

THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST - June 14, 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.*

CONSECRATION OF THE PARISH



On the weekend of June 20 and 21 we will consecrate both St. Thomas Aquinas and Our Lady of Mercy Parishes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Please Pray the Litanies in preparation for this.



CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

To give glory and honor to the Most Precious Body and Blood of Jesus we will have a procession immediately after the 11am Mass in Parsons. We will process around the block and then return to the church for benediction. We hope that many of you will participate in this wonderful Eucharistic celebration.

BIBLE STUDY

Deacon Phillip Szabo will continue having his weekly bible study on Tuesday, June 16th following the 5pm Mass in Thomas and on Wednesday, June 17th following the 9am Mass in Parsons. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT IS NOW AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL

This is being made available to enhance communication, but at the same time cutting the cost of printing. You are invited to join our new e-list to receive The Catholic Spirit by e-mail. Joining the e-list gives you the option to receive The Catholic Spirit by e-mail only and to be removed from the list to receive the print version if you choose. To be added to the e-list, send an e-mail to crowan@dwc.org with "The Catholic Spirit e-list" in the subject line. Please let us know your preference saying: "E-mail only, and remove me from print mailing list" or "I would like both print and e-mail versions."

By joining the e-mail list, you will receive an e-mail on each issue date of The Catholic Spirit with a link to the full issue. Issue dates are the first and third Friday of each month. This is a day earlier than mail delivery of the print version.

Beginning with the June 5, 2020, the electronic version of every issue of The Catholic Spirit will now be available under "Downloadable Spirit" at thecatholicspiritwv.org.

"If a politician can't respect the life of a little baby, how is he supposed to respect yours?"

Fr Frank Pavone • Priests For Life • www.PriestsForLife.org

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 June 07, 2020

St. Thomas: \$2,810.46

Our Lady of Mercy: \$777.00

RAFFLE

The Quilt and Stained Glass Raffle drawing is on Father's Day, June 21st after the 11am Mass in Parsons. This is the last week The Our Lady of Mercy Women's Guild will be selling chances. 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

by: Catholic Missionary Disciples - CatholicMissionaryDisciples@gmail.com

(Continued from last week).....

Last week we learned why bad things happen to good people, this week the question is why do good things happen to bad people? It is once again because of the love that God has for all people. Not just the “good” ones.

Suffering and death can lead to holiness and union with God. Therefore, it isn't as evil as we make it out to be. It is the eternal death of the soul we should be afraid of. All of this perfectly explains the reason St. Paul could write these words to the Romans:

“For if, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” – Romans 5:17-21

But, in the midst of suffering, any explanation still won't necessarily make suffering easy.

With this in mind, I suggest the following advice for Christians about how we are to react to evil:

1. Never lose hope! We are a people of God's promises and He promises to never leave us or stop loving us.
2. Cling to The Cross! Jesus knows what suffering and evil are like, in fact, He suffered so that all of us could live forever!
3. When you are weak – Jesus is strong! He wants you to say “yes” to Him when you are weak. Because in that weakness, there is great grace, which provides a strength we cannot summon ourselves! (2 Cor 12:9-10).
4. Never stop loving! God never stops loving us and we should never stop loving Him or others.
5. PRAY! Prayer changes things. Tell Jesus your problems, fears, frustrations, etc. Let Him help you.
6. Help change the world by working for justice and peace! If we don't, then who will? We Christians need to lead the way.
7. Help others come to know Jesus' mercy, through evangelization and discipleship. This is the long-term solution to all our world's problems.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE NEEDED

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

2010 CORPORATION MEETING

The Knights of Columbus 2010 Corporation will meet today, Sunday, June 14th at 2:00pm at the Knights of Columbus Park.
(All Knights are members of the 2010 Corporation.)

FATHER'S DAY CARDS

Father's Day Cards are available for only \$2.00 at both St. Thomas and Our Lady of Mercy Churches for those who would like to have your living and deceased fathers remembered at the Father's Day Masses.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ

Jun 15 Monday	*John Johnson	7:15am Thomas
Jun 16 Tuesday	God's Blessing on Pope Frances, the Church & CUF	5:00pm Thomas
Jun 17 Wednesday	Max L. McDonald	9:00am Parsons
Jun 18 Thursday	Loupie Lambruno	5:00pm Thomas
Jun 19 Friday	Diane Ulch & Imelda Stevenson	5:00pm Thomas
Jun 20 Saturday	Frances & Arley Mason	9:00am Parsons
Jun 20 SATURDAY VIGIL	People of the Parish	5:00pm Thomas
Jun 21 SUNDAY	Roger Bernardi	9:00am Thomas
Jun 21 SUNDAY	All Fathers Living & Deceased	11:00am Parsons

THOMAS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
06/20			
06/21			

PARSONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
06/21			

Cleaning: 06/14 - 06/20

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 II

"I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete" (John 15:11). – Our Lord Jesus Christ to His Apostles

When He speaks these words at the Last Supper, Jesus has just offered Himself in sacrifice under the appearances of bread and wine. Under the appearances of bread and wine, He has fed His Apostles with His very Body and Blood. These men have accompanied Him as His followers, companions, and fellow laborers during His public ministry. Now, as He is about to die, He addresses to them His parting words. These words are truly the Teacher's words of instruction, but they are also the words of a Friend Who deeply loves His own. In fact, He tells them that it is His love for them and for all of us which has urged Him to do all He has done during His earthly life, and now to leave them His Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. Our God has revealed Himself to us – He has come down from heaven to be present to us and has asked that we be present to Him – so that, in His own words, "my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete."

Aristotle opens his famous *Metaphysics* with the simple observation that "all men by nature desire to know." What does he mean? Let us consider how we spend our leisure time. What activities do we do, not out of necessity, but just because we enjoy them? If I watch a sunset, eat an ice-cream cone, or enjoy a conversation with a loved one, I do so because I find some joy in the experience. I find some delight in the picturesque sunset, in the delicious ice cream, in my loved one, in the topic of conversation. While I am doing what I enjoy, I delight in *knowing* by experience the activity in which I engage and the object which holds my attention. Afterwards, I continue to *know* whatever I have enjoyed by keeping it in my memory. What Aristotle recognizes is that all joy consists in knowing something good, in knowing something which gives delight. What is friendship, after all, but a relationship whose very kernel and inspiration is the joy which each friend finds in *knowing* the other – not only abstractly but by ongoing contact – and in continuing to get to know the other throughout life? In a good marriage, in a true friendship, each person is the privileged witness as the other matures into God's likeness to the full extent of God's invitation to that person. God has created a wonder in this amazing person, who is His image and likeness, and it is my privilege and joy that I have the opportunity to watch the flourishing of this masterpiece of the Creator's workmanship. It is truly our Creator's goodness that I enjoy in knowing someone whom I love.

Let us recall the importance of presence. Love requires presence in order to exist, and once love exists, it continues to seek presence. Let us notice as well that, for intellectual beings (i.e., persons), an integral presence means mutual knowledge. For persons to be present to each other, it is not enough that they be bodily in the same room. A human being is more than a body, and the presence of one person to another involves the attention of mind and will. A marvelous element of the mystery of personal relationship is that presence, given and received in a mutual spirit of self-donation, truly brings about a union of the two who make themselves present to each other. As I give myself to you and you give

yourself to me – as we mutually share listening ears, sympathetic hearts, gentle but firm shoulders, dreams, hopes and fears, our deepest desires – I come to know very deeply who you are, and you come likewise to know me. God has created no more beautiful or more magnificent creature than a person, truly His image. To encounter the amazing reality of the good which another person is, is to know by analogy the joy that the Father has in His “beloved Son” (Matt. 3:17), and which the Son has in His Father. A marriage or a friendship is truly a *communion*. Such a communion of created persons provides an insight into the inscrutable communion of mutual knowledge and mutual love which exists eternally within the Holy Trinity. It also shows us why Our Lord has offered us the Sacrament which we call *Holy Communion*.

On the very night on which He gave us Himself in the Eucharist, Jesus said to His disciples, “No longer do I call you servants, for the servant *does not know* what his master is doing; but I have called you *friends*, for all that I have heard from my Father *I have made known to you*” (John 15:15). Why has God revealed Himself to mankind throughout history? Why has He given us divine revelation in Scripture and in the Church’s Tradition? Why has He given us the sacraments, most notably the Holy Eucharist, “the Source and Summit” of the Church’s life? The answer is deep, sublime, and far-reaching, yet it is also very simple. These are means by which God reveals Himself to us and draws us into *communion with Himself*. Jesus Christ has given His Church His *Real Presence* in the Eucharist so that each of us can have intimate knowledge, a deep communion, with Him. By these means and especially in the Holy Eucharist, Jesus brings each of us into a supernatural friendship with Himself. To draw further from the analogy of the natural communion of marriage or earthly friendship, in the intimacy of the Eucharist, Jesus reveals and opens to the devout soul the rich treasures which perpetually reside in His Sacred Heart. When there is a mutual opening and self-donation between the Heart of Christ and the soul who devoutly receives Him in Holy Communion, Jesus by His divine power accomplishes the union of the devout soul with His own Sacred Heart.

It is fitting, therefore, that the central focus of devotion to the Sacred Heart consists in devotion to the Holy Eucharist. When Our Lord spoke to St. Margaret Mary and told her about the devotion to His Sacred Heart which He wanted His Church to practice, He spoke in particular of spending time before the Blessed Sacrament in Eucharistic Adoration, and of the fervent and frequent reception of Holy Communion, especially on First Fridays and on the Solemnity of His Sacred Heart. Let us take some time to ponder the immense ardor of love which ever burns for each of us in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the “Glowing Furnace of Charity.” Let us respond to His invitation by drawing near to Him through the means He offers to us, that we may come to know Him intimately and enjoy the wonder of Who He is, our Divine Lover and Best Friend. Let us allow Him to reveal to us the treasures which He yearns to share with us, so that His joy may be in us and our joy may be complete. And let us give Him the joy of our friendship by sharing our hearts and lives with Him.

– Jonathan Mann
