SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH
Mission: OUR LADY OF MERCY

Pastor: Rev. Timothy J. Grassi, P.O. Box 300, Thomas, WV 26292 Tel: (304) 463-4488 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 – 4:50 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.
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR April 21, 2019

St. Thomas: $1,640.30
Our Lady of Mercy: $1,144.00

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR January 12, 2020

PRO-LIFE CORNER

“In this context the temptation grows to have recourse to euthanasia, that is, to take control of death and bring it before its time, 'gently' ending one's own life or the life of others. In reality, what might seem logical and humane, when looked at more closely is seen to be senseless and inhumane. Here we are faced with one of the more alarming symptoms of the 'culture of death'.

–Pope John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life)

FOOD PANTRY

BLACKWATER MINISTERIAL FOOD PANTRY: The Food Pantry is in need of "valued" food items. This month we are seeking soup. In subsequent months we will let you know what items are needed and ask your assistance in this need for our community.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who helped take down the decorations. It was wonderful that so many people stayed after Mass to help take down, pack away and clean up the mess that was made. It is proof that "many hands make light work." May the Lord reward all of you for your generous service.

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!!!

Jan 12 - OLM Women’s Guild meeting after the 11am Mass
Jan 21 - Knights of Columbus meeting in Parsons at 6pm(3rd Tues.)
Feb 02 - ASK FATHER after the 11am Mass in Parsons
Feb 03 - The feast of St. Blaise

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

Around the world, women who face unplanned pregnancies or who have experienced abortion or miscarriage suffer psychological stress. They need material and emotional support to help them to heal. Since 2014, Crisis Pregnancy Center has provided a wide range of long-term help to hundreds of women: psychological counseling, job search assistance, training in infant care, life skills such as budget management, and group therapy for women who have experienced miscarriages and lost babies. Where few government resources are available to support these kinds of services, local organizations – with the help of the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe are accompanying the most vulnerable women and helping them to choose life, even in their time of greatest need. Your contributions to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe help to train staff and further grow this pregnancy center, helping to build a culture of life, solidarity, and support for women and children.

OUR PATRONAL FEAST DAY

January 28th is the feast day of St. Thomas Aquinas, our patron. This falls on a Tuesday, however since it is our patronal feast we are permitted to move it to the closest Sunday which is January 26th. We are going to celebrate this by offering the weekend Masses in honor of St. Thomas Aquinas. The music will also reflect our patron. To celebrate this feast we will have adoration at St. Thomas Church at 8 AM with benediction before the 9 AM Mass. Please plan to participate in the adoration and the social following Mass.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

The March for Life is an annual pilgrimage of prayer and public witness to protest the 1973 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to legalize abortion. As Catholics, we believe that all life is sacred. Participating in the March for life is an opportunity to be advocates for those who cannot speak for themselves and to help our government understand why we believe life is so sacred. Please come join us and take a stand for LIFE! We will be taking a car (or cars) to the metro stop in Vienna, VA., and then we will take the train into D.C. Please call the Parish Office if you would like to join this life saving event, Friday, January 24th, 2020.

47th ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

The March for Life is an annual pilgrimage of prayer and public witness to protest the 1973 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to legalize abortion. As Catholics, we believe that all life is sacred. Participating in the March for life is an opportunity to be advocates for those who cannot speak for themselves and to help our government understand why we believe life is so sacred. Please come join us and take a stand for LIFE! We will be taking a car (or cars) to the metro stop in Vienna, VA., and then we will take the train into D.C. Please call the Parish Office if you would like to join this life saving event, Friday, January 24th, 2020.
IF ABORTION WERE ILLEGAL

~More people would believe it to be immoral. An often overlooked feature of the law is that it functions as a moral teacher in society. When something is legal, people assume that it must be okay to do. However, when something is illegal there is much more of a stigma surrounding it. That stigma shapes the citizens of a society as their moral consciousness develops. It wouldn’t change the minds of the staunchly pro-choice overnight (or perhaps ever). But, it would slowly change the minds of generations to come. More people who believe abortion to be immoral likely means fewer people who will have them, perform them, or promote them.

~It would be more difficult to obtain. Currently, abortion clinics are ubiquitous throughout the country, and many insurance companies cover abortion. Of course that would not be the case if abortion were illegal. Thus, it would take a lot more effort and resources to obtain one. Abortion advocates wouldn’t argue with this point. However, they likely would deny that this means that far fewer women would have them. But this is illogical. There are many women who are on the fence about having an abortion. Many more do not want one at all, but their spouses/boyfriends, parents, friends, employers, or doctors pressure them into it. If abortion were not so easily obtained, those women would be much less likely to go through with it. Even many women who would have little reservation about a legal abortion at the corner Planned Parenthood would think twice before going to an unregulated surreptitious clinic (or, especially, resorting to self-induced abortion).

~The societal expectation that women in certain situations will end their pregnancies would diminish. It’s common for pro-choice people to say “no one is pro-abortion.” But the reality is that there are many who are pro-abortion when it comes to other people’s babies (if not their own). When we as a society see a young/unmarried/poor woman with a swollen belly or a couple of kids, we judge her. We no longer judge her for having sex when young and unmarried (as in days past). Instead, we judge her for having babies. Who does she think she is, bringing another poor child into this world? The same is true for mothers who have babies with disabilities. I know people who received pressure from doctors and their own loved ones to abort babies with adverse prenatal diagnoses. Then, harsh judgment followed when they chose to carry those babies to term. The societal pressure to abort poor and disabled babies is very great. Many women cave to that pressure when they desperately want to keep their babies.

~More effort would go toward ending crises instead of ending pregnancies. As much as pro-choice people claim to care about women in crisis pregnancies, it seems they direct their resources toward making sure those women can kill their children instead of toward helping them find a way to lessen the crisis. Pro-life pregnancy resource centers are the ones providing women in crisis pregnancies with counseling, support, diapers, baby clothes, formula, etc. Pro-life ob/gyns are the ones providing them with low cost obstetrical care. Meanwhile, the government spends its time and resources over-regulating such places to make it difficult for them to help women. What if we had no choice but to unite together to save both mom and baby? What if the friends and family who would have pressured their loved ones into abortions had no choice but to rally around to support them, instead?

~Risk-taking behavior that leads to abortion would lesson. It’s clear that the legalization of abortion led to an increase in promiscuity. Legal abortion promises sex without consequences. It’s that little extra insurance policy when your birth control fails (or you don’t use any). If that “safety net” were not there, then logically fewer people would take the risk of living promiscuously.

~Medical professionals would still be performing the majority of abortions. Ironically, this is the one thing that’s likely to not change. In the years leading up to Roe v. Wade, physicians performed the majority of abortions. They were not taking place mostly in “back-alleys” or with coat hangers, as abortion advocates would have us believe. Thus, women were not dying in droves from illegal abortion before Roe v. Wade. They wouldn’t be dying in droves in a post Roe v. Wade world, either.

~Most importantly, the government would no longer be putting its stamp of approval on the killing of innocent humans, on the violation of the basic rights of the least among us. And this is really the only change that matters. It goes against the very purpose of government to allow the intentional and systematic killing of innocent people – and worse, to frame it in benevolent verbiage like “healthcare” and “right to privacy.” A woman who chooses to endanger herself by obtaining an illegal abortion is responsible for that choice, unlike an innocent baby who has no say in whether s/he lives or dies. Justice demands that the government try to protect the innocent baby, even if that makes abortion more dangerous.
The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is committed to the protection of its children and young people. The Diocese complies with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People by maintaining an Office of Safe Environment. To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families/Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. 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 (toll free) or 304.233.0880: Sister Ellen Dunn, ext. 264; Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304-230-1504. For more information on the Diocese’s Office of Safe Environment, please go to www.dwc.org, then click the “Diocese” tab, then click “Office of Safe Environment” under the “Offices” menu. To learn more about the Catholic Church’s efforts in preventing sexual abuse of children in the United States, please visit http://www.usccb.org. Under “Issues and Action,” click “Child and Youth Protection” from the drop down menu.

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.

If you would like to place someone on our prayer line call: Susie Gutshall (304) 478-3217 Or Cindy Long (304) 478-4833

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