



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 10, 2023



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Pastor

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Deacon
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Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish
www.stthomastheapostle.church

Saint Teresa of Avila Parish
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

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.

Notes from the Pastor

PRECIOUS BLOOD AT MASS: We have reinstituted the opportunity to receive the precious blood of Christ at Sunday Masses. Please remember that we receive the fullness of Christ's presence: body, blood, soul, and divinity in the consecrated bread OR the consecrated wine. Receiving both the consecrated bread and consecrated wine is the ideal way to remember what Jesus did at the Last Supper and asks us to do each week in our celebration of the Eucharist. BUT, there are some people who may not be able to receive the host because of celiac's disease or other health issues, and others who may not be able to receive, or choose not to receive, the wine for health reasons. Thus, receiving only the consecrated bread OR the consecrated wine is truly receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.

INTINCTION IS NOT PERMITTED: As Catholics we are never permitted to dip the host into the wine. Jesus asked us to eat this bread and drink this cup. And so, we eat the bread and drink from the cup.

THANK YOU: Thanks to Ilene Zakovitch for coordinating the Thanksgiving Food Baskets at St. Teresa. There were over 20 baskets given out thanks to the generosity of those of you who donated non-perishable food items, cash donations to buy perishable items, and a donation to purchase turkeys. Thanks to the Religious Education students for bringing in food items and helping move boxes.

Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for collecting and moving food during the month of November to support the Food Pantry in Corry.

Your quiet kindness helped to make Thanksgiving a more joyful time for those in need and helps to make our Thanksgiving complete.

iGiveCatholic: Thanks to all those who made gifts to our various parishes and cemeteries during the iGiveCatholic Campaign. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated.

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.

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—4th Sunday of Advent

8:00am Mass at St. Thomas in Corry

10:00am Mass at St. Teresa in Union City

Christmas Eve Masses, December 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

**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)

Monday, December 11

8:00a.m. ✠Virginia Kozik by an altar server (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, December 12

8:00a.m. ✠Gerri Cragg by Mary, Theresa, and Michelle VanCise (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, December 13

8:00a.m. ✠Msgr. Richard Mayer by a friend (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, December 14

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

Friday, December 15

8:00a.m. ✠Sandra K. Downor Hartel by an altar server

Saturday, December 16

4:30p.m. ✠Anna & Si Springer by Judy & Bill Flynn (St. Teresa, Union City)

Sunday, December 17

8:00a.m. ✠Paul and Sally Griebel by Joan, Jan, and Alan (St. Thomas, Corry)

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



ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

©LFI

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

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



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.

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!

St. Thomas Parish News

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: December 3, 2023

Amount in Envelopes: (62)\$2,701.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 174 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 112)
Loose\$82.00
Online Giving (14)\$940.00
Faith Formation/Rel. Ed.\$0.00
Total Offertory Income\$3,723.00

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

Weekly Average Shortfall\$(-1,612.00)

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 and click 'Donate Online'.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development:\$650.00

This is a special diocesan collection was taken up on November 18/19, 2023 in our parishes. This collection supports the national anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops. Thank you for your generous support.

Thank You for Supporting the Altar Rosary Pastry Sale

We wish to thank everyone who support our pastry sale. We hope you enjoy your treats. Remember, the Altar Rosary Society uses raised funds for purchases to enhance our altar and church. Your support is always appreciated. Thanks again.

Decorating St. Thomas Church for Christmas

We will be decorating the church during the morning Mass on Tuesday, December 19th (approximately 8:45am). *Many hands make for light work.* Please plan to help if you are able—it would be appreciated. Thank you.



The Corry Area Ministerial Association presents
 Community Christmas Festival

Community Christmas Festival
Bethlehem Morning



Bethlehem Morning
 Sunday, December 10, 2023
 3:00pm at Corry First Church
 650 Worth St., Corry
 Shuttle service from
 McDonald's Plaza starts at
 2:30pm
All are welcome as we celebrate the sounds of the season.



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 10th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Gloria Cruz.

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 practices on Tuesday evenings (Dec. 12 & 19) at 6:00pm at St. Thomas Church. ALL are WELCOME!



You're Invited to Coffee and Donuts TODAY

Sunday, Dec. 10th 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!*



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Gloria Cruz** whose funeral we celebrated at Saint Thomas Parish. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Catholic Daughters Christmas Party & Meeting

Members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas are invited to attend their Christmas Party followed by a meeting on Thursday, December 21 at 5:00pm in the St. Elizabeth Parish Center. The regular monthly meeting is moved up one week due to the holidays. RSVP's are appreciated, please call either Pat Phillips or Rosemary Baker. Members are asked to bring a dish to share if attending the Christmas Party. *Wishing you Merry Christmas—hope you will join us!*

Knights of Columbus Meeting THIS WEEK

Corry Knights will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 6:30pm in the St. Elizabeth Parish Center. All Brother Knights are encouraged to attend.



**Lord, let us see your kindness,
 and grant us your salvation.** Psalm 85

Pro-Life Breakfast Coming in January 2024

Get ready to be inspired and enlightened at this year's Pro-Life Breakfast on Saturday, January 13 at the Bayfront Convention Center. Tickets are \$26 for ages over 12; \$18 for ages 3-12. Doors open at 8:00am, program begins at 9:00am and concludes by 11:30am. Guest speaker is Sherif Girgis. We would like to have a full table of 10 people from Sts. Thomas & Teresa. If interested in attending, please contact Barbara Wascak (814-665-2313) as reservations fill quickly.

St. Teresa Parish News

ST. TERESA FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: Dec. 2 & 3, 2023
Amount in Envelopes: (63) \$2,436.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 157 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 94)
Loose \$232.00
Continuing the Vision (10) \$166.00
Online Giving (1) \$30.00
Total Offertory Income \$2,864.00

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STEWARDSHIP: Dec. 3, 2023
Amount in Envelopes: (7) \$135.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 30 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 23)

St. Teresa Parish Offertory Income \$2,999.00
Average Weekly Expenses \$4,585.00
 (Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)

Weekly Average Shortfall \$(-1,586.00)

*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 OR by scanning the QR code here.



Thanks for your generosity to our parish!

Catholic Campaign for Human Development: \$457.00
 This is a special diocesan collection was taken up on November 18/19, 2023 in our parishes. This collection supports the national anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops. Thank you for your generous support.



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of December 10th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased members of our parish.

"Question of the Week" - Second Sunday of Advent

Question for Children: How do you experience God taking care of you, even in times of trouble?

Question for Youth: John went out to announce the good news of the Messiah's coming. How can you be good news to your friends and family this week?

Question for Adults: When you hear Isaiah comfort the people by promising that God is like a shepherd who gathers the lambs into his arms, what is your response?

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.

Giving Tree at St. Teresa Parish

Thank you to everyone who took a tag from our Giving Tree in the church last weekend. Just a reminder that ALL GIFTS need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 17th. Thank you for sharing your blessings with others this Christmas season.



THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his path.

We will be putting up the Christmas decorations at St. Teresa Church after Mass next weekend, Sunday, December 17th. Help is needed.

Readings for the week of December 10, 2023

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
 Mon.: Isaiah 35:1-10 ♦ Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 ♦ Luke 5:17-26
 Tues.: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab ♦ Judith 13:18bcd, 19 ♦ Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47
 Wed.: Isaiah 40:25-31 ♦ Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 ♦ Matthew 11:28-30
 Thur.: Isaiah 41:13-20 ♦ Psalm 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab ♦ Matthew 11:11-15
 Fri.: Isaiah 48:17-19 ♦ Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 ♦ Matthew 11:16-19
 Sat.: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11 ♦ Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 ♦ Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
 Next Sun.: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 ♦ Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b) ♦ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 ♦ John 1:6-8, 19-28

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

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. 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

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT: WE COMMUNICATE SOMETHING TO THOSE GATHERED IN A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT WAYS

When we gather people together we share with them what is going on in our lives, what is new, what we are struggling with, and where our lives are going. In this Advent season we listen to the stories of Jesus' birth and we hear the main characters speak of their experiences of God. In these experiences we find a common message God wants us to hear: "Do not be afraid." In a year where we have been overwhelmed by fear this message is all the more important for us to hear and take to heart.

1. **Mary** receives a visit from the angel Gabriel which causes Mary to be "greatly troubled" at this encounter. And Gabriel immediately responds to her fear by saying, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." That simple line invites us to ponder three things: the invitation to calm her fear, the angel says her name, "Mary," which forms a bond of familiarity with her, comforts her, and that the angel says, "you have found favor with God." Once the angel has calmed her fear, the angel gives Mary her mission - to conceive and give birth to the Son of God.

2. **Joseph** also has an experience of an angel when he finds out that Mary is with child. The angel's greeting is very similar to Mary's: "Joseph, Son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her." The angel calls Joseph by name, tries to calm his fear with an explanation of the origins of the child, and gives Joseph a mission to take Mary as his wife.

3. **Shepherds** also experience a frightening visit from an angel. Again, the angel speaks words of comfort to the frightened shepherds: "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Shepherds were poor, outcasts, and they even smelled like the sheep. And yet the angel appears to them with a word of comfort for their fear and a mission to go see this sign of the newborn Messiah.

4. **John the Baptist** is one of the central figures of our Advent season. He doesn't have an experience of an angel, that we know of, but Luke tells us that the "Word of God came to him." John preached a message of repentance which invited people to be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. Those who came humbly acknowledging their sins were baptized. John is somewhat harsh with those who do not seem to be sincere in their asking for forgiveness. He is known for saying, "I baptize you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire." John invites people to prepare for the coming of the Messiah by having their sins forgiven through baptism. John proclaims a God who forgives and not a God to be feared. We may feel unworthy at times but John invites us to trust in the forgiveness that God offers to heal our sin.

I would like to suggest that we try to find time to pray with these stories of Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, and John the Baptist. 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**. As you reflect on these stories, listen for God to call you by name, to calm the fears that you are having, and to hear the mission that God is calling you to undertake at this time in your life. Once we overcome our fears, it is then that God can give us our mission and do great things in our lives.

