



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 11, 2022



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

Mass Readings for the Week of December 11, 2022

Sun.: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 ♦ James 5:7-10 ♦ Matthew 11:2-11
 Mon.: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab ♦
 Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47
 Tues.: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 ♦ Matthew 21:28-32
 Wed.: Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25 ♦ Luke 7:18b-23
 Thur.: Isaiah 54:1-10 ♦ Luke 7:24-30
 Fri.: Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8 ♦ John 5:33-36
 Sat.: Genesis 49:2, 8-10 ♦ Matthew 1:1-17
 Next Sun.: Isaiah 7:10-14 ♦ Romans 1:1-7 ♦ Matthew 1:18-24

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

We can often feel parched, desolate, lifeless, and dark. Even though we still engage in the business and demands of life, we find ourselves somewhat detached, disengaged, and removed. We lack joy, wonder, awe, and zest. Rather than being an experience of freedom and excitement, life holds us captive. We are tethered to systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, and expectations that go against the grain of what it means to be God's child. We find ourselves in a desert. Jesus came to release us from all of this negativity and desolation. John the Baptist announced the arrival of the One who embodies healing, reconciliation, freedom, and life. Stop complaining about what you don't have. Prepare for the arrival of the remedy to life's despair. Be strong, fear not! Christ will save us from life's distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Be patient. With proper time and care, all will be well. ©LPi

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

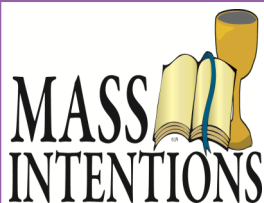
We hope your family will join us at one of our Masses for Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

**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**

**Mass Intentions for Our Parishes**

When wishing to schedule Mass Intentions for your loved ones, whether the Mass is to be said at St. Thomas Church, St. Teresa Church, or Our Lady of Fatima Church, please contact the St. Thomas Parish Office at 814-663-3041 to schedule your intentions. We will now be scheduling all intentions in one book. We will do our best to accommodate your date requests. Thank you.

**Monday, December 12**

8:00a.m. ✠James, Marjorie, and Jimmy Lenart by Sandra Downor Hartel (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, December 13

5:15p.m. ✠Deacon Bill Sproveri by Deacon Dennis & Lynn Kudlak (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, December 14

8:00a.m. ✠Paul Griebel by the Corry Knights of Columbus (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, December 15

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

Friday, December 16

8:00a.m. ✠Anna & Si Springer by Bill & Judy Flynn (St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, December 17

4:00p.m. ✠Bob Adams by Melody Adams and Family (St. Teresa, Union City)

Sunday, December 18

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

10:00a.m. ✠Steven Paul & Dorothy Mongera by Family (St. Teresa, Union City)

A Family Perspective

The question put to Jesus in today's gospel is also put to us today: "Are you the one?" Are you the one who will give guidance to the children in your life or must they look to TV sitcoms, Face Book, videos or music lyrics for direction? Are you the one? Will you be the one?

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 4, 2022

Amount in Envelopes: (60).....\$2,577.00

(Total Envelopes sent: 187 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 127)

Loose.....\$176.00

Online Giving (13).....\$540.00

Total Offertory Income.....\$3,293.00

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

Weekly Average Shortfall.....\$(-4,363.00)

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.....\$249.00

Diocesan Special Collection taken up on Nov. 19/20, 2022



We will have Coffee and Donuts at St. Thomas in the gym at the school building following the 8:00am Mass on Sunday, December 11th. All are welcome to join us for food and fellowship.

Holiday Pastries Available at Mass on December 11th at St. Thomas Church

The Altar Rosary Society has a few pastries still available for sale. Look for their table before and after Mass on Sunday, Dec. 11. **Cost is \$15 for Kolachi and \$12 for Baklava.** Treat your family to something delicious for the holidays. Thank you to everyone who supported our efforts, which help support the church.



2022 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals (as of 11/28):

Our Parish Goal is \$78,564.00

Total Amount Pledged to date = \$47,894.00

Total Paid to date = \$45,964.00

of Families who made a pledge = 132

of Families who did not pledge = 213

We appreciate your generosity to the CSA. Prayerfully consider what God is leading you to give. **Please make a pledge today. Thank you.**

Be sure to make your check payable to

'ST. THOMAS CHURCH' when making a CSA payment.



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.



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of December 11th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Regis Dombrowski.



Public Rosary on Christmas Eve

The St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society will **not** hold a public Rosary at St. Thomas Church on Saturday, December 24 at 9:00am due to the holiday. They encourage all to pray The Rosary at home.

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.

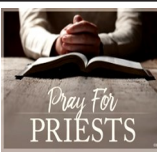
In Need of Some Spiritual Reading

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.



New Vestment

Thanks to St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society for their donation of this beautiful vestment, which made its debut this weekend for Gaudete Sunday—the Third Sunday of Advent. And thanks for all that they do for the good of St. Thomas Church.



Rev. Walter Packard, Rev. Mark Hoffman, Rev. John Miller, Captain Joseph Campbell, Rev. Michael DeMartinis, Rev. Ross Miceli, Pray for Consecrated Life.

"Question of the Week" - Third Sunday of Advent

Question for Children: Why is Christmas such a time of happiness for people?

Question for Youth: God speaks to you every day: Isaiah tells us our ears and eyes will be opened in Christ to hear God's voice. What do you hear God saying to you?

Question for Adults: What is there in this promise from the Prophet Isaiah that gives you hope? How have you seen this promise fulfilled in Christ?

St. Teresa Parish News

ST. TERESA FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: Dec. 3/4, 2022
Amount in Envelopes: (58) \$2,036.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 157 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 99)
Loose \$151.00
Continuing the Vision \$265.00
Total Offertory Income \$2,452.00

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STEWARDSHIP: Dec. 3/4, 2022
Amount in Envelopes: (6) \$160.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 30 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 24)
Total Offertory Income \$160.00

St. Teresa Parish Offertory Income \$2,612.00
Average Weekly Expenses \$4,777.00
Weekly Average Shortfall \$(-2,165.00)

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

Catholic Campaign for Human Development.....\$310.00
 Diocesan Special Collection taken up on Nov. 19/20, 2022



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of December 11th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Antoinette Ranyak.

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. A reminder to those who took a tag from the Giving Tree that all gifts should be wrapped and returned to St. Teresa Church by next Sunday, December 18. Thank you for your generosity.

Thanks for Donating to the Thanksgiving Food Baskets

We wish to thank all those who donated food and/or money to the 23 food baskets we made for those in need in our parish and the Union City Family Support Center. We also wish to thank Missy Silka for collecting the food and keeping track of amounts brought in by our Religious Education classes. The Pre-K/Kindergarten class donated the most food and Third Grade donated the second largest amount. Our town is truly blessed by our parishioners. Thank you and God blessings be with you.



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of Antoinette Ranyak who passed away this week 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 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.

2022 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals (as of 11/28):

Our Parish Goal is \$52,346.00

Total Amount Pledged to date = \$37,125.00

Total Paid to date = \$34,285.00

of Families who made a pledge = 93

of Families who did not pledge = 201

We appreciate your generosity to the CSA. Prayerfully consider what God is leading you to give. **Please make a pledge today. Thank you.**

Be sure to make your check payable to

'ST. TERESA CHURCH' when making a CSA payment.



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

•Parish Center Rental

Contact the Partnered Parish Office: 814-663-3041

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****Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

The Digital World: The digital world is constantly evolving with new social media platforms, apps, and devices, and children and teens are often the first to use them. Sometimes with negative impacts such as cyberbullying, sexting, or the posting hateful messages or content. Parents need to become aware and stay up-to-date on the latest apps, social media platforms and digital slang used by children and teens. Parents should monitor their child's social media sites, apps and browsing history regularly. Visit www.eriecd.org/childprotection/ to see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth.

**WEEKEND MASS ATTENDANCE
FOR NOVEMBER 2022**

	St. Thomas (Seats 350)	St. Teresa (Seats 225)
Total Attendance November 2022:	781	344
Average Attendance per Mass:	112	114
Average Empty Seats per Mass:	238	111

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.

Please patronize the sponsors of our bulletin. It is through the paid advertising of these sponsors that we can publish the bulletin. Please see their ads on the back page and thank them for their support! If you wish to advertise in our bulletin, please contact the parish office or Tim Weir at LPi at 800-477-4574 x6568 or email: twair@4LPi.com.

Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News**Religious Education Classes**

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 December and the holidays**

Sunday, Dec. 11—Class / Student Confessions (grades 3-11)

Sunday, Dec. 18—Class

Sunday, Dec. 25—CHRISTMAS / No Class

Sunday, January 1—New Year's Day / No Class

Sunday, January 8—Class

Religious Education:
Helps to build a strong foundation

**Signups for Liturgical Ministers for the Holidays**

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. You help to enhance our liturgies and we are grateful and appreciate your efforts. 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.