



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

## September 17, 2023



### 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?”  
- Mt 18:33-35

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**

**PASTORAL PLANNING MEETINGS:** I want to thank all of those who came to the Pastoral Planning Meetings during the past two weeks. I was very impressed with the manner in which these discussions took place and the insights and ideas that surfaced during those discussions. I want to thank the members of parish and finance councils who not only met to discuss the plan but also attended the meetings at each parish to hear the insights of others.

I shared some information at those meetings that I think may be helpful to those who were not there. Some people were wondering what the formula or criteria were in order to make these pastoral planning decisions. There were a number of factors that were taken into consideration: population, Mass attendance trends, financial status, unnecessary duplication of ministries and staffing, Mass times, proximity to other parishes, and more. This process started in 2014 and has been ongoing since then and will continue in the years to come. This process not only includes consolidating parishes, but also addressing religious education and faith formation, evangelization, and vocations.

Some of the statistics that I shared at these meetings may be helpful. The population in the diocese of Erie was 875,000 in 1990 and in 2022 the population was 813,000. Mass attendance in 1990 was 120,000 and in 2022 mass attendance was 26,770 (78% decrease). The number of parishes in our diocese in 1990 was 127 and in 2022 the number of parishes was 93. The number of priests in our diocese in 1990 was 210 and in 2022 the number of priests was 92. The projected number of priests for 2030 is 60!

As you can see, the fewer priests and people we have is really the driving force behind the consolidations that are being proposed and have taken place in other places in our diocese.

**PARENTS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS:** One of the pieces of the Religious Education and Faith Formation pastoral plan is to increase parent involvement in the religious education of their children. At times, parents have dropped their children off for religious education classes and then really didn't take their role, as the primary educators of their children in the faith, seriously. At times they didn't bring them to church but just dropped them off for class. The pastoral plan is inviting and encouraging parents to take a more active role in the religious education or faith formation of their children. The religious education program is a supplement to the education and formation parents provide by taking their children to church and worshipping together, and by the example of service, prayer, and Christian living that is fostered in the home. I encourage parents to take a more active role in the religious education of their children and in developing your own faith, so that you can more readily pass it on to your children.

**ALL LECTORS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS MEETINGS:** There will be a meeting for all lectors and Eucharistic Ministers Monday, September 18, at St. Teresa and Tuesday, September 19, at St. Thomas. The meetings will begin at 6:00pm and they will be held in the Church. Fr. Tom and Deacon Randy will be updating and instructing both groups.

*- Fr. Tom*



**Sunday, September 17**

8:00a.m. †Catherine Lackovic by Family  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

10:00a.m. †Virginia Poninsky by Carol & Pete Poninsky  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Monday, September 18**

8:00a.m. †Emmett Layden by his estate  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Tuesday, September 19**

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

**Wednesday, September 20**

8:00a.m. †Henry & Philomena Groner by George & Carol Groner (St. Thomas, Corry)

**Thursday, September 21**

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

**Friday, September 22**

8:00a.m. †Kathleen Pino by a friend  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Saturday, September 23**

4:30p.m. †Dick Lowry by Rita Saloum  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Sunday, September 24**

8:00a.m. †Deceased Farver and Shone Family Members by Dick & Jean Farver (St. Thomas, Corry)

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

**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.

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

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



## St. Thomas Parish News

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: Sept. 9 & 10, 2023

<b>Amount in Envelopes: (70)</b>	\$3,150.00
(Total Envelopes sent: 174 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 104)	
<b>Loose</b>	\$271.01
<b>Online Giving (9)</b>	\$295.00
<b>Faith Formation/Rel. Ed. (1)</b>	\$5.00
<b>Total Offertory Income</b>	\$3,721.01

Average Weekly Expenses .....\$7,656.00  
**Weekly Average Shortfall** .....\$(-3,934.99)

*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'.*

**FUELING the MISSION**  
together

### 2023 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals (as of 09/11):

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

Total Amount Pledged to date = \$43,085.00

Total Paid to date = \$40,325.00

# of Families who made a pledge = 108

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.**

### 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 10 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.



**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 September 17<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Jack McCoy.

## PRAY WITHOUT CEASING



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Jack McCoy** who passed away from Saint Thomas Parish. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

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

### St. Thomas Altar Rosary Meeting

Ladies of the St. Thomas Altar Rosary are reminded for their next meeting which will be on Wednesday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Please note that the location of this meeting will be in the St. Elizabeth Parish Center. *Hope you will join us.*

### With A Thankful Heart from Sue Vinca

*I'd like to thank my parish family for their love, support and prayers and for the opportunity to serve them for the past 15 years. I have been so blessed to have a job that provided me the opportunity to serve the people and the God that I love. Thank you, too, to everyone that came to my retirement reception, sent cards and wished me congratulations and well wishes. And a special thank you to Fr. Tom and our amazing parish staff for how wonderful they've been to me as I prepared to retire and the retirement parties they had for me. Please keep me (and Tim!) in your prayers as we begin the next part of our life's journey. We will be around and I'm sure, as they say, will be busier than ever.*

### Cemetery News

Beginning November 1, 2023, there will be an increase of all fees and services associated with St. Thomas and St. Elizabeth Cemeteries. Those who wish to purchase plots in one of these cemeteries should call the office soon to avoid the rate increase. Any questions or concerns regarding our cemeteries, please contact Rhonda Pierce, Coordinator of Cemeteries, at our parish office.



### 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: Sept. 10, 2023

**Amount in Envelopes:** (57) ..... \$1,666.00  
 (Total Envelopes sent: 157 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 100)  
**Loose** ..... \$164.00  
**Continuing the Vision** (1) ..... \$25.00  
**Online Giving** (1) ..... \$30.00  
**Total Offertory Income** ..... \$1,885.00

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA STEWARDSHIP: Sept. 10, 2023

**Amount in Envelopes:** (8) ..... \$160.00  
 (Total Envelopes sent: 30 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 22)

**St. Teresa Parish Offertory Income** ..... \$2,045.00  
**Average Weekly Expenses** ..... \$4,777.00  
**Weekly Average Shortfall** ..... \$(-2,732.00)

*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](http://www.st-teresa-unioncity-org) OR by scanning the QR code here.*



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of September 17<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Virginia Poninsky by Carol & Pete Poninsky.

### A Family Perspective

Unable to forgive another means we are holding on to a past wrong and hoping for a better past. That is not going to happen. We must move on with our life by accepting we were unjustly treated and it will not be corrected. We aren't condoning the injustice. We just don't let it control our lives any longer. Forgiveness is critical to living a healthy life in the present.



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Jeff Down** who passed away from Saint Teresa Parish. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Priscilla Kozik** who recently passed away from Saint Teresa Parish. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

**Rejoice when you share in the sufferings of Christ, that you may also rejoice exultantly when his glory is revealed.** 1 Peter 4:13



### 2023 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals (as of 09/11)

St. Teresa Diocesan Goal is \$24,055.00

Total Amount Pledged to date = \$33,071.00

Total Paid to date = \$32,041.80

# of Families who made a pledge = 77

**Be sure to make your check payable to 'ST. TERESA CHURCH' when making a CSA payment.**

### Congratulations!

Jeannette Sabol Boyd, longtime parishioner, was recently recognized as a new inductee on the Union City Wall of Achievement. She is a teacher/coach with the school district, and is also very active in our church ministries. Jeannette directed and taught in the religious education program, coordinated the "student Masses", and was a Eucharistic Minister and Lector at Our Lady of Fatima. She also teaches catechism classes at St. Teresa Church. Our faith family is grateful that Jeannette has been recognized with the Wall of Achievement honor. We thank her for her dedication to area students, athletes, the Union City community, and our parish.

## 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ROSARY MARCH FATIMA'S

106 YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023  
2:00 PM

WE ARE BACK DOWNTOWN AT  
ST. PETER CATHEDRAL  
10<sup>TH</sup> & SASSAFRAS, ERIE

*Please Come Join Us and*  
**PRAY THE ROSARY**

SPONSORED BY THE  
WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA  
For More Information Call: JOHN WALSH 814-868-1100  
For those unable to March, the Rosary will be recited in the Church while the March is taking place.

NURTURE GROWTH  
IN MIND, HEART  
AND SPIRIT



September 16-17, 2023

Catholic Education Collection

Benefits Lifelong Learning in  
Faith Formation & Catholic Schools

Use your parish offertory envelope or donate online:

[www.ErieRCD.org/cec.html](http://www.ErieRCD.org/cec.html)



SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION FOR OVER 30 YEARS!



The Lord  
is kind  
&  
merciful.  
PSALM 103



# Pastoral Planning

The **preliminary** pastoral plan for Erie County was announced. You are invited to make your suggestions and/or comments. Remember that this plan is based on the declining number of priests available to staff parishes and the decreasing number of people attending Mass in parishes throughout the diocese. A complete list of the parishes merged or partnered in this plan can be found at [www.ErieRCD.org/planning.html](http://www.ErieRCD.org/planning.html)

The **Preliminary Proposal**: St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Union City, with its secondary mission church, Our Lady of Fatima Church in Canadohta Lake, merges into St. Thomas the Apostle, Corry.

St. Teresa becomes a secondary mission church of St. Thomas ; Our Lady of Fatima becomes a secondary church of St. Thomas.

The merger means that St. Teresa and Our Lady of Fatima are now combined into St. Thomas Parish. Saint Teresa will still have Sunday and Holy Day Mass, but Sunday Mass will cease at Our Lady of Fatima. Merging means that all the people, churches, property, assets, debt, etc... of St. Teresa and Our Lady of Fatima will become consolidated under one parish which is St. Thomas the Apostle.

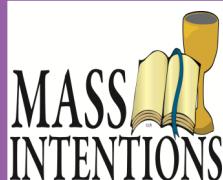
All parishioners are encouraged to make their suggestions or improvements to the preliminary plan by completing the pastoral planning survey either online or in writing. **Comments must be received at the Diocese of Erie by September 29.** Mail your response to Pastoral Plan Feedback, St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504. The web address to make your suggestions or improvements is [www.erieRCD.org/planning.html](http://www.erieRCD.org/planning.html).

## Training for Lectors and Ministers of Holy Communion

Fr. Tom and Deacon Randy will hold two training sessions for ALL who are Lectors and/or Ministers of Holy Communion in our parishes. Please plan to attend one of these training sessions: **Monday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at St. Teresa Church** (Union City) or **Tuesday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at St. Thomas Church** (Corry). **This training is for ALL 'new' and existing Lectors and Ministers of Holy Communion. See you there!**

## Readings for the week of September 17, 2023

Sun.: Sirach 27:30—28:7 ♦ Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 (8) ♦ Romans 14:7-9 ♦ Matthew 18:21-35  
 Mon.: 1 Timothy 2:1-8 ♦ Psalm 28:2, 7, 8-9 ♦ Luke 7:1-10  
 Tues.: 1 Timothy 3:1-13 ♦ Psalm 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6 ♦ Luke 7:11-17  
 Wed.: 1 Timothy 3:14-16 ♦ Psalm 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 ♦ Luke 7:31-35  
 Thur.: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13 ♦ Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5 ♦ Matthew 9:9-13  
 Fri.: 1 Timothy 6:2c-12 ♦ Psalm 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20 ♦ Luke 8:1-3  
 Sat.: 1 Timothy 6:13-16 ♦ Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 ♦ Luke 8:4-15  
 Next Sun.: Isaiah 55:6-9 ♦ Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 (18a) ♦ Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a ♦ Matthew 20:1-16a



## 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

## Religious Education Begins TODAY

**Religious Education classes meet TODAY, Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.** We are looking forward to an amazing year in Religious Education, including the introduction of two new programs—EDGE for middle school students (grades 6-8) and PURPOSE for high school students (grades 9 & 10). Thank you for the opportunity to teach our Catholic faith to your children.



We wish to thank all of the catechists for their willingness to educate our students in the faith, for our parents' dedication to raising their children in the faith, and volunteers who continue to help make our programs successful. **We are still in need of a Grade 4 & 5 catechist for students at St. Teresa Parish in Union City.** Members of the parish who have a desire to teach the faith and are interested should contact Missy Silka.

Please be on the lookout in future bulletins for unique needs/donations which will be used to run our new EDGE and PURPOSE programs for middle and high school students to help make it more effective and enjoyable.

If you have any 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" - 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Question for Children:** Jesus says we should forgive from our heart. When did you ask forgiveness of someone you hurt? How did you feel?

**Question for Youth:** Jesus challenges us to forgive. Who needs your forgiveness? From whom do you need to ask forgiveness?

**Question for Adults:** Jesus tells us to forgive seventy times seven, which means always and forever. Name a time this past week when you forgave someone. Name, too, a time when you accepted another person's forgiveness.



## THE UNITY PRAYER

**My Adorable Jesus,**  
*May our feet journey together.*  
*May our hands gather in unity.*  
*May our hearts beat in unison.*  
*May our souls be in harmony.*  
*May our thoughts be as one.*  
*May our ears listen to the silence together.*  
*May our glances profoundly penetrate each other.*  
*May our lips pray together to gain mercy from the Eternal Father.*  
**Amen.**