

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - January 15, 2023



St. Thomas Aquinas - Thomas, West Virginia



Our Lady of Mercy - Parsons, West Virginia

# SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

## Mission: OUR LADY OF MERCY

Pastor: Fr. Martin J. Smay, P.O. Box 300, Thomas, WV 26292 Tel: (304) 463-4488 [www.sttsite.com](http://www.sttsite.com)

You may also reach Fr. Smay at the following email: [msmay@dwc.org](mailto:msmay@dwc.org)

### 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.*

## HOLY HOURS OF REPARATION



~A Holy Hour of Reparation will be offered after the 11am Mass today, Sunday, January 15th at Our Lady of Mercy.

~A Holy Hour of Reparation will be offered in Thomas starting at 4pm this Thursday, January 19th.

These are in conjunction with the St. Monica Prayer Group. To be a member one must simply: 1) recite the Angelus prayer once a day, 2) receive Holy Communion one additional time per week (i.e. in addition to Sunday), and 3) do one Holy Hour of Reparation per month, either in common or by yourself, doing each of the practices for the conversion of the loved ones of the members of the group, and for the conversion of souls in Tucker County.

## CHURCH IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

The second collection this weekend is for the Church in the Developing World. This collection is a combination of three collections we have had in the past: Church in Latin America, Church in Central and Eastern Europe, and the Church in Africa. All monies collected will go to these countries for evangelization, training of religious and seminarians, youth ministry, etc.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly meeting this Tuesday, January 17th at 6pm at the Our Lady of Mercy Church social hall in Parsons. All Knights please attend.

## JUST A REMINDER

The rosary is prayed every Sunday one-half hour before Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

*"There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary."*

~Sister Lúcia

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

If you need stamps: the price of a first class stamp is going up on Sunday, January 22, 2023 from 60¢ to 63¢.

## EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

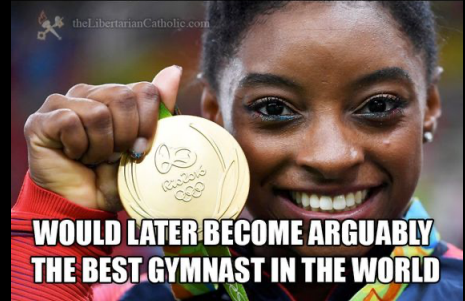
Jan 15 - Holy Hour of Reparation after 11am Mass in Parsons

Jan 15 - OLM Women's Guild meeting CANCELLED

Jan 17 - Knights of Columbus meeting in Parsons at 6pm

Jan 19 - Holy Hour of Reparation at 4pm in Thomas

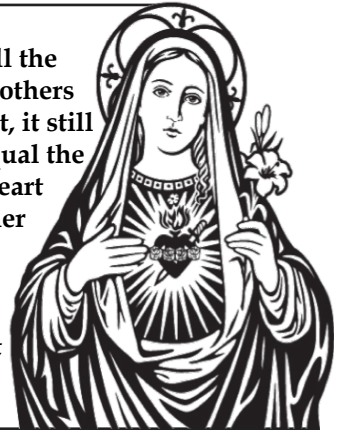
**IN 1997, A GIRL BORN TO AN  
"UNFIT" DRUG-ADDICTED MOTHER  
AND ABANDONED BY HER FATHER WAS  
PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S PERFECT TARGET**



"If you put all the love of the mothers into one heart, it still would not equal the love of the Heart of Mary for her children"

~St. Louis

Marie de  
Monfort



## CONTRIBUTIONS FOR Jan 08, 2023

**St. Thomas: \$2,152.58**

*Attendance: 5pm 42 - ; 9am - 41*

**Our Lady of Mercy: \$1,076.00**

*Attendance: 11am - 47*

## FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Don't forget our local food pantries! The Blackwater Ministerial Association Food Pantry in Davis and the Hinkle House Food Pantry in Parsons are accepting food donations. Please bring your food donations to the back of the church and a volunteer will pick them up and deliver them to the proper location.

## Rooted in the Love of God

*excerpt from* Forms of the Lay Apostolate *by* Frances J. Ripley

God took flesh, lived amongst us, and taught us so that we might be holy. He founded his Church to guide us for the same reason. God wants all men to be saints; his longing for our holiness infinitely exceeds anything that we can imagine. There is not one kind of Christianity for priests and religious and another for people living in the world. The Vatican Council's Constitution on the Church has made that very plain indeed.

Immediately after the chapter on the laity and before that on religious is one entitled "The Universal Vocation to Holiness in the Church." Here we are told that all Christians are called to the perfection of charity to love God with one's whole heart, whole soul, and whole mind and to love all men as Christ has loved them. The Council says: "The Lord Jesus, the divine Teacher and Model of all perfection, preached holiness of life to each and every one of his disciples of every condition." Again, "It is evident to everyone that all the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity." In our own age this summons to holiness is more urgent than ever before, if only because the men of our day seem to be drifting further and further from God.

Zeal for souls is derived from the love of God. All who are on fire with that love, who know something of intimate contact with God, of the immense reality of his love for men, must be on fire with zeal to win all men to that love. Love of our neighbor depends upon our love of God. When the latter takes possession of us, the former bursts forth from it as a necessary consequence. Those who love God little have little love for their fellowmen. If love of God is weak, zeal for souls is weak; and if zeal for souls is weak, it is a certain sign that love of God is weak. It is just impossible to love God sincerely without loving those who are his children, whom he loves so much, on whom he lavishes his infinite care, for whom he died: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). If we really understand God's love for men we cannot be indifferent to their fate, we cannot remain by unconcerned if we see them apparently hurrying along the broad road to damnation or, by their ignorance, forfeiting all the treasures God gives through his Church.

Again, if we really love God we will be anxious to offer him our collaboration in bringing about the salvation and sanctity of those he loves so much. It was this kind of thought that animated the saints in all they did to work for souls. Simply to help one soul they practiced generosity to the point of heroism. The great Teresa wrote: "This is an inclination given me by our Lord; and I think he prizes one soul which, by his mercy and through our diligence and prayer, we have gained for him, more than all the other services we can render him." Nothing exalts God's goodness, love, and mercy more than work for the salvation of souls. For that reason to love God and his glory means to love souls; it means work and sacrifice for their salvation.

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**  
*Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**Monday, Jan 16**

*Weekday*

7:30am (T) Frank & Antonia Okolish †

**Tuesday, Jan 17**

*St. Anthony, Abbot (obl)*

5:00pm (T) Jennifer Lanthaler †

**Wednesday, Jan 18**

*Weekday*

9:00am (P) Toni Harrison †

**Thursday, Jan 19**

*Weekday*

4:00pm (T) HOLY HOUR OF REPARATION

5:00pm (T) The President and all Elected Officials

**Friday, Jan 20**

*St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr (opt);*

*St. Sebastian, Martyr (opt)*

5:00pm (T) Edith DiBacco †

**First Saturday, Jan 21**

*St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr (obl)*

9:00am (P) Margaret Kochenderfer Teranto †

5:00pm (T) The liv. & dec. members of the Ammann Family

**Sunday, Jan 22**

*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

9:00am (T) People of the Parish

11:00am (P) Lela & Ben Long †

**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.*

# Adoration

Simple Exposition

8:30am - 9:00am  
*every Wednesday in Parsons*

4:00 - 5:00pm  
*every Friday in Thomas*



Adoration & Benediction

*Every First Friday*

**Next:**  
*February 3rd*  
4:00 - 5:00pm  
*in Parsons*

Let your door stand open to receive Him, unlock your soul to Him, offer Him a welcome in your mind, and then you will see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the joy of grace. Throw wide the gate of your heart, stand before the sun of the everlasting light. - St. Ambrose

**If you would like to place someone on our prayer line call:**

Kathy Kotten (304) 866-6243 (T)

Susie Gutshall (304) 478-3217 (P)

or Cindy Long (304) 478-4833 (P)

**Let us remember in prayer all of our sick and shut-ins:**

Mary Johnson, Joyce Arnold,

Donna Mason, Elaine Watson,

Paula Siler, Anne McVicker,

Madonna DiBacco, Sara Fletcher,

Sarah Nickel, Robert Wheeler,

Paul Wojtkowski & Dan Ingram

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston maintains an Office of Safe Environment in accordance with the USCCB's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, 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 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. Please visit [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org) under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.