SAINT THOMAS
THE APOSTLE PARISH

Saint Elizabeth Parish Center

PARISH OFFICE

203 W. Washington St. • Corry, PA • 16407
Office Phone: (814) 663-3041
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 8:30a.m. to 3:00p.m.

Website: **http://StThomasTheApostle.Church**

Email: **Secretary@StThomasTheApostle.Church**

SACRAMENTAL SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses

Saturday evening: 4:30 p.m.
Sunday morning: 8:45 a.m.

Daily Masses

Please visit schedule in this bulletin.

Sacrament of Penance / Confessions

Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.

24 hour Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday before the First Friday - 8:30 a.m.
To First Friday of the Month - before 8:00 a.m. Mass

Saint Thomas the Apostle Church

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Due to the new protocols for Mass outlined by the bishop, there will not be a procession to present the gifts during Mass, so those sponsoring Masses will not be able to 'bring up' the gifts.

Monday, December 6—Mass at St. Teresa, Union City
8:00a.m. ✞Jimmy & Kathryn Downor req by Sandy, Debbie, Jeff, Chris, and Ashley

Tuesday, December 7—Mass at St. Thomas, Corry
7:00p.m. ✞Alex & Lillian Sadowski rq by Eleanor & Darlene

Wednesday, December 8—Immaculate Conception (Holy Day)
7:00a.m. ✞Elenore Henry req by Legion of Mary Members (St. Teresa)
7:00p.m. ✞Michael Timmerman req by Richard & Jean Farver (St. Thomas)

Thursday, December 9
NO MASS TODAY at both St. Thomas or St. Teresa

Friday, December 10—Mass at St. Teresa, Union City
8:00a.m. ✞Sophie Combs req by Family

Saturday, December 11—Mass at St. Teresa, Union City
4:30p.m. ✞Paul Mongera, Jr. req by Family

Sunday, December 12
8:45a.m. ✞Rose Morton req by Gary, Sue and Joseph Johnston (St. Thomas)
10:45a.m. Intentions of our Parish Family (St. Teresa)

PRAYER LINE… call: Gerrie (665-6944), Pam (664-7459), Shirley (814-392-5411), or Diane (663-3753). Since prayer is an important ministry of trust, know that all requests are kept confidential.

Mass Schedule Changes and Schedule for Christmas Masses

Please be reminded that the 4:30pm Saturday evening Mass will only be celebrated at St. Teresa in Union City for the month of December, with no Saturday Mass at St. Thomas Church. The 4:30pm Saturday Mass will return to St. Thomas in Corry in January. Please refer to the 'Mass Schedule and Intentions' box in this bulletin (see above) for the weekday Mass times and locations. **We hope your family will join us at one of our Masses for Christmas. The Christmas Mass Schedule is as follows:**

Friday, Dec. 24—4:30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (St. Thomas, Corry)
Friday, Dec. 24—6:30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (St. Teresa, Union City)
Friday, Dec. 24—11:59pm Midnight Mass for Christmas (St. Thomas, Corry)
Saturday, Dec. 25—9:00am Christmas Day Mass (St. Teresa, Union City)

PARISH STAFF

Pastor
Reverend Matthew J. Strickenberger
Deacon Assistant
Deacon Randy M. Kondrlik
Deacon Assistant/Retired
Deacon William J. Saborsky
Facilitator of Religious Education
Mrs. Melissa Silka
Director of Liturgical Music
Mr. Nicholas P. Nasibyan
Director of Parish Finance
Mr. Daniel P. Crawford
Director of Parish Cemeteries
Mrs. Susan L. Vinca
Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Susan M. Johnston
Assistant Secretary
Mrs. Mary Jane Adamaszek
Parish Center Events Manager
Mrs. Kerrin A. Watrous
Director of Maintenance
Mr. Dan Grable
Custodian
Mr. Ben Barney

WELCOME
If you are new to our parish, we extend a warm welcome and hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith will be nourished. Newcomers are asked to introduce themselves to the pastor and call the parish office to register.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP
Membership includes active participation in the sacramental life of the Church, involvement in the activities of the faith community and financial support of the parish. New members are welcome to register by coming into or calling the parish office.

BAPTISM
By appointment. Please contact the parish office.

MARRIAGE
Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance. Please contact the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK
Please let the pastor or deacon know when a family member or a friend is ill, either at home, in the hospital, or at a nursing home.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: November 21, 2021

Amount in Envelopes: (69)	$3,024.00
Loose	$218.50
Online Giving	$335.00
Flower Fund	$255.00
Total Offertory Income	$3,832.50
Weekly Budget (Offertory)	*$4,038.00
Difference	$(-205.50)
Actual Average Weekly Offertory	*$3,625.00
Budgeted Weekly Expenses	*$6,019.00
Actual Average Weekly Expenses	*$5,951.00

****Based on Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021***

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.

DONATE ONLINE

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: November 28, 2021

Amount in Envelopes: (66)	$2,647.00
Loose	$109.00
Faith Formation/Rel. Ed	$0.00
Online Giving	$215.00
Flower Fund	$55.00
Total Offertory Income	$3,026.00
Weekly Budget (Offertory)	*$4,038.00
Difference	$(-1,012.00)

2021 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Update as of November 29th:

Our Diocesan Assessment is $38,378.00
Total Amount Pledged to date = $41,954.00
Total Paid to date = $40,069.00
# of Families who made a pledge = 104

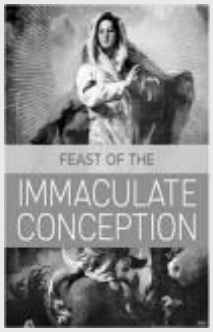
Thank you to those who contributed to our CSA. We appreciate your generosity. **Please be sure to make CSA checks payable to 'ST. THOMAS CHURCH'. Please try to pay off your CSA pledge by the end of the Year 2021. Thank you!**

Advent Reflection—Keeping Christ in Christmas

Does your family have a Nativity set? Do you usually put it under the tree or on the mantle? Bring that Nativity set out early. When you set it up, tell the story that it recreates. Read the story of the birth of the Christ Child in Matthew 1:18-25 and 2:12 or the more often quoted from Luke 2:1-20. Then show each separate piece and who it represents in the story. Afterwards, you can tell of some of your Christmas traditions from previous years. Don't let the stories pass away, share them with children, grandchildren and other loved ones around you. Don't let the Nativity set be just another ornamentation of the season. Use it to keep the Spirit of Christmas alive in your hearts and minds and to make Christmas a celebration of His Love!

Diocesan & Parish News

Feast of Immaculate Conception of Mary



We will celebrate the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (holy day of obligation)** on December 8th. Please note the Mass schedule for this holy day:

Tues., Dec. 7—7:00pm Vigil Mass at St. Thomas in Corry

Wed., Dec. 8—7:00am Holy Day Mass at St. Teresa in Union City

AND 7:00pm at St. Thomas in Corry

Catholic Daughters Social Meeting THIS WEEK

Court Conception #35 of the Catholic Daughters will meet on Thursday, Dec. 9 at 9:30am at Mel's Restaurant for a social meeting. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Holiday Pastry Sale by the Altar Rosary

The St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society has a limited number of pastries to sell. We will be selling them before and after next Sunday's Mass, December 12. Your support is always greatly appreciated

Local Knights Part of the Reindeer Trail at Mead Park TODAY

Corry Knights of Columbus, Council #425 have decorated their sponsored pavilion (Green Top) at Mead Park and will be there for the Reindeer Trail on Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 4th & 5th from 6:00pm—9:00pm. Lighted displays created by local organizations will be throughout the park. Tune to Radio 98.9FM to enjoy music and trail narration. Hope to see you and your family enjoy the 'lights of Christmas'.

Special 'Second' Collection Next Weekend

The annual collection for the Retired Religious will be held on December 11 & 12. Please generously support this collections which benefits retired Sisters in our diocese, as well as other religious. Please place donations in the designated envelopes in your offertory packet or mark an envelope with "Retired Religious". Please continue to keep these faithful servants of the Church in your prayers. Thank you.

"Question of the Week" - Second Sunday of Advent

Question for Children: What things do you do to get ready for a big event or celebration?

Question for Youth: How do you share the Good News of Jesus with others?

Question for Adults: Name one thing you can do to help "prepare the way of the Lord?"

Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News

Religious Education Classes Meet THIS WEEEKEND

Our students in Religious Education will meet this weekend after Sunday Mass for class (at 10:00am). Students are reminded to continue to bring in nonperishable food items for the food drive to support the Corry Food Pantry.

***Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments*—The Digital World:** The digital world is constantly evolving with new social media platforms, apps, and devices, and children and teens are often the first to use them. Sometimes with negative impacts such as cyberbullying, sexting, or the posting hateful messages or content. Parents need to become aware and stay up-to-date on the latest apps, social media platforms and digital slang used by children and teens. Parents should monitor their child's social media sites, apps and browsing history regularly. Visit https://www.eriercd.org/childprotection/ to see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth.

A Message from Our Pastor

As we move into December—already or finally—I pray that you and your loved ones are as well as possible.

THANK YOU—THANK YOU– THANK YOU for the most extraordinary and incredible welcome you provided for me last weekend! Truly, it was a blessing to meet everyone and I am so looking forward to getting to know all of you and pray with you here at St. Thomas, St. Teresa, and Our Lady of Fatima.

I spent this past week working with all of our Parish Office Staff just hashing out all of the nuts and bolts around here—and in case you weren't aware, there's a lot of nuts and bolts around here!!! God bless those who serve on the staffs of our Parishes for all they do for the good of us!!! Let's make sure we keep them in our prayers, especially as they have to deal with me!!!

Another huge THANK YOU to everyone who has helped with my move—in Corry and in Union City. In case you haven't heard, but I'm sure you have, I will be living at the Rectory in Union City. After speaking with a whole variety of folks here, it just seemed to be the better option. And in Corry, we also hope to be using the Convent/Rectory/Former Office as the office once again in the near future. So on that front, we are in need of some help over there—mostly with painting and maybe some lighting—so if you are willing and able to help, just call the St. Thomas office. A nice and warm winter project, perhaps! At least I can promise some food and beverages to all who help!!!

Somewhere in the bulletin this week should be our Christmas Mass schedule—we hashed it out this week too—so hopefully you can find a Mass in there that'll work for you and your loved ones. We are also currently working on some additional opportunities for Confessions before Christmas too (I know that none of you are sinners here…..) so keep an eye out for that.

And on the Mass schedule front, don't forget that this week is the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. We will have Mass in Corry on Tuesday, December 7th and Wednesday the 8th at 7:00PM, and in Union City on Wednesday the 8th at 7:00AM. Hopefully one of those times will work for you—we can always tweak the Mass schedule in the future to better meet the needs of everyone, especially those who work.

I will be meeting with our Parish and Finance Councils in the coming weeks—I truly look forward to hearing from them of your joys and struggles as Parish communities—all of us working together, well, that seems to be the point of Church! So, we follow where the Spirit leads.

A special shout out to the family who made sure I had some Timbits on Monday morning at the Office! At least someone was listening! (this is not a call for more!) So whether you had a timbit, got a deer, or maybe just had a rough week—I hope you made it through! You all remain in my prayers.

God help us all! -Fr. Matt

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