



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

November 30, 2025



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."
- Mt 24:44

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPH

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

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

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.

4 Lessons Jesus Taught Me About Finding Balance
By Dolores Smyth

It was a typical morning drive to my kids' school—rushed, in an effort to beat the bell. As I neared the school, I leaned on the horn in annoyance, blaring at the car that was blocking the entrance to the parking lot. Quickly nudging forward to let my car pass, the driver mouthed an apology that I probably didn't deserve given the length of my too-angry honk.

I got my children to the drop-off door just as Sister Margaret was shutting it. "Please try to get here a little earlier," she said, somewhat sterner than the last time she'd made that request. "Sorry Sister," I said, hoping my voice was louder than my stomach, which was grumbling in protest that, although I had fed my kids, I hadn't myself eaten breakfast. Again. As if this audible reminder of my need to prioritize wasn't embarrassing enough, I also caught a glimpse of the dark circles under my eyes in my rearview mirror as I drove off—two dark crescents attesting to my nightly lack of sleep.

Like many, I struggle with finding balance in my life. Due to this lack of balance, I'd become sleep-deprived, unhealthy, always in a rush, and easily irritated.

I knew that balance was important to God. I knew that when our priorities were imbalanced, we risked cultivating a life of poor health, bitterness, and apathy toward our faith. This state of unrest, in turn, can cause us to treat others with a blunted sense of compassion, turning us away from the relationships that help us gain a better understanding of God's love.

I also knew, however, that living in a balanced way can be daunting in our age of overscheduling and I-can-have-it-all thinking. Fortunately, while searching for guidance, I realized that when it comes to learning how to live a balanced life, I don't have to look any further than the examples Jesus gave us.

Here are four lessons that Jesus taught me about seeking balance.

1. Rest to Recharge and Refocus

Throughout his ministry, there were times when Jesus was surrounded by chaotic crowds clamoring for his attention (Mark 4:1), and times when a storm hit while Jesus was mid-journey (Mark 4:35-41). During these stressful moments, Jesus didn't hesitate to rest when he needed to.

I often spend my days caring for my children and assisting my elderly parents. I navigate the storms that rise up as I coax my kids to finish their homework and my parents to follow doctor's orders, all while meeting my daily work obligations. I frequently immerse myself in my to-do lists at the expense of getting sufficient sleep, which leads to feelings of resentment toward those I care or work for, not to mention physical and mental burnout.

To avoid the imbalance that burnout brings, I started carving out time for adequate sleep by delegating tasks, distinguishing between the vital and the trivial, and accepting that our home would not crumble if I let a chore or two go unattended for the day. Once I allowed myself to get the rest I needed, I had the energy and focus to accomplish my daily duties on time and with a greater sense of joy.

Continued ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡



Sunday, November 30—1st Sunday of Advent

8:00a.m. ✠ Louis & Charlotte Sproveri by Christine & Denny Anderson
(St. Thomas, Corry)

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

Monday, December 1

8:00a.m. ✠ Paul Mongera, Sr. by Lillie Mongera
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, December 2

8:00a.m. ✠ Chester Hajec by Zela Munsee
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, December 3

8:00a.m. ✠ Mildred Pachuta by the Oldani Family
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, December 4

8:00a.m. Communion Service at St. Thomas Church

Friday, December 5—First Friday

8:00a.m. ✠ Ed Weaver, Sr. by Pat Kusiak

8:00a.m. Communion Service at St. Thomas Church

Saturday, December 6

4:30p.m. For the People of the Parish
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Sunday, December 7—2nd 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)

WILSON FAMILY TRAGEDY: Recently, Michael, Heather, & Emily Wilson and Rosemary Hill, lost their house, their possessions, and their family pet in a terrible fire. They lost everything, but were able to escape with their lives. 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 for your generosity in this terrible tragedy.

MISSIONARY COLLECTION THANK YOU: Earlier this year, Sr. Chris Kosin spoke at all the Masses about the work of AIM USA (Alliance for International Monasticism). I received a thank you letter from her this week thanking you for your generosity.

She also stated that many of the monasteries are struggling due to the effects of climate change and violence from civil wars in certain areas. Some of those monasteries are in the Ukraine, Israel and Nigeria. She asks your continued prayers for those working in these very troubled areas of the world.

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.

Continued (on shared page 4) ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡

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

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.



**ADVENT
PENANCE
SERVICE**

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 !

PREPARE

"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

MATTHEW 24:44

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

"Question of the Week" - First Sunday of Advent

Question for Children: What can you do to be ready for God to come into your heart and your life?

Question for Youth: The Gospel tells us we don't know when the Son of Man will return. If he were to arrive today, would you be ready for him? What is one thing you can do during Advent to prepare for his coming?

Question for Adults: As you prepare to re-welcome Christ into your heart while you prepare for Christmas, what does Isaiah call you to do? What does Isaiah call us as a people to do?



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of November 30th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Rev. Msgr. Casimir Bogniak.



Knights of Columbus Food Drive Collection

THANK YOU to all who donated to the Knights of Columbus Thanksgiving food drive benefiting the Corry Food Pantry. We appreciate your generosity to those in need.



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!

2025 CSA

Pledge Reminder

As the end of the year draws near, please consider paying off any remaining balance on your 2025 CSA pledge. We would greatly appreciate having all pledges paid in full before December 31, 2025.

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish!



Planning Meeting for St. Thomas' Lenten Fish Dinners

We will hold a planning meeting on **Wed., Dec. 3 at 5:30pm** at St. Elizabeth Parish Center. All are invited to attend if you are interested in helping or have suggestions for our dinners this Lent.

You're Invited to Coffee and Donuts

Coffee and Donuts at Saint Thomas Parish will be served in the multipurpose room **following the 8:00am Mass on Sunday, December 7th**. Donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of the donuts. All are welcome to join us for a time of socializing.



Answer the Call Lessons and Carols in Concert

St. Joseph Parish, 147 W. 24th St., Erie presents *Answer the Call Lessons and Carols in Concert* on Dec. 6 at 7:30pm and Dec. 7 at :00pm. Fifty singers, musicians and narrators will present *Answer the Call* with original music and lyrics by Michael Malthaner. The concert is free and any donations collected will support the Kinship Ministries of Erie. For more information, call 814-490-8707.

Please Consider Year-End Giving

As the year comes to an end, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the blessings we've received and consider how we can give back. Your support helps us continue our mission and make a positive impact in our community. Plus, your contributions can be beneficial during tax season. Every gift, big or small, makes a difference. Thank you for your generosity and kindness. We are truly grateful for your support.

Wish to make a year-end gift right now, please scan the QR Code to give online to our parish.



SAINT Nicholas
DECEMBER 6TH

Don't forget
LEAVE YOUR SHOES OUT FOR ST. NICK!

St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of November 30, 2025

Sun.: Isaiah 2:1-5 ♦ Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 ♦ Romans 13:11-14 ♦ Matthew 24:37-44
 Mon.: Isaiah 4:2-6 ♦ Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9 ♦ Matthew 8:5-11
 Tues.: Isaiah 11:1-10 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 ♦ Luke 10:21-24
 Wed.: Isaiah 25:6-10a ♦ Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 ♦ Matthew 15:29-37
 Thur.: Isaiah 26:1-6 ♦ Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a ♦ Matthew 7:21, 24-27
 Fri.: Isaiah 29:17-24 ♦ Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14 ♦ Matthew 9:27-31
 Sat.: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26 ♦ Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 ♦ Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
 Next Sun.: Isaiah 11:1-10 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7) ♦ Romans 15:4-9 ♦ Matthew 3:1-12

Bake Sale Next Weekend at St. Teresa Church

The ladies of the Rosary Altar Society will hold a bake sale at both weekend Masses on December 6 & 7 at St. Teresa Church. Please support them and their good works by purchasing some treats to share with family or enjoy yourself. Thank you!



ST. MARK SEMINARY

"What is God calling me to do with my life?"



If you've ever asked yourself that question, please join us for a discernment weekend at St. Mark Seminary. This opportunity is for any College-age, Catholic male, 18 or older, who is interested in learning more about the priesthood. There is no cost to attend.

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 6 -
SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 7**



**TO REGISTER: CONTACT FR. SCOTT JABO,
VOCATION DIRECTOR, AT 814-824-1198
OR SWJABO@ERIERCD.ORG**

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.



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of November 30th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased loved ones.

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.*



Seeking Volunteers to Serve at Christmas Masses

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

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.



Pray for Consecrated Life, Rev. Luke Daghir, Rev. Raymond Hahn, Rev. Mark Hoffman, Very Rev. Richard Tomasone, VF, Rev. David Perry, and also *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

SAVE THE DATE SAINT ANDREW CHURCH

Presents:

GETTING IN THE
**CHRISTMAS
SPIRIT**

FREE PUBLIC CONCERT SUPPORTING
COMMUNITY OF CARING

**DAVE VANAMBURG'S
THE V BAND**

SAINT ANDREW CHURCH
1116 WEST 7TH STREET - ERIE, PA

DONATIONS APPRECIATED. ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
COMMUNITY OF CARING

DEC 7 SUN
1 P.M.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: November 22 & 23, 2025

The Financial Stewardship Report for the weekend of November 22 & 23 will be published in the next bulletin (December 7) since figures were not available at this time due to the holiday publishing schedule. Thank you to all who regularly use your church offertory envelopes and/or give to the parish collection. We appreciate your support.

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'.

If you are not receiving offertory envelopes from our parish and wish to, please contact the parish office. Thank you!



[Message from the Pastor—continued]

#iGIVECATHOLIC: #iGiveCatholic is on GivingTuesday, December 2, 2025. You can support your local Catholic parish, school, or ministry on that day or you can make an #iGiveCatholic donation at any time during the advanced giving period from November 17 through December 1, 2025. Gifts made by check or cash can be made directly to qualifying organizations during this same time frame. [Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish](http://www.StThomastheApostle.Church) | #iGiveCatholic

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 and at 7:00pm at St. Teresa. **Mass on Christmas Day** will be at 10:00am at St. Thomas Church.

— Fr. Tom

2025 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals:

Diocesan Goal for our parish is \$61,792

St. Thomas portion is \$37,000 / St. Teresa portion is \$25,000

Amount Pledged at **St. Thomas** to date = \$67,163

Paid to date = \$64,753

Amount Pledged at **St. Teresa** to date = \$36,680

Paid to date = \$35,581

Total Number of Families who made a pledge = 227

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.

No gift is too small, but give as generously as you can.

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

- November 30 — **NO Class** / Thanksgiving
- 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.

Holy Day Mass Schedule

We will celebrate the feast on Monday, December 8th 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.*

Eucharistic Adoration THIS WEEK

Keep us alert, as we await the advent of Christ...

Our churches will hold their monthly Eucharistic Adoration this week. It will be held on **Thursday, December 4th (8:00am) through Friday, December 5th (8:00am) at Saint Thomas Church.** It will also be held on **Friday, December 5th (8:00am –12:00pm) at St. Teresa Church.** All are welcome any time to spend a prayerful, quiet moment with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED NOW ONLINE OR BY ENVELOPE PLACED IN THE COLLECTION BASKET**

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



Join us for



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

#iGIVECATHOLIC
ON GIVING TUESDAY

DECEMBER 2, 2025

**ADVANCED GIVING DATES
NOVEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 1**

Scan the QR code or visit
www.iGiveCatholic.org
and search for
St. Thomas the Apostle.

