

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - April 21, 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](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.*

## 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.

## 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 this 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 St. Thomas or Our Lady of Mercy 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.

## AFTER MASS SOCIAL

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

## 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."

## FORMED.ORG

Don't forget about formed.org. If you have not signed up yet just go to the formed.org website, then enter our church name, city, and state. You will then enjoy a FREE, but high quality, streaming platform of religious learning resources that can be used at home or on the go.

## EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

- Apr 21 - Holy Hour of Reparation after 11am Mass in Parsons
- Apr 21 - Second Collection: Disaster Relief in West Virginia
- May 05 - Sweets and coffee social after 9am Mass in Thomas
- May 05 - Ask Father after 11am Mass in Parsons
- May 12 - OLM Women's Guild meeting after 11am Mass

## PRO-LIFE CORNER

"My biological mother was seven and a half months pregnant when she went to Planned Parenthood, who advised her to have a late-term saline abortion. This method of abortion burns the baby inside and out, blinding and suffocating the child, who is then born dead, usually within 24 hours. Instead of dying, after 18 hours of being burned in my mother's womb, I was delivered alive in an abortion clinic in Los Angeles... let me say, I am alive because of the Power of Jesus Christ alone, in Whom I live, move, and have my being. Without Him I would have nothing; with Him, I have all."

~Gianna Jessen, abortion survivor

## CONTRIBUTIONS FOR

Apr 14, 2024

**St. Thomas: \$3,060.11**

*Attendance: 8pm - 56; 9am - 49*

**Our Lady of Mercy: \$765.00**

*Attendance: 11am - 61*

## FORMED

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

**Beloved - Session 1:  
Does Marriage Matter?**

Is your marriage all it can be? Beloved unlocks the sacrament of marriage in 12 sessions, showing how God designed it to fulfill you. Open to all couples, young or old.

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!

## Visiting Priest and Confession

by Father Smay

Next weekend I will not be here. Father Bill Kuchinsky will be covering the Masses here again. As usual, please make an extra effort to be kind to him. It is not always easy to find someone who is both able and willing to cover weekend Masses here. This makes my ability to have extended time away from the parish limited (and maybe it's also good for you to get a break from hearing me every week). So it's a bit of a help to me if you are kind and gracious to visiting priests.

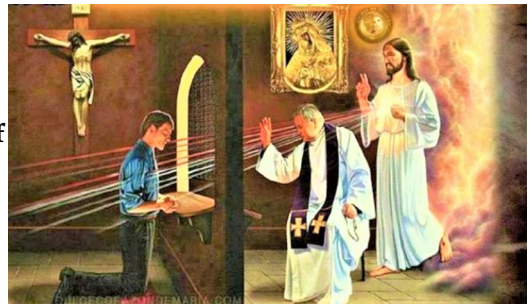
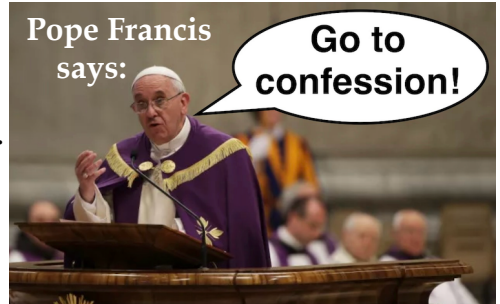
This also presents a good opportunity for you to GO TO CONFESSION! I realize (and I'm sorry for this) that there was no visiting priest who came to Tucker County to hear confessions this Lent. This was my failure, no excuses. Although it is a few weeks late, you have this opportunity now. When I told Father Bill that I would exhort you to go to confession, he replied "I won't be able to voice print them! And, [I] am gentle as a lamb in the box!" I thought his comment about voice printing was pretty funny (which is why I repeated it here!). I can also confirm by my experience that he is a good and gentle priest in the confessional as I myself have gone to confession to him. I am not telling you to do anything that I myself have not done.

There is an academic publication titled *Journal of Religion and Health* that published an article back in 1985 titled "The Value of Confession and Forgiveness According to [Carl] Jung". The abstract reads as follows:

This article represents a broad survey of the views of C. G. Jung regarding confession and forgiveness. Man, a naturally religious being, has a need to confess his wrong and to gain forgiveness of one sanctioned to absolve. The curative effect of confession has been known for centuries. Without confession, man remains in moral isolation. Priests, ministers, and rabbis, as well as psychotherapists, attest to the universality of this human phenomenon. Confession is located in that place where psychology and religion meet-guilt. Jung's views on confession bridge the chasm between psychology and religion.

Confession has a naturally curative effect on the human person. It turns out that, in spite of stories of "rugged American individualism" and the "go it alone" conception certain persons have, we were created to live in relationship with others and part of relating to others is seeking forgiveness when we fail. I am always amused when modern science tells us something that the Church has known for almost two millennia.

The Catechism calls the sacrament of confession a "sacrament of healing." Jesus, Who created us, knows human psychology perfectly. When He instituted the sacraments, He did so in perfect harmony with human nature. The sacraments work on both the natural and supernatural levels (this is perhaps most true of the sacrament of confession). Confession is much more than a natural "feel good" mechanism. If we confess ourselves humbly (entirely) and have true contrition for our sins, receiving the sacrament of confession also confers with it divinely sanctioned forgiveness of sins and, if one has been so unfortunate as to have committed a mortal sin, the remission of eternal punishment! Those are much greater benefits than some kind of worldly and temporal psychological benefit; the benefits are eternal and beyond price. So, go to confession!



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

**Monday, Apr 22**

*Easter Weekday*

7:30am (T) Jim Morvay †

**Tuesday, Apr 23**

*St. George, Martyr (opt);*

*St. Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr (opt)*

5:00pm (T) Dustin Isner

**Wednesday, Apr 24**

*St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr (opt)*

8:30am (P) ADORATION

9:00am (P) Henry Canton

**Thursday, Apr 25**

*St. Mark, Evangelist (feast)*

5:00pm (T) Joseph and Mary Deegan †

**Friday, Apr 26**

*Easter Weekday*

4:00pm (T) ADORATION

5:00pm (T) Mike and Mary Rujak †

**Saturday, Apr 27**

*Easter Weekday*

9:00am (P) Alice Riggle †

5:00pm (T) People of the Parish (ANTICIPATED)

**Sunday, Apr 28**

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

9:00am (T) Moore and Fortini Families †

11:00am (P) Rose, Francis, and 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.*

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:**  
*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