



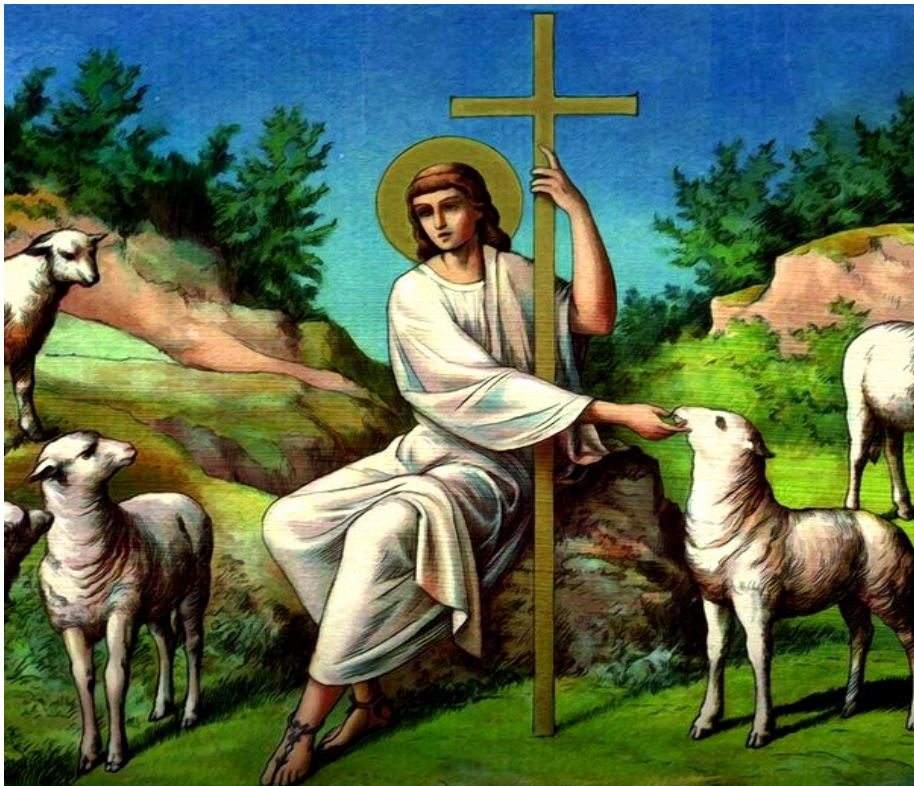
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
203 W. Washington Street
Corry, PA 16407



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

THE PARISHES OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE AND ST. TERESA OF AVILA

April 21, 2024



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep." - Jn 10:14-15

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

PARISH MERGER: As you now know, the Diocese of Erie has approved the merger of St. Teresa of Avila Parish and its mission, Our Lady of Fatima, into St. Thomas Parish in Corry. Before we get into what that means, I think you need to know some of the statistics that are pertinent to this situation. And these statistics are true across the board in our Diocese, and many other dioceses.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Erie County peaked at 281,502 around the year 2012. By 2022, the county population had fallen to 267,689 – a drop of 4.9%. The population of Union City peaked around 1960 at 3,800 residents. By 2022, the population had declined 24% to about 2880 persons. The population of Corry peaked around 1950 at 7,911 residents. By 2022, it had fallen to 6,120 – a drop of over 22%.

The decline in parish membership and Mass attendance had been much steeper than the decline in the general population. Saint Teresa of Avila Parish reported 620 registered parishioners in 2015 and 267 in 2022 – a drop of more than 56%. The October count (which records average Mass attendance) for 2015 was 263 and in 2023 it was 190. This indicates a 27% drop in Mass attendance over the last 8 years. In 2015 St. Teresa of Avila reported 8 infant baptisms. This declined to 4 in the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish reported 741 members in 2015 and 667 in 2023 – a drop of nearly 10%. The October count dropped from 229 in 2015 to 115 in 2023 – a decline of about 49%. In 2015, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish reported 4 infant baptisms. In 2023 it reported 2 infant baptisms.

St. Teresa of Avila and St. Thomas the Apostle Parishes have been partnered since 2019 with notable collaboration between the two developing during those years. Mass times have changed between the two parishes. As a result, it is more accurate to look at Mass attendance trends by combining both parishes. In that case, the total reported Mass attendance in 2015 was 492 and in 2023 was 305 – a combined decline of 38%. It is important to note that St. Elizabeth Parish merged into St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in 2019. From 2015 to 2019 St. Elizabeth statistics are not included in numbers for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

The number of priests in the Diocese of Erie in 2015 was 119 and the projected number for 2025 is 74. In the next year we will ordain 3 more priests, God willing, and in the following three years we will ordain NO new priests. In that time period 16 priests will reach the retirement age of 75. It is important for people to realize that there is a serious shortage of priests in our diocese and that is one of the factors driving the partnering and merging of parishes.

The general decline in Erie, Crawford and Warren Counties, as well as decline in Union City and Corry specifically, combined with the more dramatic decline in the Catholic population in Corry and Union City – as well as the decreasing number of available priests – necessitates a reconfiguration of parishes and better use of resources in order to properly provide for the care of souls in that tri-county area.

- Fr. Tom

**Sunday, April 21**

8:00a.m. †Deceased Members of the Cragg and Sullivan Families by family (St. Thomas, Corry)

10:00a.m. †Jerry Adams by Diana and family (St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, April 22

8:00a.m. †Raymond Rhodes by Dorothy Rhodes & family (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, April 23

8:00a.m. †Judy Bitters by Ted & Jean Cressley & family (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, April 24

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

Thursday, April 25

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

Friday, April 26

8:00a.m. †Ed Weaver by Dick & Elaine Hasbrouck (St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, April 27

4:30p.m. †Priscilla Kozik by Mark & Debbie Deniziak (St. Teresa, Union City)

Sunday, April 28

8:00a.m. †Gerri Cragg by the Catholic Daughters (St. Thomas, Corry)

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

❧ PERSEVERE IN PRAYER ❧



*Behold, I am with you always
even to the end of the age, says the Lord.*
(Mark 28:20)



St. Thomas Parish News

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: April 14, 2024

Amount in Envelopes: (74)\$3,169.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 145 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 71)
Loose\$190.00
Online Giving (9)\$330.00
Total Offertory Income\$3,689.00

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

Weekly Average Shortfall \$(-1,646.00)

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'.

2024 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals (as of 04/15):

St. Thomas Diocesan Goal is \$37,254.00

Total Amount Pledged to date = \$56,235.00

Total Paid to date = \$42,130.00

of Families who made a pledge = 112

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.

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

Question for Children: Jesus tells us he is the Good Shepherd, but how do you experience God guiding and protecting you?

Question for Youth: How do you feel about Jesus' being your shepherd? What does it mean to you that he lays down his life for you?

Question for Adults: What qualities of God does the image of the Good Shepherd suggest? How do you experience God in this way?



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



Saturday Morning Rosary

All are invited to join us on Saturday mornings at Saint Thomas Church at 9:00am as we pray The Rosary together in community.



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 April 21st burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Peter Sander.

This Week's Events at St. Thomas Parish

Sunday, April 21

9:00am Rel. Ed. Classes at the former school building

Wednesday, April 24

6:30pm Confirmation Class in the former school building

Thursday, April 25

6:00pm Catholic Daughters Meeting in St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Saturday, April 27

8:00am First Communion Retreat in the former school building



Route 6 Road Cleanup by Corry Knights of Columbus

Members of Corry Council #425 of the Knights were helping to beautify our city during their spring cleanup on Saturday, April 13. Pictured are John Wilson, Len Clark, Rob Weis, Steve Weis, Gary Johnston, and in back—Joseph Johnston. Deacon Randy also helped (not pictured since he was the cameraman for the photo). *Thanks guys!*

Meeting of the Catholic Daughters THIS WEEK

Members of the local Catholic Daughters are reminded of their meeting this Thursday, April 25 at 6:00pm in the St. Elizabeth Parish Center. It is important to come to this meeting. We hope you will join us. God bless.

Donations Being Accepted for Flowers at St. Thomas Church

We hope to plant new flowers around the church this spring and we need your help. We are seeking donations toward this project. **Please place your donation in an envelope marked "St. Thomas Garden Flowers"** and place it in the collection basket at Mass or send it to the parish office. We hope to start planting in early May. We are hoping to purchase annuals and perennials for around the church grounds. Thank you for your generosity.



St. Teresa Parish News

ST. TERESA FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: April 13 & 14, 2024
Amount in Envelopes: (63) \$2,144.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 157 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 94)
Loose \$354.00
Continuing the Vision (2) \$40.00
Online Giving (1) \$30.00
Total Offertory Income \$2,568.00

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STEWARDSHIP: April 14, 2024
Amount in Envelopes: (5) \$105.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 30 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 25)

St. Teresa Parish Offertory Income \$2,673.00
Average Weekly Expenses \$4,585.00
 (Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)
Weekly Average Shortfall \$(-1,912.00)

*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!

2024 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals (as of 04/15):

St. Teresa Diocesan Goal is \$24,359.00
 Total Amount Pledged to date = \$35,200.00
 Total Paid to date = \$27,337.00
 # of Families who made a pledge = 91
 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.**

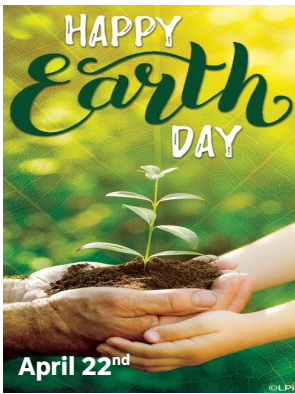


The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of April 21st burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Raymond Rhodes by Dorothy Rhodes and family.

This Week's Events at St. Teresa Parish
 Sunday, April 21
 11:00am Rel. Ed. Classes at the parish center

Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of Thomas Bengel who passed away from St. Teresa Church. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

St. Teresa Reverse Raffle
 Thanks to Kim Yaple, chairperson, and all those who helped make our Reverse Raffle scheduled for this weekend on Saturday, April 20th a success again this year. We appreciate everyone's efforts. A reporting about the Reverse Raffle will be in an upcoming bulletin. *We wish everyone a good time tonight!*



First Friday Calls
 If you, or a loved one, is shut-in to your home or in a nursing home and wishes to have a visit from the priest, deacon, or Eucharistic Minister, please call the parish office. **First Friday Calls will be done next on May 3.**

Hospital Visits
 Please let us know if a family member is in the hospital. A visit from the priest may be arranged. Hamot and Saint Vincent hospitals have priests on call in cases of emergency.


Readings for the week of April 21, 2024
 Sun.: Acts 4:8-12 ♦ Psalm 118: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 (22) ♦ John 3:1-2 ♦ John 10:11-18
 Mon.: Acts 11:1-18 ♦ Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 ♦ John 10:1-10
 Tues.: Acts 11:19-26 ♦ Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 ♦ John 10:22-30
 Wed.: Acts 12:24—13:5a ♦ Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 ♦ John 12:44-50
 Thur.: 1 Peter 5:5b-14 ♦ Psalm 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 ♦ Mark 16:15-20
 Fri.: Acts 13:26-33 ♦ Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab ♦ John 14:1-6
 Sat.: Acts 13:44-52 ♦ Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 ♦ John 14:7-14
 Next Sun.: Acts 9:26-31 ♦ Psalm 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 (26a) ♦ 1 John 3:18-24 ♦ John 15:1-8

Pray For PRIESTS
 Very Rev. Jeffrey Noble, V.F., Very Rev. Scott Jabo, Rev. Jeffrey Lucas, Very Rev. Chris Hamlett, V.F., Rev. John Chaplin, Rev. John Jacquel, and Rev. William Barron, also please *Pray for the Pastoral Planning in our diocese.*

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

Have you made your pledge to the 2024 CSA?




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

One Faith One Family

Follow-up letters for the 2024 CSA were sent out last week. We encourage everyone to make a pledge to support the good works and programs of the diocese, as well as our parishes. Remember, all money raised from this point goes directly to Sts. Thomas and Teresa parishes as we have met our diocesan goals for this year. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Thank You for Supporting the Good Shepherd Collection TODAY

We are grateful to those who made a gift this weekend (April 20/21) to the Good Shepherd Collection which was taken up across our diocese. This collection supports all the retired priests in our diocese. If you did not make a gift but wish to contribute, please place your donation in an envelope marked "Good Shepherd" and put it in the collection basket next weekend at Mass. Thank you for supporting retired priests who have faithfully served our parishes in the Diocese of Erie.



Family Perspective

Today's gospel is a job description for Christian parents. For most people the most influential shepherd in their lives is a parent. Every parent is called to be a "good shepherd" to "freely lay down their life" for their children, to "love" and "know" their children and to "lead" them so "they know your voice."

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.

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 remainder of the 2023/2024 school year:



- Sunday, April 21—Classes for All Religious Education students.
- Sunday, April 28—Classes for All Religious Education students.
- Saturday, May 4—First Holy Communion celebrated in Corry
- Sunday, May 5—First Holy Communion celebrated in Union City and Last Classes for All Religious Education students.

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 from 6:30pm until 8:00pm.

Keep First Holy Communion Students in Prayer

Please keep the following students from our parishes in prayer as they continue to prepare for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion:

Elise Kafferlin, Teagen Parker, and Isaac Shick.

Pray for Our Confirmation Candidates

Please keep the following students from our parishes in prayer as they continue to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation which is schedule to be held on Wednesday, May 29 (while some students will receive the sacrament on Thursday, May 2 due to a conflict):

Porter Allyn, Allie Anderson, Avery Bird, Colton, Boyd, Ellie Carey, Kendall Donoghue, Nolan Gesing, Ava Hallberg, Joseph Johnston, Henry Moss, Jesse Nordin, Josh Nordin, Anya Styborski, Ava Tomcho, JR Trauner, Nathan Weis, Ava Wetherbee, Brady Whitmeyer, and Mason Wienczkowski. May they grow in their faith and be strengthened by the Spirit as they continue their journey towards reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Child Abuse Prevention Month: National CyberTipline: The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline is the nation's centralized reporting system for the online exploitation of children. Anyone can make reports of suspected online enticement of children for sexual acts, molestation, child pornography, child sex tourism, child sex trafficking (includes prostitution), child sextortion and unsolicited obscene materials sent to a child. Misleading domain names, misleading words or digital images on the internet can also be reported to the CyberTipline. All tips are reviewed to find a potential location for the reported incident. It is then made available to the appropriate law-enforcement agency for possible investigation. NCMEC provides resources/help in removing an online image. Reports can be made 24/7 online at www.cybertipline.org or by calling (800) 843-5678.



If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion.

- ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE



DID YOU KNOW?

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS IS OBSERVED ON GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY.