



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

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



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

September 15, 2024



24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it." - Mk 8:34-35

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

PARENT MEETINGS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: This weekend there will be meetings for parents of students in our religious education program. The meeting in Corry will be after the 4:30pm Mass and take place in the multi-purpose room in the school building. The meeting in Union City will take place after the 11:00 Mass in the church. Parents are asked to attend one of these meetings. The same information will be given at both meetings.

THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY: You may remember last October there was a Synod held in Rome that was based on meetings held in parishes and dioceses all over the world. The results of those parish and diocesan meetings were collected by the bishops of each continent and various people (lay and religious people) were chosen to represent different parts of each continent at the Synod in Rome.

There were a number of speculative headlines in the news media concerning the Synod itself and what the Synod did or did not accomplish. Often those headlines were misleading, as they lacked a full understanding of the Synod, and that the Synod was not yet finished. The Synod is reconvening next month in Rome to continue the work they started last year.

Allow me to share some thoughts with you on this Synod and the concept of Synodality. A priest from our diocese, Fr. Ronald Witherup, who is the former superior general of the Society of St. Sulpice and the author of numerous books on the Bible, shared some information with priests about the Synod, that he hoped we would share with you. And so, I rely on his wisdom to address some misconceptions about the Synod and Synodality over the next several weeks.

First, some people mistakenly think that all this talk about Synodality and the Synod are some new ideas, or novelty in the church. Synodality goes back to the early Church when the Apostles and other leaders in the church gathered to address the issues of their times. Jesus did not give us the answers to all the questions that would arise in the history of the church, but he did give us the principles that help us forge solutions to the problems we face. We find the first gatherings or synods in Acts 6:1-6 and 15:1-21. The word "synod" means to "walk together." It is meant to be a meeting of people of faith to address the issues of our time together. Only by discussing the issues and praying to find solutions, will we forge a path that we can "walk together" on in the spirit that Jesus set out for us.

Most often we heard of a Synod of Bishops. This might be a gathering of the bishops of North America, or Africa, or some other region, to discuss issues specific to that region. But this Synod on Synodality is an invitation to all people to be a part of the discussion on the issues facing us today. These meetings involve lay people, clergy, theological experts, and bishops to help us forge a path forward in our time.

The Second point I want to make this week is that some people mistakenly think that synodality is a democratic or parliamentary process that is creeping into the church. We know that the church is not a democracy, and Pope Francis has made this clear on a number of occasions. We do not vote on issues in a way that the majority vote dictates how we move forward. But the Synod is a form of consultation for the good of the church. In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter, James the brother of the Lord, and John, among others –

Continued ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡



Sunday, September 15

8:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa (St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. †Andrew & Helen Harnak by Dorothy Rhodes (St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, September 16

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

Tuesday, September 17

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

Wednesday, September 18

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

Thursday, September 19

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

Friday, September 20

8:00a.m. Communion Service at St. Teresa, Union City

Saturday, September 21

4:30p.m. †Gene & Mary Vinca by Mini Sypniewski (St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, September 22

8:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa (St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. †Virginia Kozik by Gary & Cindy Clark (St. Teresa, Union City)

gathered the faithful to talk about critical issues. These consultations were based on personal testimony and the church's concrete experience of how the Holy Spirit was working among us as they sought to make good decisions about how to move forward. This was a bold move by the Apostles and others to allow broader participation by the faithful in these decisions. It is not a democratic process, but an act of discernment of where the Holy Spirit is guiding us on these issues.

UPCOMING CHANGES: Now that the official merger of St. Teresa of Avila Parish into St. Thomas the Apostle Parish has taken place there are some changes that you might need to be aware of.

• **Most importantly, the 10:00 Mass at St. Teresa will move to 11:00am starting in September.**

• We will be merging the two parish websites into one. At some point, if you go to St. Teresa's website, you will be automatically redirected to St. Thomas' website. This will allow us to keep everything in one place.

• We will also be combining into one parish envelope system. As a result, your envelope number may change.

• We will also be combining our online giving into one program. Currently we have one program for St. Thomas, WeShare, and one for St. Teresa, Vanco.

• Many of these changes do not dramatically affect how things operate but help us at the office level to coordinate things better.

- Fr. Tom


St. Thomas Parish News

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: Sept. 8, 2024


Amount in Envelopes: (81)	\$3,485.00
(Total Envelopes sent: 145 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 64)	
Loose	\$235.00
Online Giving (11)	\$380.00
Faith Formation/Rel. Ed.	\$30.00
Total Offertory Income	\$4,130.00
Average Weekly Expenses	\$5,335.00
(Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)	
Weekly Average Shortfall	\$(-1,205.00)

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 (814-882-6806).
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 September 15th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased members of our parish.

“Question of the Week” - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: What do think it means for you to follow in Jesus footsteps?

Question for Youth: Who do you say that Jesus is? Who is Jesus in your life?

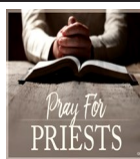
Question for Adults: What is the cross that you carry today? How do you follow Jesus in the workplace and at home?

St. Thomas Altar Rosary Meeting on September 18th
 Members of the Altar Rosary are reminded of their upcoming meeting on Wednesday, September 18 at 6:00pm in the multipurpose room at St. Thomas. We hope you plan to join us!

Family Perspective
 If commitment is the choice we make to give up other choices, then it is about “losing ourselves”. If we try to be independent from others by “saving ourselves”, we end up lonely and alone. Happiness is found in commitments. The gospel is true: We save our life by losing it!


St. Thomas Church Organizations / Groups

- Altar—Rosary Society**
Meets the third Wednesday of the month
- Knights of Columbus—Corry Council #425**
Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM
- Catholic Daughters of the Americas**
Meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM



The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, Rev. Walter Packard, Rev. Stephen Schreiber, Rev. Msgr. Bruce Allison, Rev. William O’Brien, Rev. Phillip Oriole, Rev. Zab Amar, and also please *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

Retreat Center in Frenchville Offers Fall Retreats
 Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville has several upcoming retreats among which are: Prayer with Mary, October 7, and Centering Prayer, Oct. 17. For a complete list of their fall offerings visit the “retreats” tab on their newly updated website at <https://www.anawimministries.com>.



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.

“The power of the Rosary is beyond description.” - Archbishop Fulton Sheen

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

2024 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals (as of 09/08):

St. Thomas Diocesan Goal is \$37,254.00
 Total Amount Pledged to date = \$60,796.00
 Total Paid to date = \$54,886.00
 # 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.

The Lord God is my help.

I walk
before
the Lord.

PSALM 116

St. Teresa Parish News

ST. TERESA FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: Sept. 8, 2024
Amount in Envelopes: (43) \$1,735.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 157 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 114)
Loose \$111.00
Continuing the Vision (1) \$50.00
Online Giving (2) \$50.00
Total Offertory Income \$1,946.00

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STEWARDSHIP: Sept. 8, 2024
Amount in Envelopes: (4) \$130.00
 (Total Envelopes sent: 30 / Number of Unused Envelopes: 26)
St. Teresa Parish Offertory Income \$2,076.00
Average Weekly Expenses \$4,585.00
 (Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)
Weekly Average Shortfall \$(2,509.00)

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 09/08):

St. Teresa Diocesan Goal is \$24,359.00
 Total Amount Pledged to date = \$38,923.00
 Total Paid to date = \$35,984.00
 # 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. TERESA CHURCH' when making a CSA payment.

 The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of September 15th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Andrew & Helen Harnak by Dorothy Rhodes and family.

Upcoming Events for St. Teresa
 October 9—Rosary Altar Society Card Party
 November 9—Cash Bingo

Holiness means bearing fruit wherever you are planted.—St. Francis de Sales

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

St. Teresa Church

Saturday, November 9th, 2024
 Doors open 4:30 - Bingo starts at 6:00
Union City Fire Hall
 50 2nd Avenue • Union City, PA
ADMISSION \$30.00

BYOB, Non Alcoholic Beverages will be Available
 Food Truck will also be available

Large Basket Raffle
 Chinese Auction
 Lottery Tree 50-50
 and more...

- No one under 21 admitted -
 For reservations Contact Dick or Elaine Hasbrouck 814 450-2766

NEW DATE for the Cash Bingo—Still Seeking Items
 We are in need of new Chinese auction gifts and/or gift cards for the Cash Bingo which will now be held on **Saturday, November 9th**. Donations can be dropped off at St. Teresa Church at weekend Masses, weekdays Monday through Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm, or in the locked mailbox beside the Rectory. For other arrangements call Elaine Hasbrouck at 814-450-2766 or Sherri Margie at 814-392-7950. We hope you purchase a ticket and plan to join us for the bingo event!

ST. TERESA'S
Harvest Moon Card Party

 Sponsored By
ST. TERESA'S ROSARY-ALTAR SOCIETY
Admission \$ 6.00
 Includes Light Dinner with Coffee or tea

Wednesday, October 9, 2024
 Doors open at 5:00 pm
6:00 pm
 AT ST. TERESA'S CENTER UNION CITY

 Reservations ELAINE (814) 450 2766


Readings for the week of September 15, 2024
 Sun.: Isaiah 50:4c-9a ♦ Psalm 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (9) ♦ James 2:14-18 ♦ Mark 8:27-35
 Mon.: 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, 33 ♦ Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 ♦ Luke 7:1-10
 Tues.: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31a ♦ Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 ♦ Luke 7:11-17
 Wed.: 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13 ♦ Psalm 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22 ♦ Luke 7:31-35
 Thur.: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 ♦ Psalm 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28 ♦ Luke 7:36-50
 Fri.: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 ♦ Psalm 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20 ♦ Luke 8:1-3
 Sat.: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13 ♦ Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5 ♦ Matthew 9:9-13
 Next Sun.: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20 ♦ Psalm 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 (6b) ♦ James 3:16-4:3 ♦ Mark 9:30-3

Have you made/paid 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



We are seeking more volunteers from our parish to be involved in liturgical ministries at Mass at both St. Thomas and St. Teresa. If you feel called to become a Lector, Minister of Holy Communion, or Altar Server, please talk with Fr. Tom or contact the parish office. We could always use your help! Prayerfully consider how God may be calling you. Thank you.

Make an Investment in Your Future
 “A wedding is one day, but marriage is for a lifetime.” Invest in your marriage by attending Engagement Encounter. Spend a weekend away from the stress of planning for the wedding and enjoy the special moments of creating your future marriage together. Call the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261 or email familylife@erieRCD.org. For more information and to register visit <https://www.erieRCD.org/familylifeoffice/>. The next EE weekend is scheduled for **January 17-19, 2025**, at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie.

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 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 celebrated 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.

Religious Education News

Religious Education Registration for THIS YEAR
 Classes begin next Sunday, September 22nd from 9:30am—10:45am at St. Teresa Parish Center for all students (from both churches). We are looking forward to an exciting and great year with all the students. Thank you to all of our returning catechists and volunteers! We appreciate the several new volunteers with the program this year. Everyone’s help and dedication is vital to our program’s success.



If you have not received a registration packet, or if you are a new family to our Religious Education Program, please pick up a packet in the church or download one online at our parish websites. Once completed, please return the packet to the parish office or contact Missy Silka. Thank you.

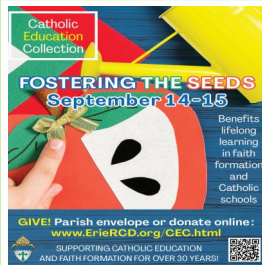
New Look to Our Religious Education Program
 Our Religious Education Program will combine this year. Combining our resources will help to make our program stronger. For the 2024 -2025 Religious Education Year, we will have classes at St. Teresa for the first half of the year (September—December) and at St. Thomas for the second half of the year (January—May).

Important Parent Meeting for Religious Education
 Please plan to attend a Parent Meeting where at least one parent or family representative needs to attend. The information presented will be the same at both meetings, so parents are asked to come to the one that fits their schedule:

- Saturday, Sept. 14 at St. Thomas after the 4:30pm Mass
- Sunday, Sept. 15 at St. Teresa after the 11:00am Mass

We will discuss the upcoming year along with Sacrament details.

Interested in Renewing Your Relationship with the Catholic Church
 The Epiphany of the Lord Parish is offering a free series “Catholics Returning Home,” on six consecutive Tuesdays starting Sept. 17 at 6:30pm. Conducted in a support-group format by returning Catholics and converts, the series is an invitation to Catholics who have been away to renew their relationship with the Church. For details, call 814-336-1112 or visit www.epiphanymeadville.org/about-5. Gatherings are at St. Mary of Grace Church, 1085 Water St., Meadville, PA.



Catholic Education Collection
 Thank you to those who donated to today’s second collection for Catholic Education. Reminder— half of the money raised here stays in our parish to support students in our Religious Education Program. If you were not prepared to give today, please do so next week.

Custodian Position Available at Sts. Thomas & Teresa
 We are seeking a person who is interested in working a custodial position for the parish. The job would be approximately 25 hours per week. Duties include cleaning the churches, parish office, and other buildings of the parish. If interested, please contact the parish office (814-663-3041) or email Missy Silka, Business Manager, at business@stparish.org.

