

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - May 21, 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.*

## MEMORIAL DAY SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection on Memorial Day weekend, May 27 & 28, for the Mt. Calvary Cemetery Fund. Donations will be used to defray the maintenance costs at the cemetery. Special envelopes will be provided. Please make checks payable to:

Mt Calvary Cemetery Fund

## OLM COVERED DISH DINNER

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

## OLM CHURCH YARD SALE

~The Our Lady of Mercy Women are having a yard and a bake sale this coming Saturday, May 27th beginning at 8am. Please bring your donated items this week to the social hall. Doors will be open Monday - Friday from 9am until 7pm (please no clothes or shoes). All donations are greatly appreciated.

~Ladies are asked to help price items on Wednesday, May 24 after the 9am Mass and on Friday, May 26 beginning at 9am.

~Any Ladies willing to bring and donate baked goods may drop them off on Friday evening or Saturday morning.

## BOCCE BALL

The Knights of Columbus would like to invite all men of the parish to play bocce ball every Wednesday evening beginning at 5:45 at the Knights of Columbus park, beginning May 24th. See you there!

## TWENTY-TEN CORP ANNUAL MEETING

Everyone who is a member of Knights of Columbus Council 2010 is also a member of the Twenty-Ten Corp. The annual meeting for the Twenty-Ten Corp. will be held at the Knights of Columbus Park on Sunday, June 4th at 2pm. Please mark your calendars!

## EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

May 21 - Covered Dish Dinner after 11am Mass in Parsons

May 25 - Holy Hour of Reparation at 4pm in Thomas

May 27 - OLM yard/hotdog/bake sale fundraiser

May 28 - Holy Hour of Reparation after Mass in Parsons

May 29 - Memorial Day Mass at 9am at the Cemetery

THE BATTLE AGAINST  
**ABORTION**  
NOT ONLY CAN BE WON  
**BUT MUST BE WON.**

*Fr. Frank Pavone*

## ~ATTENTION~ ST. 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!

## 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!

## CONTRIBUTIONS FOR May 14, 2023

St. Thomas: \$1,478.58

*Attendance: 5pm - 30; 9am - 54*

Our Lady of Mercy: \$891.00

*Attendance: 11am - 74*

## FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

Don't forget our local food pantries! Please bring any food and monetary donations to the back of the church next Sunday, May 28, and a volunteer will pick them up and deliver them to the proper location.

## Mary, Ark of the New Covenant

In the Old Testament, the Ark of the Covenant is described in Exodus as being covered with gold: "Have them make a chest of acacia wood . . . overlay it with pure gold, both inside and out . . . cast four gold rings for it . . . then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold" (Exod. 25:10-13).

Likewise, the New Testament describes the Ark of the Covenant as gold-covered: "Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the golden altar of incense and the gold covered Ark of the Covenant" (Heb. 9:3-4).

Notice how the Ark of the Covenant is covered with pure gold, both inside and out. Gold is associated with holiness, purity, and consecration to God. This foreshadows the purity, holiness, and consecration to God of the Ark of the New Covenant.

The Ark of the Covenant held three items: "the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant" (Heb. 9:4). Observe the three items contained in the Ark of the Covenant: stone tablets containing the commandments given to Moses, the rod belonging to Aaron, and the bread of heaven (manna) that fed the Israelites. It is easy to see that the Ark of the Covenant can be described as a pure or spotless enclosure holding bread, the word of God, and a priestly staff. Now, what was contained inside Mary? The Word of God, our great High Priest and the Bread of Heaven, which are all analogous to the contents inside the Ark of the Covenant. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit "overshadowed" the Ark of the Covenant, bringing God's presence to the people.

In the New Testament, we discover that the Ark of the New Covenant, Mary, was likewise "overshadowed" with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35). As with the Ark of the Covenant, which perpetuated special graces to the people, the Ark of the New Covenant (Mary) also then perpetuates graces to the followers of her Son, Jesus.

Since the Ark of the Covenant was created pure inside and out and set aside for divine purpose, Mary, the Ark of the New Covenant, was likewise created pure and holy, set aside for divine purpose. Here we discover the Catholic doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, where Mary is kept pure for a special purpose in God's redemption plan.

For a thousand years, Christians have used this nontheological analogy to visualize how Mary was saved: suppose a man falls into a deep pit, and someone reaches down to pull him out. The man has been "saved" from the pit.

Now, imagine a woman walking along, and she too is about to fall into the pit, but at that very moment someone holds her back and prevents her. She too has been "saved" from the pit but in a more profound way. She was not taken out of the pit; she was prevented from getting stained by the mud in the first place. This illustrates how the preservative redemption of Mary and human redemption are, in fact, compatible truths.

The Ark of the Covenant was never to be touched by sinful man (2 Samuel 6). Likewise, Mary, the Ark of the New Covenant, was never to be touched by sinful man. From this, the Catholic doctrine of the perpetual virginity of Mary takes shape with great clarity.

### Mary, our help in spiritual battles:

The Ark of the Covenant went before the people in battle. In this way, the Ark of the Covenant assisted in overcoming the enemies of Israel and helped to secure victory (e.g., the battle of Jericho). The Ark of the Covenant and God's presence was a powerful weapon and protection.

Turning to Mary, the Ark of the New Covenant, she is likewise a weapon in our spiritual battles. We can and should ask for her intercession to God on our behalf as we fight our spiritual battles here on Earth. (*The Biblical Roots of the Marian Doctrines - Magazine 12/20/2019*)

*O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!*

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

**Monday, May 22**

*St. Rita of Cascia, Religious (opt)*

7:30am (T) President & all Elected Officials

**Tuesday, May 23**

*Easter Weekday*

5:00pm (T) Diana DiBacco †

**Wednesday, May 24**

*Easter Weekday*

9:00am (P) Rita, James & Patty Shea †

**Thursday, May 25**

*St. Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doc of the Church (opt)*

*St. Gregory VII, Pope; (opt)*

*St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, Virgin (opt)*

4:00pm (T) HOLY HOUR OF REPARATION

5:00pm (T) Persecuted & Tortured Christians Worldwide

**Friday, May 26**

*St. Philip Neri, Priest (obl)*

5:00pm (T) Lucy Quattro †

**Saturday, May 27**

*St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop (opt)*

No Mass

5:00pm (T) Dianne Baker (VIGIL)

**Sunday, May 28**

*Pentecost Sunday (Sol)*

9:00am (T) Deceased Members of Staron & Saboites Fam †

11:00am (P) People of the Parish

12:00 Noon (P) HOLY HOUR OF REPARATION

**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 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

**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.**