



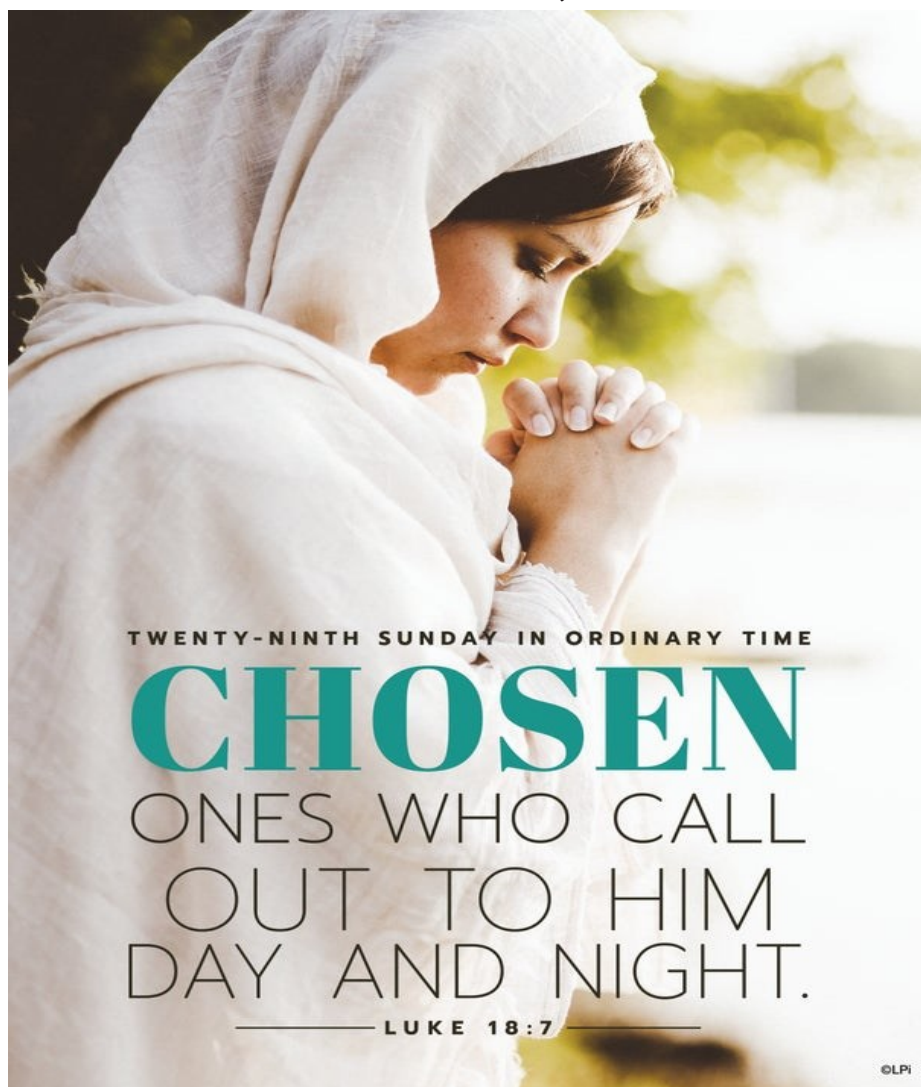
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
203 W. Washington Street
Corry, PA 16407



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

October 19, 2025



TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CHOSEN

ONES WHO CALL
OUT TO HIM
DAY AND NIGHT.

— LUKE 18:7 —

©LPI

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

ST. TERESA OF AVILA: St. Teresa of Avila was recognized as the first woman doctor of the church by Pope Paul VI in 1970. At the time, this honor had been given to only 30 saints of the Roman Catholic church. St. Teresa earned this place in the church for her reform work and mystical ideas on mental prayer, inspiring generations of Christians.

She lived during the 16th Century in what is now Spain as a vibrant, sociable soul who did not practice her faith in the “rigid asceticism and self-denial” of her peers. The Protestant Reformation and the Spanish Inquisition outlined her life’s journey. She navigated through a time when a new Christian spirituality was developing, and the Roman Catholic church enforced strict, traditional standards. To restore the Carmelite Order of the Incarnate to its original simplicity and austerity, St. Teresa traveled and spoke her mind in a not traditionally acceptable manner for a woman and a nun. Although she suffered from poor health her entire life and many criticized her mystical beliefs, she remained effervescent in her administrative duties at many convents. However, her greatest legacy is her body of writing that emphasizes the importance of experiencing God’s love while reaching for Him through the practice of “mental prayer.”

10 Important Events in St. Teresa of Avila’s Life

1. When St. Teresa was about five years old, she and her older brother snuck into Moorish territory, hoping to become martyrs for Christ. An uncle brought them back home.
2. Her wealthy, strict, and religious father sent her to a convent school when she was 16.
3. St. Teresa of Avila contracted malaria shortly after becoming a Carmelite nun and suffered with frail health for the remainder of her life.
4. Dissatisfied with the worldliness that had crept into the Carmelite order, St. Teresa founded the convent of St. Joseph in 1562 with the blessing of Pope Paul IV. Between 1567 and 1582, she founded sixteen other convents of Discalced (“shoeless”) Carmelites.
5. In 1574, a court of the Spanish Inquisition sought to judge her experience of visions, but she escaped persecution by hiding.
6. St. Teresa mentored St. John of the Cross as one of the first members of her Discalced Carmelites. He became her closest friend, being another mystic writer persecuted during the Spanish Inquisition.
7. Her mystical writings are classic literature. In 1580 she wrote what many consider her most significant work, *The Castillo Interior* (The Interior Castle). The book described stages of spiritual evolution leading to full prayer or “mental prayer.”
8. St. Teresa of Avila died at 67 years old on October 4, 1582. A fellow sister describes the hours just before the death of St Teresa: “Thus immersed in prayer, happy and smiling, she went out of this world into eternal life.”
9. St. Teresa was canonized (declared a Roman Catholic church saint) by Pope Gregory XV on March 12, 1622.
10. St. Teresa of Avila is the patroness of Spain with a feast day on October 15. She is also the patron saint of headaches, sickness, and lace makers.

#GIVECATHOLIC: #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.

Continued ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡



Sunday, October 19

- 8:00a.m. ✠Cragg and Sullivan Families by the Craggs (St. Thomas, Corry)
- 11:00a.m. ✠Andrew & Helen Harnak by Dorothy Rhodes and family (St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, October 20

- 8:00a.m. ✠Bill Flynn by Judy Flynn and family (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, October 21

- 8:00a.m. ✠Wascak and Stolar Families by Darrell & Carol Huffman (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, October 22

- 8:00a.m. ✠John & Mary Mithcell by Don Mitchell (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, October 23

No Mass or Services today at both Sts. Thomas & Teresa.

Friday, October 24

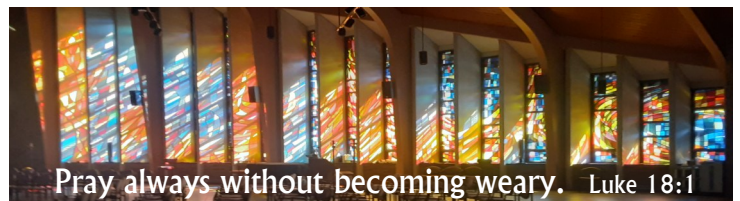
- 8:00a.m. ✠Jean Calfo by Dick & Elaine Hasbrouck (St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, October 25

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

Sunday, October 26

- 8:00a.m. ✠Joseph Jawdy, Sr. by Joe & Janet Jawdy (St. Thomas, Corry)
- 11:00a.m. ✠Diana Hanlin Strefeler by her daughter, Becky Boleratz (St. Teresa, Union City)



What is GivingTuesday?

GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season when many people focus on holiday and end-of-year giving.

RCIA is now OCIA: You may be familiar with the RCIA program where we help those seeking to become Catholic to learn more about our faith. It is now called the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). We are hoping to begin a class for those who are interested in becoming Catholic in October. If you know of someone who is interested in becoming Catholic, please contact the parish office.

BOOK OF THE REMEMBRANCE: We will be placing a Book of the Remembrance in each of the Churches during the month of October. During the month of October, you can write in the book the names of your deceased loved ones whom you wish us to pray for. The book will be closed on October 31 and placed near the altar for the month of November to remind us to pray for our deceased loved 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.*

"Question of the Week" - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: Jesus teaches us to trust God. How does God help you in your daily life?

Question for Youth: Jesus tells us that persistence will pay off, if we continue to pray to God. How and when do you pray? How could you grow in the ways that you pray?

Question for Adults: When you pray, what do you ask for most often? How do you know God gives you this request?



Knights of Columbus Food Drive Collection

The Knights of Columbus, Council #425 is holding a food drive to benefit the Corry Food Pantry from now until the week prior to Thanksgiving. Parishioners are asked to please donate non-perishable food items. Place donations in the marked bins at the entrances of St. Thomas Church. Thank you!



Catholic Daughters' Meeting This Week

Members of the Catholic Daughters will hold a meeting on **Thursday, October 23rd at 6:00pm at St. Elizabeth Parish Center.** Members and ladies of the parish are invited to join us.



Requests for Mass Intentions

Please stop in or contact the parish office at 814-663-3041 to schedule Mass intentions for loved ones. We will do our best to accommodate date requests. The stipend is ONLY \$10

per Mass. Please do not send extra money as it causes our books to be out of balance. Thank you.

You may also sponsor the Sanctuary Candle for a loved one at either of our churches for just \$10 for one week.

**Payment is expected at the time of making Mass requests.
Thank you.**



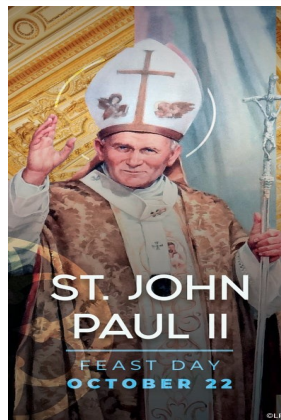
The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Thomas Church for the week of October 19th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of all lives lost to violence.

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

Cemetery Gravestone Cleaning Project

We are offering gravestone cleaning on a limited scale at ST. THOMAS & ST. ELIZABETH CEMETERIES ONLY. Some members of our cemetery committees are trained in gravestone cleaning/preservation. The process will help remove dirt, lichen, and lighten up some discolorations/stains on gravestones. It is safe and gentle, so it will not damage the stones. Because each stone is unique, pricing may vary. Rate estimates are: Small stone (24"-35")—\$50; Medium (36"-59")—\$100; and Large (60"-75")—\$150. If you wish to have a loved one's stone cleaned, please contact the parish office. We will be taking orders for those who are interested. Thank you.

Here is a recent example of how the cleaning process will transform the look of a headstone.



"God made us for joy. God is joy, and the joy of living reflects the original joy that God felt in creating us."

"Love is never defeated."

St. John Paul II

©LPI



#IGIVECATHOLIC
ON GIVING TUESDAY

Parish of
St. Thomas
the Apostle
and its mission
St. Teresa of
Avila

Save the Date!

Nov 17 - Dec 1

Advanced Giving

December 2

GivingTuesday

Go to www.igivecatholic.org/community/erie

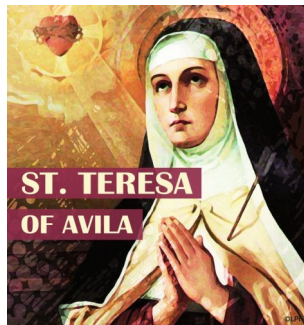
St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of October 19, 2025

Sun.: Exodus 17:8-13 ♦ Psalm 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (see 2) ♦
2 Timothy 3:14—4:2 ♦ Luke 18:1-8
Mon.: Romans 4:20-25 ♦ Luke 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75 ♦ Luke 12:13-21
Tues.: Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21 ♦ Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 ♦
Luke 12:35-38
Wed.: Romans 6:12-18 ♦ Psalm 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8 ♦ Luke 12:39-48
Thurs.: Romans 6:19-23 ♦ Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 ♦ Luke 12:49-53
Fri.: Romans 7:18-25a ♦ Psalm 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94 ♦ Luke 12:54-59
Sat.: Romans 8:1-11 ♦ Psalm 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 ♦ Luke 13:1-9
Next Sun.: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18 ♦ Psalm 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23 (7a) ♦
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 ♦ Luke 18:9-14

Celebrating St. Teresa of Avila Feast Day - October 15th

St. Teresa of Avila is one of the four female Doctors of the Church. Known for her many mystical experiences, she is often depicted with an arrow through her heart. In her autobiography, she wrote that she had a vision of an angel piercing her heart. When her incorrupt body was exhumed in 1582, her heart was removed from her body, and it was observed to have a hole in it. We honor her this weekend as she is a patron saint of our church. - St. Teresa of Avila—Pray for Us!



Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet, on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks out His compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He blesses us now. — St. Teresa of Avila

Mysteries of the Rosary Series—The Joyful Mysteries

Enter into the Mysteries of Christ and rediscover the power of the Rosary! Mysteries of the Rosary integrates deeply reflective insights on the life of Christ, theological truths, and captivating stories together with breathtaking scenery, illuminating sacred art, and inspiring music. By filming on location in the Holy Land, our aspiration is to make the Rosary come alive in the hearts and minds of the participants. Please join us for this video series, discussion and prayer time. **Series begins on Oct. 23rd and will meet Thursdays from 6:30pm-7:45pm in St. Teresa Parish Center.** Contact Paige Megat (814-722-7784) for more information.



NEW Parish Website

We are in the process of transitioning to a new parish website featuring both Sts. Thomas & Teresa. We are working with a team from the diocese to create the new site and have it operational soon. **The changeover date is set for October 17.** You may experience a delay or error if attempting to reach either Sts. Thomas or Teresa's current websites the weekend of Oct. 17. We ask for your patience during this transition. Both former websites will cease operation after that point. Thank you.



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of October 19th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Bill Flynn by Judy Flynn and family.

Family Perspective

In today's gospel, the widow is praised for her perseverance. In our homes, perseverance is essential for resolving differences in marriage and for teaching lessons and skills to our children. It is always an act of faith and trust in the goodness of others.



Rev. Stephen Collins, Rev. Msgr. John Swoger, Rev. Msgr. David Rubino, Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, Rev. Msgr. Joseph Riccardo, Rev. Mark O'Hern, Rev. F. Thomas Suppa, and also *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

It's that time of year again! We'll soon start collecting items for our **Thanksgiving Day Baskets** to help local families in need. More details will be shared in upcoming bulletins.



Lord, teach me to remain prayerful all day long!

Liturgical Overview for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Last week we saw how gratitude was a crucial element to understanding our relationship with God. Today, we see another piece of the puzzle. Just as gratitude is an essential element in our relationships with family and friends, so too is what might be called constancy. If we do not stay in touch with people, we drift apart; if we do not 'stay in touch' with God through prayer and worship, we lose touch. In the reading from Exodus this is shown in the gesture of Moses holding up his hands for hours on end in order to support the Israelites in their battle against their enemies. In the Gospel we find that even a corrupt judge will do what is right if a plaintiff is persistent. Jesus affirms that God will act in an even more definitive way at the end of time, but he wonders aloud if anyone will have the endurance to run the race to the end. Once again the Apostle Saint Paul comes racing in and exhorts us to remain faithful to the end, and to persistently proclaim the word of God even when it is inconvenient.

©Liturgy.com



Respect Life Month

I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.

- John 10:10

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.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: October 11 & 12, 2025

Total Offertory Income \$7,148.00
Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage.....\$(-552.00)

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 the specific cemetery: 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!

Special Second Collection This Weekend—October 18/19

Today we take up a second collection in our parishes across the diocese for **World Mission Sunday**. We join Catholics in supporting the mission of the Church in places where faith is young, growing, or facing particular challenges. Your generosity will make a significant impact in the lives of many. Thank you for donating! If you were not prepared today to make a donation, please put your gift in an envelope marked 'Mission Sunday' and put it in next weekend's collection basket.



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 notify the Parish of changes to your address, phone numbers, or email.

Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News

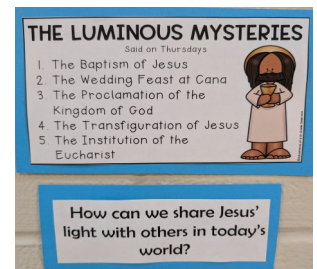
Upcoming Calendar Dates for Religious Education:

- October 19— Class
- October 26 – Class / Youth Event TBD
- November 2 – Class
- November 9 – Class / Youth Mass at St. Teresa



October is the Month of the Rosary!

Our students are celebrating in a BIG way — by making a **giant rosary!** Every Sunday morning before class in October, we're discussing one of the mysteries and reflecting on a special question. Every class fills out a bead to add to our rosary, making it bright, meaningful, and full of prayer. Watch for weekly updates as our rosary continues to brighten!



[Message from the Pastor—continued]

UPCOMING EVENTS: Keep in mind that our annual **All Souls Service will be held on Monday, November 3**, at 7:00pm at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. All are welcome to attend. We will be remembering in a special way all those who have died in the past year and were buried from St. Thomas or St. Teresa.

The weekend of **October 18 & 19** we will be celebrating the feast of **St. Teresa of Avila** at all the Masses, just as we celebrated the feast of St. Thomas back in July.

Thanksgiving Day Mass will be at 9:00am at St. Thomas Church in Corry.

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 = \$67,038

Paid to date = \$62,668

Amount Pledged at **St. Teresa** to date = \$36,555

Paid to date = \$34,256

Total Number of Families who made a pledge = 226

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.

