEST ADVENT EVER!

"Best Advent Ever", is a free email program that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during this busy season. Go to Sign-up at DynamicCatholic.com/SignUp then starting on Dec. 2, participants will receive daily emails from Dynamic Catholic team members. Sign up today.

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

- Dec 02 – "ASK FATHER" immediately following the 11 AM Mass.
- Dec 04 – Society of St. Thomas Women monthly meeting at 6 PM in the rectory conference room.
- Dec 09 – OLM Women's Guild meeting after 11 AM Mass.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

**Teach your children
that abortion is wrong**



**or
the world
will teach
them that
it's right.**

**STATIONS OF THE
CROSS**

Stations of the Cross will be offered on Fridays after the 5 PM Mass in Thomas in reparation for the sins of the Clergy who have scandalized the Faithful and disgraced the Church. We will do this until our Bishop is appointed.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR
October 18, 2018**

St. Thomas: \$1,167.00

Our Lady of Mercy: \$954.00

FOOD PANTRY

BLACKWATER MINISTERIAL FOOD PANTRY: The Food Pantry is in need of "valued" food items. This month we are seeking *spaghetti and sauce*. In subsequent months we will let you know what items are needed and ask your assistance in this need for our

IS HEAVEN REALLY "HEAVEN" IF EVEN ONE PERSON IS NOT THERE?

Q: How could a person in Heaven ever be happy if they know that someone they love is not there or will never be there (is in Hell)?

A: You bring up a very difficult question. Not only does it deal with Heaven and the mystery of what eternal life with God would be like, but it also involves thinking about the reality of Hell. Your question is one that most people simply don't like to think about very much because it is so awful a prospect (someone I love is in Hell). We don't know how to deal with it so we usually either try not to think about it or we just assume that our loved ones are in Heaven.

Now, we don't have to try and figure out if this person or that person is in Hell. Not only would that be a waste of time (we have no way of knowing), but we ought to be more concerned with our own choice of loving God than whether or not someone else is choosing God. Besides, we will know for sure soon enough. So, how could Heaven be "heaven" if even one person is not there?

We know two things. First, Hell is real. Both Jesus Christ and reason tell us this. If God Himself has asserted the reality of Hell, we should probably pay attention to that. Secondly, in Heaven "there are no more tears, no more sadness". How could I possibly not weep if my mother, father, child, or spouse was not in Heaven?

Jesus spoke about the consequence of Hell in all four Gospels. If I am going to be a follower of Jesus, it does no good to protest the existence of Hell by appealing to some sort of "God-loves-us-all-so-He-would-never-let-that-happen" mentality. Of course God loves us all. In fact, the reason you are on this planet is so that you can live forever with God in Heaven (that is God's plan for your life). But you and I (and everyone else) are free to say "no" to that plan. When God made you, He did not make a robot.

You can choose. This is one of the things that God has shared with us human beings: free will. We can enter into God's joy or we can remain wrapped up in ourselves.

One might say this: Hell is self-absorption. If love could be defined as pouring oneself out as a gift to the other, its opposite might be the refusal to be a gift to anyone outside of the self.

Love is a decision. Really choosing God is more than simply "wanting" God. Self-absorption is a decision as well. It might be a decision that has become second-nature, but it is a choice nonetheless.

They have made the decision that they do not want to be with God and they do not want to be with you. Therefore, every person in Hell has chosen it for themselves. They have made the decision that they do not want to be with God and they do not want to be with you. Basically, they want what they want and don't care about anyone else. Have you ever met anyone like this? (Have you ever acted like this yourself?) Have you ever had a friend who always dictated the mood of the group? Others could be happy only when they were happy. When they were in a bad mood or when they didn't want to be doing what the group (or family) was doing, well then! No one gets to have any fun because they are in a bad mood!

Would we choose to be held hostage by those in Hell? Those who have chosen to be apart ("I'm taking my ball and going home!")? That sounds childish and immature, but that is exactly what Hell is: it is populated entirely by those who say "Mine!" like two-year olds and those who sulk like teenagers ("I'll show them! I'll go to Hell; then they'll be sorry."). If those in Hell were allowed to cast even the thinnest of shadows over the joys of Heaven, then Hell would be victorious. Then every bully and every grouch you have ever known ultimately becomes the eternal winner. No one gets to be happy because they don't want to be happy.

Somehow, in God's justice, we are not sad over those in Hell. This is not due to a lack of love. It is due to God's continued mercy. We could posit that He simultaneously allows us to know the truth about another's decision for Hell while preserving the joy He had promised. How? I don't know.

Last thing: we might at times be tempted to say to one we love, "I don't want Heaven if you are not there". I would caution against that kind of thinking. That might sound like love, but it is in fact idolatry. Essentially, a person is saying to another "YOU are my god. I would rather have you than the true God." That is incredibly dangerous; we might actually get what we ask for. By: Fr. Mike Schmitz

PARISH ROSARIES PRAYED

Total Rosaries for 2 weeks.....195
Total Rosaries since May 2016.....18,963

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.