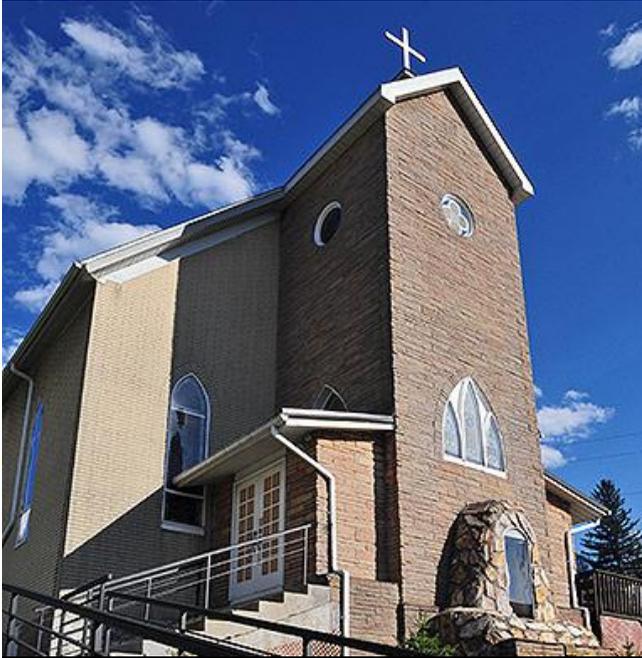


SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

Mission: OUR LADY OF MERCY

St. Thomas Aquinas
Thomas, West Virginia

Our Lady of Mercy
Parsons, West Virginia



Pastor: Rev. Timothy J. Grassi,
P.O. Box 300, Thomas, WV 26292 —Tel: 304-463-4488

Parish Website:
www.stsite.com

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 – 4:30 p.m., and 30 minutes before all weekday Masses and anytime upon request.

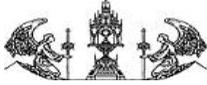
Third Sunday of Lent, March 03, 2013

THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

During the month of **March**, the Tridentine Mass will be offered at the following times and churches:

St. Thomas - 7:30 AM, Sunday 03/17/2013;

Our Lady of Mercy - 12:30 PM, Sunday 03/10/13.



PRO-LIFE CORNER

"Almost every Chinese family has been impacted in some way by the loss of a loved one because of the one-child-per-family policy. Virtually everyone in China is missing a relative because some Communist Party hack found out that their wife or mother was pregnant with an 'illegal' second or third child...and took them against their will for an abortion." (Steven W. Mosher, President of the Population Research *Institutet*, May 8, 2012 weekly briefing)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LENTEN FISH FRY



Please come to our delicious Fish Fry on ALL Fridays during Lent!

Dinner includes an 8 oz. fish fillet with tartar or cocktail sauce; dinner roll with butter; cole slaw; green beans; macaroni n' cheese; fruit dessert; coffee or punch.

Cost: Adults \$8.00 Kids 12 & under \$4.00 CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE!

The dinner will be at both locations from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM,
at the St. Thomas Center and Our Lady of Mercy church social hall on March 8, March 15th & March 22.

ATTENTION YOUTH!

ALL YOUTH OF THE PARISH are reminded to help at the Lenten Fish Fry. The Knights generously hold these fish fry evenings so that they can raise the necessary funds to provide for the youth Kennywood trip. The youth are asked to be at either location at 3:45 PM.

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Today, Sunday, March 3rd, there will be no morning CCD classes, instead we will have Stations of the Cross beginning at 1:00 PM at the St. Thomas Church in Thomas.

Food will be provided .

(All CCD students expected to attend!)

CALLING ALL MEN

We will be having a Lenten day of reflection for men on Saturday, March 23rd, from 10 AM until Mass at 5 PM. This will take place in the St. Thomas Center and in the St. Thomas Church. Deacon David Galvin and at least one additional priest will be presenting.

ON THIS WEEKEND VISITING CONFESSOR(S) WILL BE AVAILABLE AT DESIGNATED TIMES FOR THE WHOLE PARISH.

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

March 3 - ASK FATHER - cancelled due to the Stations of the Cross.

March 3 - Children's Stations of the Cross (MANDATORY).

March 10 - Our Lady of Mercy Women's Guild meeting after the 11 AM Mass in Parsons.

March 13 - Knights of Columbus meeting at 6:00 PM in Thomas followed by the 4th degree Knights meeting.

March 23 - Lenten day of reflection for men at St. Thomas.

Contributions for February 24, 2012

St. Thomas: \$1,755.07

Our Lady of Mercy: \$688.27

Thomas Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of "valued" food items.

This month we are seeking **canned peas**.

In subsequent months we will let you know what items are needed and ask your assistance in this need for our community.

THE SEASON OF LENT

The annual Lenten Season is a fitting time to climb the holy mountain of Easter.

The character of the Lenten Season is to spiritually prepare for the paschal mystery. Catholics are reminded of their Easter Duty—to receive Holy Communion during the Easter Season. Therefore, we are also reminded of the sacramental confession necessary to prepare for this duty. Please take this time of Lent to prepare and make a good and thorough confession in preparation for the great feast of Easter. Lent runs from Ash Wednesday until the Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive on Holy Thursday.



LENT SCHEDULE - Stations of the Cross

WEDNESDAY - immediately after the 5:00 PM Mass at Our Lady of Mercy.
(*Wednesday Mass during Lent will be at 5:00 PM.*)

FRIDAY - immediately after the 5:00 PM Mass at St. Thomas.

*****The Knights of Columbus have asked that we pray the Rosary after the Stations of the Cross in Parsons for the protection of our Religious Liberty and Freedom of Conscience in the United States.***

2ND COLLECTION TODAY

At all Masses this weekend, a special collection will be taken for the Priests Health and Retirement Association, a trust fund set up to support the health care needs and retirement costs of retired Diocesan priests. Your support of this collection will be added to the principal investment of the PHRA to provide long term security and growth for this very important fund. Please be as generous as possible.

Sacrifice or Punishment

Last Updated Aug 2012 — By Mary Lou Rosien

A few years ago, my little girl's birthday fell on Good Friday. I suggested to her, that out of love for Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross, it might be a good thing to put off her birthday celebration until Saturday. With the beautiful heart of a child, she agreed to this plan.

Some adults felt that we were punishing our child by not 'letting' her celebrate her birthday on Good Friday. I think they might have missed the point. Sacrificing is an act of love...not a punishment. It is something we willingly offer up to God, not something that He is taking away.

How many Catholics fear that they could go to hell if they have eaten meat on a Friday, or as our pastor jokes, use it as an excuse to eat lobster bisque? Again, adults often miss the meaning of the sacrifices.

When a sick child cries at night, do we consider it a punishment to get out of bed and attend them? No, it is an act of love and commitment. Certainly it is expected (as Catholics are expected to abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent), but the act itself is carried out from a desire to love our child. This is the meaning of the Lenten sacrifices, offering up something that we like, out of a desire to love Christ and grow closer to him.

Christ could have redeemed us with the sweep of an arm, or the bat of an eye, but suffering was the hardest thing to do. Love requires doing the things that are not easy, but difficult. I can say, "I love my husband." That's easy. It is harder to put up with his bad moods, or wash his dirty underwear. (I am sure he would say living with me is not always a picnic either.) These are much truer tests of my love. Words are easy to say, demonstrating love is more challenging.

As we prepare for Easter Sunday, we look forward to the returning sweetness of the things we gave up for Lent. It always surprises me though, that they don't seem as sweet as the feeling of giving something up out of love for the Lord.

As we pray the Rosary before our Masses in this month of March, we will pray In reparation for sins, for all those serving in our armed forces, for peace in the Middle East and For the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Third Sunday of Lent

Mar. 04 Monday	Eleanor Golladay	7:15 AM Thomas
Mar. 05 Tuesday	Albert DiBacco	5:00 PM Thomas
Mar. 06 Wednesday	Poor Souls in Purgatory	5:00 PM Parsons
Mar. 07 Thursday	Sara Massi	5:00 PM Thomas
Mar. 08 Friday	Jack Evans	5:00 PM Thomas
Mar. 09 Saturday	Nicholas & Katherine Kaltnecker	9:00 AM Parsons
Mar. 09 SATURDAY VIGIL	Mary Cassell	5:00 PM Thomas
Mar. 10 SUNDAY	Kameron Fortney	9:00 AM Thomas
Mar. 10 SUNDAY	People of the Parish	11:00 AM Parsons

THOMAS EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

03/09 Rita Johnson
03/10 Brittany Snyder & Titi Ferguson

READERS

Kathy Supak
Summer Snyder

ALTAR BOYS

Nathaniel Rader

PARSONS EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

03/10 Becca & Miranda Siler
Cleaning: 03/03 - 03/09: Lois Matlick & Susie Gutshall

READER

Fred Sikarskie

ALTAR BOYS

Any and all Available!

PRAYER LINE

If you would like to place someone on our prayer line call Mary Frances Evans - Thomas (463-4413) or Martha Nichols - Davis (259-5370) Paula Siler - Parsons (478-4104) or Cindy Long - Parsons (478-4833)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., alternating in the Knights of Columbus room Thomas, and Social Hall, Parsons.

OUR LADY OF MERCY WOMEN'S GUILD

Meetings are held the second Sunday of the Month immediately after Mass in the Parish Hall.

SOCIETY OF ST. THOMAS WOMEN

Every woman of the parish is a member of the Society. Monthly meetings are the first Tuesday of the month (except Jan., Feb., March)

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.*

Let us remember in prayer all of our sick and shut-ins:

Dorothy Breth, Theresa Cook, Helen Wilson, Champ Sedmock, Frances Shaga, Vivian Bozic, Solena Massi, Lois Lamont, "Sob" Gennantonio, Martha Kochenderfer, Eleanor James, Earl & Mary Moore, Betty Swantek, J. Pat and Martha Nichols, Muriel Nestor, Eula Jean & Henry Udovich, Tony Lambruno, Elizabeth Lane, Vincent DiBacco, Judy Gutshall, Dan and Mary Ingram, Mary Johnson, Nancy Nester, Terry Silk and Sherry Burns.

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.