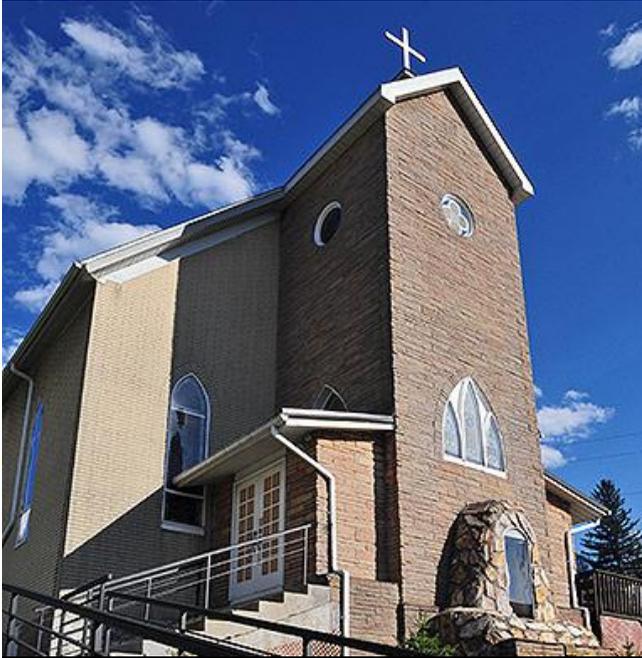


SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

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.sttsite.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.

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2014

THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

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

St. Thomas - 7:30 AM, Sunday 04/20/14;
Our Lady of Mercy - 12:30 PM, Sunday 04/13/14
(**St. Thomas** - Mon., Tues., Thur., Fri. at 7:45 AM)

PRO-LIFE CORNER

Faith in the resurrection of Jesus says that there is a future for every human being; the cry for unending life which is a part of the person is indeed answered... God exists: that is the real message of Easter. Anyone who even begins to grasp what this means also knows what it means to be redeemed. – Pope Benedict XVI

THE FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY

Jesus requested that the Feast of Divine Mercy be preceded by a novena (beginning on Good Friday) consisting of the recitation of the Divine Mercy chaplet and the prayer for the day. (If you no longer have a copy of the Divine Mercy Novena you may pick one up at the back of the church.) The Plenary Indulgence associated with this feast consists in the reception of Holy Communion in the state of grace on Divine Mercy Sunday and prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father as well as sacramental confession within 8 days of the feast, (The Holy Father has said that any time during Lent is sufficient.) The result is the complete remission of sins and punishment due to sin. We will celebrate this feast on April 27th at Our Lady of Mercy beginning with our 11:00 AM Mass, followed by a potluck dinner in the social hall and concluding with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 3:00 PM (The Hour of Mercy).

EASTER SUNDAY — SECOND COLLECTION

The second collection on Easter weekend is for the Education of Seminarians. Please show your support for these men who have accepted their call from God.

CHURCH YARD & 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*.) Please remember to save your unwanted items for this special event!

EASTER FLOWERS

**The flowers at the altar at St. Thomas Aquinas are in loving memory of Maria Lomanto, Jack Evans, Leonard & Florence Lottinville and the Avona & Pratt families.

**The flowers at the altar at Our Lady of Mercy are in loving memory of Elizabeth & Herman Ledden, Zeke & Anna DiBacco and Dale & Evelyn Barr and the Parents of Tom & Betty Jane DiBacco.

CHRIST IS RISEN!!!

A heartfelt thanks go out to all those who helped clean, decorate and prepare for the Easter Triduum. A special thank you to the St. Thomas choir and the Our Lady of Mercy choir for their beautiful music. All of your help and talents are greatly appreciated in making our Easter celebrations special. **May you and your families have a blessed Easter!!!**

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

April 20 - Education of Seminarians Collection to be taken up at all Masses.

April 22 - Bible study in Parsons session #23 at 9AM.

April 22 - Bible Study in Thomas, session #21 at 5:30 PM.

May 6 - Society of St. Thomas Women monthly meeting beginning at 7:00 PM in the Rectory conference room.

May 11 - Mother's Day & First Holy Communion.

Contributions for April 13, 2014

St. Thomas: \$2,761.77

Our Lady of Mercy: \$1,026.50

THOMAS FOOD PANTRY

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

Jeremy's Egg (Author Unknown)

Jeremy was born with a twisted body, a slow mind and a chronic, terminal illness that had been slowly killing him all his young life. Still, his parents had tried to give him as normal a life as possible and had sent him to St. Theresa's Elementary School.

At the age of 12, Jeremy was only in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool and make grunting noises. At other times, he spoke clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, however, Jeremy irritated his teacher. One day, she called his parents and asked them to come to St. Teresa's for a consultation.

As the Forresters sat quietly in the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five-year gap between his age and that of the other students!"

Mrs. Forrester cried softly into a tissue while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here."

Doris sat for a long time after they left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read or write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. "Oh God," she said aloud, "here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared with that poor family! Please help me to be more patient with Jeremy."

From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then one day he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him. "I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loudly enough for the whole class to hear. The other children snickered, and Doris' face turned red. She stammered, "Wh-Why, that's very nice, Jeremy. Now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, "I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?"

Yes, Miss Miller!" the children responded enthusiastically - all except for Jeremy. He just listened intently, his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them. That evening, Doris' kitchen sink stopped up. She called the landlord and waited an hour for him to come by and unclog it. After that, she still had to shop for groceries, iron a blouse and prepare a vocabulary test for the next day. She completely forgot about phoning Jeremy's parents.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their Math lesson, it was time to open the eggs. In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arms. "That's my egg, Miss Miller," she called out.

The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes that is new life, too" Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine."

Next Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that the moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom. "My Daddy helped me!" he beamed.

Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty! Surely it must be Jeremy's, she thought, and, of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents. Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another.

Suddenly Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Flustered, Doris replied, "but Jeremy - your egg is empty!" He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty too!"

Time stopped. When she could speak again. Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?"

"Oh yes!" Jeremy exclaimed. "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then his Father raised him up!"

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the school yard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away.

Three months later Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty.

As we pray the Rosary before our Masses in this month of April, 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

Easter Sunday

Apr. 21 Monday	Betty Swantek	7:15 AM Thomas
Apr. 22 Tuesday	Lois Lamont	5:00 PM Thomas
Apr. 23 Wednesday	Ben & Lela Long	9:00 AM Parsons
Apr. 24 Thursday	Mary Cassell	5:00 PM Thomas
Apr. 25 Friday	Jim Cassell	5:00 PM Thomas
Apr. 26 Saturday	Ruth DePollo Shumann	9:00 AM Parsons
Apr. 26 SATURDAY VIGIL	Martha Nichols	5:00 PM Thomas
Apr. 27 SUNDAY	Solena Massi	9:00 AM Thomas
Apr. 27 SUNDAY	People of the Parish	11:00 AM Parsons

THOMAS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS
04/26	Rita Johnson
04/27	Brittany Snyder & Summer Snyder

READERS
Beth Spencer
Diane Rader

ALTAR BOYS
Nathaniel Rader

PARSONS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS
04/27	Ariona & Emily Siler
Cleaning:	04/27 - 05/03: Lois Matlick & Susie Gutshall

READER
Jessica Gutshall

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)
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. daylight savings time, (6:00 p.m. standard time), alternating in the Knights of Columbus room Thomas, and Social Hall, Parsons. Visit us at: thomaskofc2010.org

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) in the Rectory Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. **Cookbooks are still available. \$10.00**

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, Champ Sedmock, Frances Shaga, Vivian Bozic, "Sob" Gennantonio, Eleanor James, J. Pat Nichols, Martha Kochenderfer, Earl & Mary Moore, Muriel Nestor, Eula Jean & Henry Udovich, Elizabeth Lane, Judy Gutshall, Vincent DiBacco, Dan and Mary Ingram, Mary Johnson, Joe Sagace, Jim Willis, Russ Perando, Jack Lambruno, Jo Ann Michael and Vincent and Joan Brofka.

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.