

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - April 28, 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.*

## BLOOD DRIVE IN PARSONS

There is a blood drive on Monday, April 29th, from noon until 5pm at the First United Methodist Church in Parsons. To make an appointment, go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-REDCROSS.

## AFTER MASS SOCIAL

The Society of St. Thomas Women will be 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."

## REST IN PEACE

Mr. Dan Ingram died on Sunday, April 21 and was buried this past Wednesday. In your charity, please pray for the repose of Dan's soul and the consolation of his family.

## MOTHER'S DAY MASS CARDS

If you would like to remember living or deceased mothers on Mother's Day, cards can be found in the back of both churches for a suggested donation of \$2. We only request that a donation be left if you take a card but all donations are appreciated!

## 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

May 03 - First Friday in Thomas adoration at 4, Mass at 5  
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  
May 12 - Mother's Day

## PRO-LIFE CORNER

"Every aborted baby is like a slave in the womb of his or her mother. The mother decides his or her fate... If the Dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is to live, our babies must live. Our mothers must choose life."

~Dr. Alveda King

There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary.

~Venerable Lúcia dos Santos



## CONTRIBUTIONS FOR

Apr 21, 2024

**St. Thomas: \$1,451.86**

WV Disaster Relief: \$865.00

Attendance: 8pm - 56; 9am - 49

**Our Lady of Mercy: \$744.00**

WV Disaster Relief: \$422.00

Attendance: 11am - 61

## FORMED

[This week on Formed.org](http://This week on Formed.org)

**Who is Saint Catherine of Siena?**

In view of Saint Catherine of Siena's feast day (Monday, April 29), join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Elizabeth Klein, as they celebrate this holy woman: a nurse and mystic with papal influence who became a doctor of the Church.

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

## Brown Scapular Miracles

*an excerpt from devotiontoourlady.com*

In the year 1241, the Baron de Grey of England was returning from the Crusades in Palestine: he brought back with him a group of religious from the holy mountain of Carmel. Upon arrival, the baron generously presented the monks with a manor house in the town of Aylesford. Ten years later, in the very place, there occurred, the now famous apparition of Our Lady to St. Simon Stock, on July 16th, in 1251. The full promise of Our Lady of Mount was: *"Accept this Scapular. It shall be a sign of salvation, a protection in danger and a pledge of peace. Whosoever dies clothed in this Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire."*

In 1858, In the same month and on the same date, July 16th, on the 18th and last apparition of Our Lady at Lourdes, she appeared to Bernadette, dressed as Our Lady of Mount Carmel. St. Bernadette testifies that this was the most beautiful of the apparitions. Sister Lucia of Fatima made a similar comment, when, at her 6th and last apparition at Fatima, Our Lady showed herself in three different forms of clothing—the third and last was that of Our Lady of Carmel, wearing the religious habit of the Carmelites. This, said Lucia, was the most beautiful sight of all—and Lucia later attested that the Scapular that was being held out towards her and the world, signified that Our Lady wanted everyone in the world to wear the Brown Scapular and profit from it.

The devotion to the Brown Scapular was brought about and strengthened by miracles. God uses miracles as a witness to the truth of His promises and those of His Mother. Miracles are used by God to confirm the solid foundation of the devotions that the Church proposes to the faithful. The greater the number of miracles obtained by a particular devotion, the more it draws our attention to this devotion and authenticates the truth that the practice is pleasing to God. Of all the devotions adopted by the Church, none has been confirmed by more authenticated miracles than that of the Brown Scapular. What follows is a small sampling.

### Miracles Demonstrating Our Lady's Promise of Protection

One day in 1944, a Carmelite missionary in the Holy Land was called to an internment camp to give the Last Rites. The Arab bus driver made the priest get off the bus four miles from the camp because the road was dangerously muddy. After two miles, the missionary found his feet sinking deeper and deeper into the mire. Trying to get solid footing, he slipped into a muddy pool. Sinking to his death in this desolate place, he thought of Our Lady and her Scapular.

He kissed his great Scapular – for he was wearing the full habit – and looked toward the holy mountain of Carmel, the birthplace of devotion to God's Mother. He cried out, *"Holy Mother of Carmel! Help me! Save me!"* A moment later, he found himself on solid ground. Later he said, *"I know I was saved by the Blessed Virgin through her Brown Scapular. My shoes were lost in the mud, and I was covered with it, but I walked the remaining two miles praising Mary."*

### Saved from the Sea

Another Scapular miracle took place in 1845. In the late summer of that year, the English ship, *King of the Ocean*, on its way to Australia, not far from Cape Hope, found itself in the middle of a hurricane. As wind and sea mercilessly lashed the ship, a Protestant minister, with his wife and children and other passengers, struggled to the deck to pray for mercy and forgiveness, as the end seemed at hand. Among the crew was a young Irishman, John McAuliffe. On seeing the urgency of the situation, the youth opened his shirt, took off his Scapular, and, making the Sign of the Cross with it over the raging waves, tossed it into the ocean. At that very moment, the wind calmed. Only one more wave washed the deck, bringing with it the Scapular which came back to rest at the young man's feet. All the while the minister (a Mr. Fisher) had been carefully observing McAuliffe's actions and the miraculous effect of those actions. Upon questioning the young man, he was told about the Holy Virgin and her Scapular. Mr. Fisher and his family entered the Catholic Church so as to enjoy the benefits of the Scapular.

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

**Monday, Apr 29**

*St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church (obl)*  
7:30am (T) Ann Smay †

**Tuesday, Apr 30**

*St. Pius V, Pope (opt)*  
5:00pm (T) Alma Przybysz †

**Wednesday, May 01**

*St. Joseph the Worker (opt)*  
8:30am (P) ADORATION  
9:00am (P) James Baller †

**Thursday, May 02**

*St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (feast)*  
5:00pm (T) Leo and Minnie Sikarskie †

**First Friday, May 03**

*Sts. Philip and James, Apostles (feast)*  
4:00pm (T) ADORATION & BENEDICTION  
5:00pm (T) Francesca Zimmer †

**First Saturday, May 04**

*Easter Weekday*  
9:00am (P) Mary Chiazza †  
5:00pm (T) Diane Menardi Staron & Jim Menardi †

**Sunday, May 05**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*  
9:00am (T) People of the Parish  
11:00am (P) Sue Ann Silk †

**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,  
Emily Lambruno, Bob Metzger,  
and Donna Walker