

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

The Baptism of the Lord

Jan 14 Monday	*Nancy Tynan Family	7:15 AM Thomas
Jan 15 Tuesday	*Keara Kotten	5:00 PM Thomas
Jan 16 Wednesday	Martha Nichols	9:00 AM Parsons
Jan 17 Thursday	Toni Harrison	5:00 PM Thomas
Jan 18 Friday	Daniel Moran, Sr.	7:00 AM Thomas
Jan 19 Saturday	Leecy Flanagan	9:00 AM Parsons
Jan 19 SATURDAY VIGIL	People of the Parish	5:00 PM Thomas
Jan 20 SUNDAY	*Tom & Julie Kucer	9:00 AM Thomas
Jan 20 SUNDAY	James Flanagan	11:00 AM Parsons

THOMAS

DATE	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	READERS	ALTAR SERVERS
01/19	Kathy & Pat Kotten	Kathy Supak	Any available
01/20	Mary Sagace	Michelle Snyder	Mateo Hinkle

PARSONS

DATE	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	READERS	ALTAR SERVERS
01/20	Kaylee DiBacco & Becca Siler	Betty Jane DiBacco	Any available

Cleaning: 01/13 - 01/19: Pat Usnik & Debbie Scarberry

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, (01/20/19 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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD, January 13, 2019



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.

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.*

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.



THE 46th ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

The March for Life is an annual pilgrimage of prayer and public witness to protest the 1973 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to legalize abortion. As Catholics, we believe that all life is sacred. Participating in the March for life is an opportunity to be advocates for those who cannot speak for themselves and to help our government understand why we believe life is so sacred. Please come join us and take a stand for LIFE! We will be taking a car (or cars) to the metro stop in Vienna, VA., and then we will take the train into D.C. Please call the Parish Office if you would like to join this life saving event, Saturday, January 18th, 2019.

ATTENTION CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Please mark your calendars for the next confirmation class with Father on Sunday, January 27th at 4:00 PM in Parsons.

FREE POINSETTIAS!

Please feel free to take a poinsettia home with you today after the Sunday morning Masses at both St. Thomas and Our Lady of Mercy churches.

CHOIR PRACTICE!

PARSONS: Choir practice will be held on Wednesday, January 16th at 6:30 PM.

THOMAS: Choir practice will be held on Thursday, January 17th at 7:00 PM.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Red Cross is having a blood drive on Thursday, January 17th from 1:00 PM until 6:30 PM at the Parsons Senior Center. Walkins welcome. Sponsored by the Kiwanis club.

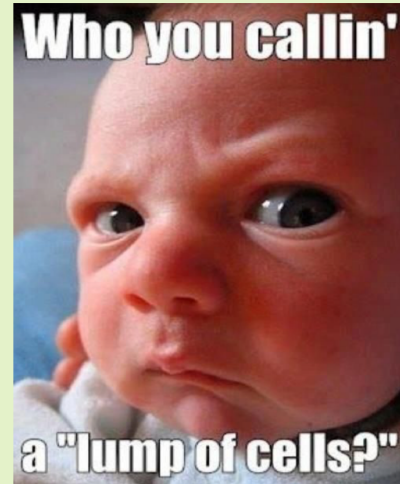
EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

Jan. 13 - Our Lady of Mercy Women's Guild meeting immediately following the 11 AM Mass.

Jan. 17 - 4th degree Knights meeting at 6 PM in Thomas.

Feb. 03 - "ASK FATHER" immediately following Mass in Parsons.

Feb. 13 - Knights of Columbus meeting at 6 PM in Thomas.



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 January 06, 2019

St. Thomas: \$3,098.25

Our Lady of Mercy: \$831.50

FOOD PANTRY

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

THE HAPPIEST AND MOST INSPIRING PRO-LIFE STORY YOU WILL READ TODAY

By Sherry Antonetti: a full time mom to her ten children.

Sometimes the best thing you can do for the pro-life cause is to just "smile and walk out into the world."

I have been to marches; I have prayed at clinics. I have written articles and letters to the editor. I have ten children. Yet, the most effective witness I ever gave to the pro-life cause was when I was not trying to do anything other than find a way to not be lonely.

Back in 1993, I became a mother and I felt the walls of the world encompassing me. So I went out seeking connections and adult conversations and anything to help distinguish one day from the next as I worked to recover from pregnancy and adjusted to being a full-time mom.

One day, I saw the receptionist at our apartment management company and it looked like she had been crying. When I asked her what was wrong, she told me, "You."

I did not understand, but she invited me in to sit with her. It turned out she had just broken up with her boyfriend and found out afterward that she was pregnant. Two girlfriends already offered to drive her to get an abortion, but she said seeing my son every day, holding him as he smiled and kicked, she could not. She just could not.

Her reaction to me actually echoed my own reaction to someone else: I had become a stay-at-home mom because I had seen a baby boy in the daycare and witnessed his smiles. I could not, not be with my son, I just could not. That unknown baby's smiles led to my staying home and being desperately lonely ... and that led to sharing my son's smiles with this pregnant receptionist. I hugged her and we cried over her worries.

We talked about what she could do. I had never counseled anyone before, but we created a plan. It involved calling a doctor to get checked, calling her folks to get support and calling her boyfriend to let him know. I did not know what would happen but told her we would be there for her regardless. She gave my son a kiss and dried her eyes.

I left thinking that the loneliness of being a new stay-at-home mother was nothing compared to hers. It rained hard for the next week, so I did not get out for my daily walk. The few times I made it by the office, she was not there. I worried.

However, the next time I saw her she threw open the door and hugged me. Everyone had rallied for her—her boyfriend and her parents. Now instead of the loneliness, there was a family fully engaged and fired-up alive, eagerly anticipating the child's birth. They married and before I moved away, they had had a son and a daughter. My son's smiles allowed another two children's smiles to be known to the world and a whole host of smiles for the mom, the dad and the grandparents.

It was not marching or protesting or lobbying that won a heart in a crisis pregnancy. It was presence. While we march for all those who were not given the opportunity of life or who were wounded by abortion (fathers, mothers, siblings and everyone else) and while we hope for a defunding of Planned Parenthood, we should recognize the other part of being pro-life: We have to be more pro-life and pro-living than protesting. Smile and walk out into the world and know that God will put you where you can be most effective.

PARISH ROSARIES PRAYED

Total Rosaries for 2 weeks.....183

Total Rosaries for the year.....19,876

(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.