



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 7, 2025



### 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. - Mt 3:4

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](http://www.stthomastheapostle.church)

**Saint Teresa of Avila Church**  
[www.st-teresa-unioncity.org](http://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 can 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.

2. Eat well to boost your health and energy

While ministering to the multitudes, Jesus understood that he and his disciples needed a proper meal as much as they needed sufficient rest (Mark 6:30-31). In fact, making time for meals was of such significance to Jesus that he revealed the Kingdom of God while breaking bread with his disciples (Luke 22:14-20).

I knew that making time for well-balanced meals was crucial to ward off certain types of diseases, maintain a healthy weight, and keep energy levels high. To put this into practice, I started cooking nutritious, vegetable-rich recipes, and buying good-for-you snacks like Greek yogurt, string cheese, fruit, and nuts that I now grab on-the-go instead of skipping meals. Making better food choices has helped me feel better-nourished, more proactive about my health, and more energized to tackle my daily tasks.

**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 can all help them rebuild their home and their lives by contributing to a GOFUNDME page at GoFundMe.com and search for "posie hill." If you are not able to use the GoFundMe page, 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 have been collecting food for the Food Pantry in Corry 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 this weekend. 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Our **Advent Penance Service** will be **Sunday, December 7**, at 1:30pm at St. Thomas Church.

**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.

*Continued (on shared page 4) ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡*

**Sunday, December 7—2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:00a.m. ✠ Paul Suchar by Kimberly Hawkes  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. ✠ Ted & Barbara Krol by Bev & Ed Weaver  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Monday, December 8—Immaculate Conception of Mary**

8:00a.m. ✠ Priscilla Kozik by John & Marlene Dempsey  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

7:00p.m. For the People of the Parish  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Tuesday, December 9**

8:00a.m. ✠ Cragg & Sullivan Families by the Craggs  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Wednesday, December 10**

No Mass or Services today at both Sts. Thomas and Teresa.

**Thursday, December 11**

No Mass or Services today at both Sts. Thomas and Teresa.

**Friday, December 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe**

8:00a.m. ✠ Ed Weaver by Irene Weaver and family

**Saturday, December 13**

4:30p.m. ✠ Rod, Marilyn & Mike Knowlton and Marty  
Roehrig by Punk & Lana Messina  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Sunday, December 14—3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

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

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

**Holy Day Mass Schedule**

We will celebrate the feast on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> when Mary, the Mother of God, was conceived without sin.

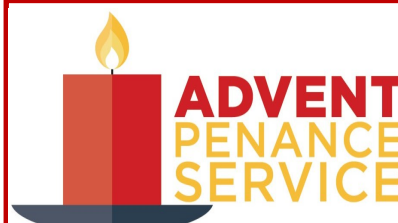
Mass times for the obligation:

- 8:00am—St. Teresa Church in Union City
- 7:00pm—St. Thomas Church in Corry

*Oh Mary conceived without sin,  
pray for us who have recourse to thee.*



**Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.**



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7  
1:30PM  
ST. THOMAS CHURCH**

**We will have several  
priests available to hear  
individual confessions.**

**Won't you come to  
prepare your heart for  
Christmas and receive  
one of God's most  
special gifts of mercy  
and healing.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME !**

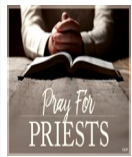


## St. Thomas News



**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



Rev. John Jacquell, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Rev. Kevin Holland, Rev. Scott Detisch, Very Rev. Brandon Kleckner, VF, Rev. John Malthaner, The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, and also *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

### St. Thomas Church Choir

Choir practice is on **Thursdays evenings from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at St. Thomas Church** to prepare for Advent and Christmas. If you love to sing or just want to give it a try, you are welcome to join us!



**The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of December 7<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Carol Groner.**

### Cemetery Gravestone Cleaning Project

Gravestone cleaning is offered on a limited scale for ST. THOMAS & ST. ELIZABETH CEMETERIES ONLY. Rates range from \$50—\$150, but because each stone is unique, pricing may vary. We are taking orders for those who are interested. Cleaning will begin again in the spring.



### "Question of the Week" - Second Sunday of Advent

**Question for Children:** Beyond toys and other things, what do you hope will happen in your family this Christmas?

**Question for Youth:** What are the greatest challenges you face as a young person today in terms of allowing Christ to be your teacher and following him?

**Question for Adults:** Name the one thing in your life which you must "move out of the way" in order to make more room for Christ – a grudge, a possession, a memory, hurt, or feeling.



### Seeking Volunteers to Serve at Christmas Masses

Look for sign up sheets in both churches to volunteer to serve at one of our Masses for Christmas. Thank you.



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Carol Groner** who passed away from Saint Thomas Church. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

### Coffee and Donuts TODAY

Coffee and Donuts will be served in the multipurpose room at St. Thomas **following Sunday's 8:00am Mass on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**. Donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of the donuts. All are welcome to join us



## St. Teresa News

### Bake Sale TODAY at St. Teresa Church

The ladies of the Rosary Altar Society have sweets & treats available on their bake sale table in the back of the church this weekend. Please support their efforts. Thank you!



### Giving Tree at St. Teresa Church

Please help to make another's Christmas brighter by taking a tag from our Giving Tree at St. Teresa Church. ALL GIFTS need to be returned to the church by Thursday, Dec. 11. Gifts may be wrapped or unwrapped, but be sure to attach the tag to the gift. *Thank you for sharing your blessings with others this Christmas season.*



### Local Red Kettle Campaign Seeking Bell Ringers

The Salvation Army needs bell ringers for this year's annual Red Kettle Campaign! Bell ringers are needed Mondays through Saturdays up until Christmas Eve. Solo ringers, pairs of ringers, & even groups are welcome! This is a wonderful opportunity to earn service hours or just help spread Christmas cheer. The kettle is in the (heated) lobby of Tops, so no fear of standing out in the cold! Bell ringers can sign up for one hour or more time slots each day. Please call or (preferably) text Elizabeth Malec at 814-490-7394 to get scheduled! Thank you.



### Help Wanted— St. Teresa Cemetery Maintenance Manager

We are seeking a **Cemetery Maintenance Manager** for St. Teresa Cemetery to oversee the daily maintenance of our cemetery. This role involves coordinating burials, maintaining grounds, and ensuring compliance with regulations, while treating all visitors, property, and graves of the deceased with respect and reverence. If interested, please contact the Parish Office (814-663-3041) or email Missy Silka, Business Manager at [business@stparish.org](mailto:business@stparish.org).



**The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of December 7<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Ed Weaver by Irene Weaver and family.**

### Readings for the week of December 7, 2025

Sun.: Isaiah 11:1-10 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7) ♦ Romans 15:4-9  
♦ Matthew 3:1-12  
Mon.: Genesis 3:9-15, 20 ♦ Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 ♦  
Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12 ♦ Luke 1:26-38  
Tues.: Isaiah 40:1-11 ♦ Psalm 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 ♦  
Matthew 18:12-14  
Wed.: Isaiah 40:25-31 ♦ Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 ♦ Matthew 11:28-30  
Thur.: Isaiah 41:13-20 ♦ Psalm 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab ♦  
Matthew 11:11-15  
Fri.: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab ♦  
Judith 13:18bcde, 19 ♦ Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47  
Sat.: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11 ♦ Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 ♦  
Matthew 17:9a, 10-13  
Next Sun.: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 ♦ Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Isaiah 35:4) ♦  
James 5:7-10 ♦ Matthew 11:2-11

St Thomas the Apostle			St Teresa of Avila		
Financial Summary for July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025			Financial Summary for July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025		
Income			Income		
Offertory	\$224,051		Offertory		\$133,911
Special Gifts	\$11,332		Special Gifts		\$10,232
Investment Income	\$63,473		Investment Income		\$2,003
Parish Activities	\$50,526		Parish Activities		\$76,355
Rental Income	\$11,200		Rental Income		\$4,025
Reimbursement	\$97,977		Reimbursement		\$10,214
Other - Candles, Religious Ed, #givecatholic, ERIE Gives	\$81,268		Other - Candles, Religious Ed, Interest, #givecatholic, ERIE Gives, sale of OLF		\$132,018
Catholic Services Appeal	\$25,019		Catholic Services Appeal		\$12,204
Total Income	\$564,847		Total Income		\$380,962
Expenses			Expenses		
Clergy Salary & Benefits	\$38,555		Clergy Salary & Benefits		\$28,232
Employee Salaries & Benefits	\$73,177		Employee Salaries & Benefits		\$54,348
Religious Education	\$15,576		Religious Education		\$12,795
Parish Activities	\$32,163		Parish Activities		\$38,303
Rectory Expense	\$1,616		Rectory Expenses		\$2,009
Office Expense	\$13,249		Office Expense		\$13,306
Altar & Liturgical Expenses	\$7,105		Altar & Liturgical Expenses		\$5,903
Maintenance	\$53,384		Maintenance		\$40,101
Utilities	\$49,317		Utilities		\$29,971
Insurance/Taxes	\$14,595		Insurance/Taxes		\$14,199
Diocesan Assessments	\$12,288		Diocesan Assessments		\$11,773
Support to Catholic Education	\$12,472		Support to Catholic Education		\$10,195
Other	\$7,618		Other		\$5,926
Total Expenses	\$331,114		Total Expenses		\$267,062
Operating Net Income	\$233,733	(Income minus Expenses)	Operating Net Income	(Income minus Expenses)	\$113,900
Extraordinary repairs - St Elizabeth - dishwasher booster, new oven, replace interior tile due to hail damage, replace roof due to hail damage	\$142,344		Sale of OLF + donation - moved to investment account	-	\$111,555
Extraordinary repairs - parking lot, finish church roof	\$72,632				
Total Net Income	\$18,757		Total Net Income		\$2,345

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:** November 22 & 23, 2025

**Total Offertory Income** ..... \$5,462.00  
**Average Budgeted Offertory Income** ..... \$7,700.00  
**Offertory Shortage** ..... \$(-2,238.00)

*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](http://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!*

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:** November 29 & 30, 2025

**Total Offertory Income** ..... \$5,929.00  
**Average Budgeted Offertory Income** ..... \$7,700.00  
**Offertory Shortage** ..... \$(-1,771.00)

**Local Needs Collection** ..... **\$1,508.25**

Thank you for your donations to this special second collection taken up the weekend of November 15/16 at our parish. Your gift brings lasting change to communities near and far. In the Diocese of Erie, 75% of your contribution stays here, strengthening Catholic Charities and local ministries that respond daily to urgent needs—providing food, shelter, counseling and life-changing resources. The remaining 25% supports national efforts, helping vulnerable communities across the country.

**THANK YOU** to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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

*Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.*

**Psalms 72**

**[Message from the Pastor—continued]**

**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*

**Submission Deadline for Bulletin Items**

Generally, items for publication in our bulletin must be sent to the parish office by Monday afternoon the week prior to when you wish your item to appear. Please email written content to [secretary@stparish.org](mailto:secretary@stparish.org). Please note that during holiday seasons, bulletin deadlines are moved up as much as 1-2 weeks earlier, so the earlier you provide the office with your bulletin items the better. All bulletin items are subject to approval and editing for content and space. If you have any questions, please call the parish office. Thank you.

**Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News****Calendar Dates for Religious Education:**

- December 7 — *Class*
- December 14 — *Class / Advent Activity*
- Dec. 21 & 28 — **NO Class** / Christmas break



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

**\* 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) starting at 9:00am.**



**#iGIVECATHOLIC**  
ON GIVING TUESDAY

**Thank You for Supporting Us!**

We are grateful to everyone who made a gift to our parish on GivingTuesday, Dec. 2 and during the recent #iGiveCatholic event. We truly appreciate your continuous generosity and support for not only our needs, but those of other Catholic organizations. Please know that your gift is a blessing to us. **THANK YOU!**



December 1, 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Another year has passed, and we are again approaching the annual collection for our **Retired Religious to be held in parishes on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>**. This event has significant benefits for the retired Sisters in our diocese, as well as the over 20,000 retired religious throughout the country.

The **Retirement Fund for Religious** offers financial support for those Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who worked for years for little or no stipends. Last year, the people in our diocese contributed \$138,840.00 to help defray the costs of medication, nursing care, medical equipment, transportation, physical and occupational therapy and other necessary needs. Your generous gift provides help for their ongoing health care supporting them as they age safely, with dignity, and comfort.

Senior Religious are our treasure in the Church. Their dedication and hard work laid the foundation for Catholic schools, religious education programs, hospitals, social service agencies and countless other ministries throughout our diocese; many still serve those in need today. Those who are no longer able to actively minister continue to support all that is being done through their ministry of prayer. They also remember the generous people who assist them through the aging process.

Some of you may not presently know consecrated men and women, but they have affected your lives through their ministry to your parents and grandparents and through the many organizations now in place due to their foresight and generosity. Ministries started by Sisters have had a tremendous influence in this diocese, and they stand as a legacy to those generous women who dedicated their lives in service to the reign of God and continue to find ways to minister to others. I join you in praising God for their faithful and generous service to the Church in the past and in the days and years to come.

I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you only to give what you can. Most importantly, please continue to pray for an increase of vocations to the consecrated life and for God's blessing on all our women and men religious. Know you remain in their prayers. Please join me in supporting this year's Retirement Fund for Religious.

Scan to give



Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Lawrence T. Persico*

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL  
Bishop of Erie