



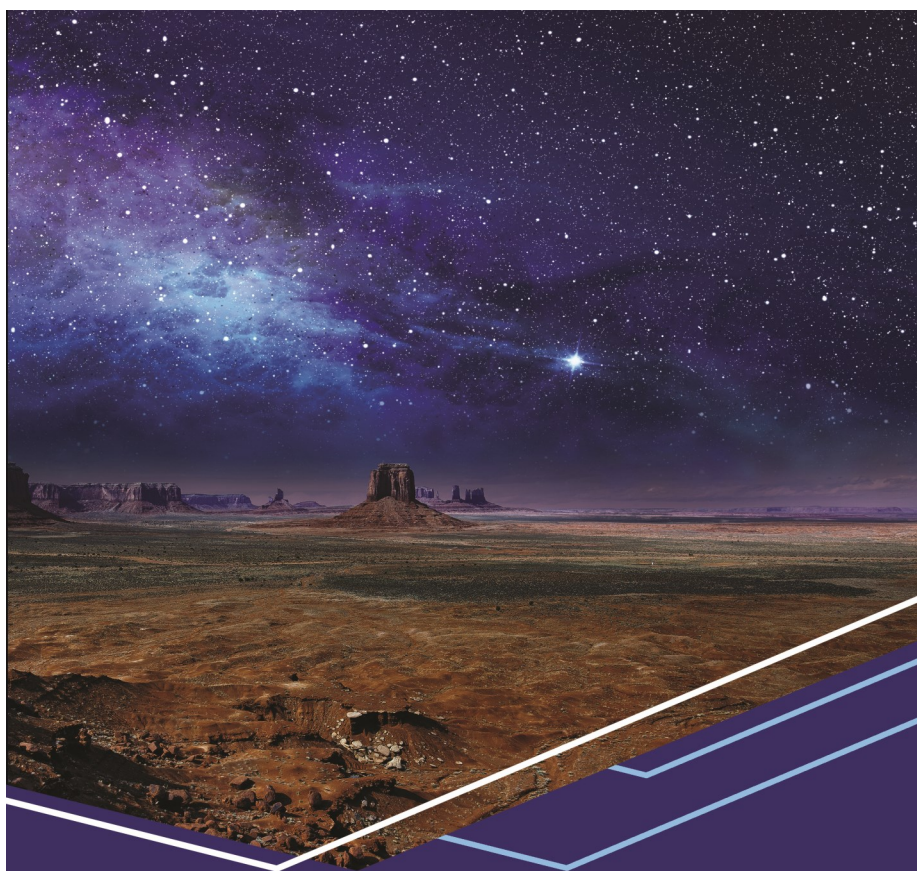
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church  
203 W. Washington Street  
Corry, PA 16407

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



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

## January 7, 2024



### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1-2

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

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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

**CHRISTMAS THANK YOU:** As we bring our Christmas season to a close today, we need to be thankful to all those who made our Advent and Christmas seasons beautiful and prayerful encounters with God. I want to thank those who prepared the liturgies, our musicians and choir members, our sacristans, altar servers, lectors, our parish staff members, and those who so graciously helped to decorate our churches for these days. Your hard work made our Advent and Christmas seasons something to remember and opportunities for prayerful encounters with God. Thank you so very much!

**FISH DINNERS:** Lent starts early this year, February 14! And with Lent, comes our fish dinners at both parishes. These are an enormous undertaking and can always use more volunteers. If you are able to help with cooking or serving, please contact Sue Vinca or Judy Green at St. Thomas or Becky Boleratz at St. Teresa.

We are making a special plea this year for help with cleaning up after the dinners are over. This will entail moving tables and chairs, sweeping and mopping floors. Those who cook and serve the dinners have usually put in a full day by the time the dinner is over. We are hoping to build a crew of workers who will come in after dinner and be in charge of cleaning up. If you, or your group, are willing to help us with this task, please contact the parish office or Fr. Tom.

**GENUFLECTING AND KNEELING:** I have noticed a few people who struggle to kneel or genuflect in church. As we get older some of those joints do not function as well as they used to. Know that it is perfectly acceptable to offer a bow instead of a genuflection, or to sit if it is difficult to kneel.

- Fr. Tom

**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)

**Monday, January 8**

- 8:00a.m. ✠Fr. Henry Andrae by a friend  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Tuesday, January 9**

- 8:00a.m. ✠Michelle Sypniewski by Irka Sypniewski  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Wednesday, January 10**

- 8:00a.m. ✠Msgr. Joseph Bobal by a friend  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Thursday, January 11**

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

**Friday, January 12**

- 8:00a.m. ✠Veronica Whitman  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Saturday, January 13**

- 4:30p.m. ✠Deceased Members of the Cragg and Sullivan families (St. Thomas, Corry)

**Sunday, January 14**

- 8:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa Parishes  
(St. Thomas, Corry)  
10:00a.m. ✠Priscilla Kozik by Dorothy Rhodes  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

*Wise Men Still Seek HIM!*



PERSEVERE IN PRAYER



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

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

**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.

**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 the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, or anyone who is unable to get to Mass and would desire weekly Holy Communion to be brought to them.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Confessions are offered at the following times/locations: 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: December 24, 2023

<b>Amount in Envelopes: (77)</b>	\$3,595.00
(Total Envelopes sent: 174 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 97)	
<b>Loose</b>	\$218.00
<b>Online Giving (10)</b>	\$360.00
<b>Faith Formation/Rel. Ed. (1)</b>	\$2.00
<b>Total Offertory Income</b>	\$4,175.00

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

**Weekly Average Shortfall** ..... \$(-1,160.00)

*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'.

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: Christmas 2023

<b>Amount in Envelopes: (86)</b>	\$4,344.00
<b>Loose</b>	\$959.00
<b>Total Offertory Income</b>	\$5,303.00

**Sister Parish envelope (23)**.....\$360.00

This collection supports our sister parish of St. Anthony of Padua in Chemax, Mexico. Thank you for your donation.

**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.

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: December 31, 2023

<b>Amount in Envelopes: (67)</b>	\$2,790.00
(Total Envelopes sent: 174 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 107)	
<b>Loose</b>	\$262.00
<b>Online Giving (11)</b>	\$570.00
<b>Faith Formation/Rel. Ed. (1)</b>	\$10.00
<b>Solemnity of Mary/Jan. 1 (17)</b>	\$345.00
<b>Total Offertory Income</b>	\$3,977.00

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

**Weekly Average Shortfall** ..... \$(-1,358.00)



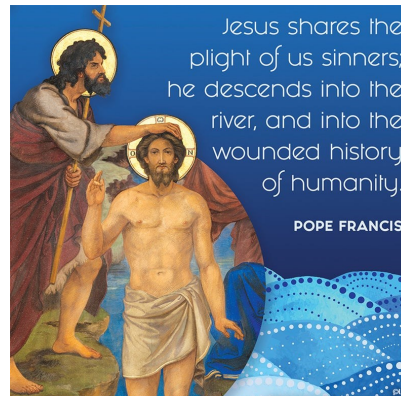
**PRAYER LINE... call:** Gerrie (814-665-6944), Pam (814-664-7459), or Diane (814-663-3753).  
*Since prayer is an important ministry of trust, know that all requests are kept confidential.*



**The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of January 7<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Ann Gibas.**

### Pot Luck Dinner at St. Thomas

We are planning a Pot Luck Dinner for Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> following the 4:30pm Mass at St. Thomas. All are invited to bring a dish to share and your own table service. Join us in the former school building. Beverages will be provided. *Hope to see you there!*



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Ann M. Gibas** who passed away from St. Thomas Church. May her soul rest in peace.

Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Leo Francis Hanlin** who passed away from St. Thomas Church. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

### "Question of the Week" - Epiphany of the Lord

**Question for Children:** In your life, who helps you to see Jesus in other people such as a classmate or a friend?

**Question for Youth:** The star guided the Magi to Jesus. What are the people or events who have guided you in your relationship with Jesus?

**Question for Adults:** How this past week did you demonstrate God's love at home and at work?



### You're Invited to Coffee and Donuts

Sunday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Thomas following the 8:00am Mass. Donations accepted to help cover costs. All are welcome. *Hope to see you there!*

## St. Teresa Parish News

### ST. TERESA FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: Dec. 23/24, 2023

**Amount in Envelopes:** (51) ..... \$2,775.00  
 (Total Envelopes sent: 157 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 106)  
**Loose** ..... \$283.00  
**Continuing the Vision** (1) ..... \$200.00  
**Online Giving** (1) ..... \$30.00  
**Total Offertory Income** ..... \$3,288.00

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA STEWARDSHIP: Dec. 24, 2023

**Amount in Envelopes:** (9) ..... \$285.00  
 (Total Envelopes sent: 30 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 21)

**St. Teresa Parish Offertory Income** ..... \$3,573.00  
**Average Weekly Expenses** ..... \$4,585.00  
 (Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)  
**Weekly Average Shortfall** ..... \$(-1,012.00)

*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: Christmas 2023

**Amount in Envelopes:** (68) ..... \$3,280.00  
**Loose** ..... \$239.00  
**Total Offertory Income** ..... \$3,519.00

### ST. TERESA FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: Dec. 30/31, 2023

**Amount in Envelopes:** (55) ..... \$1,947.00  
 (Total Envelopes sent: 157 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 102)  
**Loose** ..... \$180.00  
**Solemnity of Mary/Jan. 1** (14) ..... \$293.00  
**Online Giving** ..... \$102.90  
**Total Offertory Income** ..... \$2,522.90

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA STEWARDSHIP: Dec. 31, 2023

**Amount in Envelopes:** (8) ..... \$140.00  
 (Total Envelopes sent: 30 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 22)

**St. Teresa Parish Offertory Income** ..... \$2,662.90  
**Average Weekly Expenses** ..... \$4,585.00  
 (Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)  
**Weekly Average Shortfall** ..... \$(-1,922.10)



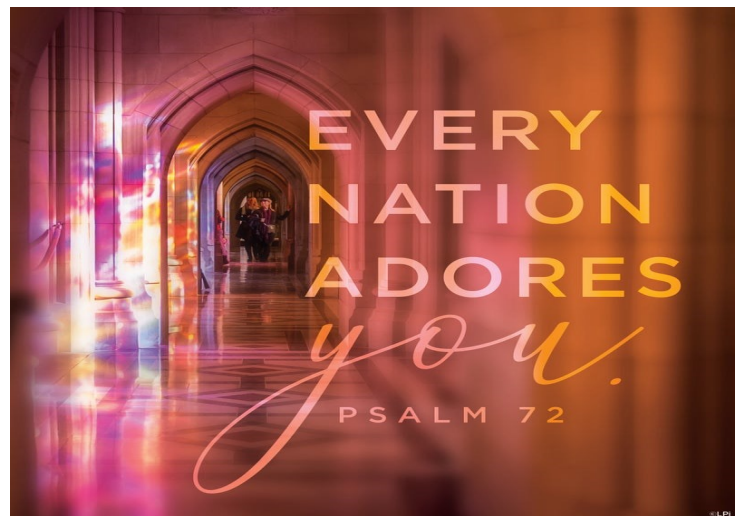
**The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of January 7<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Kathy Roggenkamp.**



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Kathy Roggenkamp** who passed away last week. She was a former secretary at St. Teresa parish. Her funeral was celebrated at St. Titus Church on January 3, 2024. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

### Readings for the week of January 7, 2024

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  
 Mon.: Isaiah 55:1-11 ♦ Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3) ♦ 1 John 5:1-9 ♦ Mark 1:7-11  
 Tues.: 1 Samuel 1:9-20 ♦ 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd ♦ Mark 1:21-28  
 Wed.: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20 ♦ Psalm 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 ♦ Mark 1:29-39  
 Thur.: 1 Samuel 4:1-11 ♦ Psalm 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 ♦ Mark 1:40-45  
 Fri.: 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a ♦ Psalm 89:16-17, 18-19 ♦ Mark 2:1-12  
 Sat.: 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a ♦ Psalm 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 ♦ Mark 2:13-17  
 Next Sun.: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19 ♦ Psalm 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a) ♦ 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 ♦ John 1:35-42



### St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society—Epiphany Lunch & Meeting

Members of the Rosary Altar Society are reminded that we will meet for our Epiphany tureen lunch and meeting TODAY—Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 1:00pm in the St. Teresa Parish Center. All members are encouraged to attend. You are asked to bring a dish to share with the group, an exchange gift, and a donation for the food bank. We hope you will join us.

### 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



## 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

### Weekend of Prayer for Pastoral Planning

The weekend of January 13-14 has been designated by Bishop Persico as a weekend of prayer for pastoral planning across the Diocese of Erie. As with every endeavor we undertake, prayer must be at the center of our efforts. By calling the people and clergy of the diocese together to pray with and for each other, it is our hope that the Holy Spirit will permeate our minds and hearts to embrace possibilities never considered, and to walk the path of faith without fear. We ask that you please include the Pastoral Planning Prayer above in your daily prayers.

### Wise Men See God in the Simple Things

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

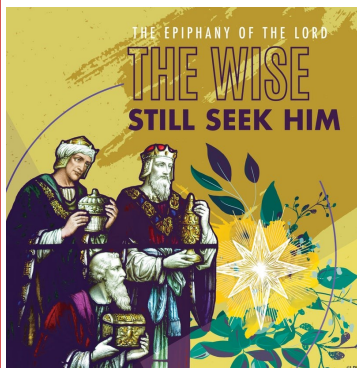
After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any

of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI



## Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News

### Calendar Reminders for Religious Education

We hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. Religious Education Classes resume this week at both Sts. Thomas & Teresa Parishes. Below is the schedule for January 2024:



Sunday, January 7—Classes for All Religious Education students.

Sunday, January 14—NO Classes for this week schedules.

Sunday, January 21—Classes for All Religious Education students.

Sunday, January 28—Classes for All Religious Education students.

### IMPORTANT: Safe Environment Training

Our Religious Education programs are mandated by the Bishops of the United States to provide Safe Environment Training to all students annually. **The training will take place on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> (and Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>) during the 2023-2024 catechetical year.** If you DO NOT want your child/children to participate, please contact Missy Silka, Director of Religious Education, in writing and your child will be withheld from the training program when it is presented. You may contact Missy Silka at [business@stparish.org](mailto:business@stparish.org). Thank you.

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

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).



### Pro-Life 9 Days for Life

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the Respect Life novena 9 Days for Life, Tues., Jan. 16 – Wed., Jan. 24. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Sign up at [9daysforlife.com](http://9daysforlife.com)!

## 46TH ANNUAL PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST

January 13, 2024 ✦ 9 A.M.

Bayfront Convention Center  
Erie, Pennsylvania

### GUEST SPEAKER

**SHERIF  
GIRGIS**

Professor, Notre Dame  
University Law School



Sherif Girgis: Law Professor, Author, Law Clerk for Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, Jr., Pro-Life Advocate

### See you at the Breakfast!

Reservations...\$26

Ages 3-12...\$18 • Under 3...Free

**Reservations due by January 5**  
Please make them as soon as possible.

Reservations are required. Please mail name(s), address, and phone number with a check payable to "People for Life" or visit our website to use a credit or debit card.

FREE CHILDCARE WITH FUN ACTIVITIES

### PEOPLE FOR LIFE

1625 W. 26th Street  
P.O. Box 1126  
Erie, PA 16512

For more information  
(814) 882-1333 • (814) 459-1333  
[office@peopleforlife.org](mailto:office@peopleforlife.org)

[www.PeopleforLife.org](http://www.PeopleforLife.org)