

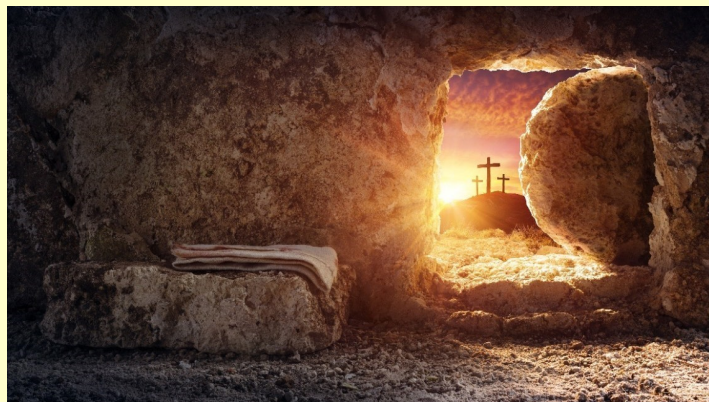
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Today is the first Sunday of Easter, and the Gospel reading comes from John 20:1-9. It tells how Mary Magdalene, feeling deep sorrow, goes to the tomb early in the morning. She finds it empty and quickly returns to tell the disciples what she has seen. It is important to remember that, during Jesus' time, Jewish women were not accepted as legal witnesses.

After hearing what Mary Magdalene, Peter and the beloved disciple run quickly to the tomb. Like Mary, Peter and the beloved disciple also find it empty. But they notice "the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place." The burial cloths being left behind suggest that Jesus' body was not taken by grave robbers or anyone else. If someone had stolen the body, it would have been easier and quicker to take the cloths along with it. The head covering, rolled up and set aside, shows there was no rush or violence. Seeing these things, the beloved disciple begins to believe that Jesus has risen, even though he does not yet fully understand the Scripture.

In the coming Sundays of Easter, we will hear how Jesus appears to the disciples in a locked room because they are afraid. On the third Sunday of Easter, we will hear the story of Jesus meeting two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Let us pray that, even in times of sorrow and difficulty, our love for Jesus will lead us to seek him, just as Mary Magdalene did. When things are uncertain, like when Mary could not find Jesus' body, may we also share what we have seen and experienced. May God help us grow in faith and unity as one family in Christ, even when we face uncertainty. Finally, let us be like Peter and the beloved disciple, ready to listen to the Holy Spirit, especially through those who may seem unimportant or overlooked. May our faith grow stronger. Amen.



ST. THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gassaway, West Virginia
EASTER SUNDAY — A
APRIL 5, 2026



Gospel

John 20:1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.

When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

Readings of the Week:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Divine Mercy Sunday
Acts 2:14, 22-33	Acts 2:36-41	Acts 3:1-10	Acts 3:11-26	Acts 4:1-12	Acts 4:13-21	Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 16:1-2a and 5, 7-11	Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20 and 22	Psalm 105:1-4, 6-9	Psalm 118:1-2 and 4, 22-25, 27a	Psalm 18:2-7	Psalm 118:1 and 14-21	Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 1 Peter 1:3-9
Matthew 28:8-15	John 20:11-18	Luke 24:13-35	Luke 24:35-48	John 21:1-14	Mark 16:9-15	John 20:19-31

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website: <https://stthomasgassaway.org>

Sharing God's Blessings

Date	March 28 + 29, 2026
Collection	230 & 975
Mass Attendance	11 + 10 & 67
Diocesan Priests' R.F.	125 — St. Thomas

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*

HE IS RISEN — HALLELUIA !!!

HAPPY EASTER
TO EVERYONE & FAMILY

CONGRATULATIONS

to
 ERIC WILSON
 ERICA MAULDIN
 on entering into full communion
 with the Catholic Church

BIRTHDAY

Wren Carpenter — April 8

MATCHING CHALLENGE
FOR WINDOWS PROJECT

To date, we have received \$11,100,
 which is 55.5% of the \$20,000 matching
 challenge.

Thank you very much to ALL
 for your prayers, encouragement, support
 and meaningful sacrifice for this special project.

EASTER SUNDAY
April 5, 2026

Vocation Views:

**He is Risen! Salvation has been won,
 the power of death is broken.
 Be inspired by Christ's triumph over death
 that you might be a confident
 witness of His Resurrection.**

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Date	Readers	Bring up the Offertory Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers
April 5	Theresa Sutton	Carpenters	Pat McPherson/ Freddie Friend
April 12	Beata Pawlowski	Shavers	Mac Bailes/ Westley Carpenter
April 19	Dot Shimko	McLaughlins	Candy Teubert / Tom Teubert
April 26	Candy Teubert	Harmans	Pat McPherson/ Mac Bailes

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.

Easter Egg Hunt
Right after Mass

Easter Flower

Thank you very much for
 your generous contribution of \$430
 for Easter Flower !!!

SPECIAL THANKS

to

the Eucharistic Ministers,
 Altar Servers,
 Lectors,
 the Choirs,
 Decorators,

Donors for Easter Flower

and those who shared their time
 and resources in the preparation for
 the Sacred Paschal Triduum and to
 all who came to participate
 in the Liturgy.

May the Peace and Joy of the Risen
 Lord be with you, your families
 and friends as He was with the
 Faithful on that First Easter !



RISEN LORD FOOD PANTRY

Special Thanks!!!

to Benefactors & Volunteers
for St. Thomas Food Pantry

February 26, 2026:

Ann and Mike Hall, Vicky Grose,
Cheryl and Vernon Hensley,
David Linkinogor, Tim Hahn, Mike Mance,
Megan, Madison and Michael Murphy
Duane Smith, Rick Allen,
Kathy and Larry Schoonover.

Your sacrifice and service made it possible
for **248 families** to experience
the love of neighbors and of God,
especially in times of need.

*May God's
abundant grace
and blessings
continue to
pour upon you,
your families
and friends
throughout this
Holy Season
of Lent
and Easter
when it comes*



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.

