

**Pastor:**  
 Rev. Thien Nguyen, SVD  
 tdnguyen@dwc.org  
 Phone: 304-364-5895  
 More information on our parish website:  
<https://stthomasgassaway.org>

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**  
 SATURDAY: 5:00 p.m.  
 SUNDAY 11:00 a.m.

**WEEKDAY: Tue, Wed, Thu at 5:00 p.m.**  
 Friday Mass at 8:00 am  
*Holy Day of Obligation at 6:00 p.m*

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:**  
 Every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m prior to Mass

**RECONCILIATION:** Any time 30 minutes before or after daily Mass, After Sunday Mass  
*Other days by appointment*

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**for Easter Flower In Memory**  
**Sat April 26**—Kelly Jarviz Sharron Covington, Peggy Lynn, Bobby & Margarita Christensen, Michele Hruby

**SUNDAY APRIL 27—**  
**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**  
**FOR PARISHIONERS OF ST. THOMAS**

**Tue, April 29**—for *Cunningham & Morton Family members who have died*  
**Wed, April 30** For *Joe D. McPherson*  
**Thur, May 1** For parish's Benefactors  
 And for Danny + Retha Cogar; Hellen Evans; Frank Kitts, Josie Belle  
**Friday, May 2— Mass at 8:00 a.m**  
 For Russell Carpenter


Sharing God's Blessings	
Date	Collection
April 19 & 20	\$ 1080
Catholic Sharing Appeal Raised \$2290 (43%) of \$5,300 with 11 gifts.	
Thanks for your contribution	

CCD Class will be held on April 13 & 27  
 Parents, please bring your kids to the class

The SVD's Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary) with the theme "Witnessing to the Light: from Everywhere for Everyone".

•You are cordially invited to celebrate with the SVD priests on the occasion of our 150th anniversary. Ten SVD priests currently serving in West Virginia will gather with us for this special celebration. Many of their parishioners will also join us.

**At St. Thomas Parish in Gassaway**  
**Monday, May 5th, 2025**  
**3:00 p.m. – Adoration and Benediction**  
 Pray for priest and religious vocations  
**3:45 p.m. – Mass**  
 •Followed by a reception in the hall  
**All are welcome!**



**150TH SVD ANNIVERSARY PRAYER**

Holy Triune God, source of life and communion, We thank you for inspiring Saint Arnold Janssen to found the Society of the Divine Word. We extend our gratitude to those who preceded us, and to all collaborators in mission.

United to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word, we are his missionary disciples who proclaim the Good News of life and joy, alongside works of friendship and compassion for a wounded world.

With your Holy Spirit, renew us, Lord, strengthen our journey as pilgrims of hope, and in the face of new challenges, may we generate responses with creativity, fidelity, and synodality.

Holy Mary, Mother of the Divine Word, guide our mission with signs that build communion and promote participation. May the Light of your Son, which overcomes darkness, illuminate our hearts, and all of humanity, and creation.  
 Amen.

**Divine Mercy Sunday**  
*"Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to Divine Mercy." ~ Christ to St. Faustina*

The Divine Mercy is one of the most popular devotions in the world. A great reminder that the work God starts with us trusting God even when we do not understand.

More than 2,000 years ago at the Last Supper Jesus commanded his apostles to be merciful servants to all people. Mercy is mentioned more than 260 times in the bible.

Less than 100 years ago, Jesus gave St. Faustina, a Polish nun, 14 revelations of love and mercy to share, which she did in her diary - Divine Mercy in My Soul - The Diary of St. Maria Faustina (published in 1981) - considered by the church as one of the greatest books of faith.

It was during Christ's first revelation to St. Faustina, when He asked for a feast to celebrate His mercy, and this be held the first Sunday after Easter. It was Pope St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30th, 2000, that the feast – Divine Mercy Sunday – was declared.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, as we continue to mourn the Holy Father Pope Francis, we share an excerpt from his first Divine Mercy Sunday as pontiff April 7, 2013:

*"Let us ... remember Peter: three times he denied Jesus, precisely when he should have been closest to him; and when he hits bottom, he meets the gaze of Jesus who patiently, wordlessly, says to him: "Peter, don't be afraid of your weakness, trust in Me." Peter understands, he feels the loving gaze of Jesus and he weeps. How beautiful is this gaze of Jesus - how much tenderness is there! Brothers and sisters, let us never lose trust in the patience and mercy of God!"*

*"I am always struck when I reread the parable of the merciful Father. ... The Father, with patience, love, hope and mercy, had never for a second stopped thinking about [his wayward son], and as soon as he sees him still far off, he runs out to meet him and embraces him with tenderness, the tenderness of God, without a word of reproach. ... God is always waiting for us, He never grows tired. Jesus shows us this merciful patience of God so that we can regain confidence and hope - always!"*

*"God's patience has to call forth in us the courage to return to Him, however many mistakes and sins there may be in our life. ... It is there, in the wounds of Jesus, that we are truly secure; there we encounter the boundless love of His heart. Thomas understood this. Saint Bernard goes on to ask: But what can I count on? My own merits? No, "My merit is God's mercy. I am by no means lacking merits as long as He is rich in mercy. If the mercies of the Lord are manifold, I too will abound in merits." This is important: the courage to trust in Jesus' mercy, to trust in His patience, to seek refuge always in the wounds of His love."*

*Let us reflect on what Jesus told St. Faustina, "I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first — by deed, the second — by word, the third — by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me." (Diary, 742).*

(From Faith in WV, April 27, 2025)



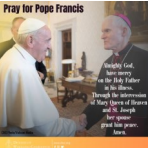
**Statement from Bishop Brennan on the Passing of Pope Francis**  
 WHEELING — On Monday, April 21, Bishop Mark Brennan released the following statement on the passing of Pope Francis:

"I join with my fellow Catholics and men and women around the world in mourning the death of Pope Francis. I have great affection for him, since he was the Pope who took a chance and named me, an ordinary parish priest, to be a bishop, invigorating my life with a new ministry that has been a blessing for the past eight years. Recently I have been praying that he return to good health but, if God should decide to take him home, that death would come quickly and peacefully. It did.

As a priest and later as the Arch bishop of Buenos Aires and, for the past twelve years as Pope Francis, he has reached out to people who are often overlooked and even despised. He has upheld the truth of the Catholic faith while showing great patience and sympathy to ward those who find some of its moral and spiritual teachings difficult. He has reminded us that we must take better care of this Earth, our common home, or we may lose it. He has pleaded with national leaders to forsake war and to welcome migrants fleeing persecution and poverty. He has been a man fully engaged in the fundamental ministry of the Bishop of Rome: to confirm his brothers and sisters throughout the world in faith and love. We will miss him.

As we do with all loved ones and even for people we do not know who have died, let us pray for our brother, Francis, and commend him to God, now that his earthly pilgrimage has been completed. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."

+Mark E. Brennan  
 Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



**THANK YOU:** We extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan**, who presided over the celebration of the Sacred Mysteries during Easter Vigil and joyfully welcomed **13 new members into the Catholic Church** through the Easter Sacraments. Special thanks to the **Lectors, Musician and Choir, Altar Servers, Altar Society,** and all who generously shared their time and resources in preparing for the **Sacred Paschal Triduum. To all who participated in the Liturgy** thank you for being part of this joyful and sacred celebration.



***"To proclaim the Good News is the first and greatest act of love of neighbor."***  
 (St. Arnold Janssen)

Congratulations to **Joshua, Robin, Molly, William, Mathew and Ciaran McLaughin; Caleb, Shaina, Beva, Fiona Shaver; Victoria Grose, Damion and Summer Shanafelter** who are baptized and received into the Catholic church at our parish at the Easter Vigil 2025.

