MARCH 7, ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

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At the age of 5, St. Thomas was committed to the care of the Benedictine monks at Monte Cassino; he died at the Abbey of Fossanova in 1274. He is called the "Angel of the Schools."

The special glory of St. Thomas, his most salient virtue, is the profound love which he shows for the sacred tradition of the Church. He appears almost to be one with it, and has therefore become its most authoritative interpreter. It would, indeed, not be easy to find in the annals of Christianity a more inspired mind, reflecting better the perfections of the angelic spirits than that of the great Dominican, who, building upon the foundations laid by the ancient Fathers of the Church, gave with marvelous accuracy a definite form to our knowledge of God. Leo XIII declared him the patron of all Catholic schools.

INTROIT Ecclesiasticus 15: 5	
In médio Ecclésiæ apéruit os ejus: et implévit eum Dóminus spíritu sapiéntiæ et intelléctus: stolam glóriæ índuit eum. (Ps. 91: 2) Bonum est confitéri Dómino: et psállere nómini tuo, Altíssime. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et semper, et in sǽcula sæculórum. Amen. In médio Ecclésiæ apéruit os ejus: et implévit eum Dóminus spíritu sapiéntiæ et intelléctus: stolam glóriæ índuit eum.	In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth: and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding. He clothed him with a robe of glory. (Ps. 91: 2) It is good to give praise to the Lord: and to sing to Thy Name, O Most High. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth: and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding. He clothed him with a robe of glory.
COLLECT	
Deus, qui Ecclésiam tuam beáti Thomæ Confessóris tui mira eruditióne claríficas, et sancta operatióne fecúndas: da nobis, quǽsumus; et quæ dócuit, intelléctu conspícere, et quæ egit, imitatióne complére. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	O God, Who dost enlighten Thy Church with the wondrous learning of blessed Thomas, Thy Confessor, and dost make it fruitful with his holy labors, grant us, we beseech Thee, both to understand what he taught and to imitate what he practiced. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
Commemoration of Lenten Feria	
Convérte nos, Deus, salutáris noster: et, ut nobis jejúnium quadragesimále profíciat, mentes nostras cæléstibus ínstrue disciplínis. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	O God, our Savior, direct our minds by Thine heavenly teaching, so that the Lenten fast may profit us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
LESSON Wisdom 7: 7-14	
Optávi, et datus est mihi sensus: et invocávi, et venit in me spíritus sapiéntiæ: et præpósui illam regnis et sédibus, et divítias nihil esse duxi in comparatióne illíus: nec comparávi illi lápidem pretiósum: quóniam omne aurum in comparatióne illíus aréna est exígua, et tamquam lutum æstimábitur argéntum in conspéctu illíus. Super salútem et spéciem diléxi illam, et propósui pro luce habére illam: quóniam inexstinguíbile est lumen illíus. Venérunt autem mihi ómnia bona páriter cum illa, et innumerábilis honéstas per manus illíus, et lætátus sum in ómnibus: quóniam antecedébat me ista sapiéntia, et ignorábam, quóniam horum ómnium mater est. Quam sine fictióne dídici et sine invídia commúnico, et honestátem illíus non abscóndo. Infinítus enim thesáurus est homínibus: quo qui usi sunt, partícipes facti sunt amicítiæ Dei, propter disciplínæ dona commendáti.	I wished, and understanding was given me; and I called, and the spirit of wisdom came upon me; and I preferred her before kingdoms and thrones, and esteemed riches nothing in comparison of her. Neither did I compare unto her any precious stone, for all gold in comparison of her is as a little sand, and silver in respect to her shall be counted as clay. I loved her above health and beauty, and chose to have her instead of light, for her light can not be put out. Now all good things came to me together with her, and innumerable riches through her hands. And I rejoiced in them all; for this wisdom went before me, and I knew not that she was the mother of them all: which I have learned without guile, and communicate without envy, and her riches I hide not; for she is an infinite treasure to men, which they that use become the friends of God, being commended for the gifts of discipline.
GRADUAL Psalms 36: 30, 31	
Os justi meditábitur sapiéntiam, et lingua ejus loquétur judícium. Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsíus: et non supplantabúntur gressus ejus.	The mouth of the just shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak judgment. The law of his God is in his heart: and his steps shall not be supplanted.
(From Septuagesima until Easter the Lesser Alleluia is omitted and the Tract is said instead)	*(From Septuagesima until Easter the Lesser Alleluia is omitted and the Tract is said instead)*
LESSER ALLELUIA Ecclesiasticus 45: 8	
Allelúja, allelúja. Amávit eum Dóminus, et ornávit eum: stolam glóriæ índuit eum. Allelúja.	Alleluia, alleluia. The Lord loved him and adorned him: He clothed him with a robe of glory. Alleluia.
TRACT Psalms 111: 1-3	
Beátus vir, qui timet Dóminum: in mandátis ejus cupit nimis. Potens in terra erit semen ejus: generátio rectórum benedicétur. Glória et divítiæ in domo ejus: et justítia ejus manet in sǽculum sǽculi.	Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord: he shall delight exceedingly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the righteous shall be blessed. Glory and wealth shall be in his house: and his justice remaineth forever and ever.
GOSPEL Matthew 5: 13-19	
In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discípulis suis: Vos estis sal terræ. Quod si sal evanúerit, in quo saliétur? Ad níhilum valet ultra, nisi ut mittátur foras, et conculcétur ab homínibus. Vos estis lux mundi. Non potest cívitas abscóndi supra montem pósita. Neque accéndunt lucérnam, et ponunt eam sub módio, sed super candelábrum, ut lúceat ómnibus qui in domo sunt. Sic lúceat lux vestra coram homínibus: ut vídeant ópera vestra bona, et gloríficent Patrem vestrum, qui in cælis est. Nolíte putáre, quóniam veni sólvere legem aut prophétas: non veni sólvere, sed adimplére. Amen quippe dico vobis, donec tránseat cælum et terra, ióta unum aut unus apex non præteríbit a lege, donec ómnia fiant. Qui ergo sólverit unum de mandátis istis mínimis, et docúerit sic hómines, mínimus vocábitur in regno cælórum: qui autem fecérit et docúerit, hic magnus vocábitur in regno cælórum.	At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt lose its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is good for nothing any more but to be cast out, and to be trodden on by men. You are the light of the world. A city seated on a mountain cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but upon a candlestick, that it may shine to all that are in the house. So let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father Who is in heaven. Do not think that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets. I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For amen I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall not pass of the law, till all be fulfilled. He therefore that shall break one of these least commandments, and shall so teach men, shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. But he that shall do and teach, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
OFFERTORY Psalms 91: 13	
Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus, quæ in Líbano est, multiplicábitur.	The just shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow up, like the cedar of Libanus.
SECRET	
Sancti Thomæ Confessóris tui atque Doctóris nobis, Dómine, pia non desit orátio: quæ et múnera nostra concíliet; et tuam nobis indulgéntiam semper obtíneat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	May the holy prayer of St. Thomas, Thy Confessor and Doctor, fail us not, O Lord: may it render our offerings acceptable, and ever obtain for us Thy pardon. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
Commemoration of Lenten Feria	
Múnera tibi, Dómine, obláta sanctífica: nosque a peccatórum nostrórum máculis emúndet. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	Sanctify the gifts offered unto Thee, O Lord, and cleanse us from the stains of our sins. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
PREFACE OF LENT	
Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubíque grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnípotens, ætérne Deus: Qui corporáli jejúnio vítia cómprimis, mentem élevas, virtútem largíris et prǽmia: per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælorúmque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exsultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admítti júbeas, deprecámur, súpplici confessióne dicéntes:	It is truly fitting and just, proper and beneficial, that we should always and everywhere, give thanks unto Thee, holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God. Who by this bodily fast, dost curb our vices, dost lift up our minds and bestow on us strength and rewards through Christ our Lord. Through Whom the Angels praise Thy majesty, the Dominations adore, the Powers tremble: the heavens and the hosts of heaven, and the blessed Seraphim, together celebrate in exultation. With whom, we pray Thee, command that our voices of supplication also be admitted in confessing Thee saying:
COMMUNION Luke 12: 42	
Fidélis servus et prudens, quem constítuit dóminus super famíliam suam: ut det illis in tempore trítici mensúram.	The faithful and wise servant, whom his lord setteth over his family: to give them their measure of wheat in due season.
POSTCOMMUNION	
Ut nobis, Dómine, tua sacrifícia dent salútem: beátus Thomas Confессor tuus, et Doctor egrégius, quǽsumus, precátor accédat. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	In order that Thy sacrifices may render salvation to us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that blessed Thomas, Thy Confessor and illustrious Doctor, may act as intercessor. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
Commemoration of Lenten Feria	
Salutáris tui, Dómine, múnere satiáti, súpplices exorámus: ut, cujus lætámur gustu, renovémur efféctu. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	Refreshed by the sacramental gift of Thy salvation, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, that, enjoying its savor, we may be made new by its action. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.