

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.

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 21, 2013

THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

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

St. Thomas - **NO MASS**, Sunday 07/21/2013;

Our Lady of Mercy - 12:30 PM, Sunday 07/14/13.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

In a column addressed to "The Ultrasound Generation," New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan stated, "You are different than any generation that came before you in that your very first baby pictures were taken not with you in your mother's arms, but you alive in her womb." The Southern Cross, March 2013

OLD PHOTOS NEEDED



Any "church activity" related photos you may be willing to let us borrow of St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Veronica's or Our Lady of Mercy Churches would be greatly appreciated for a special project. Please write your name on your photos and drop them off at the Rectory or give them to Fr. Grassi. We will make copies of the pictures and then safely return them to their owners. Thank you!



BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Our next Bible Study class (Session 6) will be held at Our Lady of Mercy Church this Wednesday, July 24th at 6:30 PM. (Session 7) will be held at St. Thomas this Thursday, July 25th at 5:30 PM. Come and join us and learn about the story of salvation!

Ignorance of Scripture, is ignorance of Christ.
—St. Jerome

SILENCE IN THE CHURCH

Adoration before our Lord present in the tabernacle fosters adoration before the Lord really and truly present in the Most Holy and Blessed Sacrament of the altar. When entering or leaving church please observe silence. If you want to talk to your fellow parishioners please whisper one line—
"I'll meet you in the vestibule or outside."

VISITING PRIEST

Fr. Michael Beers will be joining us for the weekend Masses and Confessions while Fr. Grassi is on vacation. Confessions will be at the usual times at both churches. **Please take note of the Mass schedule while Fr. Grassi is away.

"Truth must be sought at all costs, but separate isolated truths will not do. Truth is like life; it has to be taken on its entirety or not at all. . . . We must welcome truth even if it reproaches and inconveniences us -- even if it appears in the place where we thought it could not be found." —Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

August 4 - "Ask Father" after the 11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

August 6 - Society of St. Thomas Women monthly meeting, 7:00 PM at the Rectory conference room.

August 14 - Knights of Columbus monthly meeting in Parsons at 7:00 PM in the social hall.

August 18 - Parish Picnic at the Knights of Columbus park.

Contributions for July 14, 2013

St. Thomas: \$2060.25

Our Lady of Mercy: \$806.00

Thomas Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of "valued" food items. This month we are seeking **dry noodles**. In subsequent months we will let you know what items are needed and ask your assistance in this need for our community.

WHY RAPTURE DOCTRINE IS WRONG AND UNBIBLICAL?

7) Apocalyptic books leading to wrong conclusions: Catholic theologians are troubled by the literal acceptance of a seven-year period at the end of history, known as the Great Tribulation. Belief in the Great Tribulation assumes that at the end of time God will unreservedly punish all the inhabitants of earth with war, disease, pestilence, earthquakes, and various other natural disasters. This is an extremely literal interpretation of passages of biblical apocalyptic literature written in some of the most symbolic language found in all of Sacred Scripture. In apocalyptic literature, such wholesale threats of divine punishment are intended to convey to those who are persecuted the sure and certain reality of God's justice. It is, in the first place, the assurance that God recognizes their suffering and, secondly, that God opposes the injustice that is responsible and will bring an end to it.

8) Against the teaching of the Church: the Rapture forms part of a particular millennial expectation based on a particular use of Biblical texts. The Catholic Church has explicitly rejected both this kind of speculation and this way of interpreting the Scriptures. The Council of Ephesus (431) denounced it as "a deviation and a fable." It was denounced again in 1516 at the Fifth Lateran Council. In 1824, the work of Manuel Lacunza was placed on the Index of Forbidden Books. In 1941 and 1944, responding to questions from the Archbishop of Santiago, Chile, the Congregation of the Holy Office (now the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith), again rejected this kind of millennial speculation with explicit reference to the work of Lacunza. In April 22, 1998, Pope John Paul II warned again against this way of thinking. In interpreting Biblical texts, the Church has stressed that it is essential that we take account of their literary genres since truth is expressed differently in different types of writing (Vatican II: Dei Verbum #12; CCC #110). In its 1993 document, The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church, the Pontifical Biblical Commission both reaffirmed this (Section I-A) and rejected as inadequate the so-called "fundamentalist" interpretation at play in the Rapture doctrine and scenario (Section I-F). As John Paul II expressed it on April 22, 1998, "We know that the apocalyptic images of the eschatological discourse about the end of all things should be interpreted in light of their intense symbolism." It is not language that should be taken literally.

9) New theology underestimating God's mercy: Rapture is a new doctrine—one never taught or believed before the eighteenth century—that requires a particular understanding of God's action in history. It is an understanding that overemphasizes a kind of divine retribution and underemphasizes God's mercy, and one that ignores the human history and culture in which the inspired word of God was written. A literal acceptance of this supposed period of torment as part of God's plan for earth is troubling enough. When it is coupled with the belief that God would ensure that all Christians will escape, this suffering is baffling. We do not need a Rapture to face the future with faith. God's word, the Bible, is a continuous source of comfort, courage and challenge. We wait in joyful hope the return of our Savior, but we do not forget the many ways the Good News of his first coming calls us to love and serve our neighbor—and those we might otherwise consider our "enemy"—today and tomorrow. (L-13)

Resources & sources:

- 1) <http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/CU/ac1005.asp>
- 2) http://www.littlerockscripture.org/en/wtbsa_rapture.html
- 3) <http://www.mindspring.com/~renewal/Rapture.html>
- 4) <http://www.ewtn.com/expert/expertfaqframe.asp?source=/vexperts/conference.htm>
- 5) http://www.nativityukr.org/various_files/Waiting_for_the_Rapture.html
- 6) <http://www.catholic.com/thisrock/2000/0011fea2.asp>
- 7) <http://www.catholic.com/tracts/the-rapture>
- 8) http://www.askacatholic.com/_WebPostings/Answers/2000_11NOV/2000NovViewsOfTheRapture.cfm
- 9) <http://stevensperay.wordpress.com/category/the-rapture/>

As we pray the Rosary before our Masses in this month of July, 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
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 22 Monday	-	No Mass
July 23 Tuesday	-	No Mass
July 24 Wednesday	-	No Mass
July 25 Thursday	-	No Mass
July 26 Friday	-	No Mass
July 27 Saturday	-	No Mass
July 27 SATURDAY VIGIL	Leonard Teranto	5:00 PM Thomas
July 28 SUNDAY	Anna & Steve Staron and family	9:00 AM Thomas
July 28 SUNDAY	People of the Parish	11:00 AM Parsons

THOMAS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	READERS	ALTAR BOYS
07/27	Rita Johnson	Kathy Supak	
07/28	Brittany Snyder & Titi Ferguson	Summer Snyder	

PARSONS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	READER	ALTAR BOYS
07/28	Cindy Long & Dee Oldaker	Fred Sikarskie	Any and all Available!
Cleaning:	07/21 - 07/27: Lois Matlick & Susie Gutshall		

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, and Mike Michael.

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.