

THE PARISH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE AND ITS MISSION ST. TERESA OF AVILA



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



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

January 4, 2026



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

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY: The word Epiphany means “manifestation, revelation, showing.” As with most feasts in the Catholic Church there is an extended period of celebration. Christmas is such an all-encompassing event that one day is not enough to celebrate everything it includes, manifests, or reveals to us. We have celebrated Christmas with the birth of Jesus, last week we celebrated the Holy Family, this week we celebrate Epiphany, and next week the Baptism of Jesus. At some point in our history, we also celebrated the Wedding feast at Cana. All of these feasts are different parts of the feast of Christmas.

The feast of the Epiphany focuses in the Roman (Latin) Church on the visitation of the Wise men (magi) to the child Jesus and his parents. This feast focuses on the fact that Jesus was not just the Messiah for the Jewish people, but that his ministry would be to all people. This feast emphasizes the universal nature of Jesus’ ministry and the ministry then of the Church.

THANK YOU: Certainly a note of thanks is needed to all those who made our Christmas celebrations such a special time. Thanks to our parish staff, choir and music ministers, deacons, servers, lectors, ushers, eucharistic ministers, and all those who helped to decorate the church. There are always behind the scenes people who make these celebrations happen and we need to recognize and acknowledge their generosity and hard work. Thank You so much!!!

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.

UN - DECORATING FROM CHRISTMAS AT BOTH CHURCHES: We will be taking down the decorations from Christmas on the following dates: All are welcome to help!

- St. Teresa—Sunday, January 11 at Noon
- St. Thomas—Monday, January 12 at 9:00am

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS: From time to time, I make recommendations of good books on Catholic Spirituality. One author that I recommend for everything he has written is Fr. Ronald Rolheiser. The three books that he has written on the spiritual life are excellent and easy to read. These three are part of a trilogy on the spiritual life.

1. The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality
2. Sacred Fire: A Vision for a Deeper Human and Christian Maturity
3. Insane for the Light: A Spirituality for our Wisdom Years.

The first book is a general overview of Spirituality. The second is a spirituality for the second half of life. The third is a spirituality for the last part of life.

— Fr. Tom

They brought gifts of Gold—Frankincense—Myrrh



Follow Us on Facebook!

Be sure to check out and follow our updated, combined Facebook page:
St. Thomas the Apostle & its Mission St. Teresa
 It's a great way to stay connected with parish news, events, and announcements!

**Sunday, January 4—Epiphany of the Lord**

8:00a.m. For the People of the Parish
 (St. Thomas, Corry)
 11:00a.m. †Irene Tinko by Irene Weaver & family
 (St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, January 5

8:00a.m. †Barb Krol by Denise Krol
 (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, January 6

8:00a.m. Special intentions of Michelle Brady by Charlie Buckshaw (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, January 7

8:00a.m. †Clara Rose McEldowney by Grandma & Grandpa (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, January 8

No Mass or Services at either Sts. Thomas or Teresa today.

Friday, January 9

8:00a.m. †Leora Giewont by Steve & Cheryl Mongera
 (St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, January 10

4:30p.m. For the People of the Parish
 (St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, January 11—Baptism of the Lord

8:00a.m. †Peggy Kubich by Aggie Volk
 (St. Thomas, Corry)
 11:00a.m. †Ed Weaver by Irene Weaver & family
 (St. Teresa, Union City)



Wise Men Still Seek H/M!

In this age when personal data can be misused by scam artists, please be aware that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, its clergy and entities such as parishes and schools, will never solicit your personal or business information unless initiated by you. Should you receive an unsolicited request for such information – including a request for gift cards of any type – exercise extreme caution. Contact the person or entity by using official contact information only. Do not use the contact information provided in the potential fraudulent request.



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.

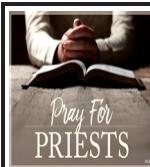


The SANCTUARY CANDLE at our churches for the week of January 4th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Carol Groner by George Groner.



How silently, how silently this wonderous gift is given.

Make a resolution to spend more time with Jesus in 2026—visit the church for silent prayer, attend daily Mass, pray at home, say a Rosary, read the Bible, and show kindness to others.



Pray for Consecrated Life, Rev. James Piszker, Rev. Msgr. Andrew Karg, Rev. Kyle Seyler, Rev. Stephen Schreiber, Rev. Robert Hargas, Rev. Jerry Priscaro, and also please Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.

Snowman Raffle Tickets for Sale

If interested, tickets are for sale at the parish office (see Sue) or contact a Corry Knight. Drawing will be at the Knight's February meeting on Tuesday, February 10. Need not be present to win. Proceeds help benefit Knights Council #425 and the good works they do for our parish and community.



SNOWMAN RAFFLE
1st PRIZE - \$100.00 CASH
2nd PRIZE - \$50.00 CASH
3rd PRIZE - \$25.00 CASH
Drawing at Knights of Columbus "February Meeting"
Donation: \$1.00

COAL Tickets (Chance of a Lifetime) are on sale now from the local 4th Degree Council of the Knights of Columbus. You may contact

Mike Gluvna (814-664-4416) or stop into the parish office to get your tickets. Donation of \$5 per ticket will give you a chance to win a prize. Winners will be drawn in May. Proceeds benefit the Knights State Council Charities. Thank you.



Candlemas Day Event at St. Francis Xavier

Celebrate Jesus Christ being the Light of the World! St. Francis Xavier Parish, 8880 W. Main St., McKean, is hosting a candle making event on January 6 from 6:30pm-8:30pm Cost is \$30. RSVP to Irene 814-476-7657, ext. 7 or call for more information.



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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- Mt 2:10-11

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

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Family Perspective

Today's gospel tells us that "all Jerusalem" was upset because "King Herod was deeply troubled." Similarly, in families, one person's negative attitude can ripple through and affect everyone. If you desire a peaceful and joyful home, it must begin with you. Embrace peace and joy, and let it spread to those around you.

"Question of the Week" - Solemnity of the Epiphany

Question for Children: In your life, who helps you to see Jesus in other people such as a classmate or a friend?

Question for Youth: Life can sometimes be rough: losing your home, moving, feeling fear or danger. How do you experience God being and staying with you in such times?

Question for Adults: How this past week did you demonstrate God's love at home and at work?

48TH ANNUAL

PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST

January 17, 2026 ♦ 9 A.M.

**Bayfront Convention Center
Erie, Pennsylvania**



SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER LYDIA TAYLOR DAVIS

**National Spokesperson
and Social Media Producer,
Students for Life of America**

See you at the Breakfast!

Regular Reservations...\$30

Ages 3-12...\$22 • Under 3...Free

Reservations due by January 11.

Early reservations appreciated.

Reservations are required. Mail name(s), address, and phone number with a check payable to "People for Life." Call or visit our website to use a credit or debit card.

FREE CHILDCARE WITH FUN ACTIVITIES

PEOPLE FOR LIFE

**1625 W. 26th Street
Erie, PA 16508**

**(814) 882-1333 • (814) 459-1333
office@peopleforlife.org**

PeopleforLife.org/january2026

Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast

St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of January 4, 2026

Sun.: Isaiah 60:1-6 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 ♦ Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
♦ Matthew 2:1-12
Mon.: 1 John 3:22-4:6 ♦ Psalm 2:7bc-8, 10-12a ♦ Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25
Tues.: 1 John 4:7-10 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 ♦ Mark 6:34-44
Wed.: 1 John 4:11-18 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 ♦ Mark 6:45-52
Thur.: 1 John 4:19-5:4 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 ♦ Luke 4:14-22a
Fri.: 1 John 5:5-13 ♦ Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 ♦ Luke 5:12-16
Sat.: 1 John 5:14-21 ♦ Psalm 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b ♦ John 3:22-30
Next Sun.: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 ♦ Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 ♦ Acts 10:34-38 ♦
Matthew 3:13-17



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of January 4th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased members of our church.

The Stars We Follow

Everyone follows a star.

It is human nature to seek. If we are rich, we want to be richer. If we are smart, we want to be smarter. If we are powerful, we want to be more powerful.

We cannot stay in one place, so to speak — to say, “I am what I am, I have what I have, and it is enough.” Even the very act of maintaining a status quo, be it health or wealth or spiritual goodness, requires action. It requires effort. It requires movement. This is human nature. There is nothing wrong with it. When we stop seeking, we die.

But what are we looking for? Where are we going?

I often wonder if the Magi knew what they were seeking — really, truly knew. They were seeking “the newborn king of the Jews,” yes, but did they understand who he was? What he was? I don’t see how they could have. They were wise men, but they were not prophets. They simply knew this was an endeavor they had to undertake. They knew it in their souls.

There really is very little that we know for certain about the Magi. We don’t know how many of them there were. We don’t know their religion. We don’t know where they came from. All we know for certain is that they listened to a voice they heard deep within themselves. And, heeding that voice, they went forth.

And what did they find? They found what we all seek, even if, foolishly, we seek it in riches or power.

They found the face of the Child.

So tell me this. Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice — that one deep within you — tell you to chase?

Point to it. And go forth.

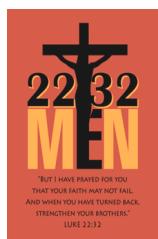


O, Come Let Us Adore Him.

SAVE THE DATE

13th Annual Men's Conference | Saturday, March 7

A half-day men's conference providing an opportunity to grow closer to Christ is coming up during Lent 2026. The conference will be held at St. Jude Church in Erie. Great speakers, reflection, prayer, Confession, Mass & Adoration.



First Friday Calls

If you, or a loved one, is shut-in to your home or in a nursing home and wishes to have a visit from the priest, deacon, or Eucharistic Minister, please call the parish office.

Hospital Visits

Please let us know if a family member is in the hospital. A visit from the priest may be arranged. Please know that Hamot and Saint Vincent hospitals have priests on call in cases of emergency. Be sure to ask your nurse.



Epiphany Home Blessing

The Epiphany household blessing is an ancient practice in the Church. This tradition is a beautiful way to observe the coming of the magi while invoking God's blessing on your home and all who enter it. All that is needed is chalk and a prayerful heart!

There are a few different formulas for blessings, but the essence of the ritual is always the same: a priest or the head of the household calls down God's blessing on the house and everyone who comes into it, and an inscription is made above the door in chalk. The inscription reads: the first two digits of the year (20) + C + M + B + the last two digits of the year (26). The initials C, M and B represent the names of the magi — Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar — and also signify the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* which is “May Christ bless the house.”



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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: December 27 & 28, 2024

The Financial Stewardship Report for the weekend of Dec. 27 & 28 will be published in an upcoming bulletin. Today's bulletin had to be submitted to our publisher early due to holiday schedules. 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!

THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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

Remember the Parish in Your Will

To put it very simply: plan for your death by making a Will, plan for your family in the Will, remember the Church in your will. Our parish is still ministering because thoughtful people over the years have left us generous amounts of money in their Wills. A generous amount is whatever God moves someone to give, according to their means, to further the parish mission. Please include the parish in your estate plans. And remember: No gift is too small and no gift is too large!

MARCH FOR LIFE

WASHINGTON, DC

JANUARY 23, 2026

“LIFE IS A GIFT”

ANNUAL BUS TRIP

Leave Erie on Thursday evening, January 22, 11 p.m.
March in Washington, DC on Friday, January 23
Return Saturday morning, January 24 about 1:30 a.m.

- ✓ \$70 / seat
- ✓ Sign up while seats are still available!
- ✓ Inquire about sponsorship.
- ✓ peopleforlife.org/january2026
- ✓ facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip
- ✓ Call or e-mail with questions.
- ✓ Sponsorship donations welcome

PEOPLE FOR LIFE

1625 W. 26th St., Erie, PA 16508
(814) 882-1333 • (814) 459-1333
hq@peopleforlife.org

www.PeopleforLife.org

Religious Education News

***Classes resume TODAY - January 4, 2026.**

Please note that beginning in January, ALL classes will be in Corry at St. Thomas (in the former school building) meeting at 9:00am.



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

Calendar Reminders for Religious Education

Sunday, Jan. 4—Classes for ALL students at St. Thomas

Sunday, Jan. 11—Classes for ALL students at St. Thomas

Sunday, Jan. 18—No Classes

Sunday, Jan. 25—Classes for ALL students at St. Thomas

*We saw His star at its rising
and have come to do Him homage.*



Matthew 2:2

Thank You for Decorating our Churches for Christmas

We wish to thank all the volunteers who helped to prepare our churches for the Christmas season by decorating at either St. Teresa on Sunday, Dec. 21 or St. Thomas on Monday, Dec. 22. We appreciate everyone's efforts and the churches look beautiful.

Undecorating from Christmas

What goes up...must come down. We will be removing the Christmas decorations from both of our churches following the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 11). We plan to take decorations down at St. Teresa Church following the 11:00am Mass on Sunday, Jan. 11 and we will undecorate St. Thomas Church on Monday, Jan. 12 at 9:00am. *Many hands will make for light work!*

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.