



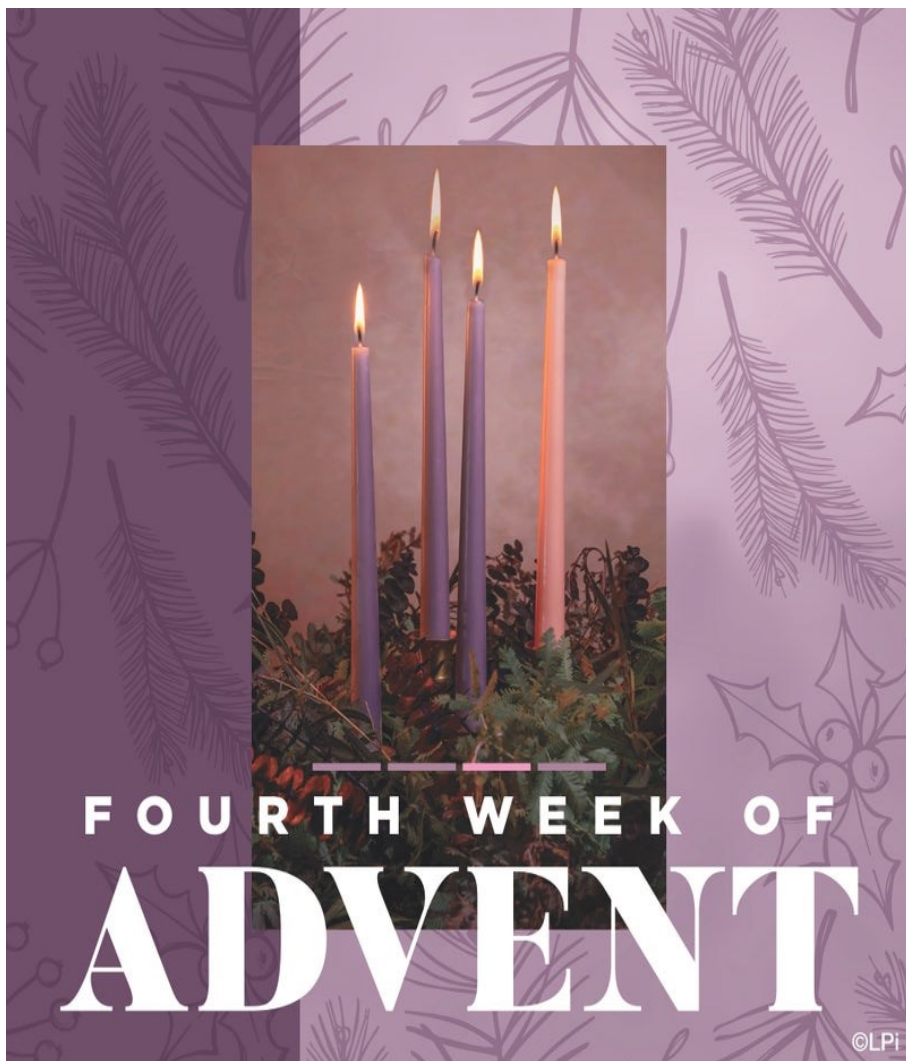
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
203 W. Washington Street
Corry, PA 16407

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 18, 2022



©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. Matthew J. Strickenberger

Pastor

pastor@stparish.org

Rev. Mr. Randy Kondrlik

Deacon

deacon@stparish.org

Melissa Silka

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

Susan Johnston

Secretary

secretary@stparish.org

Susan Vinca

*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

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



Well, here we are—the final week! 7 days to go—to deck the halls, wrap the gifts, baste the goose, or whatever else it is that you need to do to get ready. I hope it goes as well as possible for you!

Our preparations here at our Churches gets underway this weekend too. We will be beginning our decorating for Christmas after Mass on Sunday morning at both St. Thomas and St. Teresa. Much help is needed to decorate, so if you are able to help, please stick around after Mass. Thanks, in advance, to everyone who is willing to help us get ready!

And on the preparation front, the last chance for the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas will be after all Masses this weekend. Wait a minute. This is perfect. Stick around after Mass for Confession, then for your penance you can help decorate the Church! What a great idea!

And on the subject of a warped sense of humor, I now get to offer my annual reminder—truly the tackiest thing I ever say—which if you have been paying attention, is a really really high bar for me! I am most grateful to all of you for the Christmas well wishes and your expressions of gratitude to me. The outpouring of generosity is always most humbling. However, as my doctor recently reminded me rather forcefully, I am not in need of plates of cookies or homemade treats of the season. I love them, all of them, and I hate to waste a good fruitcake or pumpkin roll, but the reality is that Mr. Diabetes is not my friend. So, again, I thank you in advance for your thoughts and desire to give me something—but I don't want to waste your amazing treats and goodies. So, in the event you feel the need to give me something for Christmas, a simple card with some cash always works best. Tacky, yes, but best. Plus I will use it to go on vacation, and when I go away, my absence is like a mini-vacation for you too, so it's a win-win!

Make sure you check out the Christmas Mass schedule in the bulletin this weekend. 2 Masses at St. Thomas and 2 Masses at St. Teresa. I am also grateful to Fr. Tom Suppa for his willingness to offer the Masses at St. Teresa for us again this year. We are truly blessed by his presence with us. Please keep your Parish Staff in your prayers this week as they are working hard to help us all get ready. They will also be off the week after Christmas in an attempt to regain their sanity in the new year. 2023 is full of possibilities! So, have a great final week of Advent and we will see you in Bethlehem! God help us all! -Fr. Matt



Monday, December 19

8:00a.m. ✠Thomas Zakovitch by Ilene Zakovitch
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, December 20

5:15p.m. ✠Paul Griebel (birthday) by Joe Griebel
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, December 21

8:00a.m. ✠The Morris and O'Brien Families by the Estate of
Anna O'Brien (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, December 22

No Mass or Services today at both Sts. Thomas & Teresa

Friday, December 23

8:00a.m. ✠Mary Mongera by Dorothy Mongera
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, December 24—Christmas Eve

4:00p.m. ✠Deceased & Living Members of our Parishes
and those listed on our Christmas Flower
Memorials (St. Thomas, Corry)

6:00p.m. ✠Deceased & Living Members of our Parishes and
those listed on our Christmas Flower Memorials
(St. Teresa, Union City)

10:00p.m. ✠Deceased & Living Members of our Parishes
and those listed on our Christmas Flower
Memorials (St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, December 25—Christmas Day

9:00a.m. ✠Deceased & Living Members of our Parishes and
those listed on our Christmas Flower Memorials
(St. Teresa, Union City)

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 six 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:

3:00pm—3:30pm 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 11, 2022

Amount in Envelopes: (63).....\$3,674.00

(Total Envelopes sent: 187 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 124)

Loose.....\$106.00

Online Giving (9).....\$290.00

Holy Day / Immaculate Conception\$440.00

Total Offertory Income.....\$4,510.00

Average Weekly Expenses.....\$7,656.00

Weekly Average Shortfall.....\$(-3,146.00)

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'.



PRAYER LINE... call: Gerrie (814-665-6944), Shirley (814-392-5411), Pam (814-664-7459), or Diane (814-663-3753).

Since prayer is an important ministry of trust, know that all requests are kept confidential.

Mass Readings for the Week of December 18, 2022

Sun.: Isaiah 7:10-14 ♦ Romans 1:1-7 ♦ Matthew 1:18-24

Mon.: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a ♦ Luke 1:5-25

Tues.: Isaiah 7:10-14 ♦ Luke 1:26-38

Wed.: Song (Cant) 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a ♦ Luke 1:39-45

Thur.: 1 Samuel 1:24-28 ♦ Luke 1:46-56

Fri.: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 ♦ Luke 1:57-66

Sat.: Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 ♦ Luke 1:67-79

Christmas: Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5 ♦ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 ♦ Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Isaiah 9:1-6 ♦ Titus 2:11-14 ♦ Luke 2:1-14

Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12 ♦ Titus 3:4-7 ♦ Luke 2:15-20

Day: Isaiah 52:7-10 ♦ Hebrews 1:1-6 ♦ John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

2023 Parish Calendars

Available in the Church

Families may take a 2023 Parish Calendar which are located near the entrances of the church at both Sts. Thomas and Teresa.



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of December 18th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of the Morris and O'Brien Families by the Estate of Anna O'Brien.

Catholic Daughters Christmas Party

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas will hold a Christmas Party for their members this week at Speedy's Restaurant on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 5:30pm. We hope to see you there. Please don't forget to bring you gift for the exchange. Call Linda Brown or Pat Phillips if there are any questions.



PRAY WITHOUT CEASING



Ushers Needed

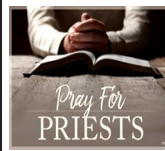
We are looking for men / women / young adults who would like to help in this ministry. We would like to have individuals to take up the collection during Mass, especially for the Christmas season. Please consider becoming a part of this ministry. If interested, call the parish office. Thank you.

Homebound Ministry at St. Thomas Church

If you have a family member who is not able to make it to Mass due to health reason and would like to be visited and receive the Eucharist, please call Pat at 814-964-3262 or the parish office.

In Need of Some Spiritual Reading

Please check out our book rack in the main vestibule of Saint Thomas Church. Books may be borrowed and returned when finished reading them. There is something for everyone.



Rev. Jason Glover, Pray for Vocations, Rev. Andrew Boyd, Rev. Lawrence Richards, Rev. David Renne, Very Rev. Marc Stockton, The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico

A Family Perspective

The child born to Jesus and Mary was named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." Every child reminds us by their innocence that "God is with us." Children are signs of God's continuing presence in our lives.

"Question of the Week" - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Question for Children: When you pray, how do you hear God's voice in response?

Question for Youth: God speaks to us in our intuitions and imagination, as he did to Joseph in this dream. What is your experience of hearing God speak in this way? What is God asking of you?

Question for Adults: What experiences do you have of God "speaking to you" and directing your life and work? How does God speak to you in prayer?

COME,
Lord Jesus!



St. Teresa Parish News

ST. TERESA FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: Dec. 10/11, 2022
Amount in Envelopes: (50) \$2,054.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 157 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 107)
Loose \$44.75
Continuing the Vision \$85.00
Holy Day / Immaculate Conception \$536.00
Total Offertory Income \$2,719.75

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STEWARDSHIP: Dec. 10/11, 2022
Amount in Envelopes: (6) \$145.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 30 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 24)
Total Offertory Income \$145.00

St. Teresa Parish Offertory Income \$2,864.75
Average Weekly Expenses \$4,777.00
Weekly Average Shortfall \$(-1,912.25)

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



St. Teresa Knights of Columbus Meeting this Week

Members are reminded of our Knights of Columbus meeting on Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00pm meeting in the St. Teresa Parish Center.



Totals from #iGiveCatholic

Thanks to everyone who donated to our parishes of Sts. Teresa and Thomas during the #iGiveCatholic (Nov. 29). We are grateful for the donations received both online and off-line using envelopes for this special giving event. We appreciate your generosity. Unofficial totals for our parishes are:

St. Thomas = \$1,412.68

St. Teresa = \$514.99

The reason for uneven dollar amount is due to processing fees which were taken out of some of the online donations.

Knights of Columbus—St. Teresa Christmas Dinner

All are welcome to come and enjoy a dinner to celebrate Christmas by sharing a meal together on Friday, December 23 from 5:00pm—7:00pm at the St. Teresa Parish Center. The dinner menu features Ham, Pierogi, Green Beans, Potatoes, and a Roll. Please feel free to bake and bring a dessert to share for all to enjoy. We will be accepting donations only for the dinner as our way of wishing everyone a *Merry Christmas*.



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of December 18th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Cheryl O'Neil.

You may sponsor the candle at St. Teresa in memory/honor of a loved one for \$10, please call the parish office if you wish to do so. Thank you.

Reminder for St. Teresa Rosary Altar Members

We will not hold a meeting in December for Rosary Altar Society at St. Teresa. Our next meeting will be held on Epiphany Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 1:00pm in the St. Teresa Parish Center. This will be a meeting and party for the members of the St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society. Please be sure to mark your calendar.



St. Teresa Christmas Giving Tree

Thanks to everyone who took a tag from our parish's Giving Tree. You will be sharing joy by helping others this Christmas season. ALL gifts should be wrapped and returned to St. Teresa Church TODAY-Sunday, December 18. Thank you for your generosity.

St. Teresa Church Organizations / Groups

•Rosary—Altar Society

Meets the first Monday of each month at 4:30 PM

•Knights of Columbus

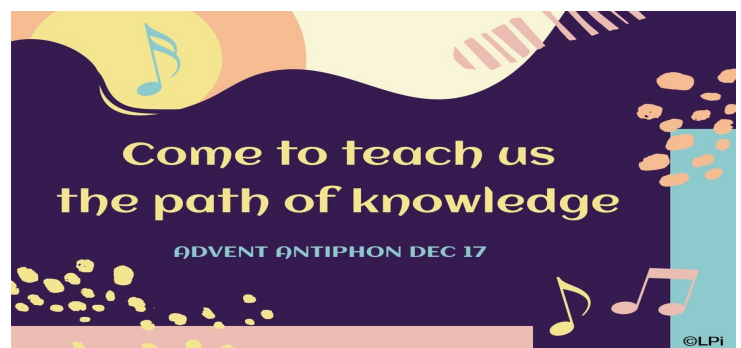
Meet every third Wednesday at 7:00 PM

•Religious Education Guild

Meets during the school term



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of Cheryl O'Neil who passed away from Saint Teresa Parish. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.



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 11:00am and ending at 6:00pm, beginning on Black Friday until Christmas Eve. Ringers will be inside the (heated!) lobby of Tops in Union City. 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.



Christmas Mass Schedule

We hope your family will join us at one of our Masses for Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

Saturday, Dec. 24—4:00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas at St. Thomas Church, Corry

Saturday, Dec. 24—6:00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas at St. Teresa Church, Union City

Saturday, Dec. 24—10:00pm Night Mass for Christmas at St. Thomas Church, Corry

Sunday, Dec. 25—9:00am Christmas Day Mass at St. Teresa Church, Union City

Parish Office Closed the Week After Christmas

Our partnered parish office will be closed Dec. 26 thru Jan. 2 so that our staff may enjoy the holiday season with their families.

WINTER MASS SCHEDULE

September 10, 2022 thru May 21, 2023

Saturday 4:00PM

St. Thomas Church (Corry)

September, November, January, March, May

St. Teresa Church (Union City)

October, December, February, April

Sunday

8:00AM at St. Thomas Church (Corry)

10:00AM at St. Teresa Church (Union City)

Confessions

Saturday from 3:00pm—3:30pm

**at the church where Saturday Mass is celebrated
OR by appointment—please call the parish office**

Early Submission Deadlines for Bulletin Items

The holidays are upon us and with it comes early deadlines for the bulletins. Please see the following schedule:

For Dec. 25, 2022; bulletin items due by Wed., Dec. 14

For Jan. 1, 2023; bulletin items due by Dec. 22

For Jan. 8, 2023; bulletin items due by Jan. 2, 2023

Please send items for publication to the parish office at secretary@stparish.org. 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 for your cooperation with these deadlines.

Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News

Religious Education Classes Meeting

Classes are Sundays following Mass. Students in Corry attend class from 8:45am until 10:00am in the former school building. Union City students attend class from 10:45am until 12:00pm (noon) at St. Teresa Parish Center.



Class Schedule for end of December 2022 & January 2023

Sunday, Dec. 18—Class

Sunday, Dec. 25—CHRISTMAS / No Class

Sunday, January 1, 2023—NEW YEAR'S DAY / No Class

Sunday, January 8—Class



Decorating Our Churches for Christmas TODAY

Those who wish to help decorate our churches for the Christmas season are invited to stay after the 8:00a.m. and 10:00a.m. Masses TODAY, Sunday, December 18. *Many hands will make for light work.* Thank you!

Signups for Liturgical Ministers for the Holidays & Beyond

All those involved in liturgical ministry at both Sts. Thomas & Teresa parishes (Lectors, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, and Ushers) are asked to consider serving at one of our Christmas liturgies. If interested, please put your name on the signup sheets available at both churches, or contact the parish office. Your help to enhance our liturgies and we are grateful and appreciate your efforts. We are also scheduling for January/February, so be sure to update your dates of availability in Minister Scheduler Pro or call the parish office. Thank you.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The following are opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Advent Season at Sts. Thomas and Teresa Parishes:

- Every Saturday of Advent from 3:00PM – 3:45PM at St. Teresa Church, Union City
- Wednesday, December 7th from 6:00PM – 6:45 PM at St. Teresa, Union City
- Tuesday, December 13th from 5:30PM – 7:00PM at St. Thomas, Corry
- Immediately following ALL weekend Masses at Sts. Thomas and Teresa December 17th and 18th

Come to experience God's love and healing mercy.