

Pastor:
 Rev. Thien Nguyen, SVD
 tdnguyen@dwc.org
 Phone: 304-364-5895

Director of Religious Education
 Mrs. Pat McPherson
 Email pjm82pjm@hotmail.com
 More information on our parish website:
<https://stthomasgassaway.org>

Sharing God's Blessings	
Date	Collection
Mar 29 & 30	\$ 1291
Catholic Sharing Appeal Raised \$1,790 (34%) of \$5,300 with 9 gifts. Thanks for your contribution	

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

- OCIA Class will be held on April 8 at 6:00 p.m All are welcome to join us

LENT PENANCE SERVICE ON APRIL 6, 2025, After Mass
HOLY WEEK ECUMENICAL SERVICES
 The Schedule as follow:
Monday, April 14 at St. Thomas
 Tuesday April 15 at the Methodist church in Sutton
 Wed April 16 at the Methodist church in Gassaway
Each Church will have lunch and then pray together.
From 12:00 a.m —1:00 p.m
 Everyone is Welcome. Thanks.

Holy Week—Easter Liturgy Schedule—at St Thomas		
Holy Thursday April 17, 2024	The Mass of Lord's Supper Please sign up the list for Washing feet The Mass concludes with a procession to the Altar of Repose in the Hall this year where adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament takes place until midnight or (Please sign up the list)	6:00 P.M
Good Friday April 18 (Fast & Abstinence)	Celebration of the Lord's Passion	6:00 P.M
Holy Saturday April 19	EASTER VIGIL - Bishop Mark Branen will be presider	8:00 P.M
Sunday of Easter April 20	Easter Sunday Mass at Risen Lord EASTER SUNDAY MASS—St. Thomas	8:30 am 11:00 A.M

LITURGY SCHEDULE
 SATURDAY: 5:00 p.m
 SUNDAY 11:00 a.m
WEEKDAY: Tue, Wed, Thu at 5:00 p.m.
Friday Mass During Lent at 5:00 p.m
STATION OF THE CROSS 5:30 P.M

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
 Saturday April 5 for *Beata's intentions*
SUNDAY APRIL 6
FOR PARISHIONERS OF ST. THOMAS

Tue, April 8 —for Beata's intentions
Wed, April 9 for Beata's intentions
Thur, April 10 For parish's Benefactor
Friday, April 11— Mass at 5:00 p.m
 FOR BEATA'S INTENTIONS

All Friday masses during Lent will be at 5:00 pm.
The stations of the Cross will begin immediately after the mass at 5:30 pm.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kristopher Frame Apr. 3
 Joe Green Apr. 4
 Wren Carpenter Apr. 8
 Barbara Bailes Apr. 12

Wishing you all Happy & Blessed Birthday

Greetings on the 5th Sunday of Lent
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On this 5th Sunday of Lent, we celebrate the Third Scrutiny, the last one for the elect. We have entered into the final two weeks of Lent. Next weekend is the celebration of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. As we draw closer to the end of Lent, we are invited to reflect on what it means to **come alive again**—not just in the future, but here and now.

The readings of this 5th Sunday of Lent are centered on death, grief, faith, resurrection, and new life. The prophet Ezekiel was speaking to a people in exile, people who had lost everything—home, identity, temple, freedom. They were as good as dead. And God tells them, “I will open your graves.” Not just metaphorical graves, but the real dead ends of life—grief, despair, addiction, fear, guilt. Into these graves, God breathes His Spirit.

Today's Gospel presents one of the most powerful and moving moments in the life of Jesus—the raising of Lazarus. This isn't just a story of a man brought back to life. It's a deep revelation of **who Jesus is**, and what He offers to each of us: **hope in the face of despair, life in the face of death, and light in the midst of darkness.**

Let's begin with the *human drama*. Martha and Mary are grieving. They had sent word to Jesus while Lazarus was still alive, but He didn't come right away. And when He does arrive, Lazarus has already been in the tomb for four days. Their question is a question many of us have asked in our own times of pain: **“Lord, if you had been here...”**
 “If you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

How familiar that sounds.
 “Lord, if you had been here, I wouldn't have lost my job.”
 “Lord, if you had been here, I wouldn't be struggling with this illness.”
 “Lord, if you had been here, my family wouldn't be broken.”

But Jesus' response is not a justification of His delay—it is a revelation: **“I am the resurrection and the life.”**

He is not merely someone who *gives* life—He **is** life itself. He doesn't just promise resurrection on the last day—He **brings resurrection into the now**. That's the heart of the message today:

Jesus doesn't always take away our suffering immediately. He doesn't always come when we want Him to. But He always comes. And when He does, **He brings something greater than we expected.**

When Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb, we see a sign of what He will do for all who believe in Him. Lazarus came out wrapped in burial cloths, but Jesus will rise glorified. And because of His resurrection, **our graves are not the end. What does this mean for us? Faith does not mean we will never suffer:** Even those closest to Jesus—like Mary, Martha, and Lazarus—faced sickness, grief, and loss. But their suffering was not the final word. As we near the end of Lent, the Lord invites us to reflect: What tomb am I lying in?

Let us take heart. The same voice that called Lazarus from the tomb calls to each of us: **“Come out. Live. Be free.”** And let us respond with faith: “Yes, Lord. I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God.”

Please keep our elect in your prayers as they prepare for the Easter Sacraments, especially that they may accept Jesus as **'the resurrection and the life'**. ~Fr. Thien

Please join me in welcoming Father Dominic Pham, SVD. Here is some information about him:
 “Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.
 I am Fr. Dominic Savio Huynh Pham, SVD, a member of the Divine Word Missionaries, Chicago Province, U.S. As you might have known, I was recently assigned to serve in West Virginia, specifically, at our St. Thomas Church here and at the Risen Lord Church.
 Brief information about myself, I was born in Vietnam on June 11, 1979. I am the next to last one in the family of 9 children. My parents sent me to escape Vietnam by boat with my next two elder brothers on May 15, 1989. After staying in the refugee camp in Malaysia for about 4 years, we were allowed to come to the U.S. on May 30, 1993.
 I joined Divine Word College on January 10, 2000 and was ordained a SVD priest on May 21, 2011. After ordination, I was sent to serve in St. Louis, Missouri for two years, then in Jamaica for five years, afterwards in St. Kitts and Nevis, Caribbean for six years.
 And now, I am assigned to serve at this part of God's Vineyard in West Virginia. I am looking forward to learn and serve and to continue build God's Kingdom through God's living services with all of our people here. Thank you very much for your kind welcome.
 May God's abundance blessings and grace continue to pour upon you, your families and our church family.

Food Pantry-Help Wanted!
April 9, 2025
Pick up, Unload + Make boxes & Prepacked
 1:00 p.m.
Distribute on April 10
 from 8:00 a.m. —noon

Please sign up on the sign-up list if you can help. Thanks

On Sunday March 9, 13 candidate, catechumens and their godparents, sponsors of St. Thomas and Risen Lord, attended the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversation. It was a joyful day for our parish.
 "Bishop Mark Brennan will celebrate Easter Vigil at St. Thomas on April 19. His presence will greatly encourage our parishioners to continue to bring the Gospel to people in West Virginia!
 As St. Arnold Janssen, SVD said,
"To proclaim the Good News is the first and greatest act of love of neighbor."

**Feb 26 & 27, Risen Lord Food Pantry served food for 244 family of the needy in Clay County.
 On March 12 and 13, St. Thomas Food pantry served 107 families in Braxton County.
 Thank you all Benefactors and Volunteers.**



Thank you to all the volunteers in Weirton, especially JT, who introduced our food pantry to Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., which generously donated the forklift to our parish. This gift greatly improves our ability to support the food pantry.

Special thanks to Mr. Larry Schoonover and Charles McCumber for helping with the transportation and transfer of the forklift! May God bless you all.

