

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - April 07, 2024



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.*

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

We will mark this feast today, April 7th, at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Parsons immediately following the 11:00am Mass by praying the Chaplet. The Plenary Indulgence associated with this feast consists in the reception of Holy Communion in the state of grace on Divine Mercy Sunday and prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father as well as sacramental confession within 8 days of the feast, and detachment from our sins. The result is the complete remission of sins and punishment due to sin.

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

The Easter flowers at St. Thomas Aquinas are in memory of: Maggie DeMotto; the Presutti Family, Frank Hoffner and the Hoffner family, Jerry Flanagan; the deceased members of the Wallace & Castaldo families; Frank, Verna, Koby Charles & Mary Kendall; Mike, Mary & Robert Rujak; Owen & Luella Postlethwait; and the Morvay, Victor & Kammerer families.

The Easter flowers at Our Lady of Mercy are in memory of: Nina Johnson; Jerry DiBacco; Sue Ann Silk; and Tom DiBacco.

REST IN PEACE

Frank Joseph "Joe" Perozziello died on Easter Sunday. He and his wife had a place in Canaan Valley and they are having the funeral Mass on Wednesday, April 10 in Randallstown, MD and then a viewing on Friday, April 12 from 11am to 1pm at Hinkle-Fenner Funeral Home in Davis followed by committal at Buena Chapel, Canaan Valley.

SAVE YOUR STUFF - OLM YARD SALE

The Our Lady of Mercy Women are planning a yard/bake sale on Memorial Day weekend in May. The women would greatly appreciate any gently used items that you are willing to donate. (No clothes or shoes.) Watch the bulletin for more details. "Save your stuff."

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

Apr 07 - Chaplet of Divine Mercy after 11am Mass in Parsons
Apr 09 - Society of St. Thomas Women's meeting at 5:30pm
Apr 14 - OLM Women's Guild meeting after 11am Mass
Apr 16 - Knights of Columbus meeting in Parsons at 6pm
Apr 18 - Holy Hour of Reparation at 4pm in Thomas
Apr 21 - Holy Hour of Reparation after 11am Mass in Parsons

PRO-LIFE CORNER

"When my [adoptive] mom told me that my birth mother had gone in to have an abortion procedure and I was born alive, I was shocked, one just because I thought I already knew everything. At the same time, I am so thankful to be here. It's not just about the lives of babies. But I also have great empathy for women.... As someone who survived abortion, I would want to tell the Supreme Court that my life matters."

~Amy Miles, abortion survivor

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR Mar 31, 2024

St. Thomas: \$3,411.11

Attendance: 8pm - 45; 9am - 103

Holy Land Collection: \$254.00

Easter Flowers: \$225.00

Our Lady of Mercy: \$960.00

Attendance: 11am - 74

Holy Land Collection: \$105.00

Easter Flowers: \$200.00

FORMED

This week on Formed.org

Easter in Art: Mary Magdalene

Learn about the "apostle to the apostles" in this discussion with Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp. They take a look at a famous painting of Jesus's encounter with Mary Magdalene following the Resurrection.

Our parish has a Formed subscription that is free to all of our parishioners. Simply go to formed.org and enter St. Thomas Aquinas, and then follow the sign up instructions. It's that easy!

Confession to a Priest

by the Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

It may be asked, why confess one's sins to a priest? Maybe he is not as holy as the penitent. That indeed could be. But though he is not holier in his person, he is holier in his powers, because Christ gave this power to His Church—only the Church claims it, and only the Church exercises it. The mayor of a town may not be as good as some of the citizens, but he has the power which the citizens do not; so it is with the priest.

Furthermore, it is not the priest who absolves: he is only the instrument of Christ. Can man of and by himself forgive sins? No! Can man united to God forgive sins? Yes! That is the way Christ the Son of God forgave sins through His human nature. That is the way He forgave the sins of Magdalen; that was the way He forgave the sins of the paralytic, that was the way He forgave the sins of the thief on the right. That power He gave to His Church.

Because the priest acts in Christ's name, he is bound by the seal of confession. Not even under the penalty of death may he reveal sins that are confided to him in confession. As a person, he has not heard any sins. They are not a part of his knowledge. It was Christ Who heard the sin and He alone has knowledge of it. Suppose a murderer came into a rectory and confessed to a priest. On leaving the priest, the murderer shook hands with him. After the murderer left, the police entered, found blood on the priest's hands and accused him of the murder. The priest could not say: "It was the man who just went out. I did not do it." He may not make any defense of himself, nor may a priest outside the confessional ever speak to that person about his sins. For example, he may not say to a penitent whom he meets on the street, "Oh, did you ever pay back the hundred dollars you stole?" If someone stole money from a drawer in my desk, and then came and confessed the stealing of money; I could order the money returned, but I would not be permitted to lock the drawer, because that was information which I gained in God's sacrament.

Another reason for confessing sins to a priest is that no one sin is individual. We are members of the Mystical Body of Christ. If one member is unhealthy, the whole body is unhealthy. If we have an earache, the whole body suffers. Now, every personal sin has a social effect: all the other cells of the body of the Church are affected because of the defect in this one cell. Every sinner is blameworthy, not only in regard to himself, but also in regard to the Church, and first and foremost to God. If he is ever to recover, it can only be by the intervention of the Church, and by an intervention of God.

No medicine will act on a member of the body, unless the body cooperates in some way with the medicine. Because every sin is against God and the Church, it follows that a representative of God and His Mystical Body must restore the sinner again to fellowship. The priest, acting as the representative of the Church, welcomes back the penitent to the community of believers. When Our Blessed Lord found the lost sheep, He immediately integrated them again into His flock: "Jesus was to die for the sake of the nation; and not only for that nation's sake, but so as to bring together into one all God's children, scattered far and wide" (John 11:52). The priest re-establishes the sinner in grace; he restores the sinner to his rights as a son of the Eternal Father; he reconciles him not only to God, but also to God's society of the Church.

The social nature of Penance is seen further in the fact that the penitent recognizes the right of the Mystical Body to judge him, since it is through the Mystical Body he is in relation with God. Forgiveness of sin, then, is not just a matter between God and our individual souls. It is the Church which has been injured by transgressions. Therefore, our sins are not just our concern, they are the concern of the whole Church—the Church Militant on earth and the Church Triumphant in heaven.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
Second Week of Easter

Monday, Apr 08

The Annunciation of the Lord (sol)

IN PRIVATE - Diane Ulch and Imelda Stevenson †

Tuesday, Apr 09

Easter Weekday

5:00pm (T) Laura & Bernhardt Lancsa †

Wednesday, Apr 10

Easter Weekday

8:30am (P) ADORATION

9:00am (P) Sue Silk †

Thursday, Apr 11

St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr (obl)

5:00pm (T) George Anetakis †

Friday, Apr 12

Easter Weekday

4:00pm (T) ADORATION

5:00pm (T) Lucille Kotten †

Saturday, Apr 13

St. Martin I, Pope and Martyr (opt)

9:00am (P) Francesca Grassi Zimmer †

5:00pm (T) Jerry Flanagan † (ANTICIPATED)

Sunday, Apr 14

Third Sunday of Easter

9:00am (T) Maggie DeMotto †

11:00am (P) People of the Parish

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 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:
May 03
4:00 - 5:00pm
Thomas

If we but paused for a moment to consider attentively what takes place in this Sacrament, I am sure that the thought of Christ's love for us would transform the coldness of our hearts into a fire of love and gratitude.

~Saint Angela of Foligno

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

Kathy Kotten (304) 614-3276 (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, Anna McVicker,
Sharon Martin, Madonna DiBacco,
Sarah Nickel, Paul Wojtkowski,
Dan Ingram, Emily Lambruno,
Bob Metzger, and Donna Walker