

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Jan 28 Monday	Edwin Kaczmarek	7:15 AM Thomas
Jan 29 Tuesday	*Keara Kotten	5:00 PM Thomas
Jan 30 Wednesday	Lela & Ben Long	9:00 AM Parsons
Jan 31 Thursday	Jack Lambruno	5:00 PM Thomas
Feb 01 First Friday	Stan Sedmock	1:00 PM Cort. Acres
Feb 01 First Friday	<b>ADORATION &amp; BENEDICTION</b>	5:00 PM Thomas
Feb 01 First Friday	Dan Studer	6:00 PM Thomas
Feb 02 First Saturday	Karen Renzelli	9:00 AM Parsons
Feb 02 SATURDAY VIGIL	Wilbur & Isabel Killeen	5:00 PM Thomas
Feb 03 SUNDAY	Peg Clement	9:00 AM Thomas
Feb 03 SUNDAY	People of the Parish	11:00 AM Parsons

**THOMAS**

DATE	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	READERS	ALTAR SERVERS
02/02	Kathy & Pat Kotten	Kathy Supak	Any available
02/03	Betty Woods	Diane Rader	Isaac Quattro

**PARSONS**

DATE	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	READERS	ALTAR SERVERS
02/03	Dee Oldaker & Ariona Plumley	Fred Sikarskie	Any available

Cleaning: 01/27 - 02/02: 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](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 February, the Tridentine Mass will be offered at the following times and church:  
St. Thomas - 7:30 AM, (Low Mass) 02/10/18;  
Our Lady of Mercy - 12:30 PM, (02/17/19 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.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, January 27, 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](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.*

## OUR PATRONAL FEAST DAY

January 28<sup>th</sup> is the feast day of St. Thomas Aquinas, our patron. This falls on a Monday, however since it is our patronal feast we are permitted to move it to the closest Sunday which is January 27<sup>th</sup>, today. We are going to celebrate this by offering the weekend Masses in honor of St. Thomas Aquinas. The music will also reflect our patron. To celebrate this feast we will have adoration at St. Thomas Church at 8 AM with benediction before the 9 AM Mass and after Mass we will have a light social with pastries and coffee and juice. Please plan to participate in the adoration and the social following Mass. It will also be an opportunity to welcome our new organist, Jonathan Mann.

## ATTENTION CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

ALL CONFIRMATION STUDENTS  
ARE TO MEET WITH FATHER TODAY,  
JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup> AT 4:00 PM IN PARSONS.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION TODAY LATIN AMERICAN AND HOME MISSIONS

This collection supports the work of the Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America by funding grants for pastoral efforts such as lay leadership training, seminarian and religious formation, prison ministry, and youth ministry, among others. In 2018, the collection awarded nearly \$7.5 million in grants to support the Church in Latin America and Caribbean, including areas ravaged by recent natural disasters.

**Blessing of Throats  
next weekend, Feb. 2/3  
after all Masses.**

## EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

- Jan. 27 - 2<sup>nd</sup> collection - Church in Latin America.
- Jan. 27 - St. Thomas Aquinas celebration (see above).
- Feb. 03 - Feast of St. Blaise, blessing of throats after all Masses.
- Feb. 03 - "ASK FATHER," immediately following Mass in Parsons.
- Feb. 13 - Knights of Columbus meeting at 6 PM in Thomas.

**FREEDOM  
OF CHOICE  
IS SUCH A LOVELY WAY  
TO SAY SLAUGHTER  
THE UNBORN.**

*Sara Frisby PHD*

## 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 20, 2019

St. Thomas: \$2,576.08

Our Lady of Mercy: \$1,070.00

## 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.

## MARCHING FOR LIFE, 2019

ARCHBISHOP CHARLES J. CHAPUT, O.F.M. CAP.

This month marks the 46th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, which effectively legalized abortion on demand.

It also marks another annual March for Life, this year on January 18. It's a time to look back and look ahead. The abortion struggle of the past four decades teaches a very useful lesson. Evil talks a lot about "tolerance" when it's weak. When evil is strong, real tolerance gets pushed out the door. And the reason is simple. Evil cannot bear the counter-witness of truth. It will not coexist peacefully with goodness, because evil insists on being seen as right, and worshiped as being right. Therefore, the good must be made to seem hateful and wrong.

The very existence of people, in the March for Life and elsewhere, who refuse to accept evil and who seek to act virtuously burns the conscience of those who don't. And so, quite logically, people who march and lobby and speak out to defend the unborn child will be – and are – reviled by leaders and media and abortion activists that turn the right to kill an unborn child into a shrine to personal choice.

Seventy years ago, abortion was a crime against humanity. Four decades ago, abortion supporters talked about the tragedy of abortion and the need to make it safe and rare. Those days are long gone. Now abortion is not just a "right," but a right that claims positive dignity, the license to demonize its opponents and the precedence to interfere with constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech, assembly, and religion. We no longer tolerate abortion. We venerate it as a totem.

People sometimes ask me if we can be optimistic, as believers, about the future of our country. My answer is always the same. Optimism and pessimism are equally dangerous for Christians because both God and the devil are full of surprises. But the virtue of hope is another matter. The Church tells us we must live in hope, and hope is a very different creature from optimism. The great French Catholic writer Georges Bernanos defined hope as "despair overcome." Hope is the conviction that the sovereignty, the beauty, and the glory of God remain despite all of our weaknesses and all of our failures. Hope is the grace to trust that God is who he claims to be, and that in serving him, we do something fertile and precious for the renewal of the world.

Our lives matter to the degree that we give them away to serve God and to help other people. Our lives matter not because of who we are; rather, they matter because of who God is. His mercy, his justice, his love – these are the things that move the galaxies and reach into the womb to touch the unborn child with the grandeur of being human. And we become more human ourselves by seeing the humanity in the poor, the weak, and the unborn child, and then fighting for it.

Over the past 46 years, the pro-life movement has been written off as dying too many times to count. Yet again and again, we disappoint our critics and refuse to die. And why is that? It's because the Word of God and the works of God do not pass away. No court decision, no law, and no political lobby can ever change the truth about when human life begins and the sanctity that God attaches to each and every human life. The truth about the dignity of the human person is burned into our hearts by the fire of God's love. And we can only deal with the heat of that love in two ways. We can turn our hearts to stone. Or we can make our hearts and our witness a source of light for the world. Those who March for Life have already made their choice. It's a wonderful irony that despite the often ugly weather of January, there's no such thing as winter in the hearts of those who March for Life, only the warmth of God's presence. And that leaves us no room for fear or confusion or despair, because God never abandons his people, and God's love always wins.

## 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.