



# SAINT THOMAS

## THE APOSTLE PARISH



Saint Elizabeth Parish Center



GLORY  
TO GOD  
IN THE  
HIGHEST  
AND ON  
EARTH  
PEACE TO  
THOSE  
ON WHOM  
HIS FAVOR  
RESTS.

LUKE 2:14

The HOLY FAMILY  
of JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

### PARISH OFFICE

203 W. Washington St. • Corry, PA • 16407

Office: (814) 663-3041

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 8:30a.m. to 3:00p.m.

Website: <http://StThomasTheApostle.Church>

Email: [Secretary@StThomasTheApostle.Church](mailto:Secretary@StThomasTheApostle.Church)

Fr. Matt's Email: [MJStrickenberger@ErieRCD.org](mailto:MJStrickenberger@ErieRCD.org)

### SACRAMENTAL SCHEDULE

#### Weekend Masses

**Saturday evening:** 4:30 p.m. . (monthly rotation w/ St. Teresa Parish, Union City)

**Sunday morning:** 8:45 a.m.

#### Daily Masses

Please visit schedule in this bulletin.

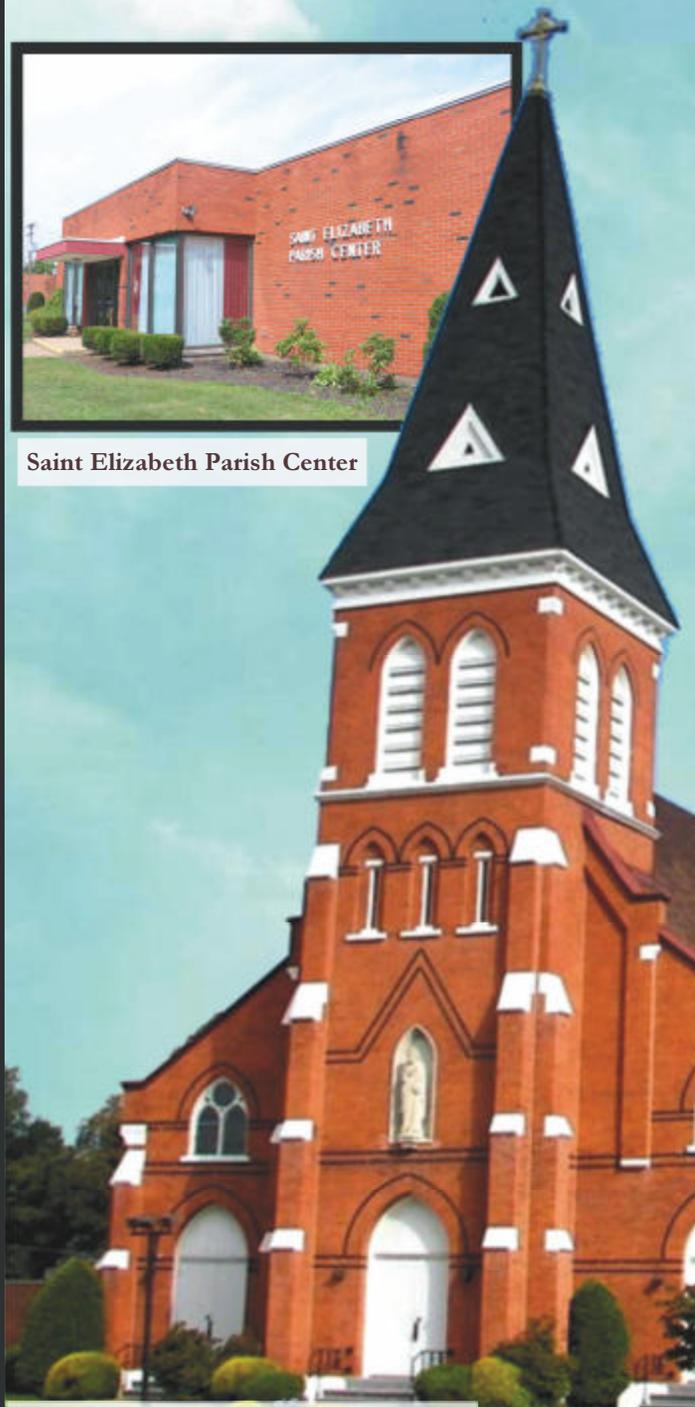
#### Sacrament of Penance / Confessions

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 27**

NO MASS TODAY at both St. Thomas and St. Teresa

**Tuesday, December 28—Mass at St. Thomas, Corry**

5:15p.m. ☩ The Alexander Ross Family req by Shirley Skiff

**Wednesday, December 29—Mass at St. Thomas, Corry**

8:00a.m. ☩ John J. Hajec req by Len & Ann Clark

**Thursday, December 30**

NO MASS TODAY at both St. Thomas and St. Teresa

**Friday, December 31—Mass at St. Teresa, Union City**

8:00a.m. ☩ Herb & Sophie Combs req by Family

**Saturday, January 1 (New Year's Day) —Mass at St. Thomas, Corry**

4:30p.m. ☩ Deceased and Living Members of the Vinca and Buccolini Families req by Steve & Julie Rushin (St. Thomas)

**Sunday, January 2**

8:45a.m. For the Intentions of our Parish Family (St. Thomas)

10:45a.m. ☩ Patricia Arlet req by Family (St. Teresa)

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: December 12, 2021**

<b>Amount in Envelopes: (63)</b> .....	\$3,586.00
<b>Loose</b> .....	\$54.00
<b>Faith Formation/Rel. Ed</b> .....	\$5.00
<b>Online Giving</b> .....	\$215.00
<b>Flower Fund</b> .....	\$80.00
<b>Early Christmas Envelopes</b> .....	\$65.00
<b>Total Offertory Income</b> .....	\$4,005.00
<b>Weekly Budget (Offertory)</b> .....	*\$4,038.00
<b>Difference</b> .....	\$(-33.00)

<b>Actual Average Weekly Offertory</b> .....	*\$3,625.00
<b>Budgeted Weekly Expenses</b> .....	*\$6,019.00
<b>Actual Average Weekly Expenses</b> .....	*\$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.*



*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'.*

**Holy Day—Immaculate Conception (Dec. 7/8)**

<b>Amount in Envelopes: (23)</b> .....	\$500.00
<b>Loose</b> .....	\$62.00
<b>Total</b> .....	\$562.00

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: December 19, 2021**

The Financial Stewardship Report for the weekend of December 19 will be published in the next bulletin (January 2). Today's bulletin had to be submitted to our publisher prior to the weekend Mass due to the upcoming holidays. Thank you to all who regularly use your church offertory envelopes and/or give to the parish collection. We appreciate and are grateful for your support.

**2021 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Update as of December 13<sup>th</sup>:**

**Our Diocesan Assessment is \$38,378.00**  
 Total Amount Pledged to date = \$41,989.00  
 Total Paid to date = \$41,794.00  
 # 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!

**End of the Year Giving Statements for 2021**

Beginning in January—we will be taking requests for 2021 END OF THE YEAR TAX STATEMENTS regarding your financial giving to the church for the 2021 calendar year. Please contact the parish office during business hours after the holidays if you wish to have one sent to you for tax purposes. Thank you.



**PRAYER LINE... call: Gerrie (665-6944),**

*Shirley (814-392-5411), Pam (664-7459), or Diane (663-3753). Since prayer is an important ministry of trust, know that all requests are kept confidential.*

**SAVE THE DATES**

**22:32 Men's Conference in Erie**

Saturday, February 12, 2022 at St. Jude Parish (8:30am—Noon)  
[www.2232Men.com](http://www.2232Men.com)

**1:38 Women's Conference in Erie**

Saturday, March 12, 2022 at St. Jude Parish (8:30am—12:30pm)  
[www.138Women.com](http://www.138Women.com)

**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.

Please patronize the sponsors of our bulletin. It is through their paid advertising that we can publish the bulletin. Thank you.

## Diocesan & Parish News

### Parish Office Hours for the Holidays

Our Parish Office will be closed the week after Christmas (December 27–31) so that our staff may enjoy time with their families. We will return to our normal office hours on Monday, January 3, 2022. If there is an emergency and you need to reach Fr. Matt, please email him at MJStrickenberger@ErieRCD.org. You may also phone the parish office and leave a message, but please know that they will only be checked periodically throughout the week. Sorry for any inconvenience.

### Reminder of Mass Schedule Changes

The 4:30pm Saturday Mass will return to St. Thomas in Corry on January 1<sup>st</sup> and remain here for the month. Please refer to the 'Mass Schedule and Intentions' box in this bulletin for the weekday Mass times and locations.

### Parish 2022 Calendars

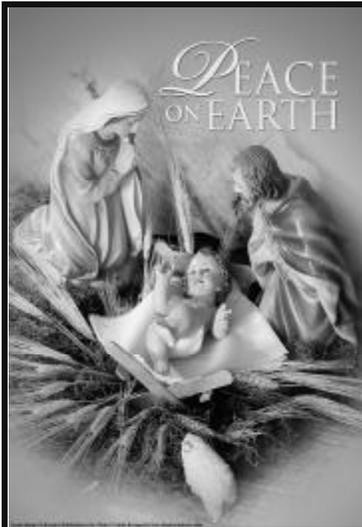
Calendars are available at the entrances of the church for your use at home. We are grateful to the businesses (Augie's Pizza, Bracken Funeral Home, The Fork & Barrel and The Library Bar & Grill) who sponsor the calendars so that the cost is less of a burden on the parish.

### Memorial Ornaments

If you, or family and friends, had a loved one from our parish pass away within the last few years, please see if there is a memorial ornament for them on the tree located in the back of the church. Please take the ornament with you anytime during the Christmas season. We would like these ornaments to go to families/friends of deceased loved ones.

### A Family Perspective

Today's gospel contains this truth about parenting: "but his parents did not know." One of the reasons parenting is so difficult is because our children don't tell us everything. If the Holy Family had trouble with their teenager, why do we think it will be easier for us?



*Merry  
Christmas*

Wishing you and your families much peace, joy, and love this Christmas season. May Christ remain in your hearts now and always! *Fr. Matt, Deacon Randy Kondrlik, Deacon Bill Saborsky, and the Staff of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish*



### A Message from Our Pastor

A Blessed Christmas to you and yours!! What a blessing it is for me to celebrate my 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas with you!!! And a Christmas 'thank you' to all who have made this celebration possible – to everyone who came out to decorate; to Music Ministry; to our Deacons and all who stepped up to minister as Servers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion; to our Parish Staff who continue to devote themselves wholeheartedly to the good of our Parishes—God bless all of them!

If you are visiting us for Christmas, I hope that you found in our parishes a sense of welcome and hospitality that is so very close to our heart. If you are a member of our parishes and maybe haven't been here for a while, or if you are interested in becoming a member, I truly hope that you prayerfully consider joining us each and every weekend. It is my sincerest belief that our Parishes of Sts. Thomas and Teresa have a lot to offer you, and I equally believe that you have a lot to offer us as well. We hope to see you back again soon! Please know, if there is ever anything I can do for you, please never ever hesitate to contact me. Give a call or send an email, and I would always be happy to talk with you about anything. I am still settling in here myself, so I'll get back to you as soon as I can figure out my voicemail! (I'm kidding, I don't even have voicemail...or an office!!! So, we pray for patience!)

Another 'thank you' to everyone who has contributed to our community efforts to help make Christmas a little brighter for some of our neighbors. Whether through donations of gifts, money, food, or even a kind visit with a neighbor, it's a good reminder for all of us of our mission to carry on the work of Jesus. The needs of our communities are so great, and we will be ramping up our efforts to reach out and help those in need—within our parishes and outside of them. So, why do we do this...because Jesus tells us to, and as Parishes we must be about living the Corporal Works of Mercy in our daily lives – as one priest put it, 'if a Parish is not doing anything for the poor then it has no reason to exist.' And so we respond as Jesus commands us and leads us through the Holy Spirit. But this is also a work of our entire community, reaching out in compassion to those in need – men, women, and children, families, the elderly, the abandoned and the forgotten who need to know that they are loved – and so our common humanity implores us to act. I hope and pray that all of us will be inspired to get involved in ramping up these ministries – somehow. Keep an eye on our Parish Websites and Facebook pages, call the office, ask around – but consider this your invitation to get involved with all that we can do for the benefit of those in need in our midst.

We will also be working on our social media footprint in the new year—with new and updated ways to stay in touch and to know what's going on—and to get involved in the life of our Parishes too. And as always, if you are gifted to help with those things, please let us know that too! It would be great to be able to livestream our Masses too!

None of us knows what the new year holds for us, but this Christmas and always, may we truly enter into the life that Jesus calls us to – a life of fidelity, compassion, forgiveness, and mercy. That's a life that calls all of us to grow and change! But through it all, whatever adventures may come our way, may the Peace that God alone can give come to dwell in our world, our families, and within our own hearts. God help us all! –Fr. Matt

### **"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?



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