

St. Teresa of Avila Parish

St. Teresa Church
(Union City)

Weekend Masses
Saturday: 4:30 P.M.
Sunday: 10:45 A.M.
Confessions: Saturday, 4:00 P.M.

Rev. Matthew J. Strickenberger, Pastor

Rev. Mr. Randy Kondrlik, Deacon

9 Third Avenue
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www.st-teresa-unioncity.org

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Our Lady of Fatima Chapel
(Canadohta Lake)

Weekend Masses
(Memorial Day – Labor Day)
Sunday: 9:30 A.M.

Confessions: before Mass

WELCOME

If you are new to our parish, we extend a warm welcome and hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith will be nourished. Newcomers are asked to introduce themselves to the pastor and call the office to register.

WEEKDAY SERVICES

See inside of bulletin for current weekday schedule.

BAPTISM

By appointment. Parents must attend pre-baptismal instruction.

MARRIAGE

Arrangements must be made six months in advance.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Please let the pastor know when a family member or a friend is ill, either at home, in the hospital or at a nursing home.

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

● **ROSARY-ALTAR SOCIETY**

Meets the first Monday of each month at 6:00 P.M.

● **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Meet every third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

● **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION GUILD**

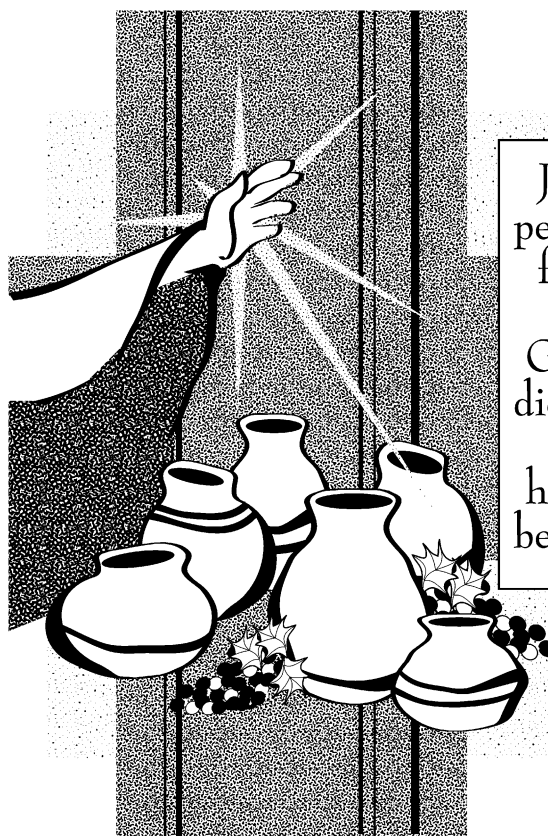
Meets during the school term.

● **SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION GROUP**

1:00 p.m. Wednesdays (Sept. – May)

● **PARISH CENTER RENTAL**

Contact Matt Moon: 814-490-1494



JESUS
performed his
first signs at
Cana in
Galilee. Thus
did he reveal
his glory and
his disciples
believed in him.

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Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

January 16, 2022

We believe in the love
God has for us!

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 15 Weekday

4:30pm (St. Teresa) NO MASS

4:30pm (St. Thomas) Dorothy Baressi by Her Children

Sunday, January 16 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:45am (St. Thomas) Intentions of Our Parish Family

10:45am (St. Teresa) Rudy Clay Miller by Family

Monday, January 17 St. Anthony

8:00am Communion Service

Tuesday, January 18 Weekday

8:00am NO MASS

Wednesday, January 19 Weekday

8:00am NO MASS

Thursday, January 20 Weekday

8:00am NO MASS

Friday, January 21 St. Agnes

8:00am Communion Service

Saturday, January 22 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

4:30pm (St. Teresa) NO MASS

4:30pm (St. Thomas) Millie Falcone by Donna, Gary, Seth & David Johnston

Sunday, January 23 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:45am (St. Thomas) Lucy Vinca by Tim & Sue Vinca

10:45am (St. Teresa) Intentions of our Parish Family

Sacrificial Giving: The offertory last weekend was \$2,225 for St. Teresa which includes \$2,170 in envelopes and \$55 in loose & \$20 for Our Lady of Fatima. Offertory Goal \$3,000

Mass Readings for the Week

Mon 1 Samuel 14:16-23 ♦ Mark 2:18-22
Tue. 1 Samuel 16:1-13 ♦ Mark 2:23-28
Wed 1 Samuel 17:32-33,37, 40-51♦ Mark 3:1-6
Thurs. 1 Samuel 18:6-9: 19:1-7♦ Mark 3:7-12
Fri. 1 Samuel 24:3-21♦ Mark 3:13-19
Sat. 2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19. 23-27 ♦Mark 3:20-21
Sun. Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10♦ 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27♦Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Religious Education

01/16 Class

01/23 Class

01/30 Youth Mass

02/06 Class – First Reconciliation & First Communion Enrollment

PLEASE – any calls regarding the Religious Education Program should be made directly to the parish office. The extension is 103 to leave a message for Missy Silka, Religious Education Facilitator.

Goal - \$28,606

Amount Pledged to Date - \$30,347

Amount Paid to Date - \$29,922

Reminder – Please make all CSA checks payable to St. Teresa Church

JUST A REMINDER – There will be Saturday Masses during the month of January at St. Thomas Parish, Corry but there will be no Saturday Masses at St. Teresa. Saturday Masses in February will be said in Union City but not in Corry. We will continue alternating going forward until our pastor makes a determination. This schedule will in no way affect Sunday Masses.

Pray for Our Priests: The Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, Rev. Lawrence R. Richards, Rev. Stephen L. Collins, Rev. Stephen J. Schreiber, Rev. Jerome S. Simmons, Rev. Mark A. O'Hern, Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McSweeney

SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 23

10:45

LECTOR

Elizabeth Moon

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Pat Vallimont

Choir: Jeannie Stepnowski

ALTAR SERVER

Allie Anderson

Marriage Moment Martin Luther King talked a lot about racial equality. What about equality in Marriage? Are both of you equally good at cooking, mechanical things, sewing, small talk? Probably not. Even though your spouse may have a natural talent for a particular task, try trading chores for a day, just for fun.

Lenten small groups exploring racial justice now open

The Diocese of Erie is offering two separate small group experiences this Lent exploring racial justice, sponsored by the Offices of Social Justice and Life and Faith Formation Parish Support. Those who are looking for Christian community, a place to ask big questions, and a way to explore the Gospel call to work for racial justice are invited to learn more and consider applying by visiting <https://www.eriercd.org/socialjusticelife/racialjustice.html>. Applications are due January 18th. Questions can be directed to the Social Justice and Life Office at SJL@ErieRCD.org.

A Family Perspective: At Cana we get a good insight into Mary's parenting style. She did not plead, argue, demand or manipulate. She merely pointed out the situation and trusted her son would make the best decision.

Seven

"Say Yes! to the 7th Annual 138 Women's Conference. The conference will be held from 8:30-12:30 on March 12, 2022. You may attend live at St. Jude Parish in Erie, PA, virtually at satellite parishes via zoom or in your own home via zoom. The cost is \$20. This years conference will feature national speakers Lisa Hendey, best selling author and founder of CatholicMom.com and Patricia Breen who writes online for Blessed is She, Fem Catholic, Grotto Network and CatholicMatch. Visit our website at www.138women.com for more information and to register."

United Way of Erie County is offering Free Tax Preparation this year. If you earned less than \$57,000 last year, the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), Erie Free Taxes provides free federal, state, and local tax preparation service to Erie County residents across multiple locations. To make an appointment at a VITA site, visit ErieFREETaxes.org or call 1.888.829.5680

Installation Mass

Reverend Matthew J. Strickenberger's Installation Mass has been scheduled for Saturday, January 29, 2022. It will be held at St. Thomas the Apostle Church at the 4:30 Mass with the Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, J.C.L. presiding. All parishioners are invited to attend the Mass and a reception to follow. The reception will be held at the St. Elizabeth Parish Center, 33 West Pleasant Street in Corry.

The Special Intentions of Pope Francis

Dear Father - As we start a new year, we ask you to bless us with true human fraternity. We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution. May their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

THE ERIE CURSILLO MOVEMENT is currently planning and accepting applications for a Men's Cursillo from February 11 to 13, 2022 and a Woman's Cursillo from April 29 to May 1, 2022.

Applications can be found on the Cursillo Website at eriecursillo.org, calling the Cursillo office at 814-824-1119, or by asking someone you may know who has completed a Cursillo weekend who would be willing to serve as your sponsor.

Jesus Calling

Come to Me and rest in My loving Presence. You know that this day will bring difficulties, and you are trying to think your way through those trials. As you anticipate what is ahead of you, you forget that *I am with you* – now and always. Rehearsing your troubles results in experiencing them many times, whereas you are meant to go through them only when they actually occur. Do not multiply your suffering in this way! Instead, come to Me, and relax in My Peace. I will strengthen you and prepare you for this day, transforming your fear into confident trust.

*Jesus...revealed His glory.
(John 2:11)*

Why was Mary so insistent that Jesus do something about the shortage of wine at the wedding at Cana? Perhaps she was a close friend of the bridegroom's family. If that was the case, of course she would have cared that they not be embarrassed about the wine running out.

In this very personal, familial setting, Jesus performs His first sign by turning water into the finest wine. But the miracle didn't just save face for the parents of the bridegroom. Jesus was revealing His glory. He was showing His disciples that He was no ordinary rabbi. He had come as the promised Messiah, to be the "new wine" that would save the world (Matthew 9:17; see Isaiah 25:6).

From the personal to the prophetic. From the specific circumstance to the universal truth. So often this is how Jesus works. Just look at some of the "signs" in John's Gospel. He takes five loaves and two fish and feeds five thousand, revealing how He intends to feed and nourish as for all time in the Eucharist (6:5-14). Lazarus dies, but Jesus raises him, showing us that He came to defeat death once and for all (11:1-45).

Isn't this the case for all of us? We ask Jesus to come into a specific situation, as Mary did at the wedding at Cana. And when we see Him acting – whether that's through answering our prayer or reassuring us of His presence – He reveals something about Himself. That He loves us. That He cares for us. That He has come to save us. That He will be with us always.

Is there some situation in your life that you want the Lord to enter into? As you pray, remember that He wants to do more than just resolve the immediate problem you are facing. He wants you to know who He is and why He came. He wants to reveal His glory to you.

"Jesus, open my eyes to your glory in my life!"

LIFE IS DIFFICULT

Life is difficult. We can accept that or get aggravated, but we cannot change it. The mistake we make, with varying degrees of awareness, is that we believe life should be easy, and that we would be happier if it were. We torture ourselves when we conflate easy with good and difficult with bad. This false belief leads to a clash of the titans between reality and our illusions.

The easy life is a mirage. Those who chase this illusion end up angry, broken, disappointed, cynical, and resentful. Anyone who thinks life should be easy will lack empathy for others in their struggles. They will also lack empathy for themselves when they are being tossed about by life's difficulties. In the extreme, when their own life gets difficult, they may come to believe there is something wrong with themselves.

The problem isn't that life is difficult. It is supposed to be difficult. The problem is that we expect it to be easy or we try to make it easy. Life proposes a series of challenges, dilemmas, problems, dissatisfactions, heartaches, and opportunities. How we respond to these events determines the direction and quality of our lives. But we have become so expert at problem-solving, that we think that life itself is a problem to solve. But the "life-is-difficult problem" is unsolvable because it isn't a problem.

We set out to avoid all difficulty and friction. This is impossible, so we become agitated and angry. We shun anything that will bring us stress. Pain is unacceptable in this paradigm, so each time we encounter it we try to numb it.

All our efforts to avoid the difficulties of life lead us away from everything that is deeply satisfying. If your goal was an easy life, would any of the following be possible? Meaningful relationships, deeply satisfying work, health and vitality, raising children, starting a business, or mastery of a profession or hobby?

What are you avoiding that you should be confronting?

This quest for the easy life leads us into the abyss of comfort. We begin to see comfort as the antidote for anything that is difficult. But soon the comfort turns to pain. I know, it's a paradox, but it is real. It may not be physical pain, but emotional pain and spiritual angst. We are not made for any easy life, so with each attempt at the easy life we inflict emotional suffering upon ourselves.

We now find ourselves at a junction. We can return to reality and face head-on the difficulties of life, or we can allow reality to continue to crash against our illusion of an easy life. Many chose their illusions, but they end up suffering more for their avoidance than they would have suffered if they had simply embraced the difficulties of life. Having abandoned the path that leads to everything deeply satisfying, they become miserably discontented, and spend their lives complaining about everything and everyone. Only a fool makes an easy life his ultimate goal.

When human beings are at their best, they face the difficulties of life head-on. They learn to delay gratifications, embrace reality, release illusions, accept responsibility for their lives, and live in the wisdom that the most satisfying experiences are often difficult.

