

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, February 09, 2020



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.*

ARE YOU READY FOR LENT?

Lent will be a wonderful season of grace for us if we give ourselves to it. And, we will give ourselves to it to the degree we really want it badly. In these days before Lent, we need to prepare our hearts. We need to prepare by realizing how much we want to grow in freedom, how much we need to lighten our spirits and experience some real joy, and how much some parts of our lives really need changing. Preparing our hearts is a process of preparing our desires. This means practicing our sense of anticipation. If I imagine Lent as an "ordeal" or a time I dread in some way, then I've already pre-disposed myself to not get very much out of it. These days before Lent are a time to start anticipating something wonderful that is about to happen. As we prepare for Lent, here are some questions we may ask ourselves: Have the fasts of my past really been practiced for God? Are we just going through the motions? Why are we participating in Lent tradition? What does our heart tell us? Are we moved when we plan? When we participate? When we practice?

COME CELEBRATE MARDI GRAS!

We will celebrate "Mardi Gras" with a festive dinner immediately following the 11:00 AM Mass on Sunday, February 23rd, at Our Lady of Mercy church. Join us as we feast on delicious soups, sandwiches, finger foods and desserts prepared by our ladies. All are welcome to join the fun and festivities.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH?

Sign up for Formed.org if you haven't already. Instead of binge watching Netflix, you can use that time to learn more about the faith. There is content on different topics offered through different forms of media so there is something for everyone. Money will no longer be an issue in having the availability of Catholic knowledge because Formed.org is free to all of our parishioners. Please take advantage of this amazing opportunity. Go to Formed.org and sign up today. Call the Rectory if you have any questions.

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

- Feb 09 - OLM Women's Guild meeting after 11am Mass
- Feb 18 - Knights of Columbus meeting after 5pm Mass in Thomas
- Feb 23 - Mardi Gras Pot luck dinner after the 11am Mass
- Feb 26 - ASH WEDNESDAY (*A day of fasting and abstinence*)

IMAGINE IF THE
52+ MILLION
INDIVIDUALS KILLED
BY LEGAL ABORTION
WERE GIVEN BACK
LIFE FOR A DAY TO
MARCH FOR THEIR
RIGHT TO LIFE.



ANYTHING WORTH DOING
IS WORTH PREPARING FOR.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING
FOR LENT THIS YEAR?



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR
February 02, 2020

St. Thomas: \$2,303.25

Our Lady of Mercy: \$1228.00

FOOD PANTRY

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

ARE YOU ADDICTED TO THE NOISE OF THE WORLD? HERE'S ONE SIMPLE SOLUTION

Patty Knap | Jan 23, 2017 (Aleteia.org)

**Whether you only have five minutes or an hour,
sitting in adoration in front of the Eucharist brings peace.**

“No dictatorship can do anything against a silent man. You cannot steal a man’s silence from him.”

So says Ghana’s Cardinal Robert Sarah in his book, *The Strength of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise*.

I once had a friend who avoided silence at all costs. As soon as he entered a room, he’d turn something on. I eventually realized he was afraid — afraid to be alone with nothing to hear but his own thoughts.

At times I’ve seen the same tendency in myself — to tune out with the constant flow of media. It makes it a lot easier to keep my head from thinking about the important things ... or to pray about them.

I can zombie through an episode of “Hoarding: Buried Alive” or “Antiques Roadshow” as if I have all the time in the world, and convince myself I’m not really missing anything.

It’s true that there’s nothing wrong with a little relaxation. We need it. But if we’re not letting ourselves detach from the world and keep God in focus, we can easily create a distance or barrier to inspirations from God. He tells us He never forces Himself in. He stands and knocks. It’s up to us to open the door.

Cardinal Sarah claims that noise “has become like a drug on which our contemporaries are dependent.” “With its festive appearance, noise is a whirlwind that avoids looking oneself in the face and confronting the interior emptiness. It is a diabolical lie. The awakening can only be brutal.”

The cardinal’s proposal is to “rediscover the true order of priorities” by placing “God back at the center of our concerns, at the center of our actions and of our life: the only place that He should occupy.”

I’ve found that my weekly time of Eucharistic Adoration keeps me anchored in silence.

For a long time I’d noticed that a parish near me had adoration of the Eucharist all day every Friday, but I had never gone. I went for the first time about two years ago, figuring it could lead to an occasional thing at most.

At first what I experienced was so different simply because I’d never been to church before when there wasn’t a Mass going on. With adoration, there’s no readings, no sermon, no music (no collection!). Just that pretty golden display case, called a monstrance, with the Eucharist on the altar. People in quiet prayer. Peaceful.

Soon I found that I wanted to go back. It wasn’t long before I began going every Friday, even when I had only 15 or 20 minutes to dart in. I was surprised by the range of people drawn to adoration. I expected elderly women. They were there; but I also found young couples, businessmen in suits, guys with earrings and tattoos, teenagers. Some stop in for five minutes. Others stay an hour. All drawn to Christ in simple adoration.

What Cardinal Sarah advises is not another program of reform, but to rediscover the sense of God by approaching Him in silence, the only way that God can be approached.

Now I look forward to Fridays.

**PARISH ROSARIES
PRAYED**

Total Rosaries for 2 weeks: 268

*Total Rosaries
since May 2016: 25,668*

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Feb. 10 Monday	Frank & Antonia Okolish	7:15am Thomas
Feb. 11 Tuesday	Peg Clement & Family	5:00pm Thomas
Feb. 12 Wednesday	David F. Silk	9:00am Parsons
Feb. 13 Thursday	Earl Moore	5:00pm Thomas
Feb. 14 Friday	Diane Ulch & Imelda Stevenson	5:00pm Thomas
Feb. 15 Saturday	Leecy Flanagan	9:00am Parsons
Feb. 15 SATURDAY VIGIL	Michael Morano	5:00pm Thomas
Feb. 16 SUNDAY	People of the Parish	9:00am Thomas
Feb. 16 SUNDAY	Bob Martz	11:00am Parsons

THOMAS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
02/15	Kathy & Pat Kotten	Dana Quattro	Any available!
02/16	Mary Sagace	Michelle Snyder	Drew Simmons

PARSONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
02/16	Miranda Grace & Addie Buckley	Betty Jane DiBacco	Any available

Cleaning: 02/09 - 02/15: 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, 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 - 7:30am
(Low Mass) 02/09/20

Our Lady of Mercy - 12:30pm,
02/16/20 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, Pat Ricottilli,
"Sob" Gennantonio, Mary Johnson,
Jean Sagace, Ed Kepner, Donna
Mason, Elaine Watson, Paula Siler,
Anne McVicker, Jerry DiBacco, &
Paul Wojtkowski.

**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.**