

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - January 22, 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

You may also reach Fr. Smay at the following email: 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.*

HAVE YOU TRIED FORMED.ORG

A featured movie this month on Formed.org is: Lourdes: A Story of Faith, Science, & Miracles.

It is about Bernard Guillaumet, a non-Christian French journalist, who is assigned the job of doing a story on Lourdes in the late 1990s.

While researching for his report on Lourdes, Bernard comes across the pages of an old family manuscript. The manuscript was written by his ancestor, Henri Guillaumet, a positivist scientist and nonbeliever who met St. Bernadette at Lourdes in 1858, a meeting which profoundly affected Henri and forced him to reconsider the miracles performed following the apparitions of our Lady at Lourdes. This intriguing film traces the stories of three lives – St. Bernadette, Henry, and Bernard – whose paths intertwine as they pursue parallel journeys according to the designs of Providence.

Watch content on Formed.org anywhere, anytime on an iPhone, apple TV, android, android TV, fire TV, and Roku.

2023 ENVELOPE SAGA UPDATE

We spoke with the envelope company again this past week. They claimed that we would have our envelopes on or around February 2nd. Time will tell. We are actively looking at other envelope companies that can deliver the product on-time.

2022 CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL

Thanks to all of you who gave to the 2022 Catholic Sharing Appeal. The final totals are in:

St. Thomas Aquinas Church: \$7,251 pledged
(Goal: \$14,500) 50% of goal met

Our Lady of Mercy Church: \$1,575 pledged
(Goal: \$5,420) 29% of goal met

This appeal helps the Diocese support important programs in the state for the relief of the poor and also helps smaller parishes that are unable to support themselves. Thank you for your generosity!

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

- Feb 4/5 - Blessing of throats after all weekend Masses
- Feb 05 - Ask Father after Mass in Parsons
- Feb 12 - 2nd collection (Church Missions within the US)
- Feb 12 - Women's Guild meeting after Mass in Parsons
- Feb 19 - Mardi Gras covered dish dinner after Mass in Parsons
- Feb 21 - Knights of Columbus meeting at 6pm in Thomas
- Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday (a day of fast and abstinence)



ATTENTION KNIGHTS

The statement for each member's dues as well as membership cards can be found in the back of both churches.

The dues are \$15 and can be paid by making a check out to "Thomas Co 2010" and

returning the check to Br. Matt Hinkle either in person or by mail to PO Box 300, Thomas, WV 26292.



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR Jan 15, 2023

St. Thomas: \$2,831.58

Attendance: 5pm - 107; 9am - 57

Our Lady of Mercy: \$1,076.00

Attendance: 11am - 62

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.

THE HAPPIEST, MOST INSPIRING, PRO-LIFE STORY YOU'LL READ TODAY

by Sherry Antonetti

Sometimes the best thing you can do for the pro-life cause is just to "smile and walk out into the world."

I've been to marches; I've prayed at clinics. I've written articles and letters to the editor. And I have 10 children. Yet the most effective witness I ever gave to the pro-life cause was when I wasn't trying to do anything other than find a way to not be lonely.

Back in 1993, I became a mother and I felt the walls of the world close in. So I went out — out seeking connections and adult conversations and anything to help distinguish one day from the next as I worked to recover from pregnancy and adjusted to being a full-time mom. One day, I saw the receptionist at our apartment and it looked like she'd been crying. I asked her what was up. She told me, "You."

I didn't understand, but she invited me in to sit with her. It turned out she'd just broken up with her boyfriend and found out afterward that she was pregnant. Two girlfriends already offered to drive her to get an abortion, but she said seeing my son every day, holding him as he smiled and kicked, she couldn't. She just couldn't.

Her reaction to me actually echoed my own reaction to someone else: I'd become a stay-at-home mom because I'd seen a baby boy in the daycare and witnessed his smiles. I couldn't not be with my son, I just couldn't. That unknown baby's smiles led to my staying home and being desperately lonely ... and that led to sharing my son's smiles with this pregnant receptionist. I hugged her and we cried over her worries.

We talked about what she could do. I'd never counseled anyone before, but we created a plan. It involved calling a doctor to get herself checked, calling her folks to get support and calling her boyfriend to let him know. I didn't know what would happen, but told her we'd be there for her regardless. She gave my son a kiss and dried her eyes.

I left thinking that the loneliness of being a new stay-at-home mother was nothing compared to hers. It rained hard for the next week, so I didn't get out for my daily walk. The few times I made it by the office, she wasn't there. I worried.

However, the next time I saw her, she threw open the door and hugged me. Everyone had rallied for her. Her boyfriend and her parents. Now instead of the loneliness, there was a family fully engaged and fired-up alive, eagerly anticipating the child's birth. They married and before I moved away, they'd had a son and a daughter. My son's smiles allowed another two children's smiles to be known to the world and a whole host of smiles for the mom, the dad, and the grandparents.

It wasn't marching or protesting or lobbying that won a heart in a crisis pregnancy. It was presence. So while we march for all those who weren't given the opportunity of life, or who were wounded by abortion (fathers, mothers, siblings and everyone else), and while we hope for a defunding of Planned Parenthood, we should recognize the other part of being pro-life. We have to be more pro-life and pro-living than protesting.

So smile and walk out into the world, and know God will put you where you can be most effective.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
Third Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, Jan 23

Weekday

7:30am (T) Fr. Patrick McDonough †

Tuesday, Jan 24

St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church (obl)

5:00pm (T) Maggie DeMotto †

Wednesday, Jan 25

The Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle (feast)

9:00am (P) Cassia Manos

Thursday, Jan 26

St. Timothy & St. Titus (obl)

5:00pm (T) Ken Osleger †

Friday, Jan 27

St. Angela Merici, Virgin (opt)

5:00pm (T) Kevin Lynch

First Saturday, Jan 28

St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church (sol)

9:00am (P) Lela & Ben Long †

5:00pm (T) Robert Studer †

Sunday, Jan 29

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am (T) People of the Parish

11:00am (P) Rose, Francis & Vina Nolin †

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 under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.