



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

December 21, 2025



Merry Christmas



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." - Mt 1:21

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

Carol Huffman
Bookkeeper
finance@stparish.org

Michelle Demeter
*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

Message from the Pastor

ADVENT REFLECTION SERIES BY DOLORES SMYTH: A few years ago I came across an article by Dolores Smyth about finding balance in our lives. As we begin another Advent and Christmas Season, things get very busy and sometimes we lose our focus. Hopefully, these reflections from her article can be of help to us all.

4. Deepen your discussions with God to make better, more confident choices

The Gospels cite several instances in which Jesus prayed, whether alone (Luke 5:15-16) or with others (Luke 9:28). Even during his anguish at the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus turned to prayer to grapple with his fears and embolden himself for what was to come (Matthew 26:36-42).

Whenever I find myself thinking that I don't have time to pray, I remind myself that there's no context within which I can't take a moment to pray silently. By stealing minutes to sit in God's presence and discuss my tribulations, I've deepened my faith life in leaps and bounds. This spiritual balance has helped me make better choices for myself, which in turn makes me better at helping others.

Finding balance takes prioritizing; maintaining balance takes determination. By putting Jesus' balance-seeking lessons into practice in my life, I feel healthier, revitalized, and more connected than ever to my loved ones and to my faith. Even on turbulent days when there don't seem to be enough hours to do what I must, I find that if I stick to these balance-seeking techniques, I have more focus and energy to get things done, making the best use of the time I do have.

YOUR GENEROSITY IS APPRECIATED: We have been involved in a number of community projects in recent weeks and I want to thank everyone who helped to make these projects so successful. First, I want to thank all those who have been reaching out and donating to help the Wilson family after the loss of their home due to a fire. The support has come in a variety of ways: the GoFundMe page that people have supported, we collected \$6,175 from parishioners so far, and our Religious Education Program provided all the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal. Your response has been incredible. And I know Heather and her family are overwhelmed by the generous response of people. We will continue to collect donations at the parish. You can place your donation in an envelope marked "Wilson Family" and place it in the collection basket. We will then forward the money on to the family with a check from the church. Thank you.

We have also been involved in the collection of food at both Churches – at St. Thomas the Knights of Columbus collected food for the Corry Food Pantry and at St. Teresa parishioners and Religious Education students collected food to feed 30 families at Thanksgiving. Even the 30 turkeys were donated by a generous parishioner. And in recent days we have been receiving presents that you purchased to help needy children at Christmas. I just want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your generosity to these various causes and the good things you are doing to help those in need in our parish and our community.

2026 CALENDARS: The 2026 Calendars are available at the entrances/exits of both churches. We are grateful to our local funeral homes for sponsoring these calendars. PLEASE TAKE ONE CALENDAR for your home. If there are extras after a few weeks, then you will be welcome to take extra ones.

Continued ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡



Sunday, December 21—4th Sunday of Advent

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

11:00a.m. For the People of the Parish (St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, December 22

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

Tuesday, December 23

8:00a.m. ✠ Dorothy & Albert Wotus by John & Debbie Wotus (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, 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)

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

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

Friday, December 26

8:00a.m. ✠ Ed No Mass or Services at both Sts. Thomas &

Saturday, December 27

4:30p.m. ✠ Cathryn Landis by Mary Harned (St. Teresa, Union City)

Sunday, December 28—Feast of the Holy Family

8:00a.m. ✠ Deceased Members of the Zaczekiewicz, Motuz, and Johnston Families by Sue, Gary & Joseph (St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. For the People of the Parish (St. Teresa, Union City)

Keep "Christ" in Christmas!



For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. Psalm 89

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Christmas Eve Masses will be at 4:30pm at St. Thomas Church and at 7:00pm at St. Teresa Church.

Mass on Christmas Day will be at 10:00am at St. Thomas Church.

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS AT BOTH CHURCHES: We will be decorating the Churches for Christmas on the following dates: All are welcome to help!

- St. Teresa: Sunday, December 21 at Noon
- St. Thomas: Monday, December 22 at 9:00am

- Fr. Tom

St. Thomas News



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.*

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of December 21st burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of the Wascak, Stolar, and Huffman Families by Carol & Darrell Huffman.



Pray for Vocations, Very Rev. Michael Ferrick, VF, Rev. Jason Feigh, Rev. Casimir Wozniak, The Birth of our Savior—Christ the Lord, Rev. Daniel Hoffman, Rev. Christopher Singer, and also Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.

“Question of the Week” - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Question for Children: When you pray, how do you hear God’s voice in response?

Question for Youth: God speaks to us in our intuitions and imagination, as he did to Joseph in this dream. What is your experience of hearing God speak in this way? What is God asking of you?

Question for Adults: What experiences do you have of God “speaking to you” and directing your life and work? How does God speak to you in prayer?

Unto us A CHILD is born. Isaiah 9:6

Christmas Flower Fund Donations (continued)

In Memory

Stull & Baressi families
William & MaryLou and Frank & Catherine
Z. Marion & Irene Zaczekiewicz, Judith Johnston, and the Zaczekiewicz, Johnston, and Motuz Families
Z. Marion & Irene Zaczekiewicz and Joseph M. & Patricia Walsh
Anne Crawford
Knowlton & Messina families
Gloria Cruz
Mary & Walter Wotus
Carol Groner
Chundelek and Tujetsch families

Donated by

Vickie & Dave Stull
Frank & Lori Lackovic
Gary, Sue, and Joseph Johnston
John & Colleen Zaczekiewicz
Daniel Crawford, son
Punk & Lana Messina
Dr. Cruz and family
Combs family
George Groner
Alice Maryott

Flower donations were also received from:

Andrew & Debbie Tomcho, Zela Munsee, and Carmen & Denise Wetherbee.

*Thank you to all who donated to the
Christmas Flower Fund,
helping to decorate our church
with beautiful poinsettias for the
holiday season.*



MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Christmas Flower Fund Donations at St. Thomas

In Memory

Carl Buckshaw and Scott Brady
Jack, Tommy, and Rick Brigham
Madalyn & Joseph Jawdy
Mickey & Andy Tomcho
Dan Ahl, Fred Ahl, and Ruth & Fred Ahl
William VanCise

Deceased Member of the Butchko family
Cheyenne Mazza
Nick Rodriguez, LeRoy & Ethel Anderson
Janet Mitchell, John & Mary Mitchell family, and Merle & Dora Triscuit family
Wascak, Stolar, Huffman, and Froman families
Richard ‘Dick’ Lowry
Jason Buell
Ed & Sophie Girovsky

Weis and Hermanto families
Louis & Charlottee Sproveri and Paul & Babara Anderson
Peter & Lila Sander and Richard Ayers, Sr.
Joe & Nancy Henderson and John Kuszajewski
Dempsey, Karkoski, Anderson, and McCarthy families

George Baker
John & Ruth Lawson and Fred & Mary Walsh
Family Members
Paver and Nollinger families
Don Ginn
Ed & Elaine Pavlock
Cecil Middleton, Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Marlett
Deceased Members of the DeMarte and Lutton families
Bob Bailey, my parents and siblings
Cragg, Sullivan, Brown, and Motter families
Cyril & Anna Gluvna, Judy Bitters, John & Mary Mitchell
Phil & Florence Amoroso and Mike & Jean Comitz
Don & Elsie Hogan and Harry & Ruth Jaquith
Dan Cragg
Frank & Shirley Baressi and Norman & Maxine Mitchell
Sypniewski family
Lottie, Joe, Ron, and Bob Hajec
Wascak and Stoddard families

Donated by

Mary Buckshaw
Nancy Brigham & family
The Joe Jawdy family
David & Barb Sekerak
Janet Ahl
Mary VanCise and children
Patricia Stolz
Jeff & Lisa Weis & family
Julie Rodriguez
Don Mitchell
Carol & Darrell Huffman
Kristi & Jeff Fike
Mom & Dad
Diane Hall and Jean Cressley
Steve & Millie Weis
Denny & Chris Anderson

Rick, Debbie & Richelle
Shirley Kuszajewski
Gerrie & Peggy
Rosemary Baker
Kris & Clancy Walsh
Martha Morton
Lois Paver
Ginn family
Sue Watrous, daughter
Renee Middleton
Jill Lutton
Veronica Bailey
Dave & Patti Brown
Dave & Marie Mitchell
Mike & Deb Comitz
Bruce & Deb Jaquith and Family
Deb Cragg, wife, and children
Thomas & Angela Mitchell and family
Irena and sons
Linda & Mike Roden
Paul & Sherry Wascak

St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of December 21, 2025

Sun.: Isaiah 7:10-14 ♦ Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b) ♦ Romans 1:1-7 ♦ Matthew 1:18-24
 Mon.: 1 Samuel 1:24-28 ♦ 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd ♦ Luke 1:46-56
 Tues.: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 ♦ Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 ♦ Luke 1:57-66
 Wed.: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 ♦ Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 ♦ Luke 1:67-79
Vigil/Christmas: 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
 Thur.: **Christmas/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 ♦ Titus 3:4-7 ♦ Luke 2:15-20
Day: Isaiah 52:7-10 ♦ Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c) ♦ Hebrews 1:1-6 ♦ John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
 Fri.: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 ♦ Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 ♦ Matthew 10:17-22
 Sat.: 1 John 1:1-4 ♦ Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 ♦ John 20:1a, 2-8
 Next Sun.: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 ♦ Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1) ♦ Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 ♦ Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

- Monday, December 22—12:30pm until 3:30pm
- Tuesday, December 23—8:30am until 3:30pm
- Wed., December 24 through Sunday, January 4—CLOSED

Our staff may occasionally be in to check messages/email and prepare for liturgies, but we will not be open to the public.
Sorry for any inconvenience.

‘May we journey the path of life with an unwavering focus
 on the hope we have in Christ.’ — Bishop Lawrence Persico

Christmas Flower Fund Donations (continued)

In Memory

Donated by

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Klus and Hopson families | Ed & Paula Klus |
| Ray and Bob Rhodes, and Walter & Connie Bem | Wally & Kathy Bem family |
| Loved Ones | Doug & Pam O'Connor |
| John Daggett, Fred, Geneieve, Rick Pusch | Christine Daggett |
| Sophie & Herb Combs | Their family |
| Ray & Angela Gocal and Earl & Helen Brown | Pat & Earl Brown |
| Deceased Members of Gluvna and Kalamajka Families | Tricia Young |
| Jenine Mineo, Tim Rose, Earl Love, and Tyson family | Janet Love |
| Connie Megat | Kimberly Vogel |
| Daniel J. Greathouse, Sr. and Daniel J. Greathouse, Jr. | Bonnie Greathouse |

Flower donations were also received from:

Yvonne Stauffer, George & Lisa Wetzel, Seth & Natalie Moss, and Todd & Michelle Burgess.

Thank you to all who donated to the Christmas Flower Fund, helping to decorate our church with beautiful poinsettias for the holiday season.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Christmas Flower Fund Donations at St. Teresa

In Memory

Donated by

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Richard S. Brown and Wallace J. Steimer | Marty Brown |
| Lois & Charm Calfo | Ken R. Calfo, Sr. |
| Steven Stepnowski, Louis & Annie Sokolowski | Jean, Jana, and Sarah |
| Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sabol, Sr. and Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Shreve | J. Sabol, Jr. |
| Wienckowski, Miller, Matulevich, and Coatoam family members | Ed, Cindy and Sara Miller |
| Sabol and Nichols families | David & Mary Sabol |
| Jay Downor | Valerie Downor |
| Frank & Marilyn Dudas | Val, Heather, Chuck and Nicholas |
| Rev. Tom Galvin and Raymond Mankevich | Karen Muscia |
| Wienckowski and Matulevich families | Marge Wienckowski |
| Roberto Masangcay, Saturnino & Eurchis Allanigue | Angie Masangcay |
| Stanley & Mary Klus, Jan & Joe Ledford, Timothy Perry, and James Wood | Pat, Stan, and Helen |
| Steven Paul Mongera, Lois & Harold O'Connor, Dorothy & Steve Mongera, Debbie Lyons, and Haden O'Connor | Steve & Cheryl Mongera |
| Pete & Betty Biebel | John Biebel |
| Tony & Stell Stec and Neal & Dorothy Hasbrouck | Elaine & Dick Hasbrouck |
| Sherry Davis, Ron & Linda Bem, and Phyllis & Roman Bem | Yaple family |
| Beezub & Gilger families | Bob & Patti Beezub |
| Rita Zambelli | Ilene Zakovitch |
| Jenine Mineo, Tim Rose, Mary Jo Eddy, Earl Love, Charles & Betty Tyson, John Mineo and Janet Mineo | John & Rita Mineo |
| Marjorie & Kenneth Hanlin | Hanlin family |
| Ed Weaver, George, Don and Irene Tinko, Weaver and Tinko families | Irene Weaver |
| Prichard, Groves, Derner, and Rose families | Diana Rose |
| Jim & Joann Baltes | MaryJo Baltes Sekerak |
| Our Deceased Loved Ones | Bill & Diane Sharrow |
| Larry, Sandy, and Scott King, Russell & Julia King | Kim, Alex, and family |
| Andrew, Elizabeth, Laurie Kay Beezub | |
| Little Angels | Pete & Jeannette Boyd |
| Carl & Peg Patterson | John & Michelle Kozuchowsky |
| Bill Flynn | Judy Flynn |
| Bob Adams, Joseph V. Kirik, Matthew Kirik and Russell & Sarah Adams | Melody Adams & family |
| Ernie & Ann Ferro and Bob & Louise Brown | Ernie & Nancy Ferro |
| Deceased Members of the Kozuchowsky, Piazza and Mineo families | Same & Carol Piazza |
| Kurt & MaryAnn Shinko and Anne, Pat & John Fifer | Scott & Paulette Earll |
| Joseph Polack, Sr. | Sally & Brad Berkey |
| John, Anna, and Ronald Tomcho | Tomcho family |
| Weidovy and Radock families | Martin & Linda Radock |

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: December 13 & 14, 2025

The Financial Stewardship Report for the weekend of December 13 & 14 will be published in an upcoming bulletin 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'.

If you are not receiving offertory envelopes from our parish and wish to, please contact the parish office. Thank you!

THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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

Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 24

4:30pm—St. Thomas Church, Corry

7:00pm—St. Teresa Church, Union City

Thursday, 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.

Upcoming Pro-Life Events in 2026

- January 17—48th Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast at the Bayfront Convention Center, Erie.
 - January 23—National March for Life in Washington, DC / bus trip.
- Visit www.peopleforlife.org for more details and to RSVP.**

2025 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals:

Diocesan Goal for our parish is \$61,792

St. Thomas portion is \$37,000 / St. Teresa portion is \$25,000

Amount Pledged at **St. Thomas** to date = \$67,178

Paid to date = \$66,053

Amount Pledged at **St. Teresa** to date = \$36,687

Paid to date = \$35,562

Total Number of Families who made a pledge = 226

Be sure to make your check payable to
'ST. THOMAS CHURCH' when making a CSA payment.

**Please plan to pay your 2025 CSA pledge in full by
December 31.**



Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News

***Classes resume on Sunday, January 4, 2026.**

Please note that beginning in January, ALL classes will be in Corry at St. Thomas (in the former school building) meeting at 9:00am.



We are grateful for the opportunity to teach our faith to future generations.



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! 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 2026.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE from Fr. Tom

On behalf of the parish staff, I would like to wish you and your family a very Blessed and Joyful Christmas Season. Our prayer is that the peace the Christ child brings will be the peace that dwells with you each and every day of the New Year.

Often when we think of the meaning of Christmas we tend to think of it in terms of God sending Jesus to die for our sins. That Jesus came to be the “ransom” for our sins and failings. In some sense that is certainly true, but I believe there is a deeper significance to the Incarnation, or the birth of Jesus.

The real purpose of creation is for the Incarnation to happen. God wants to share in the life and love of his people in a unique and definitive way. God becoming human is not an afterthought, an event to make up for our sinfulness. Incarnation is God’s first thought, the original design of creation. Jesus becomes flesh in order to fulfill God’s eternal longing to become human, to be one with us.

This gives us a wonderful image of God, a gracious God, sharing divine life and love with us. Like parents sharing their love in the life of a new child. God wants to be so much a part of our lives that he is willing to enter into every moment of our human existence, from birth to adolescence, from joy to sorrow, and even from life to death. God wants us to know that he is Emmanuel, “God with us,” because he is indeed with us in every moment of our lives.

Maybe the words of the great thinker, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, say it best: “No, God does not hide himself to make us search for him, of that I am sure, much less to let us suffer in order to increase our merits. On the contrary, bent down over his creation which moves upward to him, he works with all his power to give us happiness and light. Like a mother he watches over his newly born child. But our eyes are unable to see him yet. Is not precisely the whole course of centuries needed in order for our gaze to accustom itself to the light?”

May you come to experience and know in this season the closeness of our loving God. May the light from his eyes be your guide in moments of darkness. May the warmth of his breath increase the warmth of your heart. May the gentle touch of his hand calm your every fear. May the strength of his embrace give you courage in all your endeavors. And may the assurance of his presence bring you his peace.

