



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

March 17, 2024



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." - Jn 12:23-24

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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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

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

HOLY WEEK SERVICES: There are sign up sheets at both parishes for the Holy Week Services. We are looking for Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, and for volunteers to have their feet washed on Holy Thursday. Thank you in advance for helping with these services.

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL (CSA): So far in our Catholic Services Appeal we have 85 pledges for \$32,549 towards our parish goal of \$54,000 at St. Teresa, and 103 pledges for \$50,059 towards our goal of \$50,000 at St. Thomas. Our stretch goal at St. Thomas is \$85,000 to address some of the needs of resurfacing the parking lot.

We have included two projects for each parish in addition to the diocesan assessments. These are lofty goals, but we are aiming high to address some important issues at each parish. At St. Teresa we hope to collect enough over our assessment amount to pay back our loan of \$30,000 to the diocese for the reconfigured roof on the Parish Center. At St. Thomas, we are hoping to collect enough to upgrade the electrical wiring to the lights in the church.

In the past we have had a generous response from a good number of parishioners. I am asking that every family make a pledge or a gift to this Appeal. This Appeal benefits everyone in the parish and we should all be making some effort to achieve the goals that benefit everyone. Pledge envelopes are in the pews today and at the exits. Please take an envelope and consider your pledge or gift this week.

SYNOD DISCUSSIONS: You were not able to participate in the first round of Synod discussions and may be unfamiliar with what has already been done. A summary of the first round can be found at <https://www.eriecd.org/synod.html>.

We held listening sessions for the upcoming Synod at both parishes and there were many good issues raised. Allow me to clarify some issues that were raised. I was not a part of the discussions, so as not to influence people's responses. I did see the summaries that the note takers in each group gave to me in order to submit to the diocese and the Synod.

- Parishioners want to know if someone is in the hospital. Because of privacy laws the parish or the pastor cannot announce that information.
- There are times, unfortunately, where people have conflicts with the church or the pastor, but unless you know all the facts about that conflict, it is hard to make a judgment on where the fault may lie, or whether there is someone at fault. We need to be careful when talking about situations where we don't know all the facts.
- In 2016 Pope Francis ended all the fees for annulments. So now those costs are passed on to the diocese and parishes.
- There are increasing questions about why our Protestant brothers and sisters cannot receive communion in the Catholic Church. We share a great deal of beliefs with the Protestant Churches, but the major difference is over what we do or do not believe about the Eucharist. Our beliefs are very different and not always understood by Catholics or Protestants. Understanding those differences will help people understand why there are restrictions about receiving the Eucharist.

Continued ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡



Sunday, March 17

- 8:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa Parishes (St. Thomas, Corry)
- 10:00a.m. †Don Thomas by Mary Thomas and family (St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, March 18

- 8:00a.m. †Ed Weaver, Sr. by St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, March 19

- 8:00a.m. In Honor of Sue Vinca by Michael & Aimee Vinca and family (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, March 20

- 8:00a.m. †Mary Vinca by Shirley Skiff (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, March 21

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

Friday, March 22

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

Saturday, March 23

- 4:30p.m. †Deceased Members of the Cragg and Sullivan Families by family (St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, March 24

- 8:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa Parishes (St. Thomas, Corry)
- 10:00a.m. †Lois O'Connor by Cheryl & Steve Mongera (St. Teresa, Union City)



- Rules and regulations: Every group or organization has its own rules and regulations. It is how a group keeps order and fosters their mission. Not following the rules has consequences. Being a member of a group necessitates knowing the rules and following them.
- There are many things that we can and should be doing in terms of ministry and outreach, but don't have volunteers who are trained to do those things. Sometimes we need to learn where there are already organizations providing those services and direct people to the services, rather than duplicating services.

- Fr. Tom

St. Thomas Parish News

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: March 9 & 10, 2024

Amount in Envelopes: (79)\$3,084.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 145 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 66)

Loose\$323.50

Online Giving (9)\$330.00

Faith Formation/Rel. Ed. ()\$0.00

Total Offertory Income\$3,737.50

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

Weekly Average Shortfall \$(-1,597.50)

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'.

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 March 17th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased members of the St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society by the Altar Rosary Society.

This Week's Events at St. Thomas Parish

Sunday, March 17
 9:00am Rel. Ed. Classes at the former school building

Monday, March 18
 6:00pm Choir Practice at St. Thomas Church

Wednesday, March 20
 1:00pm Altar Rosary Society meeting in the multipurpose room
 6:30pm Confirmation Class in the former school building

Friday, March 22
 4:30pm Fish Dinner at St. Elizabeth Parish Center
 7:30pm Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas Church

Altar Rosary Meeting

St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society will meet on Wed., March 20th at 1:00pm in the St. Thomas multipurpose room. Lunch will be provided for this meeting. Members are encouraged to attend. **Also, we wish to extend a special invitation to the ladies of the St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society to attend both our meeting and luncheon on March 20th.** *We hope you will join us!*

Food Drive Collection by Corry Knights of Columbus

The Corry Knights of Columbus continue their food drive during Lent to benefit the Corry Food Pantry. Please donate non-perishable food items in the marked bins at the entrances of St. Thomas Church **THIS WEEK.** *Thanks.*

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

2024 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals (as of 03/10):

St. Thomas Diocesan Goal is \$37,254.00
 Total Amount Pledged to date = \$50,059.00
 Total Paid to date = \$31,679.00
 # of Families who made a pledge = 103

Prayerfully consider what God is leading you to give.
Please make a pledge today. Thank you.
Be sure to make your check payable to 'ST. THOMAS CHURCH' when making a CSA payment.

Choir Practice

Practice will be at St. Thomas Church on Monday evenings at 6:00pm (March 18 & 25) in preparation for the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter. All are welcome to join us.

Cemetery Pots and Wreath Stands

During the Fall cleanup last year at both Sts. Thomas & Elizabeth Cemeteries, several urns/pots and wreath stands were picked up and stored in the cemetery garages over the winter. If you are interested in obtaining pots or stands which may have been on loved ones graves, please call the parish office. Thank you.

Donations Needed for our Lenten Fish Dinners

Thank you to all who helped, donated, worked, and supported our Fish Dinners. We appreciate everyone's efforts. Please remember help is always needed. **Also, we need donations of pies/desserts (homemade or store bought) for the dinner.** Dessert donations can be dropped off at St. Elizabeth Parish Center on Thursday from noon—3:00pm and Friday by 4:00pm for the upcoming Fish Dinner. *Thank you.*

St. Thomas Lenten FISH DINNERS

Ash Wednesday, February 14
Fridays, February 23, March 8 & 22
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Beer Battered or Crumb-Topped Baked Alaskan Cod, Baked Potato or Fresh Cut Fries or Mac & Cheese, Coleslaw or Applesauce, Italian Bread, Dessert & Beverage

Kids Meal: Fish Sticks or Beer Battered Fish, choice of sides, dessert & beverage

Adults - \$15 Child (6-12) - \$7
Dine-in, Takeout or Delivery
For Delivery Call 664-9187
Food, Fellowship & Basket Raffles!!

St. Teresa Parish News

ST. TERESA FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: March 10, 2024
Amount in Envelopes: (46) \$1,416.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 157 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 111)
Loose \$111.00
Continuing the Vision () \$0.00
Online Giving (2) \$40.00
Total Offertory Income \$1,567.00

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STEWARDSHIP: March 10, 2024
Amount in Envelopes: (6) \$485.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 30 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 24)

St. Teresa Parish Offertory Income \$2,052.00
Average Weekly Expenses \$4,585.00
 (Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)
Weekly Average Shortfall \$(2,533.00)

Thanks to everyone who regularly uses his/her envelopes.
 Please write checks payable to St. Teresa 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!

 **The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of March 17th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased members of our parish.**

This Week's Events at St. Teresa Parish
 Sunday, March 17
 11:00am Rel. Ed. Classes at the parish center
 Thursday, March 21
 7:00pm Stations of the Cross at St. Teresa Church
 Friday, March 22
 4:30pm Fish Dinner at the parish center until 7:00pm

Calling All Bakers! We need your delicious baked goods for our Fish Dinner. Items can be dropped off at the Parish Center on Thursday from 4:00pm—7:00pm and on Friday starting at noon. Please use the KITCHEN door, all other doors will be locked up until dinner time on Fridays. Thank you!! 

St. Teresa Reverse Raffle
 Join us on Saturday, April 20, 2024 in the Parish Center for our Reverse Raffle with a top prize of \$5,000. Doors open at 5:00pm. Prime Rib Dinner is at 7:00pm, and side boards begin selling at 5:30pm. Only 200 tickets will be sold. Tickets are \$55 each, which includes dinner and drinks, plus a chance at the \$5,000 prize. Mark your calendars! **Volunteers are always needed to run an event like this.** Kim Yaple has graciously taken on the leadership of this event. If you can help, please call Kim at 814-397-1268.

Women's Cursillo #261 to be held in Harborcreek
 April 5-7, 2024 at Our Lady of Mercy Parish. The retreat starts at 8:00am on Friday, April 5. All women are encouraged to apply. Applications can be found on the Cursillo website (www.ericursill.org) or call Judy Flynn (814-392-0746) for more information. 

 **St. Teresa**
--LENTEN FISH FRY--
Dine in or Take Out
February 16th and 23rd
March 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd
 4:30 to 7:00 P.M.
St. Teresa Parish Center
 Third Avenue • Union City, PA
Baked or Fried Fish (Haddock)
 Choice of Baked Potato, French Fries or Mac & Cheese, Homemade Coleslaw or Applesauce, Dinner Roll, Homemade Dessert and Beverage
Price: Adults \$14.00
 Children Meal (12 and under) \$6.00
 Mac & Cheese, French Fries and Applesauce.
 *Add \$2.00 for Fish Sticks
 **For Take-outs Call**
814 - 438 - 2000 2024

Readings for the week of March 17, 2024
 Sun.: Jeremiah 31:31-34 ♦ Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 (12a) ♦ Hebrews 5:7-9 ♦ John 12:20-33
 Mon.: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62 ♦ Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 ♦ John 8:1-11
 Tues.: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 ♦ Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 ♦ Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22 ♦ Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a
 Wed.: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 ♦ Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 ♦ John 8:31-42
 Thur.: Genesis 17:3-9 ♦ Psalm 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 ♦ John 8:51-59
 Fri.: Jeremiah 20:10-13 ♦ Psalm 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 ♦ John 10:31-42
 Sat.: Ezekiel 37:21-28 ♦ Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 ♦ John 11:45-56
 Next Sun./Palm Sunday: Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16 ♦ Isaiah 50:4-7 ♦ Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a) ♦ Philippians 2:6-11 ♦ Mark 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

2024 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals (as of 03/10):
 Total Amount Pledged to date = \$32,549.00
 Total Paid to date = \$23,345.00
 # of Families who made a pledge = 85
 Prayerfully consider what God is leading you to give.
Please make a pledge today. Thank you.
Be sure to make your check payable to 'ST. TERESA CHURCH' when making a CSA payment.

Prayer for Peace
 God our Creator, You call blessed, those who work for peace.
 Help us to work without ceasing for that justice which brings true and lasting peace.
 Banish war and violence from our world and keep us safe from weapons of hate, so that all people might rejoice in Your love and live in Your peace.
 We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Have YOU made your pledge to the 2024 CSA yet?



“That they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you.”
John 17:21

One Faith One Family

February 23, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



Between Palm Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday, parishes in the Diocese of Erie are asked to give generously to the Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land.

This collection is the most important source of support for Christians in the Holy Land. Christians continue to be hit especially hard with the war between Hamas and Israel. The money collected helps the Franciscans and others to minister in parishes, provide Catholic education, and aid the Catholic community with housing, food, health care and employment.

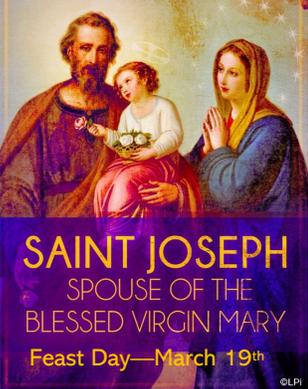
Christians in the Holy Land have great need of your prayers and financial help. The wars, unrest and instability there have been especially hard on them. Please take this opportunity to reach out to those Christians who suffer persecution and hardship in the very land where Jesus lived.

I wish you and yours a blessed and joyful celebration of the Easter Triduum.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+ Lawrence T. Persico
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

* Please use the envelope for the Holy Land from your offertory packet.

“Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.” (John 8:11)



SAINT JOSEPH
SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Feast Day—March 19th



Create a clean **HEART** in me.
PSALM 51

Unless the Grain of Wheat Dies...

For many of us it is scary to think of surrendering ourselves into the arms of God. “What might happen?” is the secret question in our thoughts. We do not yet fully believe that God is always—yes, *always*—desiring our good and our happiness. We do not yet fully realize that God will be with us as a guiding power to love and to sustain us through whatever hardships and heartaches life may bring. To surrender is to live with a mind and heart that is open to the future and to trust that all shall be well. When we let go and when we surrender, we are most surely on the pathway to healing.

- Joyce Rupp, OSM / Praying our Goodbyes

Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News

Calendar Reminders for Religious Education



Families of students at both Sts. Thomas & Teresa Parishes are reminded of the following schedule for the remainder of March 2024:

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

Sunday, March 24—Classes for All Religious Education students.

Sunday, March 31—EASTER SUNDAY / No Classes

CLASS TIME: Classes meet in Corry on Sunday mornings from 9:00am until 10:30am and in Union City from 11:00am until 12:30pm; the PURPOSE/Confirmation Class in Corry meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm until 8:00pm.

Basket Raffles to Benefit Religious Education



Don't forget to take a chance on our raffle baskets at our parishes' Lenten Fish Dinners. There are some awesome prizes to be won. The themes are:

ST. THOMAS— Lottery Tree / Gift Cards / Easter

ST. TERESA— Lottery Tree / Gift Cards / Arts & Crafts

Thank you for your continued support of our students, families, and catechists in our Religious Education Programs.

Family Perspective

Relationships come with a price tag. We must be willing to entrust ourselves to another, to let go of our autonomy and die to our independence. It is in this type of dying that we find a newer, richer life with others.

God did not spare his own Son, but handed him over for us all.



Rev. Daniel Hoffman, Rev. James Pisker, Rev. Howard King, Rev. Msgr. Bruce Allison, Rev. Thomas Tyler, Rev. Joseph Dougherty, Rev. Justin Pino, also please *Pray for the Pastoral Planning in our diocese.*

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.



PRAY FAST GIVE

“Question of the Week” - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: Name one thing you can do or stop doing that will help you have a better friendship with Jesus.

Question for Youth: Sometimes one thing needs to die in order for something new to be born. When have you experienced this in your own life? What do you need to let go of now for something new to grow?

Question for Adults: Name one area in your life that you need to let go of, to die to, in order to rise with new life.