

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.

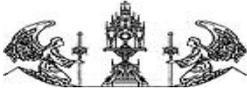
Ascension of the Lord, May 12, 2013

THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

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

St. Thomas - 7:30 AM, Sunday 05/19/2013;

Our Lady of Mercy - 12:30 PM, Sunday 05/12/13.



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 son or a daughter, or a brother or a sister because some Communist Party [official] found out that their wife or mother was pregnant with an "illegal" second or third child, arrested them for the "crime" of being pregnant, and took them against their will for an abortion." *Steven Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute*

Happy Mother's Day!

Today we celebrate Mother's Day and First Holy Communion. We will also have a "May Procession" in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To mark these special events the Knights of Columbus will have Breakfast/Brunch immediately following the two Sunday Masses with cake provided by our ladies to congratulate our First Communicants. Everyone is invited to attend.

CHURCH YARD SALE & BAKE SALE!!!

The Our Lady of Mercy Women's Guild will have a church yard/bake sale on Friday & Saturday, May 24th and 25th (*Memorial day weekend.*) If you would like to donate items for the yard sale you may drop them off in the social hall during the week of May 20th - 24th, between the hours of 7 AM - 7 PM. More details later.

2013 CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL

DO YOU LOVE ME?

St. Thomas.....\$2,945.00 pledged
(Goal: \$8,405)
Our Lady of Mercy\$1,770.00 pledged
(Goal: \$2,635)



EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

May 12 - Mother's Day breakfast at both St. Thomas and Our Lady of Mercy.

May 12 - **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION and May procession.**

May 16 - 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Meeting at 7:00 PM in Thomas.

May 21 - **Parish Council Meeting** immediately following the 5:00 PM Mass at Our Lady of Mercy.

May 24 & 25 - Church yard/bake sale from 8:00 until ? Friday and from 8:00 until Noon on Saturday.

May 27 - **MEMORIAL DAY MASS** at 9:00 AM at the Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

June 2 - "**ASK FATHER**" immediately following the 11 AM Mass in Parsons at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

June 4 - Society of St. Thomas Women will meet at 7:00 PM in the rectory conference room.

June 9 - Our Lady of Mercy Women's Guild meeting immediately following the 11 AM Mass.

June 11 - Trip to Kennywood!

June 16 - **CONFIRMATION** at 3:00 PM at the St. Thomas Church followed by dinner with the Bishop.

Contributions for May 05, 2013

St. Thomas: \$2,644.17

Our Lady of Mercy: \$683.00

Thomas Food Pantry

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

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

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



First Holy Communion

We congratulate our 4 First Communicants on their reception of Our Blessed Lord in the Eucharist for the first time. This is an extraordinary day for them and for our parish. Please be sure to tell them how happy you are for them.

*Congratulations Mitch Lanthaler, Ariona Plumley,
Aaron Quattro, and Katlyn Simmons,*

DANGER OF MORAL RELATIVISM

The seriousness of the problem: Studies indicate 75% of American college professors currently teach that there is no such thing as right and wrong. Rather, they treat the questions of good and evil as relative to "individual values and cultural diversity." That is why in 1997, then-Cardinal Ratzinger described Moral Relativism as, "the central problem of the faith at the present time." In his September 19, 1796 Farewell Address to the nation, George Washington stated: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great Pillars." The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. The theories of evolution and Moral Relativism go hand-in-hand, because evolution teaches that life is accidental, without meaning or purpose. Therefore, anything a person does is OK, because it ultimately doesn't matter. "The logic of chance origins has driven our society into rewriting the rules, so that utility has replaced duty, self-expression has unseated authority, and being good has become feeling good. These new rules plunge the moral philosopher into a veritable vortex of relativisations. All absolutes die the death of a thousand qualifications. Life becomes a pin-ball game, whose rules, though they be few, are all instrumental and not meaningful in themselves, except as a means to the player's enjoyment." (Ravi Zacharias, in *A Shattered Visage: The Real Face of Atheism*). More than four out of five North Americans believe a decline in morals is the continent's gravest problem and that ethics should be taught in the schools. One result of this concern is that entire new specialties have grown up overnight. Today Medical Ethics, Business Ethics, Environmental Ethics and Legal Ethics are not only serious endeavors but required curricular studies in respected professional schools across the land. Ethics has been spoken of as a "growth industry".

The Christian view of morality is based on the truth that God does exist, that He is interested in our behavior and that any ideas of "morality" that do not take Him into account are doomed to failure. We should recognize that without the existence of God, "The Cause of the Universe", there are no moral absolutes. All things created are subject to a set of laws, whether natural or divine. Christian morality presupposes that God revealed Himself to man through His word – the Bible. Since God does exist, He has created us for some purpose, and He is ultimately going to judge us by the criteria of His choosing, it is obviously important to find out what He thinks about it all. The Bible gives us the principles of right and wrong. The most basic principle of the Christian moral life is the awareness that every person bears the dignity of being made in the image of God. God has given us an immortal soul and through the gifts of intelligence and reason, He enables us to understand the order of things established in His creation, to recognize right and wrong and to distinguish them from one another. "Conscience is a judgment of reason by which the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act." (CCC #1796). Scripturally and theologically, the Christian moral life begins with a loving relationship with God, a covenant love made possible by the sacrifice of Christ. The Commandments and other moral rules are given to us as ways of protecting the values that foster love of God and others. They provide us with ways to express love, sometimes by forbidding whatever contradicts love. To live the moral life requires God's assistance called grace. The Catechism speaks of this in terms of life in Christ and the inner presence of the Holy Spirit, actively enlightening our conscience – our moral compass -- and supplying us with the spiritual strength to do the right thing. The grace that comes to us from Christ in the Spirit is as essential as love and rules, and, in fact, grace makes love and keeping the rules possible.

ReSources and resources: 1) <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/morality/>

2) <http://www.aboutcatholics.com/beliefs/christian-morality/> 3) <http://carm.org/moral-relativism> 4) <http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?recnum=9510> 5) <http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/religion/re0919.htm>

As we pray the Rosary before our Masses in this month of May, 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
Ascension of the Lord

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|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| May 13 Monday | Jim Cassell | 7:15 AM Thomas |
| May 14 Tuesday | Orlando Massi | 5:00 PM Thomas |
| May 15 Wednesday | Margaret Cassell | 9:00 AM Parsons |
| May 16 Thursday | John Borshnick | 7:15 AM Thomas |
| May 17 Friday | Kate Curran | NO MASS Thomas |
| May 18 Saturday | Mary Buckley | 9:00 AM Parsons |
| May 18 SATURDAY VIGIL | Pauline Staron Sparks | 5:00 PM Thomas |
| May 19 SUNDAY | Mary Ferruso | 9:00 AM Thomas |
| May 19 SUNDAY | People of the Parish | 11:00 AM Parsons |

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|---------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| THOMAS | EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS | READERS | ALTAR BOYS |
| 05/18 | Kathy & Pat Kotten | Kathy Supak | |
| 05/19 | Brittany Snyder & Titi Ferguson | Summer Snyder | Nathaniel Rader |

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|------------------|--|----------------|------------------------|
| PARSONS | EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS | READER | ALTAR BOYS |
| 05/19 | Tom Gutshall & Fred Sikarskie | Lukas Thompson | Any and all Available! |
| Cleaning: | 05/12 - 05/18: Pat Usnik & Christine Rosenau | | |

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, Mike Michael 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.