



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

## October 1, 2023



### 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you." - Mt 21:31

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](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**

**ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE:** This summer we created a link for online giving for St. Teresa Parish through a company called Vanco. You will find a QR code in the bulletin to take you to this link, as well as a link on the St. Teresa Parish website, [www.st-teresa-unioncity.org](http://www.st-teresa-unioncity.org). St. Thomas already has an online giving tool on their website, [www.StThomastheApostle.Church](http://www.StThomastheApostle.Church) where you can click "Donate Online." St. Thomas parishioners might want to make sure their online giving is still active. Some people have noticed that they set their giving up for a 6-month period or a year, and that period has expired and needs to be reset. Thanks to everyone who so generously supports our parishes with time, talent, and treasure.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Next weekend at all the Masses I will be addressing the financial situations at both parishes. We are hoping to provide an insert in the bulletin to summarize some of the issues and concerns.

**RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:** We do not currently have a program for this at St. Thomas or St. Teresa, but I would be interested in forming a team to work with those who are looking to become Catholic or to complete their process of Initiation into the Catholic Faith. If you know of someone who might be interested in this process of becoming Catholic or completing their sacraments of initiation, please contact the parish office or Fr. Tom.

*Who is RCIA for?*

- Non-Catholics who want to find out more about the Catholic Faith
- Those who want to join the Catholic Church through Baptism, or Profession of Faith (previously baptized in another Christian faith.)
- Those who were baptized Catholic as infants but never received religious education, Confirmation, or First Eucharist.

**Five stages of the RCIA Process**

**Inquiry or Pre-Catechumenate**

At this time participants are encouraged to ask questions and explore the basic tenets of the Catholic faith and to reflect upon these in light of their own life experiences.

**The Catechumenate**

It is during this time that most of study of Scripture, doctrine, traditions and meeting with the community takes place.

**Purification & Enlightenment**

For those preparing for baptism, this stage takes place during the Lenten season where they reflect upon their own faith experiences in a more intense, prayerful way. Other times during the year, baptized candidates reflect more deeply upon the meaning of their baptism and celebrate the Sacrament of Penance.

**Sacraments of Initiation**

Candidates for baptism celebrate their initiation into the Church on the holiest of nights (the Easter Vigil) where they are baptized, confirmed and receive Eucharist. Candidates for full communion celebrate their Rite of Reception several other times throughout the year.

**Mystagogy**

This is a time for candidates to reflect upon their experiences of being new Catholic Christians and find their place in the ordinary life of the Church.

- Fr. Tom



**Sunday, October 1**

- 8:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa Parishes (St. Thomas, Corry)
- 10:00a.m. †Paul Mongera by Lillie Mongera (St. Teresa, Union City)

**Monday, October 2**

- 8:00a.m. †Annie Ranyak by David & Linda Wethli and Family (St. Teresa, Union City)

**Tuesday, October 3**

- 8:00a.m. †Dan Ahl by Tom & Kathy Savko (St. Thomas, Corry)

**Wednesday, October 4**

- 8:00a.m. †Deceased and Living Members of the Rushin and Hennings Families by Steve & Julie Rushin (St. Thomas, Corry)

**Thursday, October 5**

- 8:00a.m. Communion Service at St. Thomas Church

**Friday, October 6**

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

**Saturday, October 7**

- 4:30p.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa Parishes (St. Teresa, Union City)

**Sunday, October 8**

- 8:00a.m. †Madalyn Jawdy by Joe & Janet Jawdy (St. Thomas, Corry)
- 10:00a.m. †Dorothy Mongera by Steve & Cheryl Mongera (St. Teresa, Union City)

**"Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith." - from the Peace Prayer of St. Francis**

**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: Sept. 23 & 24, 2023

**Amount in Envelopes:** (73) .....\$2,927.00  
 (Total Envelopes sent: 174 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 101)  
**Loose** .....\$376.00  
**Online Giving** (9) .....\$295.00  
**Faith Formation/Rel. Ed.** (1) .....\$5.00  
**Total Offertory Income** .....\$3,603.00

**Average Weekly Expenses** .....\$7,656.00  
**Weekly Average Shortfall** .....\$(-4,053.00)

*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'.*



### 2023 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals (as of 09/25):

**St. Thomas Diocesan Goal is \$39,417.00**

**Total Amount Pledged to date = \$43,155.00**

**Total Paid to date = \$40,775.00**

**# of Families who made a pledge = 109**

*Prayerfully consider what God is leading you to give.*

**If you have not yet pledged to the 2023 CSA, please do so today.**

**Be sure to make your check payable to**

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

### 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Rosary March

All are invited to join us for the annual Rosary March on Sunday, October 8, 2023 at 2:00pm at St. Peter Cathedral located at 10<sup>th</sup> & Sassafras Streets, Erie. We will pray The Rosary while marching in downtown Erie. For those who are unable to march, The Rosary will be recited inside of the church.

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

**HELP**

**WANTED**

### Custodian Position Available at St. Thomas

We are seeking a person who is interested in working a custodial position for the parish. The job would be approximately 10 hours per week. Duties include cleaning the church, parish office, and other buildings of the parish. If interested, please contact the

parish office (814-663-3041) or email Missy Silka, Business Manager, at [business@stparish.org](mailto:business@stparish.org).



**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 October 1<sup>st</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Deceased Members of the Class of 1976 by Nancy Hahn.

## PRAY WITHOUT CEASING



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Mary 'Gerri' Cragg** who passed away from Saint Thomas Parish. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.



### You're Invited to Coffee and Donuts

Coffee and Donuts will be held at Saint Thomas Parish next weekend following the 8:00am Mass (Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>). Donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of the donuts. All are welcome to join us for a time of socializing and food.

### Wooden Fencing & Posts for Sale from St. Thomas Parish

The fence around the playground area at St. Thomas Parish was recently removed by Corry Knights of Columbus and other volunteers. Available for sale are 26 fencing sections (8' wide by 6' tall) at a cost of \$35 per section and 29 posts (8' length, 4x4) at \$10 each. If interested in purchasing some of the fencing and/or posts, please contact the parish office.



### Knights of Columbus Food Drive Collection

The Corry Knights of Columbus are holding a food drive to benefit the Corry Food Pantry from now until the Thanksgiving holiday. We are asking parishioners to please donate non-perishable food items. You may place your donations in the marked bins at the entrances of St. Thomas Church. Thank you for your support!



### Cemetery Prices to Increase on November 1<sup>st</sup>

Beginning Nov. 1, 2023, there will be an increase of fees associated with St. Thomas and St. Elizabeth Cemeteries. The cost to purchase cemetery plots will increase as follows:

**Full Burial:** current price is \$550/new price will be \$650

**Cremation Burial:** current price \$400/new price will be \$500

Those who wish to purchase plots in one of these cemeteries prior to the cost increase should call the office soon. Any questions or concerns regarding our cemeteries, please contact Rhonda Pierce, Coordinator of Cemeteries, at our parish office.



## St. Teresa Parish News

### ST. TERESA FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: Sept. 24, 2023

**Amount in Envelopes:** (55) ..... \$1,656.00  
 (Total Envelopes sent: 157 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 102)  
**Loose** ..... \$157.00  
**Continuing the Vision** (2) ..... \$305.00  
**Online Giving** (1) ..... \$30.00  
**Total Offertory Income** ..... \$2,148.00

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

**Amount in Envelopes:** (7) ..... \$190.00  
 (Total Envelopes sent: 30 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 23)

**St. Teresa Parish Offertory Income** ..... \$2,338.00  
**Average Weekly Expenses** ..... \$4,777.00  
**Weekly Average Shortfall** ..... \$(-2,439.00)

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



St. Teresa  
Online Offertory

*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!*



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of October 1<sup>st</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Priscilla Kozik.

### A Family Perspective

In today's gospel Jesus asked, "What is your opinion?" We sometimes think our opinion is dogma or fact, when an opinion is only how we perceive a situation or how we feel about something. Arguments over opinions often cause great divides in families. Tread lightly on the opinions of others; the heart you break may be your own.

### St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society Meeting THIS WEEK

Ladies of the Rosary Altar Society are reminded of their monthly meeting which will be held on Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30pm in the St. Teresa Parish Center. *We hope to see you there!*



**FUELING the MISSION together**

### 2023 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals (as of 09/25)

St. Teresa Diocesan Goal is \$24,055.00

Total Amount Pledged to date = \$33,071.00

Total Paid to date = \$32,181.80

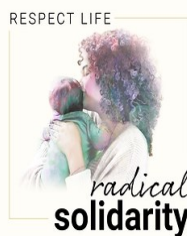
# of Families who made a pledge = 77

**Be sure to make your check payable to**

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

### October is Respect Life Month

This year's theme for Respect Life Month is **Radical Solidarity**. The USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities provides a wide range of resources to help Catholics build a culture that respects life and human dignity. Resources are available at <https://www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month>.



*"Radical solidarity compels us to come alongside vulnerable mothers in profound friendship, compassion, and support for both them and their preborn children. It requires us to address the fundamental challenges that lead an expectant mother to believe she is unable to welcome the child God has entrusted to her. We must do all we can to provide mothers, children, and families with the support they need to flourish. This cannot be accomplished by laws or policy alone, but requires the continual transformation of our own hearts."*

## St. Teresa's Annual Harvest Moon Card Party



Sponsored By

**ST. TERESA'S  
Rosary-Altar Society**

**Chinese  
Auction**

Admission  
\$ 6.00

Includes Light Dinner  
with Coffee or tea

**Door  
Prizes**

**Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

**7:00 P.M.**

**AT ST. TERESA'S CENTER  
UNION CITY**



**Bake  
Sale**

Reservations Call **ELAINE 814 438 3953**



**Location Change for Saturday Mass of Anticipation**

Please be sure to note on your calendars that the 4:30pm Saturday Mass will be moving over to St. Teresa Church in Union City during the month of October. Confessions will also be offered only at St. Teresa on Saturdays from 3:30pm—4:00pm.

**Fall/Winter Mass Schedule Now in Effect**

**Saturdays at 4:30PM**

(alternating between Sts. Thomas & Teresa)  
at St. Thomas Church during Sept., Nov., January, March, May  
at St. Teresa Church during Oct., Dec., February, April

**Sundays**

**8:00AM Mass at St. Thomas Church**

**10:00AM Mass at St. Teresa Church**

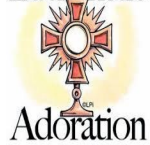
Confessions on Saturday from 3:30pm—4:00pm  
at the church where Saturday Mass is being held  
- or - by appointment, please call the parish office

"...IN THIS WORLD I CANNOT SEE  
THE MOST HIGH SON OF GOD WITH  
MY OWN EYES, EXCEPT FOR HIS  
MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD."

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



**Eucharistic Adoration THIS WEEK**

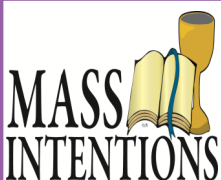


*Come to 'recharge' your soul and fill your heart  
with Jesus and his Father's mercy...*

Eucharistic Adoration is Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>  
(8:00am) through Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> (8:00am) at  
Saint Thomas Church. It will also be held on  
Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> (8:00am—12:00pm) at St. Teresa Church. All  
are welcome. We are always looking for more 'adorers'. If you  
can commit to one hour a month to be with Our Lord, please  
call the office.

**Readings for the week of October 1, 2023**

Sun.: Ezekiel 18:25-28 ♦ Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9, (6a) ♦ Philippians 2:1-11 or  
2:1-5 ♦ Matthew 21:28-32  
Mon.: Zechariah 8:1-8 ♦ Psalm 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23 ♦  
Matthew 18:1-5, 10  
Tues.: Zechariah 8:20-23 ♦ Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 ♦ Luke 9:51-56  
Wed.: Nehemiah 2:1-8 ♦ Psalm 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 ♦ Luke 9:57-62  
Thur.: Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12 ♦ Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11 ♦ Luke 10:1-12  
Fri.: Baruch 1:15-22 ♦ Psalm 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9 ♦ Luke 10:13-16  
Sat.: Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29 ♦ Psalm 69:33-35, 36-37 ♦ Luke 10:17-24  
Next Sun.: Isaiah 5:1-7 ♦ Psalm 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20 (Isaiah 5:7a) ♦  
Philippians 4:6-9 ♦ Matthew 21:33-43



**Mass Intentions for Our Parishes**

Please contact the partnered parish  
office at 814-663-3041 to schedule Mass  
intentions for loved ones. We will do our  
best to accommodate your date  
requests. The suggested stipend is \$10.

**Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News**

**Seeking a Catechist for Grades 4 & 5**

We are still in need of a catechist (teacher) for  
Grades 4 & 5 at St. Teresa in Union City. Also,  
seeking adult volunteers to assist our  
catechists at both parishes. If you have a desire to pass our  
Catholic faith onto our youth, please contact Missy Silka.



**Calendar Reminder**

Families of Religious Education students are reminded that  
there will be No Classes the week of October 8<sup>th</sup> (this includes  
the Wednesday evening Purpose class during this week).

**Positive Change**

We introduced two new programs—EDGE for middle school  
students (grades 6-8) and PURPOSE for high school students  
(grades 9 & 10). We have had good feedback and response to  
these new programs. Please be on the lookout in future  
bulletins for unique needs/donations which will be used to run  
the new EDGE and PURPOSE programs to help make it more  
effective and enjoyable. Thank you.

If at any time you have questions or concerns regarding the  
upcoming Religious Education year, please contact Missy Silka,  
Director of Faith Formation, at the parish office (phone: 814-663  
-3041 or email: [business@stparish.org](mailto:business@stparish.org)).

**"Question of the Week" - 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Question for Children:** How do you show your love for Jesus by  
doing what he asks, even when it is difficult for you?

**Question for Youth:** Today's parable reminds us that it isn't  
what we say that counts as much as what we do. How would  
someone know you are a Christian through your actions?

**Question for Adults:** How and when were you like each of the  
sons in the Gospel?

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> we celebrate The Holy Guardian Angels**

