

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - August 23, 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.*

ADULT CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERIES

An opportunity to grow in knowledge and understanding of our Catholic faith, free of charge, at our parish. Do I know how to live the faith to my full potential for growing closer to God? Am I equipped to explain our faith when others ask me about it?

First series

From Eden to Eden: The Garden, the Temple, and the Catholic Church

A catechetical Bible study on the preparation, founding, and life of the Church

Tuesdays: St. Thomas Aquinas after 5:00pm Mass

Wednesdays: Our Lady of Mercy, 7:00pm

Light food will be provided at each Bible study.

FOOD TRUCK

A Food Truck will be coming to Tucker County on Wednesday, Sept. 2nd between 10 - 11am at the Board of Education office in Parsons and on Wednesday, Oct. 7th between 10 - 11am at the old Shop n' Save parking lot in Davis. Anyone in the county can come and pick up food, you do not have to be low-income to take advantage of this opportunity.

PRAYER LINE

We need more prayer line volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a part of our prayer team please call the rectory and sign up, 304-463-4488.

BOCCE BALL ANYONE?

The Knights of Columbus would like to invite all men of the parish to play bocce ball every Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 9:00pm at the Knights of Columbus park until the end of October.

All members of the parish are invited to play bocce ball every Sunday from 1:00 until 3:00pm until the end of October.

"Trials and tribulations offer us a chance to make reparation for our past faults and sins. On such occasions the Lord comes to us like a physician to heal the wounds left by our sins. Tribulation is the divine medicine."

-St. Augustine of Hippo

PRO-LIFE CORNER

(after abortion)

THAT FEELING
WHEN YOU'RE NOT
NECESSARILY SAD,
BUT YOU JUST FEEL
REALLY EMPTY.

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 16, 2020

St. Thomas: \$1,957.00

Our Lady of Mercy: \$922.00

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.*

THOU ART PETER, Part I

By Fr. Hezekias Carnazzo

This Sunday the Gospel reading recounts Jesus Christ's declaration to his Apostle Simon "Thou art Peter...." Let us reflect on the mystery of the office of Simon Peter, Prince of Apostles and Vicar of Christ.

In an attempt to deny the authority of the Pope, Martin Luther was faced with the difficult challenge of dismissing Our Lord's words to St. Peter as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew: "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the powers of death shall never prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven." (Matt. 16:18-19). The Catholic Church has always interpreted this passage as identifying Peter as the foundation stone upon which Christ will build his Church. In order to reject the Catholic interpretation of this passage, many Protestants do linguistic gymnastics, denying that Our Lord's words bestow certain privileges on St. Peter, and teaching instead that Jesus is actually demeaning Peter in this passage. As with other biblical topics, context is essential for an authentic interpretation of the text. (We'll confront the Protestant linguistic assault next week.)

Only a few verses prior to this often-quoted passage, Our Lord asks his Apostles, "Who do you say that I am?" To this question Simon Peter responds, "You are the Christ" (Matt 16:16). It is this declaration which is the foundation for the blessing which Our Lord then bestows upon Peter. To understand the import of Peter's declaration of faith, we must place ourselves within the context of the Hebrew culture. The title "Christ" is taken from the Greek word *Christos*, which simply means "anointed." The Hebrew word for "anointed" is *Messiah*. This title, famous for its reference to Jesus, was a term used to identify the reigning king in Israel. Thus, we read in the Old Testament that when a new king was chosen, he was anointed with oil as the sign of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon his head. The king was then titled the *Messiah* (cf. 1 Sam 10:1; 16:1,13; 1 Kgs 1:38-40) or, in Greek, the *Christos*. Peter's proclamation that Jesus is the "Christ," is nothing other than the announcement that Jesus is the long-awaited King of Israel, the expected *Messiah*.

As King, Jesus also receives the title "Son of David," a title often given to Our Lord in the New Testament (cf. Matt 9:27, 12:23, 15:22, 21:9; Mk 10:47). This title, "Son of David," identifies him as the new Solomon (King Solomon was son of King David). The importance of this aspect of Jesus' kingly role must not be overlooked. It is essential to a proper understanding of Peter's role, as proclaimed in the Gospel of Matthew. Recall that it was wise King Solomon who built the first Temple (House of the Lord) in Jerusalem. It thus falls upon the shoulders of the New Solomon (Jesus) to re-build this House of God in a glorious fashion. As the long-awaited King of Israel, newly proclaimed by Simon Peter, there is something that Jesus must do to show the authenticity of this claim: he must build the House of God. Accordingly, after Peter's proclamation that Jesus is the "Christ," the New Solomon does what only the New Solomon can do: he begins to build the House of the Lord. To Peter's declaration, Jesus responds, "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church."

To confirm further the Catholic interpretation of this text, let us recall that King Solomon, the wise builder, built the Temple in the center of Jerusalem. Today, the location is in Muslim possession and is considered an Islamic sacred place. The shrine which is built there is known as the "Dome of the Rock." This name is given to the building because within this Muslim shrine is exposed the surface of a huge rock. This rock, known among the Jews as the "foundation stone," was the great rock upon which King Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem. This rock was legendary among the Israelites as the place where God had formed Adam in Paradise, where Noah's Ark came to rest, where Isaac was to be sacrificed by Abraham, and where God had chosen that his House be built. It was believed that this rock was the capstone to the realm of death, the place where all prayers go up to heaven, and the place where the graces of God rain down upon the earth. Knowing this history, Jesus the King, the New King Solomon, the new "Wise Builder," chose Simon and changed his name, literally, to "Rock." Upon Simon the Rock he built the House of God, which is the Catholic Church.

Please continue reading next week, as we confront the common Protestant interpretation of this text.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, Aug 24

St. Bartholomew, Apostle (Feast)

7:15am (T) Morning Prayer (NO MASS)

Tuesday, Aug 25

St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz (Priest) (Opt. mems)

5:00pm (T) Evening Prayer (NO MASS)

Wednesday, Aug 26

Weekday

9:00am (P) Morning Prayer (NO MASS)

Thursday, Aug 27

St. Monica (Mem)

5:00pm (T) Evening Prayer (NO MASS)

Friday, Aug 28

St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Mem)

5:00pm (T) Francis X. Nolin †

Saturday, Aug 29

The Passion of Saint John the Baptist (Mem)

9:00am (P) Honey, Vivian & Ulli Vachon †

5:00pm (T) Frank Hoffner †

Sunday, August 30

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am (T) People of the Parish †

11:00am (P) Merce & Joe Gummerson

THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

*During the month of September,
the Tridentine Mass will be offered at:*

St. Thomas - (Low Mass) 09/13/20 at 7:30 AM

**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*

Next month:

Sept. 04

5:00 - 6:00pm

in Thomas

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.