

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY - June 07, 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.*

ERECTING STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT MT. CALVARY CEMETERY



The temporary Stations of the Cross that were placed in the Cemetery during the Lent and Easter season were well received by many. At the recommendation of the Cemetery Committee, it was decided that we would put up permanent Stations of the Cross in the Cemetery.

The cost of each station will be \$300. If any individuals would like to pay for a station alone or as a group with a memorial plaque, you can call the Rectory. This is not an effort to specifically "pay" for the stations, but rather an effort to give people the opportunity to do something in memory of deceased family members.

ST. JOSEPH CONSECRATION

The 33 day Consecration to St. Joseph begins on June 13th and ends on July 16th, the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Since the books aren't here this week, there are copies of the first day in the back of the Church with the anticipation that the books will be here by the next weekend.

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

The Feast of Corpus Christi, also called Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, is celebrated in honor of the real presence of the Body (corpus) of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. We will celebrate this special feast day next Sunday, June 14th with a procession immediately following the 11am Mass in Parsons.

WELCOME DEACON SZABO!

We would like to welcome "Deacon" Phillip Szabo to our Parish for the summer. We are excited to have him with us once again!!

Please continue to pray for Deacon Justin Golna as he prepares for his ordination to the priesthood on June 27th in Wheeling.

BIBLE STUDY

Deacon Phillip Szabo will have a weekly bible study beginning this Tuesday, June 9th following the 5pm Mass in Thomas and on Wednesday, June 10th following the 9am Mass in Parsons. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

Let us work together to build a culture that cherishes innocent life.
And let us reaffirm a fundamental truth: all children, born and unborn, are made in the holy image of God."
— President Donald Trump

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

At Thy feet, O my Jesus, I prostrate myself and I offer Thee the repentance of my contrite heart, which is humbled in its nothingness and in Thy holy presence. I adore Thee in the Sacrament of Thy love, the ineffable Eucharist. I desire to receive Thee into the poor dwelling that my heart offers Thee. While waiting for the happiness of sacramental Communion, I wish to possess Thee in spirit. Come to me, O my Jesus, since I, for my part, am coming to Thee! The love embrace my whole being in life and in death. I believe in Thee, I hope in Thee, I love Thee. Amen.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR May 31, 2020

St. Thomas: \$2,593.08
Peters' Pence: \$266.00

Our Lady of Mercy: \$1,380.00
Peters' Pence: \$70.00

RAFFLE

The Quilt and Stained Glass Raffle drawing has been postponed until Father's Day, June 21st after the 11am Mass in Parsons. The Our Lady of Mercy Women's Guild will continue selling chances until this date. Suggested donation of \$5 per ticket with two chances to win. Please see one of the ladies after Mass to get your tickets. **LADIES, PLEASE SELL TICKETS!!**

WHERE ARE YOU, GOD? -A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO EVIL

Many react to evil and injustice with anger, frustration, sadness, and sometimes fear. These emotions are only natural. When we look into the face of evil, we shouldn't be happy about it. Yet, we are still called to have a different reaction than those who aren't Christian. Let me explain.

Some of the most common questions Christians are asked (or ask themselves) are about the seeming contradiction between God's goodness and human suffering.

Why would God allow innocent children suffer?

Why do bad things happen to good people?

If God is good, why do we suffer so much?

If God really loves us, why doesn't He take away suffering?

These questions, and many others like them, haunt many people. There seems to be no good answer. But, is that truly the case?

I would say that the answers some have received do not always satisfy unless we have a good idea of who God is. To really understand the problem we have with evil, and in turn God's very nature (as one who allows it to happen), we have to dive into exploring the nature of evil first.

Evil is not a thing. In fact, it is a lack of something. Evil is a lack of goodness. Just as darkness is a lack of light, so evil is a lack of goodness. When we think of it this way, we see that God, who is good by His nature, did not "create" or "invent" evil. Rather, it is God's creatures' failure to be good which allowed evil to enter into existence.

Furthermore, the reason death and physical suffering exist is because there is spiritual and moral evil.

The cause of suffering and death is ultimately man's sin. Because of our disobedience we suffer, in both body and soul. What we have earned by our sin is suffering and death for eternity.

This also helps us to understand the eternal love of God for us.

"But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." -Romans 5:7.

Even though what we merit by our evil is death and punishment, yet we are still forgiven.

The amazing thing about this paradox of love overcoming evil is that it leads us to the answer of why God allows evil.

The answer is found in the cross. Suffering and physical death are not good, but neither are they evil in and of themselves. In fact, through the cross, suffering and death can be redemptive. That is, they can help us to re-capture some of the purity, love and holiness that we are created for. The Cross of Jesus is God's answer to evil. In it, He conquers evil (and death/sin) and shows us how to overcome it.

Wrapped up in the mystery of evil and God's nature is our own free

will. With it, we are able to choose to love. With free will, we can also do great evil. God gave us this gift of freedom so we could truly have the opportunity to choose him. If we weren't truly free (and thus incapable of doing evil things), then we would also be incapable of truly loving - which always happens when one truly chooses what is good for the other person. (Continued next week).

PARISH ROSARIES PRAYED

Total Rosaries during coronavirus: 920

Total Rosaries since May 2016: 27,015

2010 CORPORATION MEETING

The Knights of Columbus 2010 Corporation will meet next Sunday, June 14th at 2:00pm at the Knights of Columbus Park.

(All Knights are members of the 2010 Corporation.)

CENSUS JOBS

Need some extra income during these trying times? The U.S. Census can aid in this recovery with jobs flexible enough to be scheduled around your regular job. The pay rate is \$13.50/hr and \$.575/mi. Apply online at 2020census.gov/jobs

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
The Most Holy Trinity

Jun 08 Monday	Steve Hammond	7:15am Thomas
Jun 09 Tuesday	Frank Hoffner	5:00pm Thomas
Jun 10 Wednesday	Fr. Charles Carrol	9:00am Parsons
Jun 11 Thursday	Frank Okolish	5:00pm Thomas
Jun 12 Friday	Ernest Quattro	5:00pm Parsons
Jun 13 Saturday	Merce & Joe Gummerson	9:00am Parsons
Jun 13 SATURDAY VIGIL	Marguerite Zizunas	5:00pm Thomas
Jun 14 SUNDAY	Don Woods	9:00am Thomas
Jun 14 SUNDAY	People of the Parish	11:00am Parsons

THOMAS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
06/13			
06/14			

PARSONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
06/14			

Cleaning: 06/07 - 06/13

THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS
During the month of May, the Tridentine Mass will be offered at the following times and church:
St. Thomas - "PENDING"
(Low Mass) 06/14/20
Our Lady of Mercy - "PENDING"
06/21/20 only when requested in advance

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.

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:

"Sob" Gennantonio, Mary Johnson, Jean Sagace, Joyce Arnold, Donna Mason, Elaine Watson, Paula Siler, Anne McVicker, Jerry & Madonna 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 Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, Part I

“My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me” (Matt. 26:38). — Our Lord Jesus Christ to Peter, James, and John.

Love by its very nature requires presence. Presence is a condition for love’s existence; presence is the object which love seeks. The marvel and the dignity of personhood are such that, of all the gifts of the natural order that a lover can give the beloved to contribute to the beloved’s happiness, the highest is the lover’s very self. I can see this truth in light of any relationship which is dear to me. If there is anyone I dearly love, it is the person himself or herself that primarily attracts me. It is *the person* whom I chiefly desire and enjoy. I delight in who this person is and in what this person is. I enjoy hearing about my loved one’s thoughts and feelings, joys and sorrows, far more than I care about the person’s house, financial assets, day job, newly-installed water heater, pet goldfish, and so forth. I love the person even more than the most meaningful gifts which he or she has given me. In fact, it is precisely in reference to the person I love that I value all these other things. Accordingly, I seek out the person’s presence. I find joy when I am with one whom I love, and it gives me joy that this person wants to be with me. If we are separated, then I miss the person. A period of physical distance is a cause of sorrow. The distance of the heart hurts still more. At such a time, my desire is that the communion of love—the physical and spiritual presence—be restored, and that it be mutual.

Bearing in mind these truths about presence and the innate desire for it which stirs in every heart, let us pause to consider why God has created us. He certainly has no need of us, for He Himself is a Trinity of infinite love. Yet He loves us generously and desires to give us the joy of His presence—that divine presence of which human companionship provides just a glimpse. Our loving God, though He is in need of nothing, desires to draw near to us that we might enjoy His radiant beauty, and that He might enjoy us. In His divine goodness our God has, not a need, but an infinitude of *pure desire* for our love—for our presence to Him. As we read in Psalm 149, “The LORD takes delight in His people” (Ps. 149:4). He finds joy in us, His children, His mystical bride; and He desires to share His joy with us. How tragic, therefore, was the day on which God descended to the Garden of Eden to walk with Adam and Eve, to share their company “in the cool of the day” (Gen 3:8), only to find that they were hiding from Him—distant from Him! Thousands of years later, God again walked with men in a garden, this time having assumed our lowly, mortal humanity. His fundamental desire had not changed. “Watch with me,” were His words to His closest friends on the night before He died. *Keep me company. Be present to me, Who have spared no cost to be present to you.* We might call these words His last request to His friends.

When Our Lord appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in 1675, within days of the great Feast of Corpus Christi, He said to her, “Behold the Heart which has so loved men that it has spared nothing, even to exhausting and consuming itself, in order to testify to its love; and in return I receive from the greater part [of mankind] only ingratitude, by their irreverence and sacrilege, and by the coldness and contempt they have for Me in this Sacrament of Love. But what I feel most keenly is that it is hearts which are consecrated to Me, that treat Me thus. Therefore, I ask of you that the Friday after the Octave of Corpus Christi be set apart for a special Feast to honor My Heart, by communicating on that day, and making reparation to it [My Heart] by a solemn act, in order to make amends for the indignities which it has received during the time it has been exposed on the altars. I promise you that My Heart shall expand itself to shed in abundance the influence of its Divine Love upon those who shall thus honor it, and cause it to be honored.”

By these words Our Lord has expressed His deep longing for our presence to Him, especially in the Eucharist. He desires that we be physically present to Him in the Eucharist and that our hearts be present to Him. He asks that, by our own presence to Him, we console Him for the absence of so many, who do not return His love. In our parish, we will have special opportunities in the near future to give Our Lord our presence and our hearts. On the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (Sun., June 14), there will be Eucharistic Exposition at 8:30 a.m. in Thomas. Benediction will take place just before the 9:00 Mass. The same day, there will be a Eucharistic Procession with Benediction in Parsons after the 11:00 Mass. On the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart (Fri., June 19), there will be Eucharistic Exposition at 4:00 p.m. in Thomas, followed by Mass at 5:00. Additionally, while Deacon Phillip Szabo is in our midst, a full hour of Eucharistic Exposition will take place before Mass every Friday afternoon. All our parishioners from both churches, as well as visitors, are welcome and encouraged to attend.

What can we do – what can *I* do – to requite Jesus’ love for me and to make reparation for the sins that offend Him? How can I return His love on these most holy feasts and as life moves on? What can I do to be present to Jesus, even at cost to myself – to my time, my leisure, my projects, my routine? Let us imitate our Blessed Mother, Mary, whose Immaculate Heart the Church will honor on June 20. She was Jesus’ perfect disciple. Always attentive to her Son, she “kept all these things, pondering them in her heart” (Luke 2:19).

Jonathan Mann
