



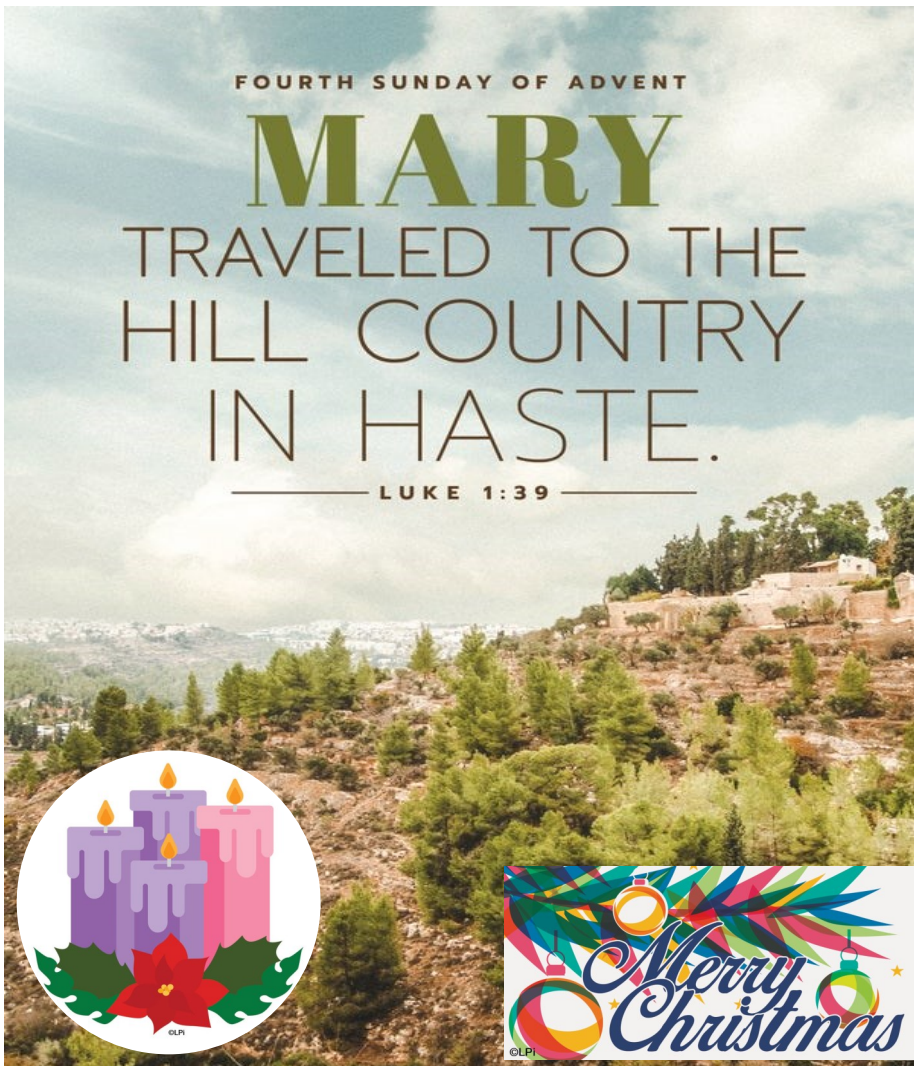
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
203 W. Washington Street
Corry, PA 16407

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 22, 2024



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

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

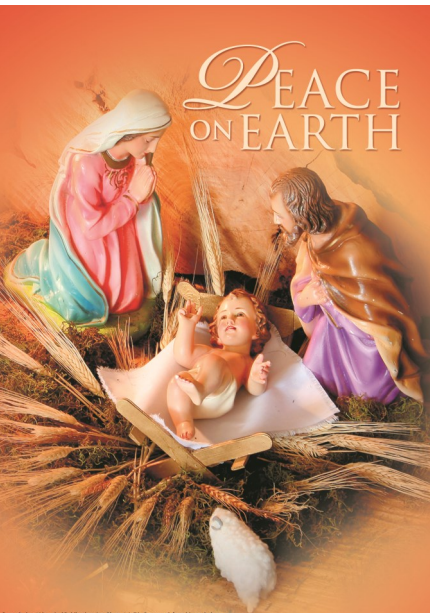
CHRISTMAS MASSES: We will have Masses on Christmas Eve at 4:30pm at St. Thomas, 7:00pm at St. Teresa, and there will be one Mass on Christmas Day at 10:00am at St. Thomas.

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS: We will be decorating the Churches for Christmas on the following dates, all are welcome to help with the decorating. We will decorate at St. Teresa on Sunday, December 22, at Noon. We will be decorating at St. Thomas on Monday, December 23 at 9:00am.

REMEMBER THE PARISH AT THE END OF THE YEAR AND IN YOUR WILL: To put it very simply: plan for your death by making a Will, plan for your family in the Will, remember the Church in your will. Our parish is still ministering because thoughtful people over the years have left us generous amounts of money in their Wills. A generous amount is whatever God moves someone to give, according to their means, to further the parish mission. Please include the parish in your estate plans. And remember: No gift is too small and no gift is too large!

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES: Mass on New Years Eve will be at 7:00pm at St. Teresa and Mass on New Year's Day will be at 9:00am at St. Thomas. These Masses will celebrate the feast of Mary the Mother of God, a holy day of obligation.

- Fr. Tom



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14



Sunday, December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8:00a.m. †Deceased Members of the Amy Family by Gary & Colleen Amy-Rambish (St. Thomas, Corry)
- 11:00a.m. †Paul Mongera, Sr. by Lillie Mongera (St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, December 23

- 8:00a.m. †Steven Paul Mongera by Steve & Cheryl Mongera (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, December 24—Christmas Eve

- 4:30p.m. †Deceased & Living Members of our Parish (St. Thomas, Corry)
- 7:00p.m. †Deceased & Living Members of our Parish (St. Teresa, Union City)

Wednesday, December 25—Christmas Day/Nativity of the Lord

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

Thursday, December 26

No Mass or Services at either Sts. Thomas or Teresa today.

Friday, December 27

- 8:00a.m. †Ed Weaver by Lillie Mongera (St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, December 28

- 4:30p.m. †Kathy Roggenkamp by Mary Harned (St. Teresa, Union City)

Sunday, December 29—Feast of the Holy Family

- 8:00a.m. †George Lutz by Ron & Anne Kulin (St. Thomas, Corry)
- 11:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa (St. Teresa, Union City)

Be Sure to See Today's Bulletin Insert

Don't forget to read the insert in today's bulletin for Fr. Tom's Christmas Message. *May you have a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with Christ's Peace.*

Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24

4:30pm—St. Thomas Church, Corry

7:00pm—St. Teresa Church, Union City

Wednesday, December 25

10:00am—St. Thomas Church, Corry



St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Teresa of Avila invite you and your family to join us at our Christmas Masses as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

St. Thomas News



2024 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals (as of 12/09):

St. Thomas Diocesan Goal is \$37,254.00

Total Amount Pledged to date = \$60,846.00

Total Paid to date = \$58,966

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.

Christmas Flower Fund Donations

In Memory

Donated by

Andy & Micky Tomcho and George & Julia Sekerak	David & Sue Sekerak
Deceased Members of Gilbert and Triscuit Families	Ron & Shirley Triscuit
William VanCise	Mary VanCise and Children
Naomi Snell and Red & Pearl Harned	Gary & Terri Snell
Knowlton and Messina Families	Punk & Lana Messina
Ed & Sophie Girovsky	Diane Hall & Jean Cressley
Gluvna and Mitchell Families	David & Marie Mitchell
Ed & Elayne Pavlock	Sue (Pavlock) Watrous
Deacon Bill Sproveri	Pat Sproveri
Daniel Ahl	Janet Ahl
Deceased Members of Cragg, Sullivan and Brown Families	David & Patti Brown
Fred & Mary Walsh and Joh & Ruth Lawson	Kris & Clancy Walsh
Ginn and Horan Families	Margaret Ginn
Richard Lowry	Jeff & Kristi Fike
Deceased Members of Wawrejko Family	Darlene Wawrejko
Chundrek and Maryott Families	Alice Maryott
Members of Wheeler, Keenan, and Valletti Families	Carmen & Denise Wetherbee
Stull and Baressi Families	Vickie & Dave Stull
Madalyn & Joseph Jawdy	Joe & Janet Jawdy
Richard Ayers, Sr. and Peter & Lila Sander	Rick, Debbie, and Richelle
Louis & Charlotte Sproveri and Barbara & Paul Anderson	Denny & Chris Anderson
Tomcho and Lutton Families	Andy & Deb Tomcho
Robert Bailey	Veronica Bailey
Joe & Nancy Henderson	Shirley Kuszajewski
Cheyenne Massa and Bill & Helene Grucza	Jeff Weis family
Wascak and Stoddard Families	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wascak
Rose & Ed Gluvna and Rose & Joe Amoroso, and Mary Amoroso	Ron & Teresa Gluvna
Terry Woodcock	Lois Woodcock
Wascak, Stolar, and Huffman Families	Carol & Darrell Huffman
Janet Mitchel, Deceased Member of Mitchell and Triscuit Families	Don Mitchell and family
Carl Buckshaw, John & Anna Buckshaw, Jerry, Guerino & Anna Raglani	Mary Buckshaw
Jack, Tommy, and Rick Brigham; Brigham and Shreve Families	Nancy Brigham and family
George & Helen Groner	George & Carol Groner
Charles Sparks and Mary Bonekamp	Irene Platt
Weis and Hermanto Families	Steve & Millie Weis
Charles Booth	Helmer-Allyn family



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 22nd burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of George Baker by Rosemary Baker and family.

Thank You from the St. Thomas Altar Rosary Pastry Sale

We wish to thank everyone who supported our holiday pastry sale last month. We made a profit of \$945. Enjoy your treats! Your support helps the Altar Rosary Society with purchases to enhance our altar and church. *Thanks again and Merry Christmas.*



Decorating St. Thomas Church for Christmas

We will be decorating the church on Monday, December 23rd at 9:00am. *Many hands make for light work.* Thank you.

Christmas Flower Fund Donations (continued)

In Memory

Donated by

Fred & Mary Walsh and Skye Elizabeth	Sheila Walsh
Jason Buell	Mom & Dad
Janet Michell	Vickie, Chris, Joni, and John
Karkoski, Anders, McCarthy, and Dempsey Families	Gerrie Karkoski and Peg Anderson
Mike & Jean Comitz and Phil & Florence Amoroso	Mike & Deb Comitz
Paul & Betty Jean Suchar	Craig Suchar family
William & Marylou and Frank & Catherine	Frank & Lori Lackovic
Z. Marion & Irene Zaczekiewicz, Judith Johnston, and the Zaczekiewicz, Johnston, and Motuz Families	Gary, Sue, and Joseph
Z. Marion & Irene Zaczekiewicz and Joseph & Patricia Walsh	John & Colleen Zaczekiewicz

Flower donations were also received from:

Judy Christensen, and Travis & Brenda Carey.



Thanks to all who donated to the Christmas Flower Fund, which helped decorate our church with beautiful poinsettias for the holiday season.
MERRY CHRISTMAS



St. Teresa News

2024 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals (as of 12/09):

St. Teresa Diocesan Goal is \$24,359.00

Total Amount Pledged to date = \$39,014.00

Total Paid to date = \$38,960.00

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.**

Christmas Flower Fund Donations



In Memory

Polach Family, Mary Spencer Zielinski & John J. Zielinski

John Daggett and Fred, Genevieve, Rick Pusch

Donated by

Stanley & Charlotte Polach

Christine Daggett



Other flower donation envelopes were not returned to the parish office prior to this bulletin publication. We will be listing more donations in an upcoming bulletin. Thank you.



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of December 22nd burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of all our loved ones who have passed.

Decorating St. Teresa Church for Christmas

We will be putting up the Christmas decorations at St. Teresa Church after the 11:00AM Mass TODAY— Sunday, December 22nd. Help is needed and appreciated. Thank you.



Keep "Christ" in Christmas!

Readings for the week of December 22, 2024

Sun.: Micah 5:1-4a ♦ Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4) ♦ Hebrews 10:5-10 ♦ Luke 1:39-45
 Mon.: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 ♦ Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 ♦ Luke 1:57-66
 Tues.: Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 ♦ Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 ♦ Luke 1:67-79
 Wed. (Christmas): *Vigil:* Isaiah 62:1-5 ♦ Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a) ♦ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 ♦ Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Isaiah 9:1-6 ♦ Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Luke 2:11) ♦ Titus 2:11-14 ♦ Luke 2:1-14
Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12 ♦ Psalm 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7 ♦ Luke 2:15-20
Day: Isaiah 52:7-10 ♦ Hebrews 1:1-6 ♦ Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c) ♦ John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
 Thur.: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 ♦ Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 ♦ Matthew 10:17-22
 Fri.: 1 John 1:1-4 ♦ Psalm 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12 ♦ John 20:1a, 2-8
 Sat.: 1 John 1:5—2:2 ♦ Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 ♦ Matthew 2:13-18
 Next Sun.: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 ♦ Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a) ♦ 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 ♦ Luke 2:41-52

"Question of the Week" - 4th Sunday of Advent

Question for Children: How does the Blessed Virgin Mary help you to follow Jesus?

Question for Youth: When have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit?

Question for Adults: What role does Mary play in your own spirituality? If you were Elizabeth, how would you greet her at your doorway, if she were to arrive there?

St. Teresa Church Organizations / Groups

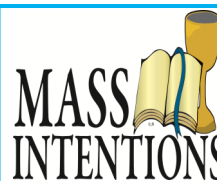
•**Rosary—Altar Society**
Meets the first Monday of each month at 4:30 PM

•**Knights of Columbus**
Meet every third Wednesday at 7:00 PM

•**Religious Education Guild**
Meets during the school term

Family Perspective

Mary was excited about her first pregnancy and rushed to tell her cousin. Sadly children are often seen as a liability, "another mouth to feed" or an "obstacle to my career." It is said "Christmas is for children." It is more accurate to say "Christmas is for adults to appreciate the gift of children!"



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. You may also sponsor the Sanctuary Candle at either church for a loved one for one week—cost is only \$10.



MADE WITH LOVE!

OUR WEEKLY, CATHOLIC E-NEWS BULLETIN IS HOMEMADE JUST FOR YOU. RUN, RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN! SIGN UP TO CATCH THE LATEST NEWS AT WWW.NWPACATHOLIC.COM

DIocese of Erie news

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: December 14 & 15, 2024

The Financial Stewardship Report for this past weekend of December 14 & 15 will be published in the next bulletin (December 29) 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 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'.

THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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

Mystery of the Christmas Star

Plan a visit to the Yahn Planetarium at Penn State-Behrend to learn more about the Christmas Star. Based on recorded astronomical events, explore the possible date for the birth of Christ and what was in the sky remarkable enough to cause three men to cross the desert. The event also includes current night sky talk. Next event is on Saturday, January 4, 2025 at 11:30am. Cost: Children \$3 (under age 12), Adults \$5. For more information: Phone: 814-898-7268 or visit behrend.psu.edu/yahnplanetarium. Also, know that Group Visits to the Planetarium are welcome, and can be arranged Tuesdays - Saturdays, day or evening. Please contact Director Jim Gavio at 814-898-7268.

***Parish Office Closed this Week for the Holidays***

Our Parish Office will be **closed for the Christmas holiday from Tuesday, December 24 through Wednesday, January 1, 2025** to allow our staff some personal time with their families during the holiday season.



Our Office will reopen to the public on Thursday, January 2 at 8:30am.

Should an emergency arise, please leave a voicemail or email, which will be checked periodically during our closure.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas season and a peace-filled New Year!

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). **Class time at St. Thomas will be from 9:00am until 10:30am.**

***Calendar Reminders for Religious Education***

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. Classes resume on Sunday, January 5.**

***Merry Christmas to Our Religious Ed Families***

We want to wish everyone involved with our Religious Education Program a *very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!* We will be on break until January 5, 2025. May our students and families enjoy some quality time together.

We especially wish to thank all of our catechists and volunteers who make our program run so smoothly throughout the year. We could not do this without YOU! We encourage our students and families to attend one of our Christmas Masses (or make plans to go to another church, if away) to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of Jesus! Thank you for a wonderful first half of our Religious Education Year. We look forward to the fun and learning that will continue in 2025. *See you in the New Year!* - and please remember all classes will move over to St. Thomas in 2025. *Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

WELCOME

If you are new to our parish, 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. We require all first-time parents to attend a Baptism Class prior to having their child baptized. The best time to take this class is before the child is born and before godparents are chosen.

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 the church where the anticipatory Mass is celebrate that evening—at St. Thomas Church, Corry or at St. Teresa Church, Union City (depending on the month); and other times by request made to the Parish Office.

Please be sure to notify the Parish Office of any changes to your address, phone numbers, or email address. Thank you.