



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 31, 2023



### THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;  
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

#### 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

**CHRISTMAS SEASON:** Unlike our secular world's celebration of Christmas, which is over and done with, the Church celebrates Christmas over several weeks. We have four weeks of Advent to prepare for Christmas, and then we celebrate Christmas Day, then the feast of the Holy Family, and the feast of the Epiphany. Some years we even include the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus. Why? We realize that this feast is so incredibly powerful that we can not contain it in one celebration, but we need to take time to celebrate various aspects of this feast. Please don't allow this feast of God's tremendous love for us go by too quickly. Savor it, ponder it, rejoice in it. Allow the Christ child to be born again in you.

I found this Christmas prayer/blessing several years ago and come back to it every year because it helps me to remember the various aspects of this feast. It is my prayer for you as we continue to celebrate the richness of this season.

"May the Angel of Annunciation awaken in you  
God's profound heartfelt love for every kind of neighbor.

May the Star of Inclusive, Poured out, Communing Love  
direct every decision you make on your journey.

May your dreams lead you to profound reverence  
as you bow before the Divine born in the stable of every heart  
and in the stable of the whole universe.

May Mary guide you in birthing the Holy One in your life  
and in birthing Love in others.

May Joseph engage you in deeper questioning and listening  
and give you courage to risk the next step.

May your life become a Luminous Presence  
leading others to the place in their hearts and in the world  
where Christ is always being born anew.

May you have the Spirit of Christmas which is PEACE  
The Joy of Christmas which is HOPE  
The Heart of Christmas which is LOVE."

**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS:** Mass on January 1, 2024 will be at 9:00am at St. Teresa in Union City. When some, but not all, of our Holy Days fall on Saturday or Monday, the obligation to attend Mass is removed, as is the case this year. For those who would like to start the New Year by celebrating Mass and praying for ourselves and our world, Mass will be at 9:00am at St. Teresa in Union City.

- Fr. Tom

**THANK YOU** to all of our bulletin sponsors!

We appreciate their support of our parishes and ask our parishioners to please patronize these business.

Parish Office Closed on New Year's Day

Our Partnered Parish Office will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024. We will reopen to the public on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30am. *Wishing you and your families a healthy, prosperous, and Happy New Year!*

**Sunday, December 31**

8:00a.m. †Walter & Margaret Komenda by their estate  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

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

**Monday, January 1, 2024—New Year's Day**

9:00a.m. †George, Irene, and Don Tinko by Ed & Irene  
Weaver and family  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Tuesday, January 2**

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

**Wednesday, January 3**

8:00a.m. †William & Harriet Jeffords by Richard & Jean  
Farver  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Thursday, January 4**

No Mass or Service today at either St. Thomas or St. Teresa

**Friday, January 5**

8:00a.m. †Antionette Ranyak by Mary Thomas and family  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Saturday, January 6**

4:30p.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa Parishes  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Sunday, January 7**

8:00a.m. †Margaret Karkoski by Gerrie Karkoski and  
family  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

10:00a.m. †The Ashoff Family by Tim & Pam Ashoff-Roberts  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

*Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for all families this year!*

**WELCOME**

If you are new to our Parishes, we extend a warm welcome and hope you will find here a place where your faith will be nourished.

**PARISH MEMBERSHIP**

New Parishioners are welcome to register by completing the form on the front of the bulletin and returning it to the Offertory Collection or the Parish Office.

**BAPTISM**

Please contact the Parish office to schedule a Baptism.

**MARRIAGE**

Please contact the Parish office at least ten (10) months in advance to schedule a Wedding.

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK**

Please let the Parish office know of anyone in need of Anointing of the Sick, or anyone who is unable to get to Mass and would desire Holy Communion to be brought to them.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Confessions are 3:30pm—4:00pm on Saturdays at St. Thomas Church, Corry and/or at St. Teresa Church, Union City (when Mass is celebrated that evening); and other times by request made to the parish office.



## St. Thomas Parish News

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: Dec. 17, 2023

**Amount in Envelopes: (70)** .....\$3,227.00  
 (Total Envelopes sent: 174 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 104)  
**Loose** .....\$147.00  
**Online Giving (9)** .....\$320.00  
**Faith Formation/Rel. Ed.** .....\$0.00  
**Total Offertory Income** .....\$3,694.00

**Average Weekly Expenses** .....\$5,335.00  
 (Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)

**Weekly Average Shortfall** .....\$(-1,641.00)

*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'.*

### Retirement Fund for Religious Collection: .....\$811.00

This is a special diocesan collection was taken up on December 9/10, 2023 in our parishes. This collection supports elderly senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests in their retirement with essential care, medicine and necessities. Thank you for your generous support.

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: December 24, 2023

The Financial Stewardship Report for the weekend of December 23/24 will be published in an upcoming bulletin. Today's bulletin had to be submitted to our publisher prior to the weekend Masses due to the holiday season. Thank you to all who regularly use your church offertory envelopes and/or give to the parish collection. We appreciate it and are grateful for your support.

*Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord*

### Readings for the week of December 31, 2023

Sun.: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 ♦ Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 ♦ Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 ♦ Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40  
 Mon.: Numbers 6:22-27 ♦ Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a) ♦ Galatians 4:4-7 ♦ Luke 2:16-21  
 Tues.: 1 John 2:22-28 ♦ Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 ♦ John 1:19-28  
 Wed.: 1 John 2:29—3:6 ♦ Psalm 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 ♦ John 1:29-34  
 Thur.: 1 John 3:7-10 ♦ Psalm 98:1, 7-8, 9 ♦ John 1:35-42  
 Fri.: 1 John 3:11-21 ♦ Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 ♦ John 1:43-51  
 Sat.: 1 John 5:5-13 ♦ Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 ♦ Mark 1:7-11 or Luke 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38  
 Next Sun.: Isaiah 60:1-6 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11) ♦ Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 ♦ Matthew 2:1-12



**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 31<sup>st</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of all our loved ones.



How silently,  
how silently  
this  
wonderous  
gift is given.

### Eucharistic Adoration THIS WEEK

Eucharistic Adoration will be held on Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup> (8:00am) through Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> (8:00am) at Saint Thomas Church. All are welcome any time during Adoration. We are always looking for more 'adorers'. If you can commit to one hour a month to be with Our Lord, please call the office

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The holidays are here! In all the preparations did you think lovingly of your spouse? It is a busy time of year. Consider this: a weekend away after the holidays to just be the two of you—husband & wife—and refocus on being that couple. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a faith-based enrichment for any married couple. The next weekend will be February 9—11, 2024 in Grove City, PA. For more information, go to [www.WWME.org](http://www.WWME.org).



Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>—Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God / New Year's Day / and World Day of Peace

We will celebrate Mass this day at 9:00am at St. Teresa Church in Union City. All are invited to join us.

*"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord!" Luke 1:42*

### First Friday Calls

If you, or a loved one, is shut-in to your home or in a nursing home and wishes to have a visit from the priest, deacon, or Eucharistic Minister, please call the parish office. **First Friday Calls will next be done on January 5, 2024.**

### Hospital Visits

Please call the parish office to let us know if a family member is in the hospital. A visit from the priest may be arranged. Hamot and St. Vincent hospitals have priests on call in cases of emergency.



### Saturday Morning Rosary

All are invited to join us on Saturday mornings at St. Thomas Church at 9:00am as we pray The Rosary together in community.

## St. Teresa Parish News

**ST. TERESA FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:** Dec. 16 & 17, 2023  
**Amount in Envelopes:** (58) ..... \$1,991.00  
 (Total Envelopes sent: 157 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 99)  
**Loose** ..... \$178.00  
**Continuing the Vision ( )** ..... \$0.00  
**Online Giving (1)** ..... \$30.00  
**Total Offertory Income** ..... \$2,199.00

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA STEWARDSHIP:** Dec. 17, 2023  
**Amount in Envelopes:** (8) ..... \$225.00  
 (Total Envelopes sent: 30 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 22)

**St. Teresa Parish Offertory Income** ..... \$2,424.00  
**Average Weekly Expenses** ..... \$4,585.00  
 (Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)

**Weekly Average Shortfall** ..... \$(-2,161.00)

*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!*

**Retirement Fund for Religious Collection:** ..... \$450.00

This is a special diocesan collection was taken up on December 9/10, 2023 in our parishes. This collection supports elderly senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests in their retirement with essential care, medicine and necessities. Thank you for your generous support.

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:** December 23 & 24, 2023  
 The Financial Stewardship Report for the weekend of December 23/24 will be published in an upcoming bulletin. Today's bulletin had to be submitted to our publisher prior to the weekend Masses due to the holiday season. Thank you to all who regularly use your church offertory envelopes and/or give to the parish collection. We appreciate it and are grateful for your support.

### Additional Christmas Flower Fund Donations

for St. Thomas Church: by *Martha Morton*



for St. Teresa Church: by *Sarah Robertson*;  
*Doug & Pam O'Connor*—memory of O'Connor & Robinson Families;  
*Janet Love*—memory of Earl Love, Betty & Charlie Tyson,  
 Jennine Mineo, and Clara Love;  
*Mary Ann Shade*—memory of Shade & Segal Families and Shirley &  
 Paul Flynn;  
*Ken & Jean Calfo*—memory of Edith & Ben Calfo and Naomi &  
 Tom Meneely



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of December 31<sup>st</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of all our loved ones.

### "Question of the Week" - Feast of the Holy Family

**Question for Children:** Why is it important for you to obey your parents or guardians?

**Question for Youth:** God chose to be among us in the person of Jesus. How does having a God who knows what it means to be human affect the way you pray or think about God?

**Question for Adults:** Whether single, married, or divorced, how does Paul's advice ring true in your own life? Choose one of his suggestions and share how it touches your life.



**OH,  
COME  
LET US  
ADORE  
HIM.**

### Eucharistic Adoration THIS WEEK

Eucharistic Adoration will be held on **Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> (8:00am –12:00pm)** at St. Teresa Church. All are welcome any time during Adoration. We are always looking for more 'adorers'. If you can commit to one hour a month to be with Our Lord, please call the office

## Pastoral Planning Prayer

Loving God, author of creation,  
 your spirit pervades and enriches our world.  
 Through your Son, who shares our humanity,  
 you have called us to participate in your divine creativity  
 and to build the kingdom of God here on earth.  
 Form us, we pray, as one community  
 under the leadership of our bishop  
 to serve all the people of this region in your name.

Inspire us to discover new ways  
 and structures to spread your Gospel.  
 Open our eyes to see Christ in others,  
 especially the poor, the sick and the marginalized.  
 Empower us to be the hands and feet of Christ  
 in our parishes and communities.  
 Help us to welcome all into His embrace.

Guide us in our discernment,  
 as we pray with Pope Francis  
 for the vision to see new paths of possibility;  
 for a spirit of mission that invigorates our every effort;  
 and for the strength to be unafraid of what is new.  
 We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Imprimatur, July 25, 2014  
 The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico JCL  
 Bishop of Erie

### St. Teresa Church Organizations / Groups

•**Rosary—Altar Society**  
 Meets the first Monday of each month at 4:30 PM

•**Knights of Columbus**  
 Meet every third Wednesday at 7:00 PM

•**Religious Education Guild**  
 Meets during the school term

*Happy*  
**NEW YEAR**



## Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News

### Sharing Some of the Teaching, Fun, and Fellowship from our Religious Education Programs in Fall/Winter 2023

We hope you enjoy seeing how our youth are learning, growing, and interacting in our Religious Education Classes so far this school year. We had fun making crafts, Advent wreaths, and playing games. We shared group activities, spiritual learning, and of course, snacks! We are grateful for the opportunity to teach your children and we are blessed with catechists and volunteers who so generously give of their time and talents to make the classes informative and fun.

