



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

January 21, 2024



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
- Mk 1:17

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

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

FISH DINNERS: Lent starts early this year, February 14! And with Lent, comes our fish dinners at both parishes. These are an enormous undertaking and can always use more volunteers. If you can help with cooking or serving, please contact Sue Vinca or Judy Green at St. Thomas or Becky Boleratz at St. Teresa.

We are making a special plea this year for help with cleaning up after the dinners are over. This will entail moving tables and chairs, sweeping and mopping floors. Those who cook and serve the dinners have usually put in a full day by the time the dinner is over. We are hoping to build a crew of workers who will come in after dinner and be in charge of cleaning up. If you, or your group, are willing to help us with this task, please contact the parish office or Fr. Tom.

GENUFLECTING AND KNEELING: I have noticed a few people who struggle to kneel or genuflect in church. As we get older some of those joints do not function as well as they used to. Know that it is perfectly acceptable to offer a bow instead of a genuflection, or to sit if it is difficult to kneel.

EUCCHARISTIC RENEWAL: The past two years have been focused on Eucharistic Renewal in a variety of ways. In the past few months, we have been trying to restore some stability and dignity to our celebrations of the Eucharist. Thanks to our liturgy committee for their hard work, to our music ministers and choirs, to our lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, altar servers, ushers and deacons for their efforts in making this happen. Thanks to all of you for your participation in singing, responding, and your presence at our celebrations of the Eucharist.

I would like to take a little section of my column each week to review the various parts of our celebration of the Eucharist. This week to look at what we come to do in our celebration of the Eucharist.

What is it that we come here to do in our celebration of the Eucharist? Is it a spectator sport where we simply sit and watch? Is it a social event where we spend an hour conversing with our friends? Is it a job where we put in our time in order to get some reward or payment? What is it that we come here to do?

First and foremost, we come here to pray. Prayer is what we gather together to do in our celebration of the Eucharist. And that means we do something very specific and very sacred – it is not entertainment, it is not just social (although there is a very important communal dimension to our prayer), it is not just an obligation.

Prayer is very simply our talking to God and God talking to us. A conversation of sorts between us and God. We are familiar with that conversation in our own private prayer, but when WE gather to celebrate the Eucharist, our prayer is not private but communal or public. We do not simply pray on our own, but we pray together as a community or a family. It means that we say the prayers and responses together, we sing the songs together, and we all do the same gestures together. The Eucharist is not a spectator sport, but a participation sport.

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**Sunday, January 21**

8:00a.m. Members of the Pelc and Norton Families by Robert Pelc (St. Thomas, Corry)

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

Monday, January 22

8:00a.m. †Thomas Zakovitch by Ilene Zakovitch (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, January 23

8:00a.m. †Joe Amy by Daniel & Cassandra Pfeiffer (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, January 24

8:00a.m. †Anna O'Brien by her estate (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, January 25

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

Friday, January 26

8:00a.m. †Msgr. Robert Malene (St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, January 27

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

Sunday, January 28

8:00a.m. †Gerri Cragg by Gerrie Karkoski and family (St. Thomas, Corry)

10:00a.m. †Ann Ranyak by Mary Jane and Wayne (St. Teresa, Union City)

Because we pray as a community there is a structure to our prayer so that everyone can follow. It is not private, or individual prayer, but communal prayer. The difference between private and communal prayer is that private prayer is something we do alone, and communal prayer is a prayer we do together both in silence and in our responses, in our gestures and our singing. That means we all sing the songs, and we all say the prayers and responses together because it is communal prayer, not private prayer. It is prayer that we do together.

Because this prayer is a conversation, there are times where we speak and times where God speaks to us. This typically happens in the readings from Scripture. One way that people can prepare to "hear" what God is saying to us is to read the Scripture readings ahead of time. These are conveniently listed in our bulletin each week and there are numerous websites where you can find them as well. By preparing the readings ahead of time, we can simply listen to them as they are proclaimed by the lector or the deacon in order that we might hear what God is saying to us, what God is saying to each of us individually and as a community. In order for us to experience the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, we must be really present ourselves. We must come ready to encounter the presence of Christ in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread.

- Fr. Tom

St. Thomas Parish News

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: January 13 & 14, 2024

Amount in Envelopes: (56)	\$2,813.00
(Total Envelopes sent: 174 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 118)	
Loose	\$244.00
Online Giving (9)	\$320.00
Faith Formation/Rel. Ed. (2)	\$25.00
Total Offertory Income	\$3,402.00

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

Weekly Average Shortfall \$(-1,933.00)

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'.



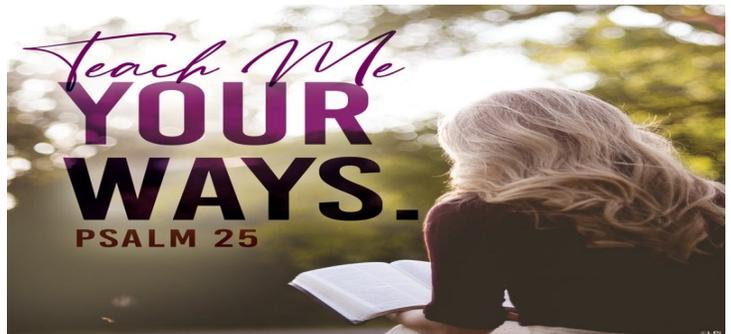
PRAYER LINE... call: Gerrie (814-665-6944), Pam (814-664-7459), or Diane (814-663-3753).
Since prayer is an important ministry of trust, know that all requests are kept confidential.



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of January 21st burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Dan Ahl by Pat Kusiak.

Pot Luck Dinner at St. Thomas TODAY

Join us for a Pot Luck Dinner TODAY—Saturday, January 20th following the 4:30pm Mass at St. Thomas. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. Beverages will be provided. Hope to see you there!



"Question of the Week" - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: What do you think it was like for the people in today's Gospel to be called by Jesus? What did they have to give up in order to follow him?

Question for Youth: At the start of Jesus' ministry, Jesus invites people to "believe in the Good News." What are some ways that you could be more open to the truth and challenge contained within the Gospels?

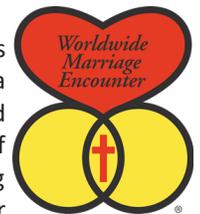
Question for Adults: If someone asked you, "To what work has Jesus called you?" how would you answer?

PRAY—Jesus will always answer you, one way or the other. Prayer should be our 'first response' - not only for serious situations that seem out of our control, but also for the more everyday concerns that arise in our life.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The holidays are here! In all the preparations did you think lovingly of your spouse? It is a busy time of year. Consider this: a weekend away after the holidays to just be the two of you—husband & wife—and refocus on being that couple. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a faith-based enrichment for any married couple. The next weekend will be February 9—11, 2024 in Grove City, PA. For more information, go to www.WWME.org.



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: January 14, 2024
Amount in Envelopes: (36) \$1,344.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 157 / Number of Unused Envelopes:121)
Loose \$69.00
Continuing the Vision (1) \$10.00
Online Giving (2) \$45.00
Total Offertory Income \$1,468.00

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STEWARDSHIP: Jan. 14, 2024
Amount in Envelopes: (2) \$120.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 30 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 28)

St. Teresa Parish Offertory Income \$1,588.00
Average Weekly Expenses \$4,585.00
 (Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)
Weekly Average Shortfall \$(2,997.00)

*Thanks to everyone who regularly uses his/her envelopes.
 Please write checks to St. Teresa Church or Our Lady of Fatima Church.*

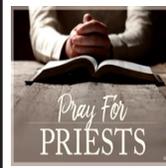


Please know that you can now give all your donations online by visiting our parish website at www.st-teresa-unioncity-org OR by scanning the QR code here.



Thanks for your generosity to our parish!

The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of January 21st burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased members of our parish.



Rev. Paul Siebert, The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, Rev. Gregory Passauer, Rev. Walter Packard, Rev. Leo Gallina, Rev. Jason Glover, and Rev. James Gutting, also please *Pray for the Pastoral Planning in the Erie Diocese.*

Readings for the week of January 21, 2024

Sun.: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 ♦ Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a) ♦ 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 ♦ Mark 1:14-20
 Mon.: 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10 ♦ Psalm 89:20, 21-22, 25-26 ♦ Mark 3:22-30
 Tues.: 2 Samuel 6:12b-15, 17-19 ♦ Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10 ♦ Mark 3:31-35
 Wed.: 2 Samuel 7:4-17 ♦ Psalm 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30 ♦ Mark 4:1-20
 Thur.: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22 ♦ Psalm 117:1bc, 2 ♦ Mark 16:15-18
 Fri.: 2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5 ♦ Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 ♦ Mark 4:26-34
 Sat.: 2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17 ♦ Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 ♦ Mark 4:35-41
 Next Sun.: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 ♦ Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 (8) ♦ 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 ♦ Mark 1:21-28

Please join the Diocese of Erie on a
Pilgrimage
 to the
National Eucharistic Congress
 INDIANAPOLIS
 July 17 - 21, 2024

Coordinated by the Erie Diocesan Eucharistic Adoration Committee
 FOR MORE INFO: EMAIL ERIEDEAC@GMAIL.COM
 or use the QR code to register

You Pay Your Bills Online – Why Not Give Online, Too?

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 February 2, 2024.**

Hospital Visits
 Please call the parish office to 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.

Interested in Serving as a Permanent Deacon in our Diocese?
 The Diocese of Erie is launching a new five-year session for ten men seeking to study for and discern whether or not they are being called to this vocation. Please share this information with those who might be interested in learning more. Additional information about prerequisites as well as details about the application process occurring this winter and spring can be found at www.eriecd.org/deacons. Participants will simultaneously earn a master’s in pastoral administration from Gannon University. Two mandatory inquiry sessions will be held at St. Mark Center in Erie the weekends of March 9 and 16.

SUPPORT OUR BAKE SALE

Please support the St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society by purchasing some delicious items from their Bake Sale following both Masses the weekend of February 3 & 4. Thank you!

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



January 8, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

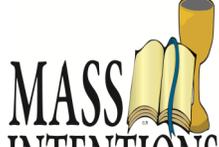
At the end of January, we celebrate both the memorial of St. Francis DeSales and the feast of the conversion of St. Paul. Each of these men is considered a patron of communications — saints we need to turn to for guidance today more than ever. St. Francis was a journalist and author while St. Paul is a patron of publishers and writers.

Even though they did not have the same technology we use, we all are charged with the same mission: to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. In a changing media landscape, today the Diocese of Erie offers insightful, vetted news and information as well as stories and insights in a variety of formats.

Faith magazine remains our flagship publication with in-depth features and interviews from every corner of the diocese, as well as news and information. It's mailed — free of charge — to each household registered in a parish on a quarterly basis. Have you subscribed to the *Diocese of Erie-News* yet? This resource shows up in your inbox every Wednesday morning with local, national and international news of interest to Catholics. It also promotes events offered by parishes and ministries and includes reminders about holy days as well as links to timely resources for deepening your faith. Sign up for free at www.nwpaCatholic.com. We include much of this information through social media as well, and now create videos, available on the diocesan YouTube channel, to let those we cover share their stories in their own words.

I am grateful for your generous support of the annual Help Spread the Faith communications collection and I encourage you to take advantage of all that is offered. **Please help us continue this essential outreach by participating the 2024 Help Spread the Faith collection scheduled for the weekend of January 27/28.**

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



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.



“As the family goes,
so goes the nation,
and so goes the
whole world
in which
we live.”
ST. JOHN PAUL II

Day of Prayer
for the Legal
Protection of
Unborn Children
JANUARY 22nd

Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News

Calendar Reminders for Religious Education



Families of students in our Religious Education Classes at both Sts. Thomas & Teresa Parishes are reminded of the following schedule for the remainder of January & February 2024:

Sunday, January 21— Classes for All Religious Education students.
Sunday, January 28—Classes for All Religious Education students.
Sunday, February 4— Classes for All Religious Education students.
Sunday, February 11—Classes for All Religious Education students.
Sunday, February 18— No Classes this week.
Sunday, February 25—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 evenings from 6:30pm until 8:00pm.

IMPORTANT: Safe Environment Training
Our Religious Education programs are mandated by the Bishops of the United States to provide Safe Environment Training to all students annually. **The training will take place on Sunday, January 28th (and Wednesday, January 31st) during the 2023-2024 catechetical year.** If you DO NOT want your child/children to participate, please contact Missy Silka, Director of Religious Education, in writing and your child will be withheld from the training program when it is presented. You may contact Missy Silka at business@stparish.org. Thank you.

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

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

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.