



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 14, 2024



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. - Jn 1:35-36

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

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

Notes from the Pastor

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.

FASTING BEFORE COMMUNION: People have been asking me if the rules about fasting before communion have changed. The simple answer is, "No, they have not changed." The more complicated answer deals with what the rule says. There were older rules about having to fast from Midnight onward before receiving communion. That was relaxed many years ago to simply be that we are asked to fast for one hour before receiving communion from food or drink. The exceptions to the rule are water and medicine. There is also an exception for those who may be ill at home or in the hospital. The rule of fasting does not apply to them.

THANK YOU: Thanks to all those who generously helped to take the Christmas decorations down. Your kindness and hard work are greatly appreciated.

- 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.



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.



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)

Monday, January 15

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

Tuesday, January 16

8:00a.m. †Gerrie Cragg by Carol & Mary Buckshaw (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, January 17

8:00a.m. †Sandra Young by Peg Anderson (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, January 18

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

Friday, January 19

8:00a.m. †Priscilla Kozik by Chuck & Mary Guzowski (St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, January 20

4:30p.m. †Dan Ahl by George Taylor (St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, January 21

8:00a.m. Members of the Pelc & Norton Families by Robert Pelc (St. Thomas, Corry)

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

Parish Office Closed—Monday, January 15th

Our offices will be closed to the public on Monday, Jan. 15 in observance of the federal holiday. Sorry for any inconvenience.

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: January 7, 2024

Amount in Envelopes: (73)	\$3,660.00
(Total Envelopes sent: 174 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 101)	
Loose	\$320.00
Online Giving (13)	\$740.00
Faith Formation/Rel. Ed. (10)	\$138.00
Total Offertory Income	\$4,858.00

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

Weekly Average Shortfall\$(-477.00)

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 for Peace

God our Creator, You call blessed, those who work for peace.

Help us to work without ceasing for that justice which brings true and lasting peace.

Banish war and violence from our world and keep us safe from weapons of hate, so that all people might rejoice in Your love and live in Your peace.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*"It should never be forgotten that **prayer** constitutes an essential part of Christian life. Indeed, **prayer** is an important part of our very humanity: It is the first expression of man's inner truth, the first condition for authentic freedom of spirit."*

— St. Pope John Paul II



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 14th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Anna & James O'Brien by their estate.

Pot Luck Dinner at St. Thomas

We are planning a Pot Luck Dinner for Saturday, January 20th after 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!*



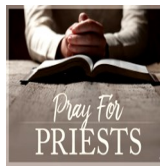
You're Invited to Coffee and Donuts TODAY

We will share in some food and fellowship TODAY—Sunday, Jan. 14th at St. Thomas following the 8:00am Mass. Donations accepted to help cover costs. All are welcome. *Please join us!*



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Joseph Vanik** who passed away from St. Thomas Church. May his soul rest in peace.

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



Rev. Msgr. James Sanner, Rev. John Santor, Rev. Johnathan Schmolt, Rev. Stephen Schreiber, Rev. Cesar Segovia, Rev. Kyle Seyler, for all priests and *Pray for the Pastoral Planning in the Erie Diocese.*

"Question of the Week" - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: What can you do this week to show that you are a follower of Jesus?

Question for Youth: Andrew seemed to know immediately that he should follow Jesus. Do you have that same sense of confidence in your faith in Jesus? What helps? What makes it hard?

Question for Adults: In what ways do you experience being called by Jesus? What does he want you to do?



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: January 7, 2024
Amount in Envelopes: (59) \$3,081.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 157 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 98)
Loose \$64.00
Continuing the Vision (1) \$10.00
Online Giving (1) \$30.00
Total Offertory Income \$3,185.00

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STEWARDSHIP: Jan. 7, 2024
Amount in Envelopes: (6) \$145.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 30 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 24)
St. Teresa Parish Offertory Income \$3,330.00
Average Weekly Expenses \$4,585.00
 (Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)
Weekly Average Shortfall \$(1,255.00)

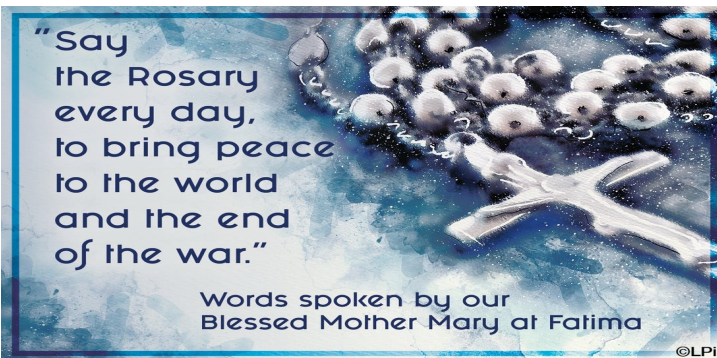
*Thanks to everyone who regularly uses his/her envelopes.
 Please write checks to St. Teresa Church or Our Lady of Fatima Church.*



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!



Mark Your Calendars for Area Events

Friday, January 19, 2024 March for Life Washington, DC 51st Annual Trip Depart Thursday evening, January 18, 11PM; March in Washington, DC on Friday, January 19; Return Saturday morning, January 20 about 1:30AM. \$65 seat; Early reservations recommended; Sponsorship inquiries are welcome; Visit: peopleforlife.org/january2024; Questions: call or email 814-882-1333 or 814-459-1333; office@peopleforlife.org Website: www.PeopleforLife.org.

Friday-Saturday, February 9-10, 2024 Pre-Lenten Retreat with Diocese of Erie St. Thomas More House of Prayer 365 Hill City Rd., Cranberry, PA. Step away from busyness and stress to join other single and married adults in a weekend of prayer and community. The Virtue & Integrity Education Office of the Diocese of Erie is sponsoring this retreat, which includes reflections on each person's call to holiness by Fr. Kevin Barrett. Questions: call or email Cassondra, 814-824-1216, cdragone@eriercd.org. For pricing and/or to register visit website: <https://www.eriercd.org/chastity/retreat.html>.

Saturday, May 4, 2024 47th Annual Erie March for Life



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of January 14th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Sandy King by Larry, Kim, and family.

Readings for the week of January 14, 2024

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
 Mon.: 1 Samuel 15:16-23 ♦ Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 ♦ Mark 2:18-22
 Tues.: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 ♦ Psalm 89:20, 21-22, 27-28 ♦ Mark 2:23-28
 Wed.: 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51 ♦ Psalm 144:1b, 2, 9-10 ♦ Mark 3:1-6
 Thur.: 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7 ♦ Psalm 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13 ♦
 Mark 3:7-12
 Fri.: 1 Samuel 24:3-21 ♦ Psalm 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11 ♦ Mark 3:13-19
 Sat.: 2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27 ♦ Psalm 80:2-3, 5-7 ♦ Mark 3:20-21
 Next Sun.: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 ♦ Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a) ♦
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 ♦ Mark 1:14-20

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

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS AT THIS YEAR'S OPEN HOUSE EVENTS



VISIT US SUNDAY, JAN. 21
 @ ST. JAMES
 12 - 2 PM

VISIT US SUNDAY, JAN. 28
 @ BLESSED SACRAMENT,
 OUR LADY OF PEACE
 & ST. LUKE
 12 - 2 PM

VISIT US SUNDAY, FEB. 4
 @ ST. GEORGE
 & ST. JUDE
 12 - 2 PM

**REGISTRATION APPRECIATED
 REGISTER @ WWW.ERIECATHOLIC.ORG**

Be Careful Opening Emails

The parish office has received fraudulent/spoofed emails appearing to come from Fr. Tom. Please use caution when opening/replying to emails. As the diocese has previously stated: In this age when personal data can be misused by scam artists, please be aware that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, its clergy and entities such as parishes and schools, will never solicit your personal or business information unless initiated by you. Should you receive an unsolicited request for such information – including a request for gift cards of any type – exercise extreme caution. Contact the person or entity by using official contact information only. Do not use the contact information provided in the potential fraudulent request. If there is ever a question, call the parish 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

Weekend of Prayer for Pastoral Planning

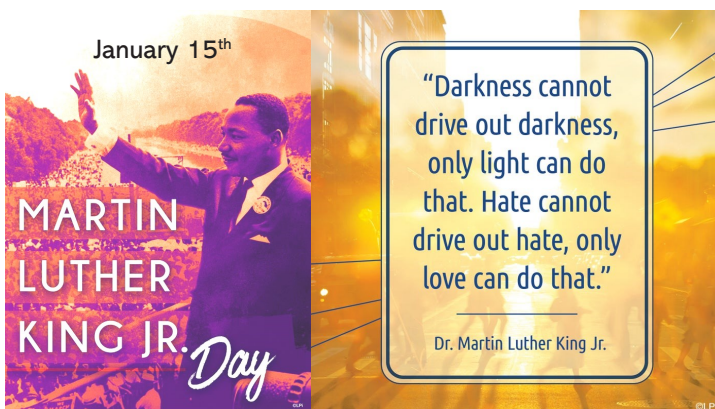
This weekend (January 13/14) is designated by Bishop Persico as a weekend of prayer for pastoral planning across the Diocese of Erie. As with every endeavor we undertake, prayer must be at the center of our efforts. By calling the people and clergy of the diocese together to pray with and for each other, 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. Please include the Pastoral Planning Prayer above in your daily prayers.

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.



*We have come to know and to believe
in the love that God has for us. (1 John 4:16)*



Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News

Calendar Reminders for Religious Education

Families of students in our Religious Education Classes at both Sts. Thomas & Teresa Parishes are reminded of the following schedule for the remainder of January 2024:



Sunday, January 14—NO Classes for this week.

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

Sunday, January 28—Classes for All Religious Education students with Safe Environment Training for ALL.

CLASS TIMES: Classes meet in Corry on Sunday mornings from 9:00am until 10:30am and in Union City from 11:00am until 12:30pm; the PURPOSE/Confirmation Class in Corry meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm until 8:00pm.

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 28th (and Wednesday, January 31st) 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 at business@stparish.org. Thank you.

9 Days for Life

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena 9 Days for Life, Tuesday, January 16 – Wednesday, January 24. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more by email or text message. Sign up at 9daysforlife.com!

Pro-Life

Prayer & Finding God in the Silence

Anawim Ministries is hosting a retreat on prayer and finding God in the silence on Feb. 25 at the Bethany Retreat Center, 1031 Germania Rd., Frenchville. Dr. Jan Satterlee will present prayer as communication with God by unpacking three expressions of prayer: vocal, meditative and contemplative. To learn more about the retreat, visit <https://www.wetravel.com/trips/prayer-and-finding-god-in-the-silence-anawim-ministries-frenchville-54384564>.

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month: Child Sex Trafficking is a form of child abuse that occurs when any child under age 18 is advertised, solicited, or exploited through a commercial sex act where sex is traded for money, food, shelter, drugs, or anything of value. Traffickers can be anyone including friends, gangs, family members, foster parents, perceived trusted adults or boyfriends. Talk to your child openly about this reality and build resiliency. Address the myths and misconceptions that glamorize the commercial sex industry. Social media and gaming platforms are increasingly becoming the tool traffickers and other predators use to target, groom, and recruit victims. At some point your child will likely be confronted with inappropriate messages or see things online that they know are wrong. Teach your child how to handle these situations. You can report suspected child sex trafficking or make a tip at 1-800-843-5678 or CyberTipline.org. For additional resources visit www.eriecd.org/childprotection/