

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, October 20, 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.



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 DAY OF REFLECTION

A Ladies Day of Reflection will be held THIS 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.

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP.

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 on attending please sign up in the back of the church.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY

The second collection today is for the Universal World Mission. As always, your prayers are your most treasured gift to the Missions. Your prayers and financial help, offered today, **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**, support mission priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and lay catechists who are Christ's witnesses to a world so in need of His healing, love, and peace.

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

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

Not a mistake
Not a problem
Not a burden
Not an inconvenience
Not a nuisance
Not an accident
Not a punishment



A miracle

CORTLAND ACRES BIRTHDAY PARTY

The Cortland Acres Birthday Party will take place this Tuesday, October 22nd at 2:00pm. Anyone who would like to help that day can meet at the church by 12:30pm and we will carpool. All help is greatly appreciated.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR October 13, 2019

St. Thomas: \$1,638.91
Bahama's Hurricane Collection: \$435.58

Our Lady of Mercy: \$1,612.00
Bahama's Hurricane Collection: \$240.00

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.

IS MARY'S QUEENSHIP BIBLICAL *By: Edward Sri*

Mary's title as "Queen of Heaven and Earth" is a great scandal to many non-Catholic Christians. After all, the Bible doesn't mention anything about there being a queen in God's kingdom. All this royal attention Catholics give to Mary—whether it's singing "Hail, holy queen enthroned above" or portraying Mary in statues and paintings with a crown on her head—seems to many non-Catholics to detract from the royalty of Christ, who alone is King of Kings. Besides, how could Mary be a queen, since she is not the wife of Jesus but only his mother?

One biblical theme sheds light on these questions and serves as a key for unlocking the mystery of Mary's queenship: the Old Testament tradition of the "queen mother" in the Davidic kingdom.

In the monarchy of King David, as well as in other ancient kingdoms of the Near East, the mother of the ruling king held an important office in the royal court and played a key part in the process of dynastic succession. In fact, the king's mother ruled as queen, not his wife.

The great pre-eminence of the king's mother may seem odd from our modern Western perspective, in which we think of a queen as being the wife of a king. However, recall that most ancient Near-Eastern kings practiced polygamy. King Solomon had seven hundred wives (1 Kgs. 11:3)—imagine the chaos in the royal court if all seven hundred were awarded the queenship! But since each king had only one mother, one can see the practical wisdom in bestowing the queenship upon her.

A number of Old Testament passages reflect the important role of the queen mother in the Davidic kingdom. For example, almost every time the narrative of 1 and 2 Kings introduces a new monarch in Judah, it mentions the king's mother as well, showing the mother's intimate involvement in her royal son's reign. Similarly, the queen mother is listed among the members of the royal court whom king Jehoiachin surrendered to the king of Babylon in 2 Kings 24:12.

Her royal office is also described by the prophet Jeremiah, who tells how the queen mother possessed a throne and a crown, symbolic of her position of authority in the kingdom: "Say to the king and the queen mother: 'Take a lowly seat, for your beautiful crown has come down from your head. . . . Lift up your eyes and see those who come from the north. Where is the flock that was given you, your beautiful flock?'" (Jer. 13:18, 20). It is significant that God directed this oracle about the upcoming fall of Judah to both the king and his mother.

Addressing both king and queen mother, Jeremiah portrays her as sharing in her son's rule over the kingdom. Probably the clearest example of the queen mother's role is that of Bathsheba, wife of David and mother of Solomon. Scholars have noted the excellence of Bathsheba's position in the kingdom once she became queen mother during Solomon's rule. Compare the humble attitude of Bathsheba as spouse of King David (1 Kgs. 1:16–17, 31) with her majestic dignity as mother of the next king, Solomon (1 Kgs. 2:19–20). As spouse of the king, Bathsheba bows with her face to the ground and does obeisance to her husband, David, upon entering his royal chamber. In striking contrast, after her son Solomon assumed the throne and she became queen mother, Bathsheba receives a glorious reception upon meeting with her royal son:

"So Bathsheba went to King Solomon, to speak to him on behalf of Adonijah. And the king rose to meet her, and bowed down to her; then he sat on his throne and had a seat brought for the king's mother; and she sat on his right. Then she said, 'I have one small request to make of you; do not refuse me.' And the king said to her, 'Make your request, my mother; for I will not refuse you'" (1 Kgs. 2:19–20).

This account reveals the sovereign prerogatives of the queen mother. Note how the king rises and bows as she enters. Bathsheba's seat at the king's right hand has the greatest significance. In the Bible, the right hand is the place of ultimate honor. This is seen in particular in the messianic Psalm 110 ("Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool"). In fact, many New Testament passages refer to the right-hand imagery of Psalm 110 to show Christ's divinity and his reign with the Father over the whole universe (e.g., Hebrews 1:13). Thus, the queen mother sitting at the king's right hand symbolizes her sharing in the king's royal authority and illustrates how she holds the most important position in the kingdom, second only to the king.

This passage regarding Bathsheba also shows how the queen mother served as an advocate for the people, carrying petitions to the king. In 1 Kings 2:17, Adonijah asks Bathsheba to take a petition for him to King Solomon. He says to her: "Pray ask King Solomon—he will not refuse you—to give me Abishag the Shunammite as my wife" (1 Kgs. 2:17). It is clear that Adonijah recognizes the queen mother's position of influence over the king, so he confidently turns to Bathsheba as an intercessor for his request. (continued next week)

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Oct. 21 Monday	Rev. Hilarion V. Cann	7:15am Thomas
Oct. 22 Tuesday	Jack Lambruno	5:00pm Thomas
Oct. 23 Wednesday	Rev. John "Jack" Reich	9:00am Parsons
Oct. 24 Thursday	Joe DePollo	5:00pm Thomas
Oct. 25 Friday	*Tony DiBacco	5:00pm Thomas
Oct. 25 Friday	Dora Lee Quattro	8:15am Thomas
Oct. 26 Saturday	Alex & Sylvia Slifko	9:00am Parsons
Oct. 26 SATURDAY VIGIL	John Lawrence	5:00pm Thomas
Oct. 27 SUNDAY	People of the Parish	9:00am Thomas
Oct. 27 SUNDAY	Virginia Ricottilli	11:00am Parsons

THOMAS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
10/26	Rita Johnson	Beth Spencer	Any available!
10/27	Katlyn Simmonds	John Ferguson	Drew Simmons

PARSONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
10/27	Dee Oldaker & Addie Buckley	Betty Jane DiBacco	Any available

Cleaning: 10/27 - 11/02: Joanne Sikarskie & Terry Silk

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, 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:

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.