

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - August 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.*

INTRODUCING...BOCCE BALL!!!

Our Knights of Columbus Council 2010, is installing a Bocce Ball court at the K of C Park. The Knights would like to introduce everyone to this game. So, next Sunday, August 16th, at 1:00pm we will have a procession and pray the rosary in honor of Our Lady and Her Feast of the Assumption. After this the Knights will be providing fish dinners and an opportunity to play Bocce Ball or at least learn about the game. There is plenty of room for social distancing and all are welcome to come.

FISH FRY

The Knights of Columbus will be selling fish dinners on Friday, August 14th from 4:00 - 6:00pm at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Parsons. Take outs ONLY. Dinner includes fish, mac 'n cheese, green beans, and fruit for \$8.00.

ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

Please join us for a talk on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary presented by our very own Jonathan Mann this Tuesday, August 11th after the 5pm Mass in Thomas and this Wednesday, August 12th after the 9am Mass in Parsons. BRING YOUR BIBLE!

ATTENTION...

Because the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on a Saturday this year the precept to attend Mass is lifted (abrogated), however the faithful are still encouraged to attend Mass on those days. Masses will be offered on Friday, Aug. 14th at 5PM in Thomas and on Saturday, Aug. 15th at 9AM in Parsons.

"We never give more honour to Jesus than when we honour his Mother, and we honour her simply and solely to honour him all the more perfectly. We go to her only as a way leading to the goal we seek - Jesus, her Son."

--Saint Louis Marie de Montfort

"A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right & evil doesn't become good, just because it's accepted by a majority."

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 August 02, 2020

St. Thomas: \$4,573.06

Our Lady of Mercy: \$1,527.00

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Don't forget our local food pantries in both Thomas and Parsons! Food is needed now more than ever. Please bring your food donations to the back of the church where a volunteer will pick them up and deliver them to the proper location.

Thomas Food Pantry: (cereal)

Parsons Food Pantry: food or monetary donations are collected every 1st Sunday.

CORONAVIRUS STALKS IN THE DARKNESS, BUT DO NOT BE AFRAID

By: Msgr. Charles Pope

(Continued from last week.)

In the current pandemic, which is admittedly severe, we have quarantined the healthy along with the sick, the resilient along with the vulnerable. Crippling fear has seized so many people, and at some point, fear begins to feed on itself. We have shut down our economy, depriving many of their livelihoods and of the dignity that comes from working, from using their talents and from providing for their families.

In the Church, collectively speaking, we too have cowered and capitulated. We have not summoned people to trust and faith. We have hidden our teachings on the role of suffering in bringing forth holiness and future glory. We have not presented the theology of death and dying at a time when it is so needed.

We have limited and even denied the sacraments to the faithful, conveying the silent message that physical health is more important than spiritual health. In some dioceses, churches were locked, confessions forbidden, and Holy Communion inaccessible. Some priests who tried to supply Holy Communion to the faithful in a creative manner were criticized by liturgists and bishops. Some tried offering outdoor or “drive-in” Masses and were met with rebuke. In some cases, Mass was forbidden by local authorities, and many backed down in the face of this external pressure. While we could not recklessly disregard civil ordinances, too many of us were content to hunker down and forego public Mass. We would not utter the biblical cry, “Do not be afraid,” out of fear of being called insensitive or irresponsible.

This situation is unprecedented in our lifetime, so it is understandable that we struggled at first with what to do prudentially. But now we must reflect on all that has happened and resolve to never again allow a governor or mayor dictate whether, when or how we may give the sacraments. Even if government officials can forbid large gatherings, it does not follow that the sacraments cannot be provided at all, via other means. I never refused Holy Communion to anyone who asked me during this time; I merely gave them Holy Communion outside of public Mass. I also continued to hear confessions in the church throughout the period, grateful that my bishop never forbade it or demanded that I lock the church.

What then is to be our role as we go forward? Some universities and public schools have announced that they will not reopen for normal, in-person instruction in the fall. Will we simply follow along and refuse to reopen our Catholic schools? Or will we say to our faithful that it is time to go forth into a world that has never been and will never be risk-free, balancing the needs of all against our fear of death? How long will we continue to offer public Masses in the current limited fashion? Masks hide the beauty of the human visage and the subtleties of our expressions; will we return to seeing one another smile, frown, laugh, and cry? Will we go back to shaking hands, hugging, and touching one another? Will I be able to offer Mass without retreating immediately back into the sacristy? Will parishioners be able to mingle and chat after Mass rather than running straight to their cars?

What is our end game? Prudence has its place, but my concern as a pastor and physician of souls is that we are allowing unrelenting fear to drive our response. Until we as the Church confronting the situation and “man up” as Christians should, fear will masquerade as prudence, and folks like me who question whether we’ve gone too far will be called irresponsible and even reprehensible.

For the time being, follow the recommended precautions, but ask yourself, “When will this end, and who will get to decide that?” The Church, and each one of us, has a role to play in ending the fear that this pandemic has set loose. COVID-19 can undoubtedly be a serious illness, but contracting it is far from an automatic death sentence. However, getting sick and even eventually dying is a part of living in this world. Some will call me insensitive for even mentioning this truth, but our parents, grandparents, and more distant ancestors went forth daily into a world that was far more dangerous than anything we have experienced. They lived life, accepting both its blows and its blessings. What about us today? Is God no longer with us? Are sickness and death the worst fate or is crippling fear a far more painful and dehumanizing sentence? Isn’t there more to living than just not dying or not getting sick? Will we as a Church be part of this conversation or will we remain fearfully silent? Will we simply reflect the beliefs and opinions of the current culture, or will we influence it with a theology that insists that suffering and death have meaning and an important role in our lives?

No doubt some readers will think me imprudent, irresponsible, and insensitive. I accept that. But my take is that fear is a far more serious ailment than COVID-19. Life is risky, but there is greater ruin for us if we do not accept it and live anyway. At some point we have to break out of the huddle and run the play. God will be with us.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, Aug 10

St. Lawrence (FEAST)

7:15am (T) Timothy Swartz †

Tuesday, Aug 11

St. Clare of Assisi (Mem)

5:00pm (T) Diane Ulch & Imelda Stevenson †

Wednesday, Aug 12

St. Jane Frances de Chantal (Optional Mem)

9:00am (P) Doris M. Silk †

Thursday, Aug 13

Sts. Pontian & Hippolytus (Optional Mems)

5:00pm (T) George White †

Friday, Aug 14

{*St. Maximilian Kolbe (Mem)*}

Vigil of the Assumption

5:00pm (T) Vince DiBacco †

Saturday, Aug 15

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)

9:00am (P) Pat Ricottilli †

5:00pm (T) Moore & Mosco Family † (*Vigil for Sunday*)

Sunday, August 16

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am (T) Joseph & Mary Deegan †

11:00am (P) People of the Parish

THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

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

St. Thomas - (Low Mass) 08/09/20 "PENDING"

Our Lady of Mercy - 08/16/20 "PENDING"

**only when requested in advance*

**My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You!
I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe,
do not adore, do not hope and do not love You!**

Simple
Exposition

8:30 - 9:00am

every Wed

in Parsons

4:30 - 5:00pm

every Friday

in Thomas



Adoration &
Benediction

*Every First
Friday*

This month:

August 7th

5:00 - 6:00pm

in Parsons

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
Cannon, 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 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.