

## 28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, October 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](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. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, and 30 minutes before all 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.*

## LADIES, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

A Ladies Day of Reflection will be held on Friday, October 25, 2019 at the St. Thomas Center BEGINNING at 9:00 AM. The day will include Adoration, Benediction, Mass and Confessions will be available with visiting priests. The day should end at about 4:00 PM. The retreat will be run by the Nashville Dominican Sisters. All are strongly encouraged to attend. Breakfast snacks, Lunch and other snacks provided.

**SIGN UP SHEET IN THE BACK OF BOTH CHURCHES.  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

## WITH SYMPATHY

Please pray for the souls of  
*Vincent DiBacco & Joanne Micheal*  
who died this past week. Please pray for the  
consolation of their families as well.

## SECOND COLLECTION TODAY

A second collection for Catholic Relief Services will be taken up on the weekend of October 12-13, 2019 for the purpose of providing assistance to our suffering brothers and sisters in the Bahamas

## PARISH DINNER

Everyone is invited to a parish dinner on Saturday, October 26, immediately following the 5:00pm Mass in Thomas at the St. Thomas Center. Baked steak, scalloped potatoes, green beans, rolls, salad or appetizer trays, cake, coffee/punch will be served by the Society of St. Thomas Women. If you plan of attending please sign up in the back of the church.

## ATTENTION KNIGHTS

The Knights of Columbus will have their annual Columbus Day dinner at Our Lady of Mercy Church social hall in Parsons this Sunday, October 13th, beginning with the installation of officers at 4:30, social hour at 5:00pm and dinner at 6:00pm. The cost of the meal is \$15 per person. Our guest speaker will be Deacon Dave.

## EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

- Oct. 13 - Columbus day dinner at Our Lady of Mercy Church
- Oct. 20 - 2nd Collection for the Universal World Mission
- Oct. 21 - Red Cross Blood Drive 12:30 - 6:00pm at the Parsons Senior Center

## PRO-LIFE CORNER



**Defend small women!**

## QUILT RAFFLE and BASKET RAFFLE

The Society of St. Thomas Women is selling chances on a beautiful, blue quilt with a seascape theme made by Sandra Kendall. Suggested donation of \$5 per ticket.

The ladies are also having their annual Christmas Basket Raffle! The basket will include multiple Christmas gifts and a \$100 walmart gift card. Suggested donation of \$5 per ticket.

The drawings will be held on Sunday, December 15th after the 9am Mass in Thomas. Please see one of the ladies after Mass to get your tickets.

## CONTRIBUTIONS FOR October 06, 2019

St. Thomas: \$3,548.14

Our Lady of Mercy: \$1,064.00

## FOOD PANTRY

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

## Rising to a New Life *by: Michelle Leon*

In times of great distress and loss would you still hold on to God?

Awaiting Love I would like to share a small piece of my life in testimony to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Like many couples, my husband and I had married planning to raise a family and modestly prayed for the grace to nurture them in holiness so that they could become great saints. However, during the early years of our marriage, we delayed pregnancy, because we believed our love for each other needed to mature before we could enter parenthood. Although we barely acknowledged God's plans for us, when we felt it was "the right time", we expected Him to readily supply the gift of a child. Our happiness knew no bounds when we discovered that I was pregnant! The joyful days we shared with our beloved child sustained us when that short life on earth ended in miscarriage.

Despite our devastating grief, my husband and I grew stronger in faith and hope. About ten months later, our journey into parenthood took another turn when we were blessed with our second pregnancy. We were elated that God had favored us by allowing our love to bear fruit again! Our parents were overjoyed at the long-awaited answer to their prayer on the auspicious Feast of Divine Mercy. I remember how my husband and I thanked the Lord before the Blessed Sacrament for endowing us with His abundant graces, in spite of our unworthiness.

Turn of Life We booked our appointment with the OBGYN the following week and looked forward to seeing our precious child at the first ultrasound. The mixed emotions of anxiety and excitement, like butterflies wobbling inside me as we waited, are still fresh in my memory. As the doctor prepared for the ultrasound, I constantly prayed with my eyes closed. Much to our consternation, the doctor could not confirm the presence of our child, giving us two possibilities - we had either walked in too early, or it could be an Ectopic Pregnancy, which can be life-threatening. Although we had never heard about ectopic pregnancy, we turned to the Lord with faith, hoping that he could turn the situation around. For what is impossible for man is possible with God! I had been feeling a slight stomach ache due to gastric trouble, I thought since the pain wasn't excruciating. It was evening before we got home after completing all the blood tests. Suddenly, I started feeling suffocated and the pain in my stomach became excruciating. I did not know what was happening to me, but my husband wasted no time summoning emergency care. They rushed me to the nearest hospital where he was informed that immediate surgery was required.

Shocked beyond Grief My husband was shocked into silence. He began to question God, "What wrong have we done to be tested like this?" A storm of random thoughts started popping through his head, but at the same time he felt blank and desolate. Once the surgery started, one of our friends joined him and they began interceding for me, calling out to Mama Mary for help in the Holy Rosary. They continued to pray the Rosary until the doctor emerged with the good news that the operation was successful. Although she had only seen such a complicated case twice in her twenty years of medical practice, I had miraculously survived. My left fallopian tube had ruptured, resulting in the loss of half my blood volume and the consequent struggle for the doctors to maintain my heartbeat. Afterwards, I had to be kept intubated in the ICU for almost a day without being allowed even a single drop of water. In spite of my torment, I took the chance to share my suffering with Jesus Christ on the cross when He cried out, "I Thirst". I offered up my sacrifice for the reparation of sins, particularly that of abortion, and other evils spreading throughout the world.

Finding Solace Although this cross is very heavy for me and my husband, God has never, ever forsaken us. Throughout this ordeal He has consoled us through His Holy Spirit, sending us holy people to give us solace in our distress. Truly, it was God speaking to us through them. My husband and I wrestled with God for almost a week, until we realized how grateful we should be for my deliverance from imminent death, rather than crying over what we had lost. We committed our little one to the Lord and I started to speedily heal, by God's grace, physically, mentally and spiritually. I am certain that the Lord offers immeasurable grace where there is intense suffering. Jesus knows our anguish and looks at us with compassion and tenderness from His cross. We know that He is doing something tremendous in our lives through this pain and hardship if we just rest at His feet and glorify Him through our wounds. We completely trust Our Lord that He will bless our marriage with fruitfulness in His time if we patiently surrender ourselves totally to Him without reserve. Nothing is impossible with our Almighty God. To the Lord Jesus be all Glory and Honor, now and forever, Amen.

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**  
**TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Oct. 14 Monday	Saverio & Rosina Grimaldi	7:15am Thomas
Oct. 15 Tuesday	*Miranda & Cedric Grace	5:00pm Thomas
Oct. 16 Wednesday	Dick Sakal	9:00am Parsons
Oct. 17 Thursday	Gordan F. Walker	5:00pm Thomas
Oct. 18 Friday	Vincent DiBacco	5:00pm Thomas
Oct. 19 Saturday	Joanne Michael	9:00am Parsons
<b>Oct. 19 SATURDAY VIGIL</b>	Marshall Long	<b>5:00pm Thomas</b>
<b>Oct. 20 SUNDAY</b>	People of the Parish	<b>9:00am Thomas</b>
<b>Oct. 20 SUNDAY</b>	Frank & Francis Usnik	<b>11:00am Parsons</b>

**THOMAS**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
10/19	Kathy & Pat Kotten	Nancy Zizunas	Any available!
10/20	Brittany Cross	Matt Hinkle	Aaron Quattro

**PARSONS**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
10/20	Miranda Siler & Ariona Plumley	Joanne Sikarskie	Any available

Cleaning: 10/20 - 10/26: 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; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304-230-1504. 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 October, the Tridentine Mass will be offered at the following times and church:

St. Thomas - 7:30am,  
(Low Mass) 10/13/19  
Our Lady of Mercy - 12:30pm,  
10/20/19 only when  
requested in advance

If you would like to place someone on our prayer line call  
Mary Frances Evans (304) 463-4413  
Susie Gutshall (304) 478-3217  
Or Cindy Long (304) 478-4833

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

Champ Sedmock, "Sob"  
Gennantonio, Eleanor James, Mary Johnson, Jean Sagace, Ed Kepner, Donna Mason, Elaine Watson, Paula Siler & 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.**