

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - May 14, 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.*

## CONGRATULATIONS



We congratulate our First Communicant on his reception of our Blessed Lord in the Eucharist at Our Lady of Mercy.

*Congratulations!*  
*Jonah Nix*

All are invited for cake in the social hall immediately following Mass to celebrate with Jonah & his family.

## HOLY HOURS OF REPARATION

We continue this month with our two Holy Hours of Reparation. The first will be in Thomas starting at 4pm on Thursday, May 25. The second will be in Parsons after the 11am Mass on Sunday, May 28. These holy hours are for the conversion of loved ones, and for the conversion of souls in Tucker County. All are welcome to join us!

## OLM CHURCH YARD SALE COMING SOON

The Our Lady of Mercy Women are planning a yard and a bake sale on Saturday, May 27th. Any gently used items that you are willing to donate may be dropped off in the social hall (please no clothes). All donations are greatly appreciated.

## MT. CALVARY CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

Please remove all flowers and any decorative items from on top of or around the grave stones at Mount Calvary Cemetery in preparation for Spring grounds upkeep.

## OLM COVERED DISH DINNER

Please join us next Sunday, May 21st, for a covered dish dinner immediately following the 11:00am Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church. All are welcome to attend.

## ATTENTION SAINT THOMAS WOMEN

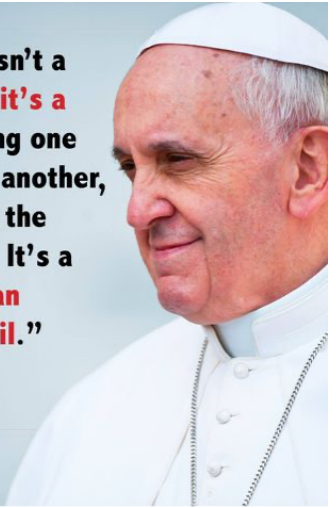
In the back of the church there is a sign up sheet for those interested in helping with the funeral brunches and other things. Please volunteer if possible!

## EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

- May 14 - Mother's day & First Holy Communion
- May 16 - Knights of Columbus meeting in Thomas at 6pm
- May 21 - Covered Dish Dinner after 11am Mass in Parsons
- May 25 - Holy Hour of Reparation at 4pm in Thomas
- May 26/27 - OLM yard/hotdog/bake sale fundraiser

**“Abortion isn’t a lesser evil, it’s a crime. Taking one life to save another, that’s what the Mafia does. It’s a crime. It’s an absolute evil.”**

*-Pope Francis*



## CONTRIBUTIONS FOR May 07, 2023

**St. Thomas: \$2,292.58**

*Attendance: 5pm - 44; 9am - 68*

**Our Lady of Mercy: \$1,127.00**

*Attendance: 11am - 46*

## FORMED

The Catholic Faith on Demand  
This week on Formed:

**Real Womanhood**  
by Lisa Cotter

What does it mean to be a real woman in today's culture? Join Lisa Cotter in her talk Real Womanhood, as she draws on modern-day saints, St. John Paul II to define what it means to be an authentic woman.

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/real-womanhood-by-lisa-cotter>

Our parish has a FORMED subscription and it is free to all of our parishioners! Join now!

# Mary in Salvation History

*The Biblical Roots of the Marian Doctrines - Magazine 12/20/2023*

Mary is prefigured in the book of Genesis, she participates with Jesus in the Gospels, and she is observed fighting Satan in the book of Revelation. From the very first pages of the Bible to its last book, Mary's role in salvation history is astonishing.

In Genesis, there is a stunning prophecy. God said, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise him on the heel" (Genesis 3:15). This passage is called the Protoevangelium, meaning "first gospel." It is here we find the first announcement of the Messiah.

There is a battle between the serpent and the woman, and we find prophesied the final victory of a descendant of the woman over Satan. Who eventually crushed the head of the serpent? This can only be Jesus, who crushed the head of Satan at the cross of Calvary. Fittingly, the site of Calvary where Jesus defeated Satan means "skull place," reminiscent of crushing Satan's head. Because Jesus is the seed or offspring of the woman, who must the woman be? The Blessed Virgin Mary. She is prefigured right here in the beginning of Genesis.

In John's account of the crucifixion, Mary stood near the cross as Jesus said to her, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother" (John 19:26-27). Mary was not John's biological mother, yet John is called Mary's son, and Mary John's mother! The Bible says Mary became the mother of John.

The beloved disciple is a model that must be true of all disciples of Jesus, including us. The disciple whom Jesus loved took Mary into his home and became a spiritual son to her. Equally, Mary became the spiritual mother of the beloved disciple.

Christians following the model discipleship of the "disciple whom Jesus loved" must ask: am I like the beloved disciple by taking Mary into my home? When we consider how this disciple was faithful in obeying the command of Jesus to receive Mary as his mother, it becomes natural for all Christians to do likewise.

In Revelation, there is another exciting connection verifying Mary as the woman and spiritual mother of Christians. "Then the dragon became angry with the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring, those who keep God's commandments and bear witness to Jesus" (Rev. 12:17). The woman in Revelation has other children who keep the commandments of God and "bear testimony to Jesus" who are Christians. Recalling that Jesus calls Mary the mother of John and John now calls Mary the mother of all Christians, we can easily see the scriptural basis for the acknowledgment of Mary as our spiritual mother and mother of the Church.

What about Mary's title as queen? The answer is found in understanding the queen mother's role in the context of the Old Testament. In ancient Israel, it was not the king's wife who reigned as queen—it was the king's mother. She wore a crown and advocated for the people. The king's mother would present requests of the people to the king. In other words, they would seek her intercession on their behalf.

As we have seen, Mary appears in Revelation 12 reigning in heaven as the mother of the king. She is wearing a crown on her head. She is clothed with the sun and radiates with the splendor and power of a queen. Therefore, Mary is appropriately given the title of queen, who is able to pray with us and for us. Turning to Mary we can and should ask for her intercession to God on our behalf as we fight our spiritual battles here on Earth.

As we honor our own mothers today, let us also honor our blessed mother in heaven who does so much for her children.

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# ***HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!***

*The following is a list of all the Mothers being honored today in our Masses in observance of Mother's day,  
(in no particular order):*

## **ST. THOMAS AQUINAS**

*Diane Staron, Alice Staron, Lousie Minardi, Rachel Brans, Frances Wrenda,  
Nellann Scott, Dorothy Scott, Helen Ours, Elma Jean Poalone,  
Rosalind Eichelberger, Carmela Eichelberger, Marie Lomanto,  
Ruth Eichelberger, Mary Lou Bramer, Joanne Yoho, Verna Koby,  
Mary Kendall, Anna Presutti, Anna Hoffner, Diana DiBacco, Cynthia Molz,  
Gina Travis, Kathy Hoffner, Tracy Hoffner, Michelle Moore,  
Katie Lipscomb, Lindsay Lipscomb, Rita Johnson, Mary Catherine Deegan,  
Betty Ulch, Mikhaila Riede, Danielle Riede, Midge Macken, Crete Willson,  
Mary Mac Ingram, Irene M. Solis, Jac Kotten, Libby Kotten, Siena Kotten,  
Laurie Kotten, Kelly Kotten, Lucille Kotten, Hildegard Studer,  
Martha M. Grafton, Linda Shunk, Donna Shunk, Jean Sagace,  
Mary Ann Ponikvar, Courtney Ann Aguilar, Sherry Ann Ponikvar,  
Leann Ponikvar, Elizabeth Hoffner, Christina Ponikvar, Virginia Lansberry,  
Nicole Shaffer, Christy Johnson, Jenny Johnson, Patty Hoffner,  
Peggy DiBacco, Joni DiBacco, Stephanie Ailey, Jessica Revord,  
Heidi DiBacco, Heather DiBacco, Mary Rubenstine, Mary B. Scott,  
Diana DiBacco, Virginia Ferruso Wilson, Julie Kucer, Lily Kucer,  
Jennifer Lanthaler, Blodwin Hock, Theresa L. Cook, Marcia Urenda,  
Beth Spencer, Jacqui Spencer, Kristi Spencer, Idy Palausky,  
Dianne Harrison, Imogene Spencer, Darla Hoffman, Donna Spencer,  
Sharon Palausky, Dora Front, Adelaide Palausky, Edith DiBacco,  
Virginia Flanagan, Joanne M. Weant, Katherine Fox, Katherine T. Victor,  
Janet Kammerer, Betty Morvay, Paula T. Mars, Gertrude Fink,  
Dora L. Quattro, Mary Fink, Donna Walker, Molly Magness, Andrea Olson,  
Stephanie Bennett, Dhana Magness, Peggy Olson,  
Kris Jones & Marianne Lambert*





## **OUR LADY OF MERCY**

*Cindy Gray, Christy Simmons,  
Rachel Silk, Christine Silk, Debbie Silk,  
Vanessa Girvan, Erin Smyre, Joan Magas,  
Sue A. Silk, Doris Silk, Leecy Flanagan, Paula Currance,  
Levy Flanagan, Nora Rennix, Rose Nolin, Helen Silk,  
Clare Sullivan, Rita Shea, Catherine Thompson,  
Thelma Everson, Anita Helmick, Molly Moreman,  
Bea Goughnour, Kathy Nichols, Betty DiBacco, Martha Nichols,  
Katherine Hamrick, Alice DiBacco, Nora Nichols, Mary Gasser,  
Leah Marco, Lois Matlick, Bernadine McDonald, Dana Hahanes,  
Jamie Plumley, Lindsay Hart, Angie McDonald, Minnie McDonald,  
Diane Wade, Mary Matlick, Kathy DiBacco, Madonna DiBacco,  
Sarah DiBacco, Chrissy DiBacco, Summer Lipscomb,  
Tina McWilliams, Katie DiBacco, Ronda Adkins,  
Linda Helmick, Betty Adkins, Evelyn Barr,  
Ann DiBacco, Gail Strawderman, Pearl Strawderman,  
Hilda Felton, Molly Moreman, Gina Marisa,  
Monica Mann, Maria Van Guelder, Liliane Marinelli,  
Leona Mann, Susie Gutshall, Judy Gutshall, Betty Rummel,  
Nancy Nester, Lessie Nester, Honey Rowan, Frances Usnik,  
Jean Martz, Kathy Usnik, Marsha Usnik, Wanda Siler,  
Alice Vandevender, Paula Siler, Tammy Lloyd,  
Melinda Siler, Karen Long, Kelci Johnson,  
Miranda Grace, Emily Rabideau, Mikayla Knotts,  
Abigail Calloway, Alice Dye, Frances Mason,  
Lela Long & Cindy Long.*



**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**  
*Sixth Week of Easter*

**Monday, May 15**

*St. Isidore (opt)*  
NO MASS

**Tuesday, May 16**

*Easter Weekday*  
5:00pm (T) Lucy Quattro †

**Wednesday, May 17**

*Easter Weekday*  
9:00am (P) Margaret Kochenderfer Teranto †

**Thursday, May 18**

*St. John I, Pope & Martyr (opt)*  
No Mass

**Friday, May 19**

*Easter Weekday*  
No Mass

**Saturday, May 20**

*St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest*  
9:00am (P) Kate Curran †  
5:00pm (T) Sunny Farrotto (ANTICIPATED)

**Sunday, May 21**

*The Ascension of the Lord (Sol)*  
9:00am (T) People of the Parish  
11:00am (P) Jamie Goughnour

**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 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.

# 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 month:**  
*June 2*  
4:00 - 5:00pm  
Parsons

**Talk to God.**

**He will listen to you.**

**This is a time for just you and God.**

**Tell Him what is on your mind. And remember, to hear God... you must listen first.**

**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, Sharon Martin,  
Madonna DiBacco, Sara Fletcher,  
Sarah Nickel, Paul Wojtkowski, Dan Ingram,  
Emily Lambruno, & Bob Metzger