



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

December 17, 2023



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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

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.

Notes from the Pastor

PRECIOUS BLOOD AT MASS: We have reinstituted the opportunity to receive the precious blood of Christ at Sunday Masses. Please remember that we receive the fullness of Christ's presence: body, blood, soul, and divinity in the consecrated bread OR the consecrated wine. Receiving both the consecrated bread and consecrated wine is the ideal way to remember what Jesus did at the Last Supper and asks us to do each week in our celebration of the Eucharist. BUT, there are some people who may not be able to receive the host because of celiac's disease or other health issues, and others who may not be able to receive, or choose not to receive, the wine for health reasons. Thus, receiving only the consecrated bread OR the consecrated wine is truly receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.

INTINCTION IS NOT PERMITTED: As Catholics we are never permitted to dip the host into the wine. Jesus asked us to eat this bread and drink this cup. And so, we eat the bread and drink from the cup.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: Christmas falls on a Monday and thus Christmas Eve is on Sunday Evening. The Masses for Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day are as follows:

Sunday, December 24—

8:00am Mass at St. Thomas in Corry
10:00am Mass at St. Teresa in Union City

Christmas Eve Masses, December 24—

4:30pm at St. Thomas in Corry
9:00pm at St. Teresa in Union City

Christmas Day, December 25—

8:00am at St. Thomas in Corry
10:00am at St. Teresa in Union City

- Fr. Tom

**Sunday, December 17**

8:00a.m. †Paul & Sally Griebel by Joan, Jan, and Alan
(St. Thomas, Corry)
10:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa Parishes
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, December 18

8:00a.m. †Priscilla Kozik by the Roger Pelc Family
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, December 19

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

Wednesday, December 20

8:00a.m. †Eileen Downey by Theresa Williams
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, December 21

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

Friday, December 22

8:00a.m. †George, Irene and Don Tinko by Ed & Irene
Weaver and family
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, December 23

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

Sunday, December 24

8:00a.m. †Deceased Members of the Cragg & Sullivan
Families
(St. Thomas, Corry)
10:00a.m. †Steven Paul Mongera by Steve & Cheryl Mongera
(St. Teresa, Union City)
4:30p.m. †Deceased & Living Members of our Parish
(St. Thomas, Corry)
9:00p.m. †Deceased & Living Members of our Parish
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, December 25—Christmas Day

8:00a.m. †Deceased & Living Members of our Parish
(St. Thomas, Corry)
10:00a.m. †Deceased & Living Members of our Parish
(St. Teresa, Union City)

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

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 Anointing of the Sick, or anyone who is unable to get to Mass and would desire Holy Communion to be brought to them.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are 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.



ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

**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.

St. Thomas Parish News

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: December 10, 2023

Amount in Envelopes: (80)\$3,615.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 174 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 94)
Loose\$224.00
Online Giving (9)\$320.00
Holy Day / Immaculate Conception\$555.00
Total Offertory Income\$4,714.00

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

Weekly Average Shortfall\$(-621.00)

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.



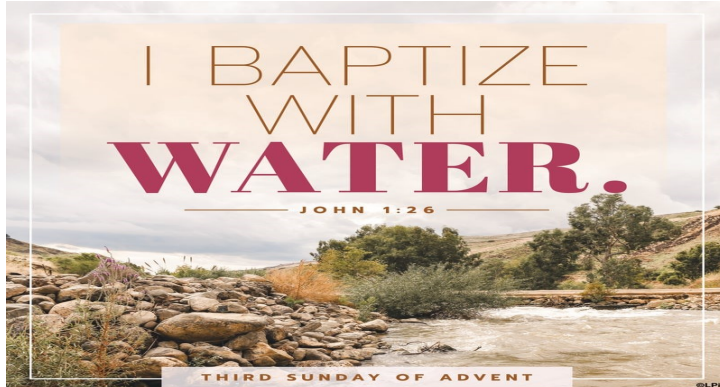
Please know that you can now give all your donations online by visiting our parish website at

www.StThomastheApostle.Church and click 'Donate Online'.



Recent Baptism

With joy, we welcome into the family of God and the Church, Finley Ann Heil, daughter of Nickolas Heil and Meghan (Carney) Heil who was baptized on December 10, 2023 at Saint Thomas Church. *May God pour out His blessings on her, her parents, and godparents.*



"Question of the Week" - Third Sunday of Advent

Question for Children: As we get closer to Christmas, name one thing you really want for your home or the world, such as peace, friendship, or food for the poor.

Question for Youth: John tried to help people prepare their lives for the coming of the Messiah. What do you need to change about your life to be ready for Jesus' coming?

Question for Adults: If you were to write three suggestions for those who follow Jesus, to keep them strong in their faith, what would you write?



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 December 17th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of the Morris and O'Brien Families.

St. Thomas Choir for Advent & Christmas

Our music ministers invite you to be a part of a choir to provide music at Masses during for the Christmas season. Practice is on Tuesday evening, Dec. 19 at 6:00pm at St. Thomas Church.
ALL are WELCOME—WE NEED YOUR VOICE!



Decorating St. Thomas Church for Christmas

We will be decorating the church after the morning Mass on Tuesday, December 19th (approximately 8:45am). *Many hands make for light work.* Please plan to help if you are able—it would be appreciated greatly. Thank you.



Catholic Daughters Christmas Party & Meeting

Members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas are invited to attend their Christmas Party followed by a meeting on Thursday, December 21 at 5:00pm in the St. Elizabeth Parish Center. The regular monthly meeting is moved up one week due to the holidays. RSVP's are appreciated, please call either Pat Phillips or Rosemary Baker. Members are asked to bring a dish to share if attending the Christmas Party. *Wishing you Merry Christmas—hope you will join us!*

*Christ our King is coming,
 He is the Lamb foretold by John.*



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: Dec. 9 & 10, 2023
Amount in Envelopes: (52) \$2,135.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 157 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 105)
Loose \$251.00
Continuing the Vision (3) \$160.00
Online Giving (1) \$30.00
Holy Day / Immaculate Conception \$844.00
Total Offertory Income \$3,420.00

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STEWARDSHIP: Dec. 10, 2023
Amount in Envelopes: (8) \$275.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 30 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 22)

St. Teresa Parish Offertory Income \$3,695.00
Average Weekly Expenses \$4,585.00
 (Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)
Weekly Average Shortfall \$(-890.00)

*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!

Local Red Kettle Campaign Seeking Bell Ringers

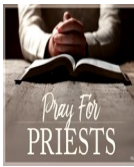
The Salvation Army needs bell ringers for this year's annual Red Kettle campaign! Volunteers are needed to fill shifts Monday-Saturday starting at 10:00am and ending at 6:00pm until Christmas Eve. This is a wonderful way for families to give back during the holidays. To sign up, please contact Elizabeth Malec at 814-490-7394 via text message or phone call. She will be available after Sunday morning Masses to sign up volunteers.

Decorating St. Teresa Church for Christmas

If you are able, please join us to help decorate our church after the Sunday Mass TODAY—December 17. Much help is needed and appreciated.



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of December 17th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased loved ones.



Rev. David Whiteford, Rev. Msgr. Robert Malene, Rev. Kyle Seyler, Rev. Gregory Passauer, Rev. David Perry, Rev. Christopher Wheeler, and Rev. Msgr. Bernard Urbaniak, as well as to continue to *Pray for the Pastoral Planning in the Erie Diocese.*

Giving Tree at St. Teresa Parish

Thank you to everyone who took a tag from our Giving Tree in the church last weekend. Just a reminder that ALL GIFTS need to be returned to the church TODAY—Sunday, December 17th. Thank you for sharing your blessings with others this Christmas season.



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

**The Lord is gracious and merciful;
 slow to anger, and of great kindness.** Psalm 145



Readings for the week of December 17, 2023

Sun.: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 ♦ Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Isaiah 61:10b) ♦ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24/John 1:6-8, 19-28
 Mon.: Jeremiah 23:5-8 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 ♦ Matthew 1:18-25
 Tues.: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a ♦ Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 ♦ Luke 1:5-25
 Wed.: Isaiah 7:10-14 ♦ Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 ♦ Luke 1:26-38
 Thur.: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a ♦ Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 ♦ Luke 1:39-45
 Fri.: 1 Samuel 1:24-28 ♦ 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd ♦ Luke 1:46-56
 Sat.: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 ♦ Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 ♦ Luke 1:57-66
 Next Sun.: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 ♦ Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a) ♦ Romans 16:25-27 ♦ Luke 1:26-3

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

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 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.



CHRISTMAS
— THE SAVIOR IS BORN —

Christmas Mass Schedule

We hope your family will join us at one of our Masses for Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

Sunday, Dec. 24—4:30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas
at St. Thomas Church, Corry

Sunday, Dec. 24—9:00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas
at St. Teresa Church, Union City

Monday, Dec. 25—8:00am Christmas Day Mass
at St. Thomas Church, Corry

Monday, Dec. 25—10:00am Christmas Day Mass
at St. Teresa Church, Union City

Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News

Calendar Reminders for Religious Education

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



Sunday, December 17—Classes for All Religious Education students.

Sunday, December 24—NO Classes for this week due to the Christmas holiday.

Sunday, December 31—NO Classes this week due to the holidays.

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Teaching Kids to Be Smart About Social Media: There are plenty of good things about social media – but also many risks and things kids and teens should avoid. To help your child find the balance, it's important to talk with your kids about how to use social media wisely. Emphasis to your child that it's important to: 1.) Be nice. Mean behavior is not OK. 2.) Think twice before hitting "enter". Remind them that what they post can be used against them. 3.) Use privacy settings. 4.) Don't "friend" strangers. If you don't know them, don't friend them. 5.) Teach kids not to share anything on social media that they wouldn't want their teachers, college admissions officers, future bosses – and even gramma – to see. For additional resources visit www.eriecd.org/childprotection/

2023 CSA Pledge Reminder

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 before December 31, 2023. Thank you for your continued generosity to our parishes!



46TH ANNUAL PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST

January 13, 2024 ✦ 9 A.M.

Bayfront Convention Center
Erie, Pennsylvania

GUEST SPEAKER

SHERIF GIRGIS

Professor, Notre Dame
University Law School



Sherif Girgis: Law Professor, Author, Law Clerk for Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, Jr., Pro-Life Advocate

See you at the Breakfast!

Reservations...\$26

Ages 3-12...\$18 • Under 3...Free

Reservations due by January 5

Please make them as soon as possible.

Reservations are required. Please mail name(s), address, and phone number with a check payable to "People for Life" or visit our website to use a credit or debit card.

FREE CHILDCARE WITH FUN ACTIVITIES

PEOPLE FOR LIFE

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office@peopleforlife.org

www.PeopleforLife.org