

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - April 14, 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.*

SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION

Earlier this month West Virginia experienced five tornados, microbursts, strong winds, heavy rains, and mudslides. Bishop Brennan approved a special collection to be held next weekend, April 20-21, in all parishes and missions throughout the Diocese to support recovery efforts related to the series of disasters that have occurred. Checks should be made out to your respective parish with "Disaster Relief" on the memo line. Proceeds from this collection will support the long-term humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities West Virginia.

APRIL HOLY HOURS OF REPARATION

We will have two Holy Hours of Reparation this month. The first will be at 4pm in Thomas this Thursday, April 18. The second will be in Parsons after the 11am Mass next Sunday, April 21.

AFTER MASS SOCIAL

The Society of St. Thomas Women will be a hosting sweet treat and coffee social following the 9am Mass on Sunday, May 5th. All are welcome, both parishioners and visitors!

PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY

"Let not even one day pass without saying the Rosary, no matter how burdened you may be with many cares and labors." ~Pope Pius XI

Total Rosaries for 11 weeks: 1,189

Total Rosaries since May 2016: 51,284

Thank you to everyone who faithfully prays the Rosary!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PARK RENTAL

We are pleased to be taking rentals for the Knights Park. Plenty of great dates are available. The rental season begins May 1st 2024 through October 15th 2024. Please contact the following for reservations: St. Thomas Parish 304-463-4488, Scott Eichelberger, Bob Lemon, William Wallace 304-281-5749. Security deposits will be required for first time users.

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

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

Apr 21 - Second Collection: Disaster Relief in West Virginia

PRO-LIFE CORNER

"My birth mom was told that the abortion was successful. I was a secret that got moved on. People think about my birth mother's experience and go 'well how could she *not* know?' When we live in a culture that says 'hey by the way failed, stopped, reversed abortions don't happen; it's always successful.' We're not going to tell you what that means. We're not going to tell you that it ends the life of a child but we're going to tell you 'abortion is successful.' How would a woman ever guess in a million years that her baby survived?"

~Melissa Ohden, abortion survivor

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR Apr 07, 2024

St. Thomas: \$2,466.11

Attendance: 8pm - 43; 9am - 25

Our Lady of Mercy: \$1,391.00

Attendance: 11am - 56

FORMED

[This week on Formed.org](https://www.formed.org)

Saint Joan of Arc

Cultivate a devotion to St. Joan of Arc, the young saint who died a martyr at the age of nineteen, by watching this powerful film. Her story comes to life in this movie and will doubtless leave you inspired by her faith in God.

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

Eclipse Viewing

by Father Smay

Some of you may have viewed the eclipse last Monday. I had dinner at my parents' house Sunday night and Monday afternoon we drove about 2 hours north of Wheeling into an area of "totality" and I had heard a lot about what it is like to experience an eclipse and I was not disappointed nor filled with regret about having dedicated 6 hours to the endeavor.

A total eclipse is not so much something that is seen as something that is experienced. When totality began the mosquitos came out (I got bit by one!), it looked like dawn (or dusk) for 360 degrees, the temperature dropped 9 or 10 degrees, it smelled like night. Probably the coolest part was being able to and look directly at the eclipse without eclipse glasses and see the corona of the sun. I was pondering what it would have been like to be living 1000 years ago and find myself in the path of a total solar eclipse. Whether a king, or the simplest of farmers, I would probably think the world was ending.

I was also, and have been, pondering the perfection of the whole thing. One of my favorite Psalms, Psalm 19, came to mind, which begins like this:

The heavens proclaim the glory of God/and the firmament shows forth the work of His hands.

Day unto day takes up the story/and night unto night makes known the message.

No speech, no word, no voice is heard/yet their span extends through all the earth,
their words to the utmost bounds of the world.

I was praying before the eclipse that it would be an occasion of divine grace for all those who viewed it. Perhaps at least some would recognize in the magnificence of the eclipse the most faint reflection of the Magnificence of God Who created all this and still more wonderfully redeemed us. After the eclipse, my dad sent me an article written by the headmaster of a Christian school in Virginia. His confirmed just how exceptional this experience is: "Scientists tell us that the sun is 390 times larger than the moon, but it is also 390 times farther away. Every eighteen months or so they align perfectly so that the moon's shadow passes over the earth, and those in the path of that shadow see a solar eclipse. This is often described as one of the great coincidences of our solar system. Astronomers also tell us that there are 147 moons in our solar system. But ours is the only one with the exact size and distance to perfectly match the sun and produce the kind of solar eclipse we experience. If our moon was any smaller the sky would not turn dark, and if it was any larger, we would never see that brilliant corona. For many, it is a source of wonder, that the one place where these amazing eclipses occur, is the one place where there are observers to see them." Glory to God in all things!



MASSES FOR THE WEEK
Third Week of Easter

Monday, Apr 15

Easter Weekday

7:30am (T) - Pat & Debbie Felton and family

Tuesday, Apr 16

Easter Weekday

5:00pm (T) Joseph DiBacco

Wednesday, Apr 17

Easter Weekday

8:30am (P) ADORATION

9:00am (P) baby Luca and Brittany

Thursday, Apr 18

Easter Weekday

4:00pm (T) HOLY HOUR OF REPARATION

5:00pm (T) Donna Jo Walker

Friday, Apr 19

Easter Weekday

4:00pm (T) ADORATION

5:00pm (T) Fred and Joanne Sikarskie

Saturday, Apr 20

Easter Weekday

9:00am (P) Terry Silk

5:00pm (T) Gene Randolph † (ANTICIPATED)

Sunday, Apr 21

Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:00am (T) People of the Parish

11:00am (P) Martha Nichols †

12 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:
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

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.