



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

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



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

## May 11, 2025



### 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.  
I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish."  
- Jn 10:27-28a

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

**Rhonda Pierce**  
*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

Notes from the Pastor

**MISSIONARY APPEAL:** Next weekend our Missionary Appeal will be conducted by Sr. Christine Kosin, OSB, from AIM USA – Alliance for International Monasticism on the weekend of May 17-18. The Alliance for International Monasticism promotes cooperation and solidarity among monasteries throughout the world. AIM responds to the needs of monasteries in the developing world by supporting mission communities in their birth, growth, development, trials, and difficulties.

**SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER:** We will be using a sprinkling rite at the beginning of Mass during the Easter season. The proper response to being blessed with holy water is to make the sign of the cross. When I sprinkled the palms on Palm Sunday, I noticed people doing a variety of things. I was somewhat surprised that many people didn't know what to do when they were sprinkled with holy water. The proper response to being blessed with holy water is to make the sign of the cross. The only time we genuflect is to the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle or the monstrance.

**CONCLAVE AND THE NEXT POPE:** There is a great deal of speculation about who the next Pope will be. I do not have any insight into who it will be, but there is some information that we might want to keep in mind when we talk about the Roman Catholic Church in the world.

If we look at where the Roman Catholic population lives, we will find that 11% are in Asia, 20.8 % in Africa, 20.4% in Europe, 27.4 % in South America, 13.8% in Central America, and only 6.6% in North America. The greatest percentage of Catholics live in the Southern Hemisphere.

There is an increasing awareness that the Roman Catholic Church is certainly quite diverse in its make up of people and that it would seem to make sense for the leader of the Church be someone who represents that diversity. We tend to see the Church as American, because that is our experience of Church. But it is not the reality of the Church in the world.

Our prayers need to be for the Conclave to elect a Pope that will guide us as a Church in the path that God intends and that the Holy Spirit might be the one who leads that process of discernment and selection, as well as guiding us to be faithful followers of the direction the Spirit is leading us.

– Fr. Tom

**Sunday, May 11– Mother's Day**

8:00a.m. ✠All Deceased Mothers  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. ✠All Deceased Mothers  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Monday, May 12**

8:00a.m. Communion Service  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Tuesday, May 13**

8:00a.m. Communion Service  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Wednesday, May 14**

8:00a.m. Communion Service  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Thursday, May 15**

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

**Friday, May 16**

8:00a.m. Communion Service  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Saturday, May 17**

4:30p.m. ✠Deceased & Living members of the Rushin and Hennings Families by Steve & Julie Rushin  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Sunday, May 18**

8:00a.m. ✠Irene Zaczekiewicz and Judith Johnston by Gary, Sue, and Joseph Johnston  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa  
(St. Teresa, Union City)



Heavenly Father,  
from the beginning you have chosen to entrust  
the human person to mothers in a special way.  
We thank and praise you for the gift of mothers;  
for their tenderness, care, and compassion,  
for their intuition and encouragement,  
for commitment and sacrifice.  
Bless all mothers this day.  
Keep, strengthen, and refresh them  
in your loving care.  
May they be blessed by our open-hearted  
love and gratitude.  
Amen.



## 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



**You're Invited to Coffee and Donuts this Weekend**  
Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> in the multipurpose following the  
8:00am Mass. Donations accepted to help cover  
the cost. All are welcome. *Hope to see you there!*

### Family Perspective

Today's gospel reminds us to be shepherds for our children, who depend on us to be their guides and role models. Where are we leading them? When they "hear our voice," what message do they receive?



Pray for Vocations, Rev. Msgr. James Sanner,  
Rev. Johnathan Schmolt, Rev. Msgr. Charles Kaza, The  
Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, Rev. Phillip Pinczewski,  
Rev. Alexander Amico, and also *Pray for All Priests and  
Deacons in our diocese.*



### 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.

### Seeking Donations for Garden Flowers at St. Thomas Church

It's that time of year to get started working on the gardens around St. Thomas Church. Donations are being accepted toward this project. Please place your donation in an envelope marked "St. Thomas Garden Flowers" and put it in the collection basket at Mass or send it to the parish office. We hope to start planting once garden beds are cleaned up. Annuals and perennials will be purchased for around the church grounds. Thank you for your generosity.



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Thomas Church for the week of May 11<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Deceased Members of the August & Mary Wascak Family and in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

### "Question of the Week" - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**Question for Children:** Jesus promises to guard us like a shepherd does the sheep. How do you experience his loving care in your life?

**Question for Youth:** Jesus said "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." How does Jesus speak to you? What new path is he asking of you?

**Question for Adults:** What is your experience of being a follower of Christ, of being cared for and guarded with him as shepherd?



### LifeCare Baby Bottle Fundraiser

This weekend begins the annual LifeCare fundraiser, Baby Bottle Boomerang. Lifecare ministries is a pro-life Christian ministry, offering biblically based support and guidance to anyone in need of help with pregnancy, post-abortive and other family needs. ALL services are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL. LifeCare provides clients with accurate information and important facts so they can make an informed choice about their pregnancy or life situation. This fundraiser is LifeCare's largest fundraiser and it needs your support. Please consider taking a baby bottle home, fill it with your spare change and return it at Mass on Fathers' Day, or put your donations in the large baby bottles that are the entrances of the church. Thank you and God bless you!



With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God His Excellency  
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL  
Bishop of Erie cordially invites  
the Reverend Diocesan and Religious Clergy, and the Faithful  
of the Diocese of Erie to

### *The Presbyteral Ordination of*



THE REVEREND MR.  
BRANDON MATTHEW  
FEIKLES



THE REVEREND MR.  
MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER  
SCANGA

**FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2025  
7:00PM AT ST. PETER CATHEDRAL**  
230 W. 10th Street, Erie, Pennsylvania

## St. Teresa News

### Readings for the week of May 11, 2025

Sun.: Acts 13:14, 43-52 ♦ Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 5 (3c) ♦ Revelation 7:9, 14b-17 ♦ John 10:27-30  
 Mon.: Acts 11:1-18 ♦ Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 ♦ John 10:1-10  
 Tues.: Acts 11:19-26 ♦ Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 ♦ John 10:22-30  
 Wed.: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 ♦ Psalm 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 ♦ John 15:9-17  
 Thur.: Acts 13:13-25 ♦ Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 ♦ John 13:16-20  
 Fri.: Acts 13:26-33 ♦ Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab ♦ John 14:1-6  
 Sat.: Acts 13:44-52 ♦ Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 ♦ John 14:7-14  
 Next Sun.: Acts 14:21-27 ♦ Psalm 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13 (see 1) ♦ Revelation 21:1-5a ♦ John 13:31-33a, 34-35

### Use Extreme Caution—Be Alert to Potential Scams

A scam is being perpetrated across the country by malicious individuals preying on churches and members of the clergy. The scam plays on your sympathies or your natural inclination to be helpful. Any communication asking you to purchase gift cards should be considered a scam. You should always verify such requests by calling the parish directly. Don't use phone numbers in the fraudulent email. Always look for the parish's official phone number found on our website or in our Sunday bulletin. 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 by any method unless initiated by you. Should you receive an unsolicited request for money or personal information – including a request for gift cards of any type – exercise extreme caution. Contact the person or entity being impersonated by using official contact information only. Do not use contact information provided in the potential fraudulent request. Financial fraud like the Gift card scam can be reported to the FTC here: <https://ReportFraud.ftc.gov> and to learn more read this article <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/avoiding-and-reporting-gift-card-scams> from the FTC.

**We are his people, the sheep of his flock. Psalm 100**



THANK YOU for supporting the priests who have given so much to so many over the years ministering to God's flock.

**Help our  
retired priests  
today and  
for the future**

Diocese of Erie  
ROMAN CATHOLIC

**GOOD SHEPHERD COLLECTION**  
 Please give in your parish on May 10-11



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of May 11<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased mothers from our parish.



### For Mothers and Fathers Navigating Infertility or Grieving Perinatal Loss

In solidarity with the challenges you may face, we extend our heartfelt support. Whether you are on the journey of infertility or have experienced the profound loss of a child, know that you are not alone. This Mother's Day, we want to share resources that may provide comfort and guidance on your path:

<https://padlet.com/cdornisch/mother-s-day-dzw9sasjmahzs1z0>

WITH COMPASSION,

*The Virtue and Integrity Education Office*



### 2025 Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

Mark Your Calendars for the 2025 Wedding Anniversary Celebration with Bishop Persico. Couples celebrating 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> or more wedding anniversaries are invited to attend the annual Diocesan Anniversary Celebration. This years celebrations are scheduled for:

- Sunday, August 3, 2025 at Our Lady of Peace, Erie (2:00pm)
- Sunday, August 24, 2025 at St. Tobias, Brockway (3:00pm)

Couples may complete registration online at <https://www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html> or contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at 814-824-1210. Registrations are being accepted until July 24 for the Erie celebration, until August 14 for the Brockway celebration or until September 11 to be mailed to you. We look forward to celebrating this beautiful sacrament with you in August 2025.



### Help Wanted at St. Teresa Cemetery

We are seeking a Cemetery Manager for St Teresa Cemetery to oversee the daily operations and 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.

We are also seeking seasonal summer help at St. Teresa Cemetery to help maintain the grounds such as lawn mowing, weed eating, laying mulch, trim bushes and shrubs, etc.

If interested, please contact the Parish Office (814-663-3041) or email Missy Silka, Business Manager at [business@stparish.org](mailto:business@stparish.org).

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:** May 3 & 4, 2025

**Total Offertory Income** ..... \$8,030.00  
**Average Budgeted Offertory Income** ..... \$7,700.00  
**Offertory Overage**.....\$330.00

*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 and click 'Donate Online'.**

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

**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 = \$64,360

Paid to date = \$45,615

Amount Pledged at **St. Teresa** to date = \$33,663

Paid to date = \$26,933

Total Number of Families who made a pledge = 204

Prayerfully consider what God is leading you to give.

**Please make a pledge today. Thank you.**



Diocese of Erie  
2025 Catholic  
Services Appeal

**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.*

**Have you made a pledge to our parish for the 2025 CSA?**  
 If not, please know that all new pledges go directly to our churches.

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

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

**Missionary Co-Op Collection Next Weekend: May 17/18**

Our parish will host Sister Christine Kosin, OSB, from Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Erie as this year's missionary speaker. She will share some of the work of the Alliance for International Monasticism (AIM USA). AIM USA has formed an alliance between 140 US and Canadian monasteries with over 450 Benedictine and Cistercian monasteries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America and Eastern Europe. These Benedictine and Cistercian women and men form centers of prayer, education, health and agriculture in some of the poorest regions of the world. AIM responds to the needs of monasteries in the developing world by supporting mission communities in their birth, growth, development, trials, and difficulties. **Please plan to bring your gift for this special collection in an envelope with your name on it (we do not have one in our offertory packet this year)—we will have a special second collection at all Masses the weekend of May 17/18.**

**Religious Education News****Thank You to our Catechists and Volunteers**

We wish to thank our catechists and volunteers who helped with our Religious Education Program this school year. We had a wonderful group of dedicated people who taught our students the Catholic faith, by both word and deed. May they be blessed for their generosity in teaching our youth and may they enjoy some much deserved time off over the summer.

**Congratulations to Our First Holy Communicants**

**Caroline Moon** received her First Holy Communion at St. Teresa Church on Sunday, April 27. She is pictured here with Fr. Tom and Heather Wilson, catechist.



**Connor Swank, Ellie Halfast, and Henry Weis** (pictured at left) received their First Holy Communion at St. Thomas Church on Saturday, May 3.

*We pray that the incredible gifts that God gives you in the Sacrament are sources of grace throughout your life and a constant reminder that God is with you and loves you.*

**AVAILABLE NOW!  
PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES**

**Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!**

Tim Weir from LPI, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com. **Please call me. I look forward to making your business visible to this parish community!**



Tim Weir  
Call Phone :716-682-4588  
TWeir@4lpi.com

**Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments- Digital Safety and Your Child:** If your child gives out personal information while online, it is easy to track and tough to completely remove. Teach your child to never share personal information such as full name, address, phone number, email, school, or birthday on any social media site. Teach them to never give anyone their passwords. Help your child set up strong passwords and do a yearly checkup on them. Adjust privacy settings for online games, apps, social media sites and your child's electronic devices. Don't forget to check the GPS settings ability to unintentionally share your child's location. Avoid using public wi-fi when sharing personal information. For additional resources visit [www.eriecd.org/childprotection/](http://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/).