



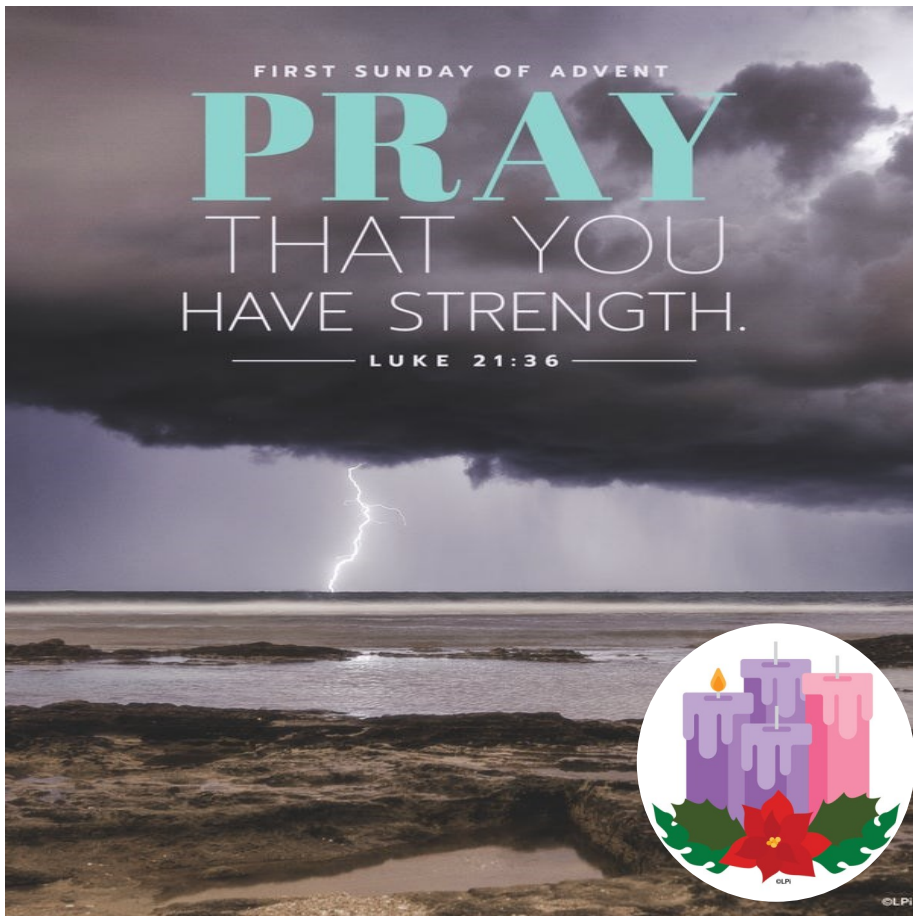
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
203 W. Washington Street
Corry, PA 16407

THE PARISH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE AND ITS MISSION ST. TERESA OF AVILA



Saint Teresa of Avila Church
9 Third Avenue
Union City, PA 16438

December 1, 2024



This is the last week to support our parish

Giving Day is Tuesday, December 3rd

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.

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

Carol Huffman
Bookkeeper
finance@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 Church
www.st-teresa-unioncity.org

Parish Office
203 W. Washington Street
Corry, PA 16407
814-663-3041

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

I GIVE CATHOLIC: There is information in the bulletin today explaining the I Give Catholic campaign. You can donate online or you can use the envelopes in the pews to make your donation.

The annual online appeal, I Give Catholic, will be on Tuesday, December 3. We will have only one site under the name of St. Thomas, but there will be sub-sections for each of the following: St. Thomas, St. Teresa, St. Thomas Cemetery, St. Teresa Cemetery, St. Elizabeth Cemetery, Religious Education, as well as the St. Thomas Cemetery Endowment Fund. Click on the St. Thomas in Corry site and then scroll through to the section where you wish to make your contribution. Thank You for considering these areas of need for our parish.

There are envelopes at the ends of the pews in which you can make your contribution to the I Give Catholic campaign without having to go online.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP: Being a member of the parish has a number of meanings and requirements. One of the neglected parts of membership is for people to register. Just as people need to register to vote, one also needs to register to be a member of a parish. Some people assume that if they go to Mass at a church or they were baptized there that they are a member of that church. Registration is important so we know who is a member, how to contact you in case of an emergency, and where you live in case of an emergency. Registration also enables us to communicate with you through mail, email, phone calls, etc.... Being a registered member who attends mass each week may enable someone to be a sponsor for confirmation or a god parent for baptism, along with other requirements. But being a registered member is the starting point.

There are also responsibilities of those who are members. Some of those responsibilities include attending Mass each week, raising your children in the practice of the faith, supporting the parish through volunteer work and financially. Every member should be supporting the parish through the use of envelopes or online giving.

If you are not receiving envelopes or mailings from the parish, you need to contact the parish office to see if you are registered, or if we have the wrong information. If you are not a member, you can find a registration form on our parish website or there is a form on the front of the bulletin you can fill out and place in the collection basket and we can mail you one.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY: This year December 8 falls on a Sunday and thus the Holy Day of obligation is moved to Monday, December 9. Masses will be at 8:00am at St. Teresa and 7:00pm at St. Thomas.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE: We will have five priests at St. Teresa on Sunday, December 8, at 1:30pm for our Advent Penance celebration. All are welcome to attend in preparation for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: We will have Masses on Christmas Eve at 4:30pm at St. Thomas, 7:00pm at St. Teresa, and there will be one Mass on Christmas Day at 10:00am at St. Thomas.

- Fr. Tom

**Sunday, December 1—*First Sunday of Advent***

8:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa
(St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. †Thomas Bengel by Laura Bengel
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, December 2

8:00a.m. †Fr. Robert Humenay
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, December 3

8:00a.m. †Deceased & Living Members of the Rushin and Hennings Families by Steve & Julie Rushin
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, December 4

8:00a.m. †Patricia Zewatsky by Martin Sargent
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, December 5

8:00am. Communion Service at St. Thomas, Corry

Friday, December 6

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

8:00am. Communion Service at St. Thomas, Corry

Saturday, December 7

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

Sunday, December 8—*Second Sunday of Advent*

8:00a.m. †George Baker by Catholic Daughters, Court #35
(St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. †Sherry Davis by the Yaple Family
(St. Teresa, Union City)

#iGIVECATHOLIC



#GivingTuesday December 3, 2024

We are in the final days of Advanced Giving, leading up to **Giving Tuesday on December 3**. You can support St. Thomas & St. Teresa with an offline gift by check or cash (**please place your gift in the #iGiveCatholic envelope or another envelope marked with 'iGiveCatholic'**) and bring it to the parish office. Please list the fundraising campaign you wish to donate to on the memo line of your check or write it on the envelope. Fundraising campaigns are: **St. Thomas, St. Teresa, St. Elizabeth Cemetery, St. Teresa Cemetery, St. Thomas Cemetery, Religious Education, and St. Thomas Cemetery Endowment Fund.**

Online donations accepted now until the end of the day on Tuesday, December 3rd by going to erie.igivecatholic.org or find a link on our websites.

Our parish has many needs and we greatly appreciate your financial support. Thank you!

St. Thomas News

2024 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals (as of 11/17):

St. Thomas Diocesan Goal is \$37,254.00

Total Amount Pledged to date = \$60,846.00

Total Paid to date = \$58,606.00

of Families who made a pledge = 131

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.

St. Teresa News

2024 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals (as of 11/17):

St. Teresa Diocesan Goal is \$24,359.00

Total Amount Pledged to date = \$39,014.00

Total Paid to date = \$37,950.00

of Families who made a pledge = 102

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.

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER



PRAYER LINE... call: Gerrie (814-665-6944),

Pam (814-664-7459), or Diane (814-882-6806).

*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 1st burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Sue Dyne Nichols by the Dyne family.



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of December 1st burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Don Thomas by Mary Thomas and family.



St. Teresa Church Thanks for Supporting St. Teresa's Cash Bingo

The Cash Bingo brought in a profit of approximately \$3,450 this year. We wish to thank Dick and Elaine Hasbrouck for organizing this year's bingo. THANK YOU to all who helped and supported the bingo, making this event successful.

"Question of the Week" - 1st Sunday of Advent

Question for Children: What helps you to grow in your faith? Who helps you?

Question for Youth: Advent is the Church season when we prepare for Christ's birth at Christmas. What is one thing you can do to prepare yourself spiritually for Christmas?

Question for Adults: Paul exhorts us to "make greater progress" in our spiritual lives. What one step could you take to make greater progress in your own life?

Bake Sale Next Weekend by St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society

We will have delicious baked goods available for purchase after both Masses on December 7th & 8th at St. Teresa Church.

Family Perspective

At this time of the year we are very conscious of our family as we make preparations for Christmas. Today's gospel warns us not to be consumed by all the consumer activity. This Advent appreciates the gift of people in your life. The best gift this season might be your appreciation of others.

Seeking New Unwrapped Toys by December 3rd

We are participating in the local Toys For Tots program this year sponsored through the US. Marines Corps and a local car dealer, David of Corry. We ask parishioners to bring in new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages and place them in the marked boxes inside of St. Thomas Church. All donations must be received this week by Tuesday, December 3rd, which is the date that the boxes will be collected.

*Thanks for helping to make Christmas
a little bit brighter for a child.*



Local Red Kettle Campaign Seeking Bell Ringers

The Salvation Army needs bell ringers for this year's annual Red Kettle campaign! Bell ringers are needed Mondays through Saturdays up until Christmas Eve. Solo ringers, pairs of ringers, & even groups are welcome! This is a wonderful opportunity to earn service hours or just help spread Christmas cheer. The kettle is in the (heated) lobby of Tops, so no fear of standing out in the cold! Bell ringers can sign up for one hour or more time slots each day. Please call or (preferably) text Elizabeth Malec at 814-490-7394 to get scheduled! Thank you.

Readings for the week of December 1, 2024

Sun.: Jeremiah 33:14-16 ♦ Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 (1b) ♦
1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2 ♦ Luke 21:25-28, 34-36
Mon.: Isaiah 2:1-5 ♦ Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9 ♦ Matthew 8:5-11
Tues.: Isaiah 11:1-10 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 ♦ Luke 10:21-24
Wed.: Isaiah 25:6-10a ♦ Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 ♦ Matthew 15:29-37
Thur.: Isaiah 26:1-6 ♦ Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a ♦
Mathew 7:21, 24-27
Fri.: Isaiah 29:17-24 ♦ Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14 ♦ Matthew 9:27-31
Sat.: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26 ♦ Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 ♦
Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sun.: Baruch 5:1-9 ♦ Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3) ♦
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 ♦ Luke 3:1-6

**Show us, Lord, your love;
and grant us your salvation.**

Psalm 85:8

Giving Tree at St. Teresa Church

Please help to make another's Christmas merrier by taking a tag from our Giving Tree at St. Teresa Church. ALL GIFTS need to be returned to the church on Sunday, December 15th. Gifts may be wrapped or unwrapped, but be sure to attach the tag to the gift.

Thank you for sharing your blessings with others this Christmas season.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: November 23 & 24, 2024

The Financial Stewardship Report for the weekend of November 23 & 24 will be published in the next bulletin (December 8) since figures were not available at this time due to the holiday publishing schedule. 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 either St. Thomas Cemetery, St. Elizabeth Cemetery, or St. Teresa 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'.



 Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, October 29, 2024

We are again approaching the annual collection for our Retired Religious, to be held in parishes on December 7th and 8th. This event has significant benefits for the retired Sisters in our diocese, as well as for the over 30,000 retired religious throughout the country.

The Retirement Fund for Religious offers financial support for those Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who worked for years for little or no stipends. Last year, the people in our diocese contributed \$140,304 to help defray the costs of medication, nursing care, medical equipment, transportation, physical and occupational therapy and other necessary needs. Your generous gift is vital for their ongoing health care, supporting them so that they may age safely, with dignity and comfort.

Senior Religious are a treasure of the Church. Their dedication and hard work laid the foundation for Catholic schools, religious education programs, hospitals, social service agencies and countless other ministries throughout our diocese; many still serve those in need today. Those who are no longer able to actively serve still support all that is being done through their ministry of prayer, while continuously remembering the generous people who care for them through the aging process.

Some of you may not presently know consecrated men and women, but they have affected your lives through their ministry to your parents and grandparents and through the many organizations now in place due to their foresight and generosity. Ministries started by Sisters have had a tremendous influence in this diocese. They stand as a legacy to those generous women who dedicated their lives in service to the reign of God and who continue to find ways to minister to others. I join you in praising God for their faithful and generous service to the Church both in the past and in the years to come.

Please join me in supporting this year's Retirement Fund for Religious. I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you only to give what you can. Most importantly, please continue to pray for an increase of vocations to the consecrated life and for God's blessing on all our women and men religious. Know you remain in their prayers and mine.

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

Religious Education News

2024-2025 Religious Education Program



Our Religious Education Program combined this year. Combining our resources makes our program stronger. For the 2024-2025 Religious Education Year, we will have classes at St. Teresa for the first half of the year (September—December) and at St. Thomas for the second half of the year (January—May). **Classes in the first half will meet at St. Teresa Parish Center at 9:30am.**

Calendar Reminders for Religious Education

- Sunday, Dec. 1—No Classes / Thanksgiving break
 - Sunday, Dec. 8—Classes and student confessions at St. Teresa
 - Sunday, Dec. 15—Classes for All students at St. Teresa
 - Sunday, Dec. 22—No Classes / Christmas break
 - Sunday, Dec. 29—No Classes / Christmas break
- * Beginning in January ALL Classes will be at St. Thomas in Corry and will start at 9:00AM.**

THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!
 We appreciate their support of our parishes and ask our parishioners to please patronize these business.

Eucharistic Adoration ***Eucharistic Adoration THIS WEEK***
The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory...
 We will hold our monthly Eucharistic Adoration this week. It will be held on **Thursday, Dec. 5th (8:00am) through Friday, Dec. 6th (8:00am) at Saint Thomas Church.** It will also be held on **Friday, Dec. 6th (8:00am –12:00pm) at St. Teresa Church.** All are welcome any time to spend a prayerful, quiet moment with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.




Date: Sunday, December 8, 2024
Time: 1:30pm
Where: St. Teresa of Avila Church
9 Third Avenue, Union City PA

There will be several priests available to hear confessions.
Come, let us make ourselves ready to WELCOME the LORD.

Holy Day Mass Schedule

The Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception of Mary is normally celebrated on December 8th. However, since this date falls on a Sunday, the Holy Day is transferred to the Monday after—so we will celebrate the feast on December 9th when Mary, the Mother of God, was conceived without any sin. Mass times for the obligation are:

- Monday, Dec. 9—8:00am at St. Teresa Church
- Monday, Dec. 9—7:00pm at St. Thomas Church



Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS by FR. TOM

GOD IS MADE FLESH IN THE PERSON OF JESUS FRIEND

God does not just suddenly appear at Christmas in our lives. God has been a part of our human lives from the very beginning. God created man and shared with him all the wonderful things of creation. God even let the man name all the wild animals to see if one of them would be a good friend to the man. And when that did not seem to spark a friendship for the man, God created woman. And the man exclaims that “this at last is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh.” The man sees the woman as a friend and companion. But this friendship is not just between the man and the woman, God is their faithful companion as well. We might think of it as an image of the trinity – God as three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This trinity now reaches out to form a new “trinity” of God, man, and woman. And this trinity would soon reach out to form another “trinity” – Adam, Eve, and Cain. And this pattern would continue down through the ages.

And God has been very much a friend to us throughout the Old Testament. God raises up leaders like Abraham, Moses, and the Prophets. Each of these leaders would guide the people along the journey. There would be times when people would follow God and the leader, and other times when they would wander away from God and the leader. Each time God would invite the leader to forgive the people and welcome them back into the friendship, or as it was called back then “the covenant,” before a new leader would take over. And the pattern would continue – the people follow, the people fall away, God heals and forgives the people. That might be the story of the Old Testament in a nutshell.

At some point, God decided to take this friendship to a deeper level. God decided to send his Son, Jesus, to take on human flesh and blood. God would not be a distant friend, but a human person whom we could see, listen to, love, and he in turn would see us, listen to us, and love us. This notion of Jesus as a friend would be the first way that we would come to experience God in our lives. Even at the Last Supper, Jesus would speak about this friendship when he addressed his disciples, “I do not call you servants, but I call you friends.”

Very often, the first place we experience God is in that first person who becomes our friend. Some of you may remember a picture that went viral in August of 2019 of two little boys holding hands. The story behind the picture is a story of friendship and God’s friendship with us. Connor was an autistic boy going to school for the first time. The ride on the bus went well, but when he started to walk toward the building he got scared and walked over to the corner of the building and stood there frozen. Another little boy, Christian, saw Connor and went over to him and spoke with him for some time. Then Christian took Connor’s hand and led him into the school building. Connor later told a reporter, “He was kind to me. I was in the first day of school, and I started crying. Then he helped me, and I was happy.” Christian’s mother said the two are now inseparable. If you saw the photo, you realize that Connor is white and Christian is black, which makes the story even more significant.

This Advent season is a time for us to reflect on the friendships in our lives, the times others have reached out to us in our fear, and the time we have reached out in friendship to those around us. We might reflect on how these friendships have changed our lives and how these friendships reflect the friendship that God has with us. It might also challenge us to look a little deeper to where God is inviting us to reach out to someone who needs a friend.

