



Saint Thomas the Apostle Church  
203 W. Washington Street  
Corry, PA 16407

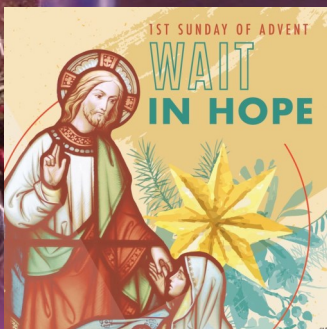
# THE PARISHES OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE AND ST. TERESA OF AVILA



Saint Teresa of Avila Church  
9 Third Avenue  
Union City, PA 16438

## December 3, 2023

*First Sunday of*  
**ADVENT**



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### NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

☐ St. Thomas the Apostle ☐ St. Teresa of Avila

*Please drop this information into Offertory Basket or mail to Parish Office.*

**Rev. Thomas J. Whitman**  
*Pastor*

**Rev. Mr. Randy Kondrlik**  
*Deacon*  
rkondrlik@eriercd.org

**Rev. Mr. William Saborsky**  
*Deacon—Retired*

**Melissa Silka**  
*Business Manager and  
Director of Faith Formation*  
business@stparish.org

**Susan Johnston**  
*Secretary*  
secretary@stparish.org

**Rhonda Pierce**  
*Coordinator of St. Thomas &  
St. Elizabeth Cemeteries*  
cemetery@stparish.org

**Chris Slocum**  
*Coordinator of St. Teresa Cemetery*  
814-462-6375

**Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish**  
[www.stthomastheapostle.church](http://www.stthomastheapostle.church)

**Saint Teresa of Avila Parish**  
[www.st-teresa-unioncity.org](http://www.st-teresa-unioncity.org)

**Partnered Parish Offices**  
203 W. Washington Street  
Corry, PA 16407  
814-663-3041

### Partnered Parish Office Hours

Monday: 12:30pm—3:30pm  
Tuesday & Wednesday: 8:30am—3:30pm  
Thursday: 8:30am—12:00pm (noon)  
Friday: Closed

Notes from the Pastor

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:** Friday, December 8, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary and a holyday. Mass will be at 8:00am at St. Teresa. A Vigil Mass will be at St. Thomas on Thursday, December 7, at 7:00pm.

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES:** We will be celebrating a Communal Penance Service for Advent on Sunday, December 10, at 3:00pm at St. Thomas in Corry. (the Lenten Penance Service will be at St. Teresa). There will be five priests available to hear confessions. People often like to go to an anonymous priest for confession rather than their pastor or someone who knows them. As priests, we jokingly call them "strange priests." Those who are scheduled to be in attendance are Frs. Suppa, Swogger, Gallina, a name from your past, Fr. Greg Passauer, and myself.

Remember that the purpose of the COMMUNAL Penance celebration is to come together in prayer recognizing that we are all sinners, to spend a few moments listening to a scripture reading, an examination of conscience, praying our act of contrition together, and then confessing our sins to the priest and receiving absolution and a penance. It allows for a large number of people to celebrate the sacrament in a short period of time.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:** Christmas falls on a Monday and thus Christmas Eve is on Sunday evening. The Masses for Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day are as follows:

Sunday, December 24— 8:00am Mass at St. Thomas in Corry (4th Sunday of Advent) 10:00am Mass at St. Teresa in Union City

Christmas Eve Masses, Dec.24—4:30pm at St. Thomas in Corry  
9:00pm at St. Teresa in Union City

Christmas Day, December 25— 8:00am at St. Thomas in Corry  
10:00am at St. Teresa in Union City

- Fr. Tom



**FUELING the MISSION together**

2023 CSA Pledge Reminder

As the end of the year draws near, please consider paying off any remaining balance on your 2023 CSA pledge. We would greatly appreciate having all pledges paid in full before December 31, 2023. Thank you for your continued generosity to our parishes!

**Mass Intentions for Our Parishes**

Contact the parish office at 814-663-3041 to schedule Mass intentions for loved ones. We will do our best to accommodate date requests. The stipend is ONLY \$10 per Mass. Please do not send extra money as it causes our books to be out of balance. Thank you. We suggest that you make a donation to the church with any 'extra' funds you wish to give towards Masses.

**Sunday, December 3**

8:00a.m. †Carl & Elsie Benden by Karen Puckly (St. Thomas, Corry)

10:00a.m. †Paul Mongera, Sr. by Lillie Mongera (St. Teresa, Union City)

**Monday, December 4**

8:00a.m. †George, Irene, and Don Tinko by Ed & Irene Weaver and family (St. Teresa, Union City)

**Tuesday, December 5**

8:00a.m. †Gerri Cragg by Paula & Joe Lukac (St. Thomas, Corry)

**Wednesday, December 6**

8:00a.m. †Chris Munsee by Shirley Skiff (St. Thomas, Corry)

**Thursday, December 7**

7:00p.m. †Deceased & Living Members of the Vinca and Buccolini Families by Julie & Steve Rushin (St. Thomas, Corry)

**Friday, December 8—Immaculate Conception of Mary**

8:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa Parishes (St. Teresa, Union City)

**Saturday, December 9**

4:30p.m. †Members of the Pelc & Bolas Families by JoAnn Kalessa and Robert Pelc (St. Teresa, Union City)

**Sunday, December 10**

8:00a.m. †Rod, Marilyn, Mike Knowlton and Marty Roehrig by Punk & Lana Messina (St. Thomas, Corry)

10:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa Parishes (St. Teresa, Union City)

Prayer for Peace

God our Creator, You call blessed, those who work for peace.

Help us to work without ceasing for that justice which brings true and lasting peace.

Banish war and violence from our world and keep us safe from weapons of hate, so that all people might rejoice in Your love and live in Your peace. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News****Calendar Reminders for Religious Education**

With the business of the holidays now underway, we wish to remind Religious Education families of some important dates:



Sunday, December 3—Students confessions will be held at both parishes during regular class time (and also on Wed., Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>).

Sunday, December 10—Combined PURPOSE event at St. Teresa (6-7:30pm) for all students in Confirmation classes at both parishes.

Sunday, December 10—Advent Penance Service offered to ALL parishioners at 3:00pm at St. Thomas Church.

Sunday, December 24—NO Classes for this week due to the Christmas holiday

Sunday, December 31—NO Classes this week due to the holidays.



## St. Thomas Parish News

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: November 18 & 19, 2023

**Amount in Envelopes: (84)** .....\$4,135.00

(Total Envelopes sent: 174 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 90)

**Loose** .....\$249.01

**Online Giving (9)** .....\$320.00

**Total Offertory Income** .....\$4,704.01

**Average Weekly Expenses** .....\$5,335.00

(Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)

**Weekly Average Shortfall** .....\$(-630.99)

*Thanks to everyone who regularly uses his/her envelopes.*

*Please write checks to St. Thomas Church.*

*If checks are to go to our parish cemeteries—please make them to St. Thomas Cemetery or St. Elizabeth Cemetery.*

*Thank you.*



*Please know that you can now give all your donations online by visiting our parish website at*

[www.StThomastheApostle.Church](http://www.StThomastheApostle.Church) and click 'Donate Online'.

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: November 25 & 26, 2023

**Amount in Envelopes: (68)** .....\$4,017.00

(Total Envelopes sent: 174 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 106)

**Loose** .....\$270.00

**Online Giving (11)** .....\$390.00

**Total Offertory Income** .....\$4,677.00

**Average Weekly Expenses** .....\$5,335.00

(Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)

**Weekly Average Shortage** .....\$(-668.00)

**Thanksgiving Collection** .....\$384.00

This collection which was taken up on Nov. 23, 2023 benefits the Corry Food Pantry. Thank you for using your envelope in our offertory packet and for your generosity in helping our neighbors in need.



## ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

### Fish Dinner Meeting at St. Thomas

There will be a meeting to discuss the St. Thomas 2024 Lenten Fish Dinner TODAY—Sunday, December 3, at 10:45am in the multipurpose room at St. Thomas. Your attendance is vital as we plan for the upcoming dinners. It would be greatly appreciated if those that have helped in past years, but may not be able to help this year, would attend in an advisory capacity at this meeting. If you are not able to attend but are willing to help, please contact Sue Vinca or Judy Green and let them know of your intentions. Thank you all for your help and prayers.



**PRAYER LINE... call:** Gerrie (814-665-6944), Pam (814-664-7459), or Diane (814-663-3753).  
*Since prayer is an important ministry of trust, know that all requests are kept confidential.*



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of December 3<sup>rd</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Paul Suchar, Jr. by Betty Jean and Kim.

### St. Thomas Choir for Advent & Christmas

Our music ministers invite you to be a part of a choir to provide music at Masses during the Advent and Christmas season.



Those wishing to lend their voices to the choir should plan on attending rehearsals held on every Tuesday evening at 6:00pm at St. Thomas Church until Christmas. **ALL are WELCOME!**



### You're Invited to Coffee and Donuts

Sunday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> in the gym following the 8:00am Mass. Donations accepted to help cover the cost. All are welcome to join us. *Hope to see you there!*

### Helping Keep Corry Clean



Members of Corry Knights of Columbus and student volunteers cleaned up the highway along Route 6 in Corry on Saturday, November 18,. Pictured—Knights: Len Clark, Mike Gluvna, Deacon Randy Kondrlik, Rob Weis, and Jason Halfast; student volunteers were Joseph Johnston, Garrett Halfast, Nathan Weis, and Joe Kondrlik. Other Knights who helped were: Gary Johnston and John Wilson. *Thank You & great work guys!*

### "Question of the Week" - First Sunday of Advent

**Question for Children:** What special things do you do to get ready for a visitor at your house? What things can you do like that to get ready for Jesus?

**Question for Youth:** What is one thing that you can do this week to help you remember that Jesus is coming?

**Question for Adults:** When you're getting ready to receive a guest, what are some things you do? How do you apply this to receiving Christ?

## St. Teresa Parish News

### ST. TERESA FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: Nov. 19, 2023

**Amount in Envelopes:** (44) ..... \$1,565.00  
 (Total Envelopes sent: 157 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 113)  
**Loose** ..... \$106.00  
**Continuing the Vision** (1) ..... \$10.00  
**Online Giving** (1) ..... \$30.00  
**Total Offertory Income** ..... \$1,711.00

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA STEWARDSHIP: Nov. 19, 2023

**Amount in Envelopes:** (4) ..... \$70.00  
 (Total Envelopes sent: 30 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 26)

**St. Teresa Parish Offertory Income** ..... \$1,781.00  
**Average Weekly Expenses** ..... \$4,585.00  
 (Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)

**Weekly Average Shortfall** ..... \$(-2,804.00)

*Thanks to everyone who regularly uses his/her envelopes.  
 Please write checks to St. Teresa Church or Our Lady of Fatima Church.*



*Please know that you can now give all your donations online by visiting our parish website at [www.st-teresa-unioncity-org](http://www.st-teresa-unioncity-org) OR by scanning the QR code here.*



**Thanks for your generosity to our parish!**

### ST. TERESA FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: Nov. 26, 2023

**Amount in Envelopes:** (56) ..... \$1,655.00  
 (Total Envelopes sent: 157 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 101)  
**Loose** ..... \$82.00  
**Continuing the Vision** (3) ..... \$1,060.00  
**Online Giving** (3) ..... \$120.00  
**Total Offertory Income** ..... \$2,917.00

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA STEWARDSHIP: Nov. 26, 2023

**Amount in Envelopes:** (8) ..... \$220.00  
 (Total Envelopes sent: 30 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 22)

**St. Teresa Parish Offertory Income** ..... \$3,137.00  
**Average Weekly Expenses** ..... \$4,585.00  
 (Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)

**Weekly Average Shortage** ..... \$(-1,448.00)

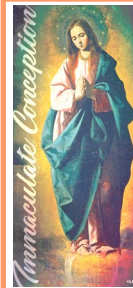
*Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face  
 and we shall be saved. (Psalm 80)*

### St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society—No Meeting until January

Members of the Rosary Altar Society are reminded that we will not hold a meeting in the month of December. We will next meet for our Epiphany Dinner on Sunday, January 7, 2024 at St. Teresa Parish Center. All members are encouraged to attend.



Please support the St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society by purchasing some delicious items from their Bake Sale following both Masses THIS weekend—December 2 & 3. Thank you!



### Holy Day Mass Schedule

We will celebrate the feast on December 8<sup>th</sup> when Mary, the Mother of God, was conceived without the sin. Mass times for the obligation:

- Thursday, Dec. 7—7:00pm at St. Thomas Church
- Friday, Dec. 8—8:00am at St. Teresa Church

*Oh Mary conceived without sin,  
 pray for us who have recourse to thee.*



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

### Readings for the week of December 3, 2023

Sun.: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 ♦ Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4) ♦  
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 ♦ Mark 13:33-37  
 Mon.: Isaiah 2:1-5 ♦ Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9 ♦ Matthew 8:5-11  
 Tues.: Isaiah 11:1-10 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 ♦ Luke 10:21-24  
 Wed.: Isaiah 25:6-10a ♦ Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 ♦ Matthew 15:29-37  
 Thur.: Isaiah 26:1-6 ♦ Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a ♦  
 Matthew 7:21, 24-27  
 Fri.: Genesis 3:9-15, 20 ♦ Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 ♦ Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12  
 ♦ Luke 1:26-38  
 Sat.: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26 ♦ Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 ♦  
 Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8  
 Next Sun.: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 ♦ Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8) ♦  
 2 Peter 3:8-14 ♦ Mark 1:1-8

### Local Red Kettle Campaign Seeking Bell Ringers

The Salvation Army needs bell ringers for this year's annual Red Kettle campaign! Volunteers are needed to fill shifts Monday-Saturday starting at 10:00am and ending at 6:00pm until Christmas Eve. This is a wonderful way for families to give back during the holidays. To sign up, please contact Elizabeth Malec at 814-490-7394 via text message or phone call. She will be available after Sunday morning Masses to sign up volunteers.

### Submission Deadline for Bulletin Items

Generally, items for publication in our bulletin must be sent to the parish office by Monday afternoon the week prior to when you wish your item to appear. Please email written content to [secretary@stparish.org](mailto:secretary@stparish.org). Please note that during holiday seasons, bulletin deadlines are moved up as much as one week earlier, so the earlier you provide the office with your bulletin items the better. All bulletin items are subject to approval and editing for content and space. If you have any questions, please call the parish office. Thank you.



# Human Celebrations - Spiritual Celebrations

## FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT: WE GATHER PEOPLE TOGETHER

We just finished gathering people together for Thanksgiving and probably made plans for how and where we will gather for Christmas. This is traditionally a time of year when we gather people together, whether it is for a family celebration of Thanksgiving, a shopping trip, and meeting up with old friends. In the weeks to come we will gather to decorate our homes, sing Christmas carols, or attend office parties.

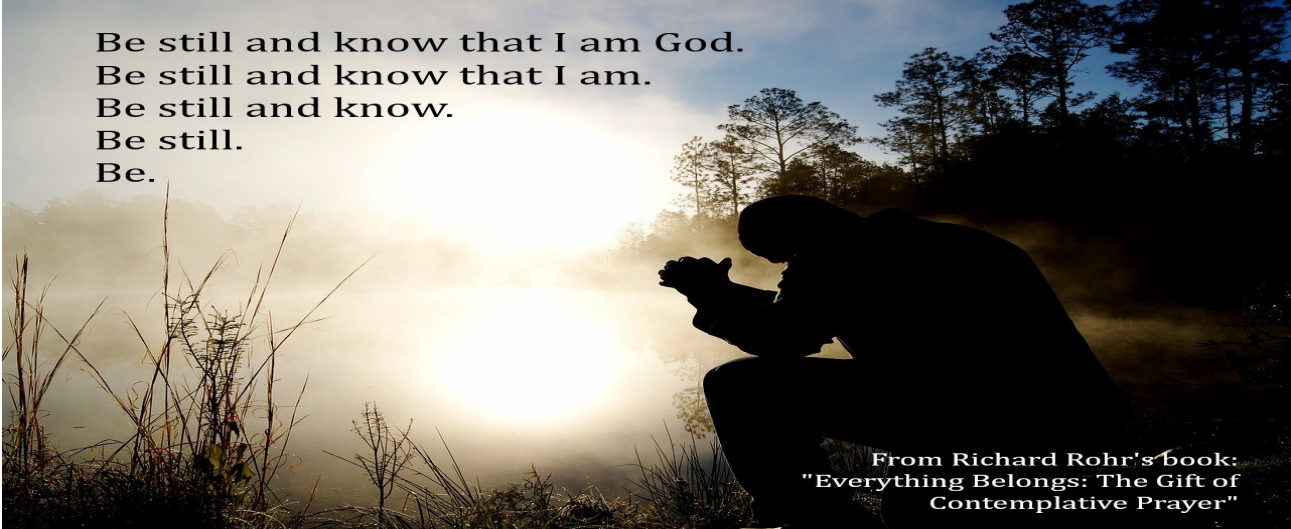
We might reflect in this Advent season on how the Roman Census was the thing that was gathering people together in the time of Jesus. People were gathering in their hometowns to register for the Roman Census. Mary and Joseph were also traveling to Bethlehem to register there. But in the midst of this gathering of so many people, the local inn was full. We are told in Luke's Gospel that there is no room for them at the inn. The Greek word that is used here is "katalyma" which means a place where hospitality is offered. In Luke's Gospel this word, "katalyma" is only used in one other place. Prior to the Last Supper, Jesus asks his disciples "where is the guest room, "katalyma" where I may eat the Passover." This guest room would be the place where Jesus would offer his Body and Blood to God for all people. And thus, the one denied hospitality at his birth is the one who offers hospitality to all people at the table of the Eucharist.

Advent then, is the time to prepare our "guest room" - to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus in our lives and in our celebration of the Eucharist.

I would like to suggest that we try to find time to do this preparation of our hearts in prayer each day. Find 15 minutes each day to spend in silence, or quiet prayer, alone time, even walking in silence. This is not a time for us to be doing the talking, but to be doing the listening. Prayer draws us into a deeper relationship, a deeper intimacy with God. There is only one thing we need to hear in our prayer, and we need to be quiet in order to hear it. Allow yourself to be quiet and wait for God to speak to you. Quiet yourself long enough to hear God say to you, "I love you!" These are the most important words we need to hear because before we hear them things are not completely right in our lives, but after we hear them something will be right in our lives at a very deep level.

It seems so simple, yet wrapping our minds around the love God has for us is not always easy. And once we have heard God say that - how then do we respond? How do we say, "I love you" back to God?

Advent and our celebration of the Eucharist are meant to gather us in the presence of God in order to prepare ourselves to hear God. Not to hear some other person, not to hear ourselves, but to hear God speak to us what we need to hear. Allow this first week of Advent to be a time when you make room in your heart and in your life for silence, for quiet, for peace, and allow God to speak to you in that quiet space in your heart, that "katalyma" where you welcome God to speak to you and stay with you.



Be still and know that I am God.  
Be still and know that I am.  
Be still and know.  
Be still.  
Be.

From Richard Rohr's book:  
"Everything Belongs: The Gift of  
Contemplative Prayer"