

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - August 30, 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

Do I know how to live the faith to my full potential?
Am I equipped to explain our faith to others?

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.

This four-week series will begin on Sept. 8th and 9th.

At St. Thomas the 3rd class will take place on

Thursday the 24th rather than the 22nd.

MOTHER MARY'S BIRTHDAY BASH!

Each year the Church celebrates the Feast of our Lady's Nativity on Sept. 8. Come join your fellow parishioners to celebrate Mary's birthday at the 5:00 Mass on Tuesday, Sept. 8. All are invited to gather in St. Thomas social hall after the Mass for a birthday party. We will sing happy birthday to Mother Mary and enjoy cake and light refreshments. The opening talk of the adult Catholic education series will take place immediately after the party. Family and friends are welcome

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.

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.



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 23, 2020

St. Thomas: \$2,368.44

Our Lady of Mercy: \$795.00

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 II

By Fr. Hezekias Carnazzo

Last week we considered St. Peter's great proclamation of faith that Jesus is the Christ, the long-awaited New King Solomon (Matt 16:16). Our Lord responded by affirming that he would build the House of the Lord upon the Rock (as Solomon did in the Old Testament). Let us turn now to the common Protestant misinterpretation of this text. Watch how the Protestants jump tracks, and how the Catholic understanding unravels the mess. (A pen and paper may help to keep it all straight.)

Protestant author Oswald J. Smith, D.D., a well-known anti-Catholic, asks the question as follows, "Did Jesus say he would build his Church on Peter?" Oswald then responds,

Jesus did say, and I quote . . . , "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church" (Matt 16:18). But He did not say He would build His Church on Peter . . . The Greek word for Peter is 'petros,' meaning 'a little stone.' The word for rock is 'petra,' meaning 'The Rock.' What Jesus said was, 'I will build my Church on The Rock.' He himself was The Rock. He never said He would build His Church on Peter, 'a little stone.' That would be too faulty a foundation. In 1 Peter 2:5-8, Peter himself speaks of believers as stones and of Jesus as a rock. So, in Eph. 2:19-21, Jesus is the Corner Stone, the Foundation. The Church, therefore, is built not on Peter or his successors but on Jesus Christ Himself—The Rock.

How do we respond to this attack? Let us observe that, in the Greek text of Matthew 16:18, there is a peculiarity that can be confusing. The word used for Peter, as Oswald notes, is *Petros*, whereas the following word translated as rock is *petra*: "Thou art *Petros* and upon this *petra* I will build my Church." Why is there a difference? In the original Aramaic, in which this Gospel was written, there is only one word that would be used for "rock" in this passage, and that is *kepha*, a masculine noun: "Thou art *Kepha* and upon this *kepha* I will build my Church." The difficulty occurs in translating into Greek from Aramaic. In Greek the word for rock is *petra*, a feminine noun, and according to Greek grammatical rules, a man cannot be named with a feminine case ending. For this reason, the translator replaced the feminine ending of *petra*, (-a) with a masculine ending, (-os), modifying a Greek word to fit the particular circumstance. The exact translation into English from Aramaic would read, "Thou art *Rock* and upon this *rock* I will build my Church," with no room for misunderstanding. Thus, Oswald's argument has no basis. Let us now address the second part of his argument.

Reading Dr. Oswald's argument carefully, we see that he identifies Peter with the believers mentioned as stones in 1 Peter 2:5-8, thus making Peter simply one of the believers with no special character as the foundation stone. Unfortunately for Oswald and other Protestants who make this argument, the Greek word used in 1 Peter 2:5-8 is not *Petros*, as Oswald would have you believe, but rather *lithoi* (pl.), the generic Greek word for "stone," having a range of possible meanings. In fact, when reading the context of this passage in Greek, we learn that Jesus, the corner stone, is also identified by the same Greek word (*lithos*, sing.) as that of believers. If Oswald's interpretation were correct, we might suppose that Jesus, too, is actually 'a little stone'! Oswald himself would reject this interpretation as absurd.

But, is not Jesus the Corner Stone and the Rock of our Faith, as Oswald states (cf. Eph. 2:19-21; 1 Cor 3:11)? The answer is yes. Jesus Christ became man for one reason: to give us a share in his own life (cf. 2 Pet 1:4). Through baptism into Christ, we become members of the Body of Christ. Each one of us is given a certain character proper to Christ alone. 'One is an eye; one is a foot; another is a hand' – all members of the One Body of Christ, which is the Church (cf. 1 Cor 12:12-31). Given this Catholic and biblical understanding of our salvation, a salvation of participation in divine life, it is fitting that Jesus would give a share in his character as the foundation stone to the one who is chosen to receive this gift.

Let us stand upon Peter, this sure foundation. This House, the Catholic Church, will not fall, for it has been built by the Wise Builder who builds upon the Rock. "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock" (Matt 7:24-25).

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, Aug 31

Weekday

7:15am (T) J. Pat Nichols †

Tuesday, Sept 01

Weekday

5:00pm (T) Sheila Slater †

Wednesday, Sept 02

Weekday

9:00am (P) Poor Souls in Purgatory †

Thursday, Sept 03

St. Gregory the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church (Mem)

5:00pm (T) Joseph Fortini †

First Friday, Sept 04

Weekday

5:00pm (T) ADORATION & BENEDICTION

6:00pm (T) Judy McNerney

First Saturday, Sept 05

St. Teresa of Calcutta (Opt. mem)

Blessed Virgin Mary (Opt. mem)

9:00am (P) Karen Renzelli †

5:00pm (T) Joseph Sylvester † *(Sunday Vigil)*

Sunday, Sept 06

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am (T) People of the Parish †

11:00am (P) V.J. Horowitz †

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

**O most Holy Trinity, I adore You!
My God, my God, I love You in the
most Blessed Sacrament!**

**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:
*Oct. 2nd
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.