

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Dec 31 Monday (Solemnity of Mary)	Saverio Grimaldi	5:00 PM Parsons
Dec 31 Monday (Solemnity of Mary)	Roberto Clemente	7:00 PM Thomas
Jan 01 Tuesday (Solemnity of Mary)	People of the Parish	9:00 AM Thomas
Jan 02 Wednesday	Poor Souls in Purgatory	9:00 AM Parsons
Jan 03 Thursday	Alice Fortini	5:00 PM Thomas
Jan 04 First Friday	J. Pat Nichols	1:00 PM Cortland Acres
Jan 04 First Friday	ADORATION & BENEDICTION	5:00 PM Parsons
Jan 04 First Friday	Brooklyn Shaffer	6:00 PM Parsons
Jan 05 First Saturday	Karen Renzelli	9:00 AM Parsons
Jan 05 SATURDAY VIGIL	Jenny Yeager	5:00 PM Thomas
Jan 06 SUNDAY	Antonia Okolish	9:00 AM Thomas
Jan 06 SUNDAY	People of the Parish	11:00 AM Parsons

THOMAS

DATE	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	READERS	ALTAR SERVERS
01/05	Kathy Supak	Nancy Zizunas	Any available
01/06	Betty Woods	Diane Rader	Drew Simmons

PARSONS

DATE	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	READERS	ALTAR SERVERS
01/06	Kaylee DiBacco & Lillian Plumley	Tom Gutshall	Any available

Cleaning: 12/30 - 01/05: 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. 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.

THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS
 During the month of January, the Tridentine Mass will be offered at the following times and church:
St. Thomas - 7:30 AM,
 (Low Mass) 01/13/18;
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, & 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.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, Dec. 30, 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 CHRISTMAS SEASON

The Christmas season extends from the vigil of Christmas through the Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 13th, 2019. The Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ's birth and early manifestations. Christmas is the feast that sings of the gift of life. The birth of a child moves us and causes tenderness. Contemplating the baby Jesus in the manger, how can we not think of the newborns who are not welcomed and are rejected? This Christmas Season, let us open our minds and hearts to welcome the Messiah, who comes at this sacred moment to save us from sin and deliver us from the darkness of evil.

THANKS TO ALL!

Once again it is with heartfelt gratitude that I acknowledge all the efforts put into making our Christmas Masses Holy and splendid for the occasion of the Birth of Christ. Thank you to all those who helped in numerous ways to make everything come together smoothly and efficiently. The adult choir at St. Thomas Aquinas was phenomenal! (Thanks to Dr. Michael Koss our "guest organist" for all his efforts.) Thanks to all who helped make our churches look so beautiful. My sincere appreciation to all of you for your loving service to Almighty God through our parish and mission. - Fr. Grassi

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

We would like to thank everyone who gave donations towards our Christmas flowers this year.

The flowers adorning the altar at St. Thomas Aquinas this Christmas season are in memory of: the Avona & Pratt Families, Frank Finch, Jack Evans, (the Morvay, Kammerer, Victor & Sweas families), Joseph H. Cooper, Gene & Eva Randolph, Willie & Betty Pinella, Mike & Mary Rujak, Owen & Luella Postlethwait, Nina Johnson, Diana DiBacco, Chrissy & Andrew DiBacco, Darlene Sedmock, Edward W. Armstrong, Genevieve Halapy, Andy Halapy, deceased members of the Kotten & Ferguson Families.

The flowers adorning the altar at Our Lady of Mercy this

Christmas season are in memory of: Frances & Arley Mason, Lela & Ben Long, Neil & Judy Gutshall by their son Bob & his wife Debbie Gutshall, Martha & Pat Nichols.

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

- Jan. 01 - Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God.
A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION!
- Jan. 06 - Epiphany pot luck dinner at Our Lady of Mercy church immediately following Mass. "Ask Father" is cancelled.

PRO-LIFE CORNER



COVERED DISH DINNER

We will have our Epiphany covered dish dinner next Sunday, January 6th 2018 immediately following the 11:00 AM Mass in Parsons at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

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 DECEMBER 23, 2018

St. Thomas: \$3,539.10

Christmas: \$3,145.25

Catholic Charities of WV: \$1,061.01

Our Lady of Mercy: \$694.00

Christmas: \$732.00

Catholic Charities of WV: \$526.10

FOOD PANTRY

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

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR THE CATHOLIC FAMILY

It's that time of year again. Time to make a list of resolutions for the new year and forget about them before the month of January comes to an end. Or at least that's how it usually goes for me. No matter what your resolutions are, if you take on too big of a change - or too many changes - it can be easy to quit. But January is an opportunity to improve not just your health or your spending habits, but your spiritual life as well. There are countless spiritual resolutions to make for the new year, but picking just one or two is ideal so that you don't become overwhelmed or start to feel like a failure if you miss them once or twice. Just remember to keep it simple at first, and as your resolutions turn into habits, you can add more.

Go to confession: Some of us don't get to confession nearly enough. The new calendar year is your opportunity to get in the habit by setting aside the time to go. Find out when confession is offered at your parish or another local parish. If those times aren't accessible to you, contact your pastor about scheduling a specific time for you to attend. Then stick to it. Put it on your calendar for bimonthly, once a month, every other month - whatever schedule will best ensure that you go to confession on a regular basis. If you're nervous, remember that your priest has likely heard it all in confessions over the years and there are apps to help you get through it. Laudate is a great one.

Set a time each day to pray: Start small. If you haven't been praying daily at all, set aside just five minutes during your favorite part of the day. If you already pray daily but feel like you can do more, than choose a time of day when you aren't praying to add additional prayer time in. In the mornings you can say a prayer to start your day. At 3 o'clock you can try the Divine Mercy Chaplet. And of course, if you aren't praying the rosary daily, you can add those 15 minutes in during your day even if it ends up being while you're driving. If you really want to kick your prayer life into high gear, join the Nineveh 90 day challenge.

Celebrate feast days with the children: Take a look at a Catholic calendar and find some feast days to celebrate with your children. Start with your patron saints and find ways to make it fun for your children to learn about these saints.

Participate in First Saturdays: We just celebrated the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima in 2017. One of the requests of Our Lady was that we participate in the Five First Saturdays which involves going to confession, receiving Holy Communion, saying five decades of the rosary, and mediating for 15 minutes on the mysteries of the rosary each first Saturday for five consecutive months.

Attend daily Mass: Daily Mass can be tricky when you work or have small children, but if you search you may be able to find a daily Mass that can work for you. While you likely won't be able to attend each day unless you work from home and Mass begins after the children are in school, you can put it on your calendar for once a month or once a week and make an effort to go. First Friday is a good way to start as there are often Masses at noon.

Bring a friend to Sunday Mass: One of the recent requests of our pastor is that we bring a friend to Mass. Whether the person is a former Catholic, a Catholic who has strayed, or someone who has never been to Catholic Mass or any church service whatsoever, it is an important part of being Catholic to evangelize. Helping someone to see the beauty of the Catholic faith can help reignite your own faith and remind you of why you are Catholic.

Renew your baptismal vows: Kick off the new year by renewing your baptismal promises with your family. It's easy, you can do it within your own home, and it will remind you of what it is to be a Catholic. It might just be the boost you need to be a more spiritual person in 2019.

One small step toward improving your spiritual life is all you need to become a stronger Catholic in the new year. And with each step you take, you can follow it up with another when you're ready. Have a happy new year and may God bless you in 2019! *By Nancy Flanders*

PARISH ROSARIES PRAYED

Total Rosaries for 2 weeks.....318

Total Rosaries for the year.....19,693
(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.