

Pastor:
Rev. Thien Nguyen, SVD
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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
SUNDAY MAY 4—

FOR PARISHIONERS OF ST. THOMAS

And for Cam, Ruth, John & Earnest Taylor;
Ella June Patton, Steven & John Peters

Mon, May 5 for SVD vocations

Tue, May 6th—for Robert and Beverly; Dick
+ Lavoe Frame; and Thomas Milk

Wed, May 7 For Greg Shimko, family of Doro-
thy, Greory, Connie Williams, Christine Shimko

Thur, May 8 For parish's Benefactors

And Doug & Carol White; Michael & Hellen Toth;
Eugene Aitken; Don & Frances Peters

Friday, May 10— Mass at 8:00 a.m

For Dora & Burl Turner, Maggi and William
Nicholson, Larace Beall

Food Pantry-Help Wanted!

May 7, 2025

Pick up, Unload + Make boxes & Prepacked
1:00 p.m.

Distribute on May 8

from 8:00 a.m. —noon

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

CCD Class will be held on May 4 & May 11

Parents, please bring your kids to the class

Greetings on this Third Sunday of Easter

Dear brothers and sisters,

This Sunday we conclude our nine days of mourning for Pope Francis. Let us continue to pray for the soul of our beloved Holy Father. On May 7th, the College of Cardinals will enter Conclave. Please pray for them as they elect, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, a Pope “*servant of servants*” to serve the church. Perhaps by next Sunday, our prayers will have been answered.

It is during May that we highlight our devotion to the Blessed Mother Mary. Catholics renewing our devotion to Mary as the mother of God, looking to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asking for her intercession with God on their behalf. We also are reminded that Christ gave us His mother from the Cross “**Woman, behold your son, Son beholds your mother.**” (John 19: 26-29), and we know that she brings all our cares and worries directly to her Son (think of her words at the Wedding Feast at Cana “*Do whatever He tells you*”).

The ways Mary is honored in May is as varied as the people and cultures which honor her, but one we hold in common is pray the Rosary. At our parish, we pray Rosary before Sunday Mass all year round, but during May, our church is going to pray the Rosary at 10:30 a. m before every Sunday Mass at Mother Mary’s shrine if the weather permits.

Also, “May Crowning” is a traditional Catholic ritual that occurs in the month of May and recognizes Mary as Queen of heaven and earth. May Crowning Day, a wreath of flowers is placed on the statue of Mary. The act of crowning is rooted in the view of Mary as the Queen of Heaven. Crowning a statue of Mother Mary will be on May 11th at our parish. I pray that you have your families and children be familiar with the Blessed Virgin Mary, to pray Rosary, to help them recognize and turn to Mary as their Heavenly Mother, who fulfills the role of mother perfectly.

~ Fr. Thien

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.

Dear brothers and sisters,
Our parish, St. Thomas, is truly blessed
to be the first parish in West Virginia served
by the Society of the Divine Word (SVD),

beginning in 1973.

(Please take a moment to read the excerpt from our parish history.) We are deeply honored to have been chosen to host the celebration of the Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary) of the SVD Appalachian District. Ten SVD priests currently serving in West Virginia will join us for this special celebration, along with many of their parishioners. **You are cordially invited to celebrate with the SVD priests on this joyful occasion. A reception will follow in the parish hall.**

The Divine Word Missionaries in WV

Before the Divine Word Missionaries (SVD) came, the people had taken great leadership in keeping the mission alive themselves. Again, there was speculation that St. Thomas might close because of the small numbers, and again the people worked very hard to keep the church open. The family of P.D. Hickey gave the Diocese the one priest from Parish, Fr. Paul Hickey. One of the faithful parishioners, Mary Ellen Bridge was always most welcoming to the Marish priests and brothers who served St. Thomas from Holy Family Parish in Richwood.

Mary Baily Fisher, and her sister Helen used their time, talent and treasure to keep the church in good repair. (Although she died in 1973, the Mary Bailey Fisher Trust Fund continues to be instrumental in our rehabilitation and maintenance efforts.) Dick Minnich and his wife Katherine who moved here to open a Florist Shop became very active in the maintenance of the church.

In the summer of 1973, the Divine Word Provincial approached the Bishop for possible work in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. The Bishop took into consideration the extensive size of the Holy Family Parish in Richwood, along with its four missions and decided to "break off" St. Thomas and make it a Parish in its own right. At the request of Father Barrett, the Marist Provincial, Fr. Donald Ehr, SVD (Provincial) touring the Holy Family Parish agreed that the SVD community take both Gassaway and St. Anne in Webster Springs.

In October 1973, Fr. Ken Reed, SVD and Fr. Edwin Daschbach, SVD became the first resident priest in Gassaway. They lived in a house on Elk Street in Gassaway which was owned by Dick Minnich family. In the beginning of their residency, the priests alternated the weekly service responsibilities between Gassaway, in Braxton County and Webster Springs, in Webster County.

In June 1977, the house in the rear of the Church was purchased as a Rectory. Then, two months later, in August, the first religious Sisters came to the area, Sr. Camille Baker and Sr. Marie Rose Charpentier, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (Connecticut Province). They took up residence in the Mary Bailey Fisher home in Sutton. The Sister's residence was later purchased from the estate of Mary Bailey Fisher.

(adapted from the Centennial Program)



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 McLaughlin; 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.

