



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 29, 2024



THE HOLY FAMILY

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. - Lk 2:46

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

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

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.

THANK YOU: There were many things going on this month that I am grateful for your help with:

- Thanks to all those who bought and wrapped gifts for the giving tree at St. Teresa
- Thanks to all those who donated food for the Knights of Columbus Food Drive in Corry.
- Thanks to Denny Anderson for replacing the American Flag
- Thanks to all those who helped clean St. Thomas Church before Christmas
- Thanks to all those who helped to decorate at both Churches.

- Fr. Tom



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)

Monday, December 30

- 8:00a.m. †Priscilla Kozik by Joe & Holly Guzowski (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, December 31

- 8:00a.m. †Mary Vinca by Irene Weaver (St. Thomas, Corry)
- 7:00p.m. For the People of Sts. Thomas & Teresa (St. Teresa, Union City)

Wednesday, January 1— Solemnity of Mary/New Year's Day

- 9:00a.m. †Msgr. John Hagerty and Mary L. Sproveri by Chris & Denny Anderson (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, January 2

- 8:00a.m. Communion Service at St. Thomas, Corry

Friday, January 3

- 8:00a.m. †Dorothy Mongera by Rose & Walter Cmiel
- 8:00a.m. Communion Service at St. Thomas, Corry

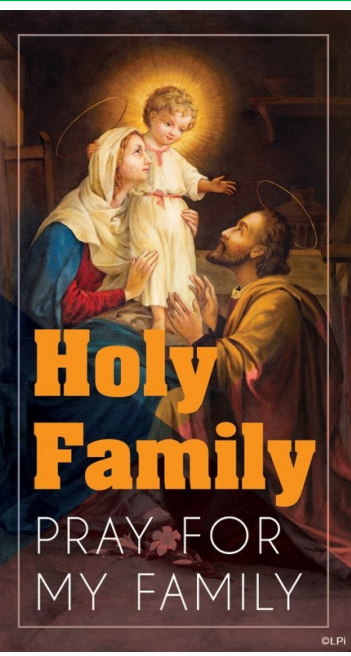
Saturday, January 4

- 4:30p.m. †William & Harriet Jeffords by Richard & Jean Farver (St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, January 5— Epiphany of the Lord

- 8:00a.m. †George Baker by Deacon Randy & Anne Kondrlik (St. Thomas, Corry)
- 11:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa (St. Teresa, Union City)

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for all families this year!



Parish Office Holiday Hours
 Our Parish Office will be closed this week on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
 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 New Year



Wise Men Still Seek HIM!



OH, COME LET US ADORE HIM.

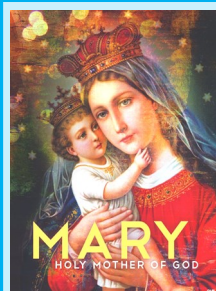
Eucharistic Adoration THIS WEEK

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever. (Hebrews 13:8)

We will hold our monthly Eucharistic Adoration this week. It will be held on **Thursday, January 2nd (8:00am)** through **Friday, January 3rd (8:00am)** at **Saint Thomas Church**. It will also be held on **Friday, Jan. 3rd (8:00am –12:00pm)** at **Saint**

Teresa Church. All are welcome any time to spend a prayerful, quiet moment with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways. Psalm 84



January 1st—Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God / New Year's Day / and World Day of Peace (Holy Day of Obligation—2 Masses offered)

- Vigil Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 7:00pm at St. Teresa Church in Union City
- Holy Day Mass on Wed., January 1 at 9:00am at St. Thomas Church in Corry

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord!" Luke 1:42

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.



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of December 29th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Jack and Tommy Brigham by Nancy Brigham & family.

“Question of the Week” - Feast of the Holy Family

Question for Children: Why is it important to obey our parents? Why is it important to obey God?

Question for Youth: Jesus was obedient to his parents, even though he was the Son of God. Why is obedience so important? Is it something you struggle with?

Question for Adults: How are you, too, called to our Father’s house?

Readings for the week of December 29, 2024

Readings for the week of December 29, 2024
 Sun.: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 ♦ Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see a) ♦ 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 ♦ Luke 2:41-52
 Mon.: 1 John 2:12-17 ♦ Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 ♦ Luke 2:36-40
 Tues.: 1 John 2:18-21 ♦ Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 ♦ John 1:1-18
 Wed.: Numbers 6:22-27 ♦ Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a) ♦ Galatians 4:4-7 ♦ Luke 2:16-21
 Thur.: 1 John 2:22-28 ♦ Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 ♦ John 1:19-28
 Fri.: 1 John 2:29—3:6 ♦ Psalm 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 ♦ John 1:29-34
 Sat.: 1 John 3:7-10 ♦ Psalm 98:1, 7-8, 9 ♦ John 1:35-42
 Next Sun.: Isaiah 60:1-6 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11) ♦ Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 ♦ Matthew 2:1-12

Family Perspective

Today’s gospel reveals a truth about parenting: **“but his parents did not know.”** One reason parenting is so challenging is that our children don’t tell us everything. If even the Holy Family faced difficulties with their teenager, why should we expect it to be easier for us?

MARCH FOR LIFE
JANUARY 24 WASHINGTON, DC
52ND ANNUAL TRIP
 Depart from Erie on Thursday evening, January 23, 11 p.m.
 March in Washington, DC on Friday, January 24
 Return Saturday morning, January 25 about 1:30 a.m.

PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST
January 18, 2025 ♦ 9 A.M.
 Bayfront Convention Center Erie, Pa

CLICK FOR MORE INFO
 RSVP by January 10

Additional Christmas Flower Fund Donations at St. Thomas

In Memory	Donated by
Edward J. Paver, Sr.	Lois Paver
Dan Cragg	Deb Cragg
Rushin & Hennings Families	Gerard & Alice Rushin
George Baker	Rosemary Baker

Thanks to all who donated to the St. Thomas Christmas Flower Fund. The beautiful poinsettias helped decorate the church for the Christmas season.



St. Teresa News



Christmas Flower Fund Donations

In Memory	Donated by
Polach Family, Mary Spencer Zielinski & John J. Zielinski	Stanley & Charlotte Polach
John Daggett and Fred, Genevieve, Rick Pusch	Christine Daggett
Jim & Joann Baltas and George & Julia Sekerak	Jim & Mary Sekerak
Ferro and Brown Families	Ernie & Nancy Ferro
Kozuchowsky, Piazza, and Mineo Families	Sam & Carol Piazza
Sabol and Nichols Families	Dave & Mary Sabol
Miller, Wienczkowski, Matulevich, and Coatoam Families	Ed & Cynthia Miller
Sandy King, Russell & Julia King, Andrew & Elizabeth Beezub, Laurie Kay Beezub, and Marvin King	Kim Proper
Carl & Peg Patterson	John & Michelle Kozuchowsky
Ray & Angela Gocal and Earl & Helen Brown	Earl & Pat Brown
Kirt Shinko, Ann & Pat Fifer, and John Fifer	Scott & Paulette Earl
Richard S. Brown and Wallace J. Steimen	Marty Brown
Henry S. Wienczkowski and Anthony J. Matulevich Families	Margaret Wienczkowski
Weidow & Radock Families	Marty & Linda Radock
Bob Adams, Joseph V. Kirik, Matthew Kirik, Russell & Sarah Adams, and Monica Kirik	Melody Adams
Tony & Stella Stec and Neal & Dorothy Hasbrouck	Dick & Elaine Hasbrouck
Jenine Mineo, Chuck Tyson, Earl Love, Betty & Charlie Tyson, John Mineo, Sr. & Janet Mineo Frontino, and Ed & Kathie Gordon	John & Rita Mineo
Michael Lutzo and Arline Lutzo	Michael & Teresa Lutzo
Anna & John Tomcho	Their Family
Glenn Meneely, Ben R. Calfo, Naomi Meneely, Edith Calfo, and Charmaine Calfo	Ken & Jean Calfo
Muscia, Namisnak, Niggel, and Agnes Families	Karen Musica
Joseph Polach, Sr.	Brad & Sally Berkey
Stanley & Mary Klus, Tim Perry, James Wood, and Jan & Joe Ledford	Pat, Stan, and Helen
Marjorie & Kenneth Hanlin, Ken Hanlin, and Gordon Hanlin	Noreen Hurlburt
Steven Stepnowski, Louis & Annie Sokolowski, Balas Family, and Leonard & Erma Stepnowski	Jeannie and family
Yvonne Gersims	Mr. & Mrs. Eric Williams
Walter & Joan Gibas and Dick & Maxine Gilson	Craig & Teresa Gilson
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sabol, Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Shreve, and unborn babies	Joe & Diann Sabol, Jr.
Don Thomas, John & Anna Kirik, Anna Ranyak, Mike Kirik, Jr., and Kirik brothers	Mary Thomas
Charles & Marguerite Bengel and Thomas Bengel	Laura Bengel
Don Thomas, Steve Eakin, Annie Ranyak, Mike & Anna Kirik, and Alton & Margaret Wethli	David & Linda Wethli
Roberto Masangcay, Saturnino and Allaniguo Families	Angelina Masangcay

Listing continued in this bulletin—see another page.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: December 14 & 15, 2024

Amount in Envelopes: (143)	\$5,505.00
Loose	\$367.00
<i>(Above amounts combine total offertory from ALL 3 weekend Masses)</i>	
Online Giving (12)	\$410.00
Holy Day / Immaculate Conception (69)	\$1,105.00
Continuing the Vision.	\$25.00
Total Offertory Income	\$7,412.00
Average Weekly Expenses	\$11,390.00
<i>(Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)</i>	
Weekly Average Shortfall	\$(-3,978.00)

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 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'.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: December 21 & 22, 2024

Amount in Envelopes: (121)	\$4,568.00
Loose	\$448.00
<i>(Above amounts combine total offertory from ALL 3 weekend Masses)</i>	
Online Giving (12)	\$460.00
Faith Formation/Rel. Ed.	\$0.00
Continuing the Vision.	\$25.00
Total Offertory Income	\$5,501.00
Average Weekly Expenses	\$11,390.00
<i>(Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)</i>	
Weekly Average Shortfall	\$(-5,889.00)

Religious Retirement Collection: (70)\$2,147.00
 Thank you for donating to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your gift impacts religious brothers and sisters and religious order priests, who have dedicated their lives to service of God's people, by providing them a dignified retirement. Thank you.

Christmas Flower Fund.....\$2,308.00
 The above are totals for all Christmas Flower Envelopes turned in for both Sts. Thomas & Teresa. Thank you for your donation which purchased our beautiful Christmas poinsettias.

Sister Parish Fund\$481.00
 Donations given to our sister parish, St. Anthony of Padua in Mexico. Thank you for your gifts to other in need.

Rev. Kyle Seyler, Rev. Cory Pius, *New Year's Eve & Day—pray for Peace*, Rev. Raymond Hahn, Rev. Thomas Brown, The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, and also please *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

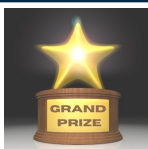
Religious Education News

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 had classes at St. Teresa for the first half of the year (September—December) and now are at St. Thomas for the second half of the year (January—May). **Classes in the second half will meet at the St. Thomas school building (9:00am - 10:30am).**



Calendar Reminders for Religious Education
 Sunday, Dec. 29—No Classes / Christmas break
 Sunday, Jan. 5—Classes for ALL students at St. Thomas
 Sunday, Jan. 12—Classes for ALL students at St. Thomas
 Sunday, Jan. 19—Classes for ALL students at St. Thomas
 Sunday, Jan. 26—No Classes

Thank You for Supporting Us!
 We are grateful to everyone who supported all of our fundraising campaigns during this year's #iGiveCatholic event. We truly appreciate your continuous generosity and support. We received an unexpected blessing on December 11th when our parish was notified by the Erie Diocese that we were randomly drawn as the Grand Prize Winner of \$2,000 from the #iGiveCatholic Erie Diocese Prize pool! That means we received a total of \$6,979.21 during this year's event THANK YOU!



The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger. (Luke 2:16)

Christmas Flower Fund Donations (continued)

<u>In Memory</u>	<u>Donated by</u>
Andy & Elizabeth Beezeb and Wm. & Vera Gilger	Robert & Pat Beezub
Steven Paul Mongera, Lois & Harold O'Connor, Steve & Dorothy Mongera, and Debbie Lyons	Steve & Cheryl Mongera
Virginia Kozik and Deceased Members of Kozik Family	Jeanette SchAAF
Ed Weaver, George, Irene & Don Tinko, Glenn & Geraldine Crosby, Richard, E. John, and Don Weaver, and Sunny Blakeslee	Irene Weaver
Ted & Barb Krol and Ed Weaver, Sr.	Ed & Bev Weaver
Loved Ones	Doug & Pam O'Connor
Gluвна and Kalamajka Families	Tricia, Sophia & Jessica

Flower donations were also received from:
 Judy Flynn, Mark & Theresa Racop, Audrey Reagan, Ilene Zakovitch, John Biebel, Todd & Michelle Burgess, Pete & Jeannette Boyd, and Yoerg Bahl.

We apologize if any names/donations were omitted from this listing. Also, if there are any errors in spelling of names—we are truly sorry.

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



GOD IS MADE FLESH IN THE PERSON OF JESUS THE WAY

Jesus says to his disciples, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” We often take this as an intellectual truth that we give our ascent to, or say we believe, but rarely do we reflect on what Jesus means by being the “way.” In this Advent and Christmas season we remember how Jesus was born into our human condition and how he lived our human life. The “way” he lived that life is the pattern or the way for all of us to follow. Easier said than done.

One of the things about this “way” of Jesus is that it invites us in, opens the door for us to God. It is not Jesus coming to punish us, or scold us, or yell at us. It is Jesus who comes to show us the “way” to get to God. It is Jesus who invites us to follow him on this “way.” It is Jesus who opens the door or the gate for us to enter into this relationship with God. It is Jesus who gathers us together rather than separates us.

One of the many components of this “way” is what might be called the “Spiritual Journey.” There are really two elements to this journey: an inward journey and an outward journey. This might best be expressed in the story of Martha and Mary, the two sisters of Lazarus who spend time with Jesus in their home. Each one, Martha and Mary, has something to teach us about the spiritual journey or this “way” that Jesus invites us to.

The “Inward Journey” might be described best by the person of Mary who sits at the feet of Jesus and listens to his word. This might be the inward journey of prayer and reflection. Prayer that helps us to know this God that Jesus is revealing to us and inviting us into relationship or friendship with. It also would include reflection on who we are – understanding ourselves as made in the image and likeness of God. This inward journey would lead us to know our true self and to know God as revealed in the person of Jesus.

The “Outward Journey” might best be described by the person of Martha who is busy with all the details of hospitality – preparing food and serving the guests. This might be the outward journey of justice, service, and love. Martha invites us to service of our brothers and sisters. This service will be one of justice – may be understood in terms of “*salvus*” from the word salvation and from last week’s title of Savior. This kind of justice would then be one where oppression ends, mercy reigns, violence ceases to exist, all live in peace and harmony. Martha reminds us that we are all guests in God’s Kingdom and we have a responsibility to be hospitable to one another. This kind of justice, service, and love will be what brings about true peace in our world. But this kind of justice, service, and love is fueled by a life of prayer that connects us more deeply with who God is and who we are in the eyes of God. And this kind of service leads us back to prayer in order for us to stay on the right path, or the right “way.”

This “Spiritual Journey” is also described by Henri Nouwen as a “moving away from fear toward love.” We might see this in terms of Martha and Mary in that Mary in her prayer learns the true nature of God and herself, she then learns not to fear God, and not to look down upon herself. Overcoming her fears, leads her to be able to serve as Martha does because this service is the done out of love. This understanding of faith as love is becoming more popular today most likely because we are seeing love as the opposite of the intolerance, bigotry, divisiveness, and hatred we see around us. Love is way more attractive and fulfilling than these much lesser things. In these days of Advent and Christmas, we are invited to “prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths... The crooked path shall be made straight, and the rough way made smooth,” by both the prophet Isaiah and the Evangelist, Luke. This journey is not a clear path and for each of us it is quite an odd series of twists and turns, obstacles and detours. But this way is one of trust in a guide who clearly knows the “way.”

