

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Today, we come together with Christians everywhere to begin Holy Week by celebrating Palm Sunday. This celebration has two parts. First, we join Jesus in a humble procession into Jerusalem, proclaiming Him as the Messianic King. As we walk into the church, we sing "Hosanna." Then, we mark the start of the Lord's Passion.

In the Gospel of Matthew 6:14-27:66, before Jesus faces His passion and death, we see Judas Iscariot working with the chief priests to betray Him. At the Last Supper, Jesus, filled with sadness, tells the apostles that one of them will betray Him, and allows Judas to reveal himself. Jesus then gives us the Holy Eucharist and tells the apostles to do this in memory of Him, establishing the priesthood. He gives them the grace and responsibility to celebrate the Eucharist. To show what this means, Jesus washes the apostles' feet, teaching them to serve each other humbly, just as He has served them. At this Last Supper, Jesus creates a new covenant by offering Himself, just as the prophet Isaiah said the Messiah would do—offering Himself like a lamb, suffering, pouring out His blood, dying for our sins, taking on our punishment, and bringing us healing and peace. The Messiah gives His life to fulfill God's will (Isaiah 53:5-10). In line with Isaiah's prophecy, King David, centuries earlier, also prayed and spoke about the Messiah's suffering and sacrifice in today's Responsorial Psalm, especially in the words Jesus spoke on the cross: "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" (Psalm 22:8-24).

As we begin the Lord's Passion Week, let us thank God for the gift of faith that tells us Jesus is the Messiah and Savior. Let us pray for strength so we do not give in to the temptation to turn away from God for temporary or material things. May we follow God's call to live as a community of faith, drawing closer to Him by celebrating the Holy Eucharist and serving each other humbly, just as Christ served us and gave His life for our salvation. May we keep following Jesus, living according to God's will, so that one day we can join the Risen Lord in the joyful procession into the Heavenly Jerusalem. Amen.



## ST. THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Gassaway, West Virginia

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION — A

MARCH 29, 2026

### Gospel

#### Matthew 26:14—27:66

One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The teacher says, "My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples.'"" The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me."



Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!"

Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another, "Surely it is not I, Lord?" He said in reply, "He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me. The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born." Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" He answered, "You have said so." ....

Cont.

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/032926.cfm>

### Readings of the Week:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Good Friday	Holy Saturday	Easter Sunday
Isaiah 42:1-7	Isaiah 49:1-6	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Isaiah 50:4-7 Exodus 14:15-15:1 Isaiah 55:1-11	Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Psalm 27:1-3, 13-14	Psalm 71:1-6, 15 and 17	Psalm 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 & 33-34	Psalm 116:12-13, 15-18 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25 Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9	Responsorial Psalms: Psalm 104, Exodus 15, & Isaiah 12 Epistle: Romans 6:3-11	Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Colossians 3:1-4 Sequence
John 12:1-11	John 13:21-33, 36-38	Matthew 26:14-25	John 13:1-15	John 18:1—19:42	Matthew 28:1-10	John 20:1-9

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More information on our parish website: <https://stthomasgassaway.org>

**Sharing God's Blessings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>March 21 + 22, 2026</b>
<b>Collection</b>	<b>305 &amp; 615</b>
<b>Mass Attendance</b>	<b>17 + 9 &amp; 43</b>

Thank you for your contribution

**Liturgy Schedule**

**RISEN LORD CHURCH**

SUNDAY MASS: **8:30am**

**Liturgy Schedule**

**ST. THOMAS PARISH**

ROSARY: Sunday 10:30a.m.

**WEEKEND MASSES:**

**Sat: 4:00 p.m.** (Sunday Vigil)

**Sun: 11:00 a.m.**

**WEEKDAY: Tue & Wed: 4:00p.m.**

**Thu & Fri: 8:00a.m.**

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:**

Every Tuesday at 4:00p.m.  
 prior to Mass

**RECONCILIATION:**

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

**SPECIAL ANNOUCEMENT**

Dear All, after a good year of OCIA preparation, the Catechists of the OCIA program of St. Thomas Parish are happy to announce that **Erica Mauldin** and **Eric Wilson** have shown their great dedication and love to learn, pray, serve and continue to grow in faith with us. Thus, they are now ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion at the coming Easter Vigil Celebration.

Please continue to pray for God's abundant grace and blessings to pour upon Erica and Eric together with their families and friends on their special and memorial day of celebration, and may the joy and peace of the Risen Lord inspire them to continue to learn, pray, love, serve and grow in faith with our church family.



**SIGN-UP LIST**

After the Easter Vigil Celebration, our St. Thomas Family will have a Special and Welcome Celebration for **Erica Muldin, Eric Wilson** with their families and friends in the parish hall.

Please sign your name so we can have the best possible preparation for the celebration.

**PALM SUNDAY**

**March 29, 2026**

Vocation Views:

**Our Lord identifies with our suffering and offers his for our salvation. When we unite our sufferings with his, we are bound to Him on the Cross for the salvation of our brothers and sisters.**

DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES &  
 SISTER SERVANTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
 800-553-3321

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

<b>Passion Week</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Offertory Gifts</b>	<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>
Palm Sunday	Lindsay Harman Gospel: Tom & Mac	Kathy & Marty Bronk-hurst	Mac Bailes / Westley Carpenter
Holy Thursday	Dot Shimko	<i>Washing of the Feet</i>	Mac Bailes / Westley Carpenter
Good Friday	Connie Moore Gospel: Tom & Mac	xxxxxx	Freddie Friend/ Pat McPherson
Holy Saturday	Chris Allen Connie Moore	Eric Wilson & Erica Mauldin	Candy Teubert / Tom Teubert
Easter Sunday	Theresa Sutton	Carpenters	Pat McPherson/ Freddie Friend

**WINDOWS RENOVATION PROJECT**

**Summary:**

St. Thomas Catholic Church is facing urgent repairs for its stained-glass windows, particularly the large one on the Blessed Virgin Mary side, due to water damage and aging. The Parish and Finance Councils reviewed repair proposals and recommended Willet-Stained Glass Studio's option for \$93,978, which includes restoring the worst window, repainting all 13 windows, and installing protective acrylic storm glazing. Additional costs include \$5,440 for masonry repairs and \$3,000 for interior plaster repairs, bringing the total project cost to \$102,418.

Funding sources include:

- \$50,000 Diocesan Matching Grant (pending approval)
- \$15,000 from parish funds
- \$37,418 remaining to raise

Additionally, the church has been awarded a generous \$20,000 preservation grant for stained-glass restoration, contingent on raising an equal amount from the parish community. Parishioners are encouraged to contribute to the "Sacred Light Matching Challenge" by April 30, 2026, to secure the grant and begin repairs. All of this information is contained in the letter you will receive. The restoration aims to preserve the beauty, history, and spiritual significance of the church's stained-glass windows for future generations. Should you have any questions, please contact Ford Dever, Chair of the Finance Council, or Mac Bailes, Chair of the Parish Council.

Thank you.

**Ecumenical Luncheon**

**Dates/Location**

**Time: Noon to 1:00 pm**

Monday, March 30, Gassaway  
**Presbyterian Church**

Tuesday, March 31, Gassaway  
**St. Thomas Catholic Church**

Wednesday, April 1, Gassaway  
**Methodist Church**

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER**

**Easter Flower donation** —

ongoing until Palm Sunday

— 4/1 Locations and time TBA

**Holy Thursday** — April 2 — **6:00 pm**

**Washing of the Feet:**

Need 12 volunteers

**Good Friday** — April 3 — **3:00 pm**

**Holy Saturday/ Easter Vigil** —

April 4 — **8:00 pm**

**Easter Sunday**— April 5 — **11:00 am**

**Easter Egg Hunt** following Mass

for the children

**OCIA**

**2:00pm on Tuesday, March 31, 2026**

Reconciliation Service & Rehearsal

**SIGN-UPS FOR**

Holy Thursday: **Food Washing**

**Blessed Adoration**

## RISEN LORD FOOD PANTRY

Special Thanks!!!

to Benefactors & Volunteers  
for St. Thomas Food Pantry

March 26, 2026:

Ann Hall, Vicky Grose, Cheryl and Vernon,  
Hensley, Tim Hahn, Megan Murphy,  
Duane Smith, Kathy Schoonover,  
Rick Allen, Tom Teubert  
and our friends from Weirton:  
Cindy Hess, Mike, Yvonne & Sr. Anne

Your sacrifice and service made it possible  
for **256 families** to experience  
the love of neighbors and of God.

*May the blessings,  
peace and joy of  
the Risen Lord  
be with you, your  
families and  
friends  
in these last days  
of Lent and  
throughout the  
Holy Season of  
Easter.*



## St. Thomas Food Pantry

Special Thanks!!!

to Benefactors & Volunteers  
for St. Thomas Food Pantry

March 12, 2026:

Marian Agostino, Kathy & Marty Bronkhurst,  
Louise & Dale Elwood, Connie & John Moore,  
Scott Lazur, Fred Friend, Rick Allen.

The **115 families** and **20 Moms** were experiencing  
God's love, comfort and joy like the rain and wind  
from your gracious services to the less fortunate.

