

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, March 01, 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.*

LENTEN FISH FRY

Come join the Knights of Columbus for our Lenten Fish Fry's! Dinner includes an 8 oz fish fillet with tartar or cocktail sauce; dinner roll with butter; coleslaw; greenbeans; macaroni n'cheese; fruit dessert; coffee or punch.

Cost: Adults \$8.00 - Kids 12 & under \$4.00

~ CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE!~

The dinner will be at both locations from 4:00pm - 6:30pm,
At the St. Thomas Center and

Our Lady of Mercy Church social halls on:
Mar. 06, Mar. 13, Mar. 20, Mar. 27 and Apr. 03.



LENTEN SACRIFICE

During Lent, the Knights of Columbus suggest one of these sacrifices:

- a) 40 Cans of Food for the Food Pantry
- b) a Monetary donation, (suggested donation: \$20. Money can be dropped in the collection baskets in an envelope marked "Food Pantry").

(Of course any amount of canned foods or money is greatly appreciated, the important thing is that all of us can have the opportunity to practice the corporal works of mercy, one of which is feeding the Hungry.)

QUILT & 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.

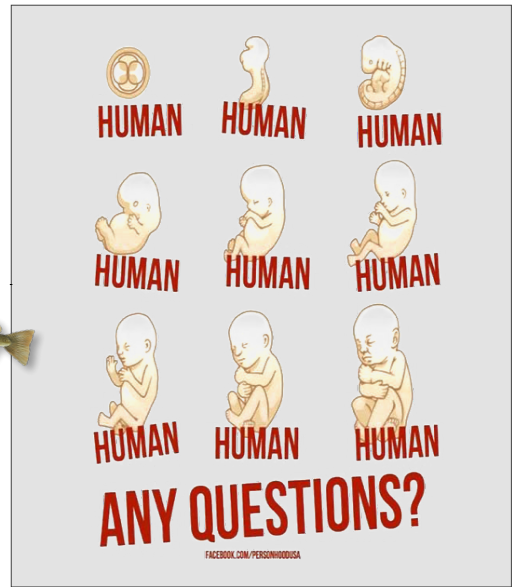


"Pain and suffering have come into your life, but remember pain, sorrow, suffering are but the kiss of Jesus — a sign that you have come so close to Him that He can kiss you."

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

- Mar 01 - 2nd Collection today "Black & Indian Missions"
- Mar 01 - "ASK FATHER" after the 11am Mass in Parsons
- Mar 08 - Daylight savings time begins
- Mar 08 - OLM Women's Guild meeting after the 11am Mass
- Mar 17 - Knights meeting after the 5:00pm Mass in Parsons
- Mar 19 - St. Joseph's Day
- Apr 04 - Men's Day of Reflection "Mark your Calendars"



LENT SCHEDULE

~Stations of the Cross~

WEDNESDAYS: Immediately after 5:00pm Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church . (Wednesday Mass during Lent will be at 5:00pm.)

FRIDAYS: Immediately after 5:00pm Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR February 23, 2020

St. Thomas: \$3,360.00
Our Lady of Mercy: \$1,242.00

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 POWER OF SILENCE IN PRAYER

STEPHEN WALTERS

Cardinal Robert Sarah has some extremely powerful insights into the value of silence as it relates to our spiritual life and our relationship with God, which he has emphasized with the recent publication of his book *The Power of Silence*. I've tried to condense the most important of these insights into three key points.

1. SILENCE IS NOT AN ABSENCE

Silence is typically defined as a negative. The Oxford English Dictionary defines silence as:

"Complete absence of sound, the fact or state of abstaining from speech, the avoidance of mentioning or discussing something, or a short appointed period of time during which people stand still and do not speak as a sign of respect for a dead person or group of people".

— all negative definitions which focus on the absence of something. However, in order to learn how to grow closer to God through silence, we have to redefine that word.

In the first book of Kings, we find the story of Elijah encountering God:

"He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'" (1 Kings 19:11-13).

Elijah is described here as "hearing" the silence of God. This is key. Cardinal Sarah says:

"Silence is not an absence. On the contrary, it is the manifestation of a presence, the most intense of all presences. In modern society, silence has come into disrepute; this is the symptom of a serious, worrisome illness. The real questions of life are posed in silence. Our blood flows through our veins without making any noise, and we can hear our heartbeats only in silence" (paragraph 12).

He is bearing out the point of the Old Testament writer, which is that silence is not a negative, in particular that silence in which we encounter God. Silence is a manifestation: when Elijah heard the sound of sheer silence, he knew that God was present and went forth to meet Him.

(Continued next week with key point #2.)

PARISH ROSARIES
PRAYED

Total Rosaries for 2 weeks: 195

Total Rosaries since May 2016: 26,095

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

First Sunday of Advent

Mar. 02 Monday	Moore Family	7:15am Thomas
Mar. 03 Tuesday	Loretta DiMaio	5:00pm Thomas
Mar. 04 Wednesday	Poor Souls in Purgatory	5:00pm Parsons
Mar. 05 Thursday	Eleanor James	5:00pm Thomas
Mar. 06 First Friday	Stan Sedmock	1:00pm Cort Acres
Mar. 06 First Friday	ADORATION & BENEDICTION	4:00pm Thomas
Mar. 06 First Friday	Joe Balassone	5:00pm Thomas
Mar. 07 First Saturday	Karen Renzelli	8:00am Parsons
Mar. 07 SATURDAY VIGIL	Fredrick E. Helbig Jr.	5:00pm Thomas
Mar. 08 SUNDAY	People of the Parish	9:00am Thomas
Mar. 08 SUNDAY	Edward F. Silk	11:00am Parsons

THOMAS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
03/07	Kathy & Pat Kotten	Nancy Zizunas	Any available!
03/08	Mary Sagace	Joe Massi	Aaron Quattro

PARSONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
03/08	Dee Oldaker & Ariona Plumley	Tom Gutshall	Any available

Cleaning: 03/01 - 03/07: Cindy Long & Betty DiBacco

THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

During the month of March, the Tridentine Mass will be offered at the following times and church:

St. Thomas - 7:30am (Low Mass) 03/08/20

Our Lady of Mercy - 12:30pm, 03/15/20 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.

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.