



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



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

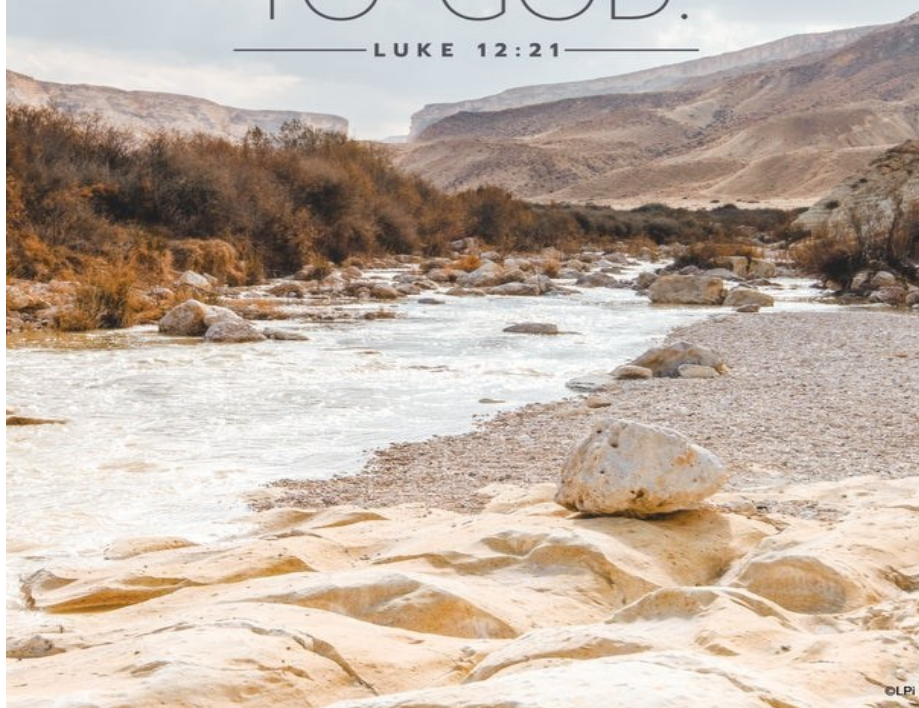
THE PARISH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE AND ITS MISSION ST. TERESA OF AVILA

August 3, 2025

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

RICH IN WHAT MATTERS TO GOD.

— LUKE 12:21 —



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

*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

ERIE GIVES – AUGUST 12, 2025: The annual Erie Gives Day will be August 12, 2025. St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and its Mission St. Teresa of Avila Church will be participating, as well as St. Thomas Cemetery, St. Teresa Cemetery, St. Elizabeth Cemetery, St. Thomas Cemetery Endowment Fund and our Religious Education Program. You can access our site at ErieGives.org or on our parish website [Parish of Saint Thomas the Apostle and its mission Saint Teresa of Avila Church](#). One of the great things about this program is that Erie Gives contributes a percentage of their funds to each organization that receives pledges. So, all that you donate, plus a percentage from Erie Gives, goes to each of our organizations which people contribute to through Erie Gives. Thank you in advance for your generous support of our parish!

QUESTION ABOUT THE OUR FATHER AND GESTURES: During the recitation of the "Our Father" (Lord's Prayer) in a Catholic Mass, the priest is instructed to extend his hands in the "orans" posture (arms outstretched, palms up). The laity, however, are not instructed to adopt the orans posture; they are free to stand with hands joined, or in another posture as they see fit. Some congregations have the tradition of holding hands during the "Our Father", but this is not prescribed by the Church. Some families hold hands as a visual sign of how they are praying together. Bottom line, there is no required posture, you can choose which posture you will take.

Detailed Explanation:

- **Orans Posture:**

This gesture, with hands extended and palms up, is specifically for the priest during the "Our Father" as he prays on behalf of the congregation.

- **Laity's Posture:**

While the priest's posture is prescribed, there is no specific instruction for the laity in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) regarding posture during the Lord's Prayer.

- **Freedom of Choice:**

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops notes that the faithful are free to choose their posture, including standing with hands joined, or adopting another posture that expresses their devotion.

- **Holding Hands:**

The practice of holding hands during the "Our Father" is a common custom in some congregations, but it is not mandated by the Church. Some may find it a meaningful expression of unity, while others may find it distracting or uncomfortable. This was discouraged during COVID, but is more common among individual families and not a whole congregation.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION: "*HOPE: The Autobiography*" Pope Francis. This book was released shortly before Pope Francis died. I have not finished it yet but it is a profound look at the world in which we live through eyes and the life of Pope Francis. This book gives us a modern understanding of the Church and where the Gospel of Jesus is found in today's world.

CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN THE EUCHARIST:

We do not begin our celebration of the Eucharist with Christ's **absence** and then suddenly experience Christ's **presence**. God is always present to us; it is a matter of us being aware of that presence.

The Eucharist = Christ's real presence + our real presence.

Christ is present in four ways in the Eucharist: In the **Assembly** (people), the **Word of God** in the Scripture readings, the **Bread and**

Continued ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡



Sunday, August 3

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

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

Monday, August 4

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

Tuesday, August 5

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

Wednesday, August 6

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

Thursday, August 7

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

Friday, August 8

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

Saturday, August 9

4:30p.m. ✠ Ted Krol by Bev & Ed Weaver (St. Teresa, Union City)

Sunday, August 10

8:00a.m. ✠ Deceased Members of the Jeffords and Palmer Families by Richard & Jean Farver (St. Thomas, Corry)

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

Wine that become the Body and Blood of Christ, and the person of the **Priest**. Let's look at each one over several weeks in order that we might enter more deeply into the prayer that is the Eucharist:

First, Christ is present in those who are assembled – the people – **THE ASSEMBLY**. Jesus tells us, "Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst." When we gather in the name of Jesus, when we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, Jesus promises us that he is present. Think about the difference between these two types of meals and how it applies to our celebration of the Eucharist. At a Formal Dinner, you encounter people you don't know, and the meal becomes a chore. At an Informal Dinner with friends and family, the meal is fun, inviting, strengthening, renewing. There is some need on our part to make our gathering to celebrate the Eucharist one in which we are more like family and friends.

It also means that we need to participate in this meal. We don't just sit at the table and wait for someone to feed us. We engage with those who are present by greeting them and sharing with them. It will mean that we participate in the responses and in singing the songs and the parts of the Mass that are ours to sing. All the music at Mass is intended for everyone to participate in.

It also means that we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Eucharist. It might mean that we read the readings before we come to church, or while we are waiting for Mass to begin. It might mean that we prepare our hearts and minds to hear God's Word and receive God in the Eucharist under the forms of bread and wine. We might prepare by simply entering into a moment of silence to remember why we are there and the sacrifice that Jesus makes for us on the cross which we celebrate in the Eucharist. When we are invited to a meal, we usually bring something with us, we prepare something to be shared. We also need to prepare our minds and hearts to celebrate the Eucharist.

Christ is present in us as we gather to celebrate the Eucharist.

- Fr. Tom

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.

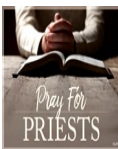
PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

"Question of the Week" - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: What is the most important thing in your life?

Question for Youth: It is easy to get self-centered and greedy. What do you have in your life that is unnecessary? In your life, what keeps you close to God? What distracts you from your relationship with God?

Question for Adults: What wisdom do you pull out of this reading to help you set priorities in your life?



Rev. Paul Siebert, Rev. Michael Kesicki, Rev. Joseph Petrone, Rev. James Piszker, Rev. James Campbell, Rev. Richard Allen, Rev. Glenn Whitman, and also *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

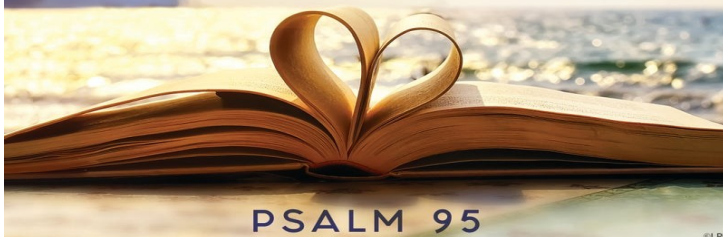


ATTENTION Union City & Corry Knights of Columbus

We have been enjoying our annual summer picnic meetings. **All Brother Knights are encouraged to attend on Tuesday, August 12th in Corry Mead Park at the Knights of Columbus Green Top Pavilion.** Meeting starts at 6:00pm. Grilled hotdogs/buns and beverages are provided. Please bring a food item/dish to share—thank you. Hope you will join us!



IF TODAY YOU
HEAR HIS VOICE,
HARDEN NOT
YOUR HEARTS.



PSALM 95



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 **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Thomas Church for the week of August 3rd burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of loved ones from our parish.

Tables and Chairs for Sale at St. Thomas

The following items will be available for purchase on Wednesday and Thursday (August 6 & 7) from 9:00am—1:00pm:

- 8 foot tables – great for garages, garage sales, shops, etc. There are 12 tables available at \$10 each.



- Wooden folding chairs – 80 available \$1 each.

Purchaser responsible for loading and hauling away. Please stop into the parish office if interested.



HELP

WANTED

Seeking Corry Cemeteries Business Manager

Our parish is looking for an individual to manage our 2 Catholic cemeteries (Sts. Thomas & Elizabeth) in Corry. This is a part-time position that requires management skills, computer skills, and the ability to physically visit the cemeteries occasionally. This position will be approximately 12-15 hours per week. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact our Business Manager, Missy Silka at the parish office 814-663-3041 or business@stparish.org

May God grant safety and relaxation to all who may be vacationing and traveling during these few remaining weeks of Summer!

Cremation and The Church

Question: Can Catholics be cremated?

Answer: As the practice of cremation becomes more and more common, it's important to know what the Church asks of families who have chosen this for a loved one who has died.

As the US Bishops observe on their website, "Ideally, if a family chooses cremation, the cremation would take place some time after the Funeral Mass, so that there can be an opportunity for the Vigil for the Deceased in the presence of the body." However, if cremation takes place before the Funeral Mass, the cremated remains can be present at the Funeral Mass and the appendix to the Order of Christian Funerals provides adaptations for the texts and rituals that are part of the Funeral Mass and the Committal.

The primary concern is that the cremated remains should be treated with the same respect given to any human remains. The Order of Christian Funerals instructs, "This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, and the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition. The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires" (no. 417).

It is becoming more and more common for parishes or diocese-sponsored cemeteries to include columbaria to house cremated remains in a way that respects Church teaching, allowing family and friends the opportunity to honor the remains of the one they have lost with dignity, reverence, and care.

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St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of August 3, 2025

Sun.: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23 ♦ Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 (1) ♦
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11 ♦ Luke 12:13-21
Mon.: Numbers 11:4b-15 ♦ Psalm 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 ♦ Matthew 14:13-21
Tues.: Numbers 12:1-13 ♦ Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13 ♦
Matthew 14:22-36 or Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14
Wed.: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 ♦ Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 9 ♦ 2 Peter 1:16-19 ♦
Luke 9:28b-36
Thur.: Numbers 20:1-13 ♦ Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 ♦ Matthew 16:13-23
Fri.: Deuteronomy 4:32-40 ♦ Psalm 77:12-13, 14-15, 16 and 21 ♦
Matthew 16:24-28
Sat.: Deuteronomy 6:4-13 ♦ Psalm 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 47 and 51 ♦
Matthew 17:14-20
Next Sun.: Wisdom 18:6-9 ♦ Psalm 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22 (12b) ♦
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12 ♦ Luke 12:32-48 or 12:35-40

2025 Wedding Anniversary Celebration with Bishop Persico

Diocesan Anniversary Celebration for couples celebrating 25, 40, 50, 60 or more years of marriage in 2025 will be held on **Sunday, August 24 at St. Tobias, Brockway at 3:00pm.** Couples may complete registration online at <https://www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html>, calling their parish office or contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at 814-824-1210. Registrations are being accepted until August 14 for the Brockway celebration. You may also register until Sept. 11 to have a scrolled mailed to you. The Erie celebration is TODAY at a 2:00pm Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church (for those who previously registered).



Extra Items for Sale from the St. Teresa Lawn Festival

We hope to sell some of the extra food from the festival. If interested, please contact Matt Moon or stop into the St. Teresa Parish Center after the 11:00am Mass to purchase. **Here is an update of what we have to sell:** Frozen French fries - \$10 for a 5 pound bag – there are 11 bags available. Pop is \$4 a 12 pack – quantity & kind available: 1 Coke, 3 Pepsi, 4 Diet Pepsi, and 2 mixed 12 packs.



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of August 3rd burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of loved ones.

Family Perspective

In today's gospel, Jesus teaches us: "One's life does not consist of possessions." We spend so much time working to acquire more things that we neglect the people in our lives. What is enough? Are Jesus' words, "You fool," meant for us?

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.

Bake Sale TODAY at St. Teresa

The ladies of the Rosary Altar Society are holding a Bake Sale at St. Teresa Masses this weekend, August 2 & 3. Please purchase a treat for yourself and/or your family, and support the Society's good works. Thank you.



Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.

Devotions, Explained! Holy Hour

A holy hour is the practice of spending one hour's time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, praying and meditating on the agony of Jesus Christ. More broadly, a holy hour can also refer to any 60 minutes set aside in prayer and reflection, whether in church or elsewhere.

The holy hour devotion dates to the late 17th century, when St. Margaret Mary Alacoque received visions of Jesus Christ. In these visions, the Lord requested that St. Margaret Mary spend one hour every Thursday evening lying prostrate and meditating upon his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. This practice calls back to the Gospel of Matthew, which tells of Jesus' desire for the disciples to "remain here and keep watch with me" (Matthew 26:38) as he awaited his passion.

Holy hours can be made privately or in community, and the USCCB has created a variety of different holy hour formats that can be found at usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/eucharistic-devotion.

©LPi

All are welcome to make a Holy Hour during our parish's monthly Eucharistic Adoration which is held near the first Friday of each month.

Faith On Fire! 'Greater Things' Luncheon

Saturday 8-23-25
9:30 to 1

BE
TRANSFORMED
JESUS DESIRES TO HEAL

Speaker - Father Dan Hoffman

Saint Joseph Bread of Life Center
147 West 24th St. Erie

Early Bird \$12.50 until 8/13
Regular \$14.00 by 8/19
10.00 [no lunch option] online or at the door



Father Dan Hoffman
Parish priest at Saint Titus, spiritual father, pastor and shepherd, spiritual director, certified in Canon Law, beloved son of the Father, disciple and brother of the LORD Jesus, temple of the Holy Spirit



Online: <https://bit.ly/SJBOL25>
or call TA at 814-636-1800

WORSHIP BY
HARMONY'S HOUSE

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: July 26 & 27, 2025

Total Offertory Income \$7,684.00
 Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage.....\$(-16.00)

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!

National Needs Collection\$1,666.75

Thank you for your donations to this special second collection taken up the weekend of July 19/20 at our parish. This collection combines 2 collections: the Catholic Home Mission and the Black & Indian Mission Collection. Proceeds benefit poorer communities in our country who struggle to receive basic pastoral care. Thank you for your generosity.

THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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

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 = \$66,703

Paid to date = \$56,853

Amount Pledged at **St. Teresa** to date = \$36,568

Paid to date = \$31,428

Total Number of Families who made a pledge = 225

Prayerfully consider what God is leading you to give.

Please make a pledge today. Thank you.

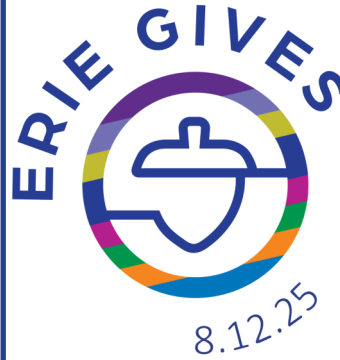
Be sure to make your check payable to 'ST. THOMAS CHURCH' when making a CSA payment.

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

**Additional Message from the Pastor**

SISTER PARISH THANK YOU: I received a note from the Diocesan Mission Office concerning our most recent collection for our Sister Parish in the Yucatan. "I am writing to acknowledge your generous gift to the Amigos Program- School Supplies Appeal 2025. Please know how grateful I am for your thoughtfulness. Your contributions will help our Amigos Children in Yucatan to be prepared for the new school year. Your support, along with your prayers and friendship, truly matter." Indira Suarez.

- Fr. Tom

SAVE THE DATE | August 12, 2025

Please join us in celebrating the generosity of the people of Northwest PA in support of local area nonprofits.

We hope you will consider donating to our churches and cemeteries:

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish
 St. Teresa of Avila Church
 St. Thomas Cemetery
 St. Teresa Cemetery
 St. Elizabeth Cemetery
 St. Thomas Cemetery Endowment Fund
 Religious Education Program

Want to Support Us and Not Wait until Erie Gives Day?

Check donations being accepted NOW! Donations must be accompanied by the Erie Gives Check Donation Form.

Call the parish office for more information.

Checks with the accompanying Check Donation Form MUST be received in our office NO LATER than MONDAY, AUG. 4!

**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.