

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, February 16, 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?

Taking some time to get ready for Lent will ensure that we aren't going to miss the first week or two of Lent, because we are just getting started. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, but we want to be ready to really take off on that day, rather than just beginning to think about Lent on that day. Part of what makes a vacation or a special anniversary so special is the build-up to it.

Before we get to Ash Wednesday, we should start asking ourselves some questions and we should start with some preparations. "What does God want to give me this year?" This question may require that I slow down a bit and listen to my inner spirit. For example, even if I'm very busy, I realize I'm hungry when I hear my stomach start "growling." "What am I going to be doing on Ash Wednesday?" Too often, Ash Wednesday is like every other day, except that I manage to get to church and get ashes on my forehead. Is there anything else I can do on Ash Wednesday? How will fasting and abstaining happen for me, for my family on that special day? May our Lord bless us all on this journey ahead.



COME CELEBRATE MARDI GRAS!

We will celebrate "Mardi Gras" with a festive dinner immediately following the 11:00 AM Mass next 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.

BEST LENT EVER

"Best Lent Ever" is a free email program that will guide you on an incredible 40-day journey to become the-best-version-of-yourself, making this a truly life-changing Lent. Sign up at BestLentEver.com/ParishSignUp and starting Ash Wednesday, participants will receive daily inspirational emails from the Dynamic Catholic team. Throughout Lent, participants will discover how to open their hearts to God and do more than just give up chocolate for Lent.

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

- 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*)
- Feb 26 - 2nd Collection (Aid to the Church in Central & Eastern Europe)
- Mar 01 - "ASK FATHER" after the 11am Mass in Parsons
- Mar 08 - Daylight savings time begins



IF YOU KILL A PRE-BORN SEA TURTLE
\$100,000 FINE
1 YEAR IN PRISON

IF YOU KILL A PRE-BORN BALD EAGLE
\$250,000 FINE
2 YEARS IN PRISON



IF YOU KILL A PRE-BORN HUMAN BEING
NO PENALTY

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QUILT RAFFLE AND STAINED GLASS RAFFLE

The Our Lady of Mercy Women's Guild is selling chances on a beautiful quilt and stained glass window piece, both made and donated by Maurena Andreas. Suggested donation of \$5 per ticket with two chances to win. The drawings will be held on Sunday, May 10th after the 11am Mass in Parsons. Please see one of the ladies after Mass to get your tickets. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR February 09, 2020

St. Thomas: \$2,224.06
Our Lady of Mercy: \$1,113.00

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.

THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS

by: MICHELLE SCHROEDER

As Catholics, sometimes we just have to laugh at ourselves. We strive to live our faith, achieve closeness to God and gain access to heaven but we sure do love a loophole! Take Mass, for example. Let's be honest, there's probably not one of us who has been invited to a Saturday wedding who didn't double check to see if it "counts" as our Sunday obligation. I bet we've all had at least one of those days when we were running late for Mass and were relieved that we blew in right before the Gospel. It's not that we don't love God or even love Mass but sometimes it seems the bare minimum is all we can muster. It's not that our heart isn't in the right place, but sometimes we allow the less important activities of life to distract us from the only thing that is truly important. Our church obviously realizes this because they have those rules so we know exactly how much we can get away with!

Jesus always told his disciples that they just needed to do the minimum to get into heaven – NOT! He told them (and by extension, us) that it takes our everything to get there! Sell everything you have, take up your cross, leave your livelihood, are just a few of the drastic steps Jesus described as what was necessary to follow him. So, what chance do we have of being true followers of Christ if sometimes we're looking for the detail in the church "rules" to get us off the hook. The devil is in the details, literally. He wants to busy us and stress us so that we lose sight of what God desires from us.

It one of his favorite tactics and to be fair, it's been pretty successful. We get caught up in all the running around and stress-filled days to the point that even the Lord's Day is packed with things we didn't finish earlier in the week. Mass becomes relegated to another item on our agenda for the day. So, we take short cuts in the one event of the week that we should be completely centered around. Even though our heart says we want to spend time with the Lord, our actions don't always reflect that desire.

You may wonder why our Church gives us those specific rules about what qualifies as Mass attendance when our Lord clearly demands more? Well, the answer is simply because they know we are human. The reality is that God wants us to give Him our whole heart, soul, mind and body. He knows we are not always going to succeed, and Jesus knew it too when He expressed His expectations over 2,000 years ago. In addition to being great at lofty expectations, our Lord is also really great at mercy. But that's no excuse for letting the devil convince us that the minimum is acceptable. We can't let him change our heads because then eventually he'll succeed at changing our hearts, too. If our goal is to reach heaven when we die, then we need to start thinking about how actions are working to achieve that goal. It's not enough to want it, we have to live it and when we fall short, we have to get up and try hard to live it again.

Look at how you prioritize your life this week. Is faith something you're squeezing in or does it reflect the wholeness of yourself that you really want to give to God? Here's to praying we all forget the details and throw ourselves completely into the arms of our Lord!

PARISH ROSARIES PRAYED

Total Rosaries for 2 weeks: 268

*Total Rosaries
since May 2016: 25,668*

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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|-------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Feb. 17 Monday | God's Blessing on Pope Francis, the Church & CUF | 7:15am Thomas |
| Feb. 18 Tuesday | Martha Nichols | 5:00pm Thomas |
| Feb. 19 Wednesday | James Flanagan | 9:00am Parsons |
| Feb. 20 Thursday | Frank Hoffner | 5:00pm Thomas |
| Feb. 21 Friday | Margaret Counts | 5:00pm Thomas |
| Feb. 22 Saturday | Rita Shea | 9:00am Parsons |
| Feb. 22 SATURDAY VIGIL | People of the Parish | 5:00pm Thomas |
| Feb. 23 SUNDAY | Keith Michael | 9:00am Thomas |
| Feb. 23 SUNDAY | William & Leah Marco, Lyndsay Hart | 11:00am Parsons |

THOMAS

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u> | <u>READERS</u> | <u>ALTAR SERVERS</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 02/22 | Betty Woods | Nancy Zizunas | Any available! |
| 02/23 | Brittiny Cross | John Ferguson | Isaac Quattro |

PARSONS

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u> | <u>READERS</u> | <u>ALTAR SERVERS</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 02/23 | Dee Oldaker & Ariona Plumley | Kathy DiBacco | Any available |

Cleaning: 02/16 - 02/22: 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 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.**