



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

November 26, 2023



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

Give thanks. Give back. Give Catholic.



This is the last week to support our parishes

Giving Day is Tuesday, November 28th

*Donate online or bring in your donation to the parish
office this week! See inside this bulletin for more info.*

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.

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

STILL LEARNING: There are so many things about our parishes that I am still learning. I noticed that both parishes have “*The Word Among Us*” booklets on the tables or baskets at the entrances to the church. I just assumed everyone knew those were there for people to take and use. Those who attend daily Mass use them to follow the readings each day. Others who don’t attend daily Mass use them during their prayer time each day to reflect on the readings of the day and read the meditations. So, please feel free to take a booklet and use it for your prayer each day.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE: We will be celebrating a Communal Penance Service for Advent on Sunday, December 10, at 3:00pm at St. Thomas in Corry. (The Lenten Penance Service will be at St. Teresa). There will be five priests available to hear confessions. People often like to go to an anonymous priest for confession rather than their pastor or someone who knows them. As priests, we jokingly call them “strange priests.” Those who are scheduled to be in attendance are Frs. Suppa, Swogger, Gallina, a name from your past, Fr. Greg Passauer, and myself.

Remember that the purpose of the COMMUNAL Penance celebration is to come together in prayer recognizing that we are all sinners, to spend a few moments listening to a scripture reading, an examination of conscience, praying our Act of Contrition together, and then confessing our sins to the priest and receiving absolution and a penance. It allows for a large number of people to celebrate the sacrament in a short period of time.

#I GIVE CATHOLIC: This program is not familiar to many people and thus we are trying to put as much information out there as we can. iGiveCatholic started nationally in 2015 on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. It is intended as a way for Catholics to reflect on the blessings they have been given and celebrated in Thanksgiving, and then to find a way to give back, and to give back specifically to some organization or parish that is Catholic.

Some of you may be familiar with other organizations, schools, and foundations that do an annual giving day to raise funds for specific projects and to support existing programs. iGiveCatholic is an online program to do just that for the Catholic Church. For those who are not computer savvy or prefer to give directly, there are envelopes in the pews to make your donation. These programs have been very successful in the secular world and the Church is using that example to benefit its programs and churches. I thank you in advance for your generosity and for all you do for our parish.

What is ‘iGiveCatholic’

Both St. Thomas and St. Teresa Parishes are participating in #iGiveCatholic—it is a powerful, 24-hour online giving event to unite the faithful in dioceses across the nation (and the world!) to come together and raise as many charitable dollars as possible for Catholic parishes, schools, and nonprofit ministries on #GivingTuesday, November 28, 2023.

continued ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡

**Sunday, November 26**

- 8:00a.m. ✠ Deceased Members of the Catholic Daughters by Conception Court #35 (St. Thomas, Corry)
10:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa Parishes (St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, November 27

- 8:00a.m. ✠ Steve Mongera, Sr. and Dorothy Mongera by Steve & Cheryl Mongera (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, November 28

- 8:00a.m. ✠ Tom Robejsek by Amy, Abbey, and Kyron (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, November 29

- 8:00a.m. ✠ Dan Ahl by Bryan & Kim Anderson (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, November 30

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

Friday, December 1

- 8:00a.m. ✠ Shirley & Paul Flynn by Judy & Bill Flynn (St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, December 2

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

Sunday, December 3—First Sunday of Advent

- 8:00a.m. ✠ Carl & Elsie Benden by Karen Puckly (St. Thomas, Corry)
10:00a.m. ✠ Paul Mongera, Sr. by Lillie Mongera (St. Teresa, Union City)

What is #GivingTuesday?

#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season when many people focus on holiday and end-of-year giving.

When is #iGiveCatholic?

#iGiveCatholic is on **Tuesday, November 28**. You can support your local Catholic parish, school, or ministry on that day or you can make an #iGiveCatholic donation at any time during the advanced giving period (NOW through November 27, 2023) with envelopes in the pews for this purpose, or you can place your donation in the collection basket in an envelope marked #iGiveCatholic. Gifts made by check or cash can be made directly to qualifying organizations during this same time frame. Participating organizations are eligible to win cash prizes! These prizes are distributed on the giving day as goals are met, some are awarded based on time of day, and others are allocated after the final #iGiveCatholic statistics are determined and are based on success.

Thank you for your generosity to our parishes!

– Fr. Tom

St. Thomas Parish News

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: November 18 & 19, 2023

The Financial Stewardship Report for the weekend of November 18 & 19 will be published in the next bulletin (December 3). Today's bulletin had to be submitted to our publisher prior to the weekend Masses due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you to all who regularly use your church offertory envelopes and/or give to the parish collection. We appreciate your support.

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), 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 November 26th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Joe Amy.

St. Thomas Choir for Advent & Christmas

Our music ministers invite you to be a part of a choir to provide music at Masses during the Advent and Christmas season. Those wishing to lend their voices to the choir should plan on attending our first rehearsal on Tuesday, November 28th at 6:00pm at St. Thomas Church. Practices will be held each Tuesday night at 6:00pm from Nov. 28 through Christmas. **ALL are WELCOME—WE NEED YOUR VOICE!**



FUELING the MISSION together

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

St. Thomas Diocesan Goal is \$39,417.00

Total Amount Pledged to date = \$43,425.00

Total Paid to date = \$42,105.00

Balance Unpaid to date = \$1,320.00

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.

As the end of the year draws near, please consider paying off any remaining balance on your 2023 CSA pledge. We would greatly appreciate having all pledges paid in full by December 31, 2023.

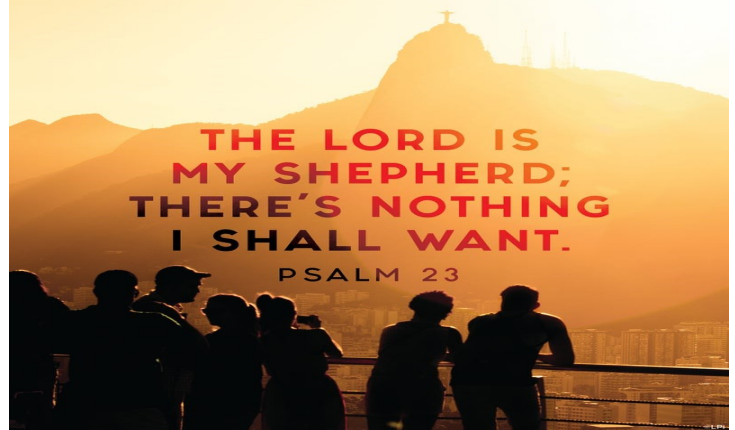
Readings for the week of November 26, 2023

Sun.: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17 ♦ Psalm 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 (1) ♦
 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28 ♦ Matthew 25:31-46
 Mon.: Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20 ♦ Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 ♦ Luke 21:1-4
 Tues.: Daniel 2:31-45 ♦ Daniel 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61 ♦ Luke 21:5-11
 Wed.: Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28 ♦ Daniel 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67 ♦
 Luke 21:12-19
 Thur.: Romans 10:9-18 ♦ Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11 ♦ Matthew 4:18-22
 Fri.: Daniel 7:2-14 ♦ Daniel 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81 ♦ Luke 21:29-33
 Sat.: Daniel 7:15-27 ♦ Daniel 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87 ♦ Luke 21:34-36
 Next Sun.: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 ♦ Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4) ♦
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 ♦ Mark 13:33-37



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.



Prayer for Those Who Have Left the Church

Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd, we praise You!

You founded the Church on the foundation of the Apostles and promised that the gates of Hell would never prevail against her.

Bring those who have left the Faith back into the fold of Your Catholic Church.

Give them the grace of conversion from sin, stir into flame the gift of the Holy Spirit within them, and restore to your prodigal children their lost dignity. Lord Jesus, mercy.

Amen.

Fr. Joseph Mary Wolfe, MFVA



Thank You!

The Corry Knights of Columbus wish to thank the parishioners for their generous donations to our annual Thanksgiving food drive that benefit the Corry Food Pantry. We are grateful for your continued support of projects that benefit our community.

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.

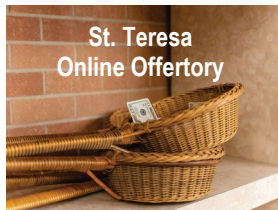


St. Teresa Parish News

ST. TERESA FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: Nov. 19, 2023

The Financial Stewardship Report for the weekend of November 18 & 19 will be published in the next bulletin (December 3). Today's bulletin had to be submitted to our publisher prior to the weekend Masses due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you to all who regularly use your church offertory envelopes and/or give to the parish collection. We appreciate your support.

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 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 November 26th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Bob Adams (birthday) by Melody & family.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Thank You for Your Generosity

Thank you again to everyone who donated (food and/or money) to the Thanksgiving Food Baskets. Our collective efforts ensured that many people had a good Thanksgiving. We collectively put together 21 baskets which went to families in need in the area. Your generosity is a blessing to others. Thank you again for all your efforts. *God bless!*



A Family Perspective

Our actions as parents in feeding the hungry, welcoming strangers or estranged relatives into our homes teach our children moral lessons of life. We clothe our sick or imprisoned neighbors by caring for them and visiting them. The beatitudes are the perfect playbook for Jesus' expectations of families. Our routine actions make Christ present in all we do.

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month: We consider our homes to be safe places for our children, but in the United States up to 2.5 million youth experience homelessness every year. Each year up to 50,000 youth sleep on the streets for six months or more. One of the main causes of youth homelessness is family instability, which includes child abuse and/or neglect, domestic violence, parental substance abuse and family conflict. The website of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (www.nctsn.org) offers information on a range of child safety topics. For additional resources on recognizing and reporting child abuse visit www.eriecnd.org/childprotection.

*Lord, help me to trust you in this life
so that I may rejoice with you in eternity.*

2023 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals (as of 11/13)

St. Teresa Diocesan Goal is \$24,055.00

Total Amount Pledged to date = \$33,291.00

Total Paid to date = \$32,551.00

Balance Unpaid to date = \$740.00

of Families who made a pledge = 77

Be sure to make your check payable to

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

As the end of the year draws near, please consider paying off any remaining balance on your 2023 CSA pledge. We would greatly appreciate having all pledges paid in full by December 31, 2023.

**Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, says the Lord.**

Matthew 28:20

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.

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



Please support the St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society by purchasing some delicious items from their Bake Sale following both Masses next weekend—December 2 & 3. Thank you!

"Question of the Week" - Solemnity of Christ the King

Question for Children: Who are the people most in need of help who live around you, and how can you help them?

Question for Youth: What can you do (alone, with friends, or with your family) to help those who are without food, shelter, or have other needs? When have you seen Jesus in the poor?

Question for Adults: As you grapple with this very strong, direct and demanding Gospel passage, name the people for whom you have cared personally – or if there are none, those for whom you will offer care in the coming weeks.

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

Eucharistic Adoration THIS WEEK

*Come to quite your heart and reflect on Jesus and
his Father's mercy...*

Eucharistic Adoration is Thursday, November 30th
(8:00am) through Friday, December 1st (8:00am)
at Saint Thomas Church. It will also be held on
Friday, December 1st (8:00am –12:00pm) at St. Teresa Church.
All are welcome any time during Adoration. 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.



Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News

Calendar Reminders for Religious Education



With the business of the holidays now
underway, we wish to remind Religious
Education families of some important dates:

Sunday, December 3—Students confessions will be held at both
parishes during regular class time (and also on Wed., Dec. 6th).

Sunday, December 10—Combined PURPOSE event at St. Teresa (6-
7:30pm) for all students in Confirmation classes at both parishes.

Sunday, December 10—Advent Penance Service offered to ALL
parishioners at 3:00pm at St. Thomas Church.

Sunday, December 24—All Classes for this week cancelled for the
Christmas holiday

Sunday, December 31— All Classes for this week cancelled for the
holidays.

THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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

Submission Deadline for Bulletin Items

Generally, items for publication in our bulletin must be sent to
Sue Johnston in the parish office by Monday afternoon the week
prior to when you wish your item to appear. Please email
written content to secretary@stparish.org. Please note that
during holiday seasons, bulletin deadlines are moved up as much
as one week earlier, so the earlier you provide the office with
your bulletin items the better. 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.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE A DONATION
Help our parishes with your gift THIS WEEK!

#iGIVECATHOLIC

Your gift could
help our parish
WIN a
CASH PRIZE.



Advanced
Giving Days
Nov. 13—27

#GivingTuesday November 28, 2023

Join us for #iGiveCatholic on #GivingTuesday on November 28!

What better way to thank God for His continued blessings than
to give back to our parish communities? **Advanced Giving is
going on NOW through Monday, November 27.** You can
support St. Thomas & St. Teresa Parishes and their cemeteries
with an offline gift by check or cash (please place your gift in the
#iGiveCatholic envelope or another envelope marked with
'#iGiveCatholic') and place in in the collection baskets or send it
to the parish office. Gifts must be received by November 30.

Online donations will be accepted on the giving day of Tuesday,
November 28th by going to erie.igivecatholic.org or find a link on
our parish websites.

Our parishes have many needs at the moment and we would
greatly appreciate your financial support. Thank you!

ADVENT

Next Weekend: ADVENT Begins!

The new Church year begins Saturday evening (December 2)
with the 4:30pm Vigil Mass of the First Sunday of
Advent. What a joyful time of the year! Make sure that in the
midst of the hectic days ahead you consider acts of prayer and
charity. Would you consider attending one Daily Mass during
Advent? Or, how about making a "visit" to the Blessed
Sacrament on your way to or from work/school? Prepare for
the Nativity in a quiet, no-cost, and joyful way. Prayer and
Charity ----- the BEST way to prepare for Christmas!

Reinstituting the Precious Blood at Mass beginning Advent

We will be offering the Precious Blood next weekend at Mass.
Please remember, that you fully receive Jesus in either the
'bread' and/or the 'wine'. For those who are not feeling well,
please be cautious in considering all those present in our
congregation when taking the 'cup'. This should be done out
of respect for everyone's health and safety. We are grateful to
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion who have volunteered
to be ministers of the cup. Thank you.