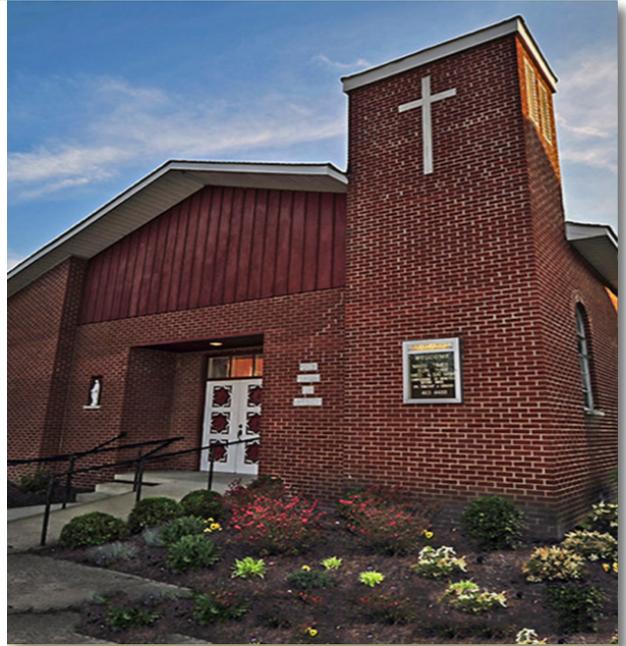


FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - January 31, 2021



St. Thomas Aquinas - Thomas, West Virginia



Our Lady of Mercy - Parsons, West Virginia

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.*

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK

Support for the Church in Latin America is being collected this weekend. This collection supports the endeavors of the Church throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Projects include the work of evangelization, formation of laity, religious and seminarians, as well as youth ministry and catechesis. Funding is limited to programmatic expenses and excludes building construction except in cases of emergency. Please give as you can.

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE

Wednesday, February 3rd is the feast of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr. Once, as St. Blaise was being taken to prison, he encountered a woman whose pig was being seized by a wolf; St. Blaise commanded the wolf to release the pig, and it was freed unhurt. While he was in prison, he miraculously cured a small boy who was choking to death on a fishbone lodged in his throat. Also, the woman whose pig had been saved brought St. Blaise candles so that his cell would have light and he could read the Sacred Scriptures. He was martyred around the year 316. One reason St. Blaise's popularity arose from the fact he was a physician who performed miraculous cures. Eventually the custom of the blessing of throats arose, whereby the priest held two crossed candles at the throat while he invoked the prayer of the saint and imparted God's blessing. The blessing will be imparted at all the Masses next weekend.

OUR PATRONAL FEAST DAY

We are celebrating the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas at all the Masses this weekend. The music will also reflect our patron. A highlight of this celebration will be Eucharistic Adoration at 8AM followed by Benediction and Mass at 9 AM. Due to COVID, we are unable to have a social after Mass.

GREAT PRO-LIFE NEWS

Our Knights of Columbus, Thomas Council 2010 has been working with the Padre Pio Council 10754, of Great Falls, VA to purchase a BRAND NEW PORTABLE ULTRA SOUND MACHINE for our Pregnancy Care Centers. Thanks to the Padre Pio Council, the funds were supplied for half the cost and under a special program of the Supreme Council of the Knights, the other half of the funds were donated. The machine was installed this weekend. Please join us next Sunday, Feb. 7, when Bishop Brennan will bless the machine at 2:30 PM at the Parsons Pregnancy Center, which is located on the second floor of the Parsons City Hall. Statistics show that mother's who see an ultrasound of their babies almost always choose LIFE! THANKS BE TO GOD for such a gift!!!!

PRO-LIFE CORNER

"Abortion and racism are both symptoms of a fundamental human error. The error is thinking that when someone stands in the way of our wants, we can justify getting that person out of our lives. Abortion and racism stem from the same poisonous root, selfishness." *Alveda King*

PRAYER

FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

At Thy feet, O my Jesus, I prostrate myself and I offer Thee the repentance of my contrite heart, which is humbled in its nothingness and in Thy holy presence. I adore Thee in the Sacrament of Thy love, the ineffable Eucharist. I desire to receive Thee into the poor dwelling that my heart offers Thee. While waiting for the happiness of sacramental Communion, I wish to possess Thee in spirit. Come to me, O my Jesus, since I, for my part, am coming to Thee! The love embrace my whole being in life and in death. I believe in Thee, I hope in Thee, I love Thee. Amen.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR January 24, 2021

St. Thomas: \$1,400.06

Our Lady of Mercy: \$1,092.00

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Don't forget our local food pantries in both Thomas and Parsons! Food is needed now more than ever. Please bring your food donations to the back of the church where a volunteer will pick them up and deliver them to the proper location.

Thomas Food Pantry: (soups)

Parsons Food Pantry: food or monetary donations are Collected every 1st Sunday.

A Beginner's Guide to Eucharistic Adoration, Part I

by Caitlin Sica

The first time I went to adoration I was a sophomore in college and it was unintentional. Really. I was on vacation with a group of friends, but I made sure to check online for the nearest Mass schedule. I pulled into the parking lot at 10:20—10 minutes to spare, life was good. Except...the parking lot was empty. I walked to the front of the church—the doors were locked. I looked at the sign out front and realized I had missed Mass. Slightly panicked, I wasn't sure what to do. I walked around for a bit and then remembered that this parish had perpetual adoration.

I walked up the hill to this tiny little chapel, opened the doors, and stepped inside. It was dark, chilly, and extremely quiet. I slid into a pew, knelt, and began to pray. I thought I could hear myself thinking. I looked down at my watch...3 minutes had passed. 3 minutes? I could hardly believe it. I looked next to me at the only other person who was in the chapel—a monk, who was sitting, barefooted, eyes closed, and smiling. He made it look so easy, so peaceful. I, on the other hand, was in agony. I had promised myself I would stay in adoration for an hour—since that's about how long Mass was. I closed my eyes, tried to relax. "Pray, Caitlin," I coached myself, "it's not that hard." I opened my eyes. Another 5 minutes had gone by. 52 minutes to go, but who was counting?

Then it dawned on me that my whole attitude was wrong. God wasn't forcing me to be there, to spend an hour with Him because I had missed Mass. I was choosing to be there. Did I want to be there? Did I want to spend time with Jesus? I did. So I asked God for the grace to let me sit there with Him, in silence, peacefully.

I gazed upon the monstrance, containing Jesus—body, soul, blood, and divinity—and smiled at the intimacy of it all. I closed my eyes for the third time and prayed. This time, when I opened my eyes an hour had gone by! Halleluiah! I was filled with joy—not because I had fulfilled my made-up requirement, but because God had stilled my heart. I left that chapel filled with a peace, contentment, and joy unlike anything I had felt before.

While it would be six months until I would attend adoration again, God had placed something on my heart—a desire to know Him more fully in the most Blessed Sacrament. Today, I am a much different person than I was the first time I sat in adoration. I no longer dread the form of prayer, but desire it. I try to go to adoration several times a month. Sometimes, I am able to sit peacefully and sometimes my heart is more restless. But every time, I am grateful for the opportunity to sit and gaze upon the Lord.

I was recently talking with a group of friends about their experiences of adoration. A lot of them expressed the same frustration—that sometimes, time seems to stand still, 5 minutes seem eternal. Have you ever been out of shape and tried to go for a one-mile run? Suddenly, 5 minutes into the run, you're huffing and puffing and you realize you've only gone one block. Rather than focusing on the success—you just ran for the first time in months!!—we tend to focus on the defeat. Adoration can be a bit of a workout... for your soul. So set yourself up for success. If it's been awhile, or your first time, 5 minutes of sitting with Jesus is a good goal. Slowly increase your time—you'll be amazed at how God increases your capacity to be with Him!

Caitlin Sica, MA, is a high-school theology teacher. This article is published on lifeteen.com as well as on Caitlin's site, caitlinsica.com. It appears in this bulletin with the author's permission. Please continue reading next week.

The Rosary remains our strongest weapon. Please use it faithfully, daily, especially for reparation for the sin of ABORTION and sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and for the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and for all those serving in our armed forces.

Total Rosaries for 2 weeks: 160

Total Rosaries since May 2016: 31,578

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Monday, Feb 1

Weekday

7:15am (T) Albert Koller †

Tuesday, Feb 2

The Presentation of the Lord (Feast)

5:00pm (T) Anton Kotten †

Wednesday, Feb 3

St. Blase, Bishop & Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop (mem)

9:00am (P) Poor Souls in Purgatory †

Thursday, Feb 4

Weekday

5:00pm (T) Dan Studer †

First Friday, Feb 5

Weekday

5:00pm (P) Adoration and Benediction

6:00pm (P) Pat Ricottilli †

First Saturday, Feb 6

St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs (Mem)

9:00am (P) David F. Silk †

5:00pm (T) Michael Fortini †

Sunday, Feb 7

Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

9:00am (T) Wilbur and Isabel Killeen †

11:00am (P) People of the Parish

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.

THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

*During the month of February,
the Tridentine Mass will be offered at:*

St. Thomas - (Low Mass) 2/14/21 at 7:30 AM

**O most Holy Trinity, I adore You!
My God, my God, I love You in the
most Blessed Sacrament!**

Simple
Exposition

8:30 - 9:00am
every Wed

in Parsons

4:30 - 5:00pm
every Friday
in Thomas



Adoration &
Benediction

*Every First
Friday*

Next month:
Feb. 5th
5:00 - 6:00pm
in Parsons

**If you would like to place someone
on our prayer line call:**

Kathy Kotten (304) 866-6243 (T)

Susie Gutshall (304) 478-3217 (P)

Or Cindy Long (304) 478-4833 (P)

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

“Sob” Gennantonio, Mary Johnson, Jean Sagace,
Joyce Arnold, Donna Mason, Elaine Watson, Paula
Cannon, Paula Siler, Anne McVicker, Madonna DiBacco,
Sara Fletcher & Paul Wojtkowski.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston maintains an Office of Safe Environment in accordance with the USCCB's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, 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 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.