

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

WEEK 1 Advent



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

November 29, 2026



NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY & ZIP _____
PHONE _____

☐ St. Thomas the Apostle ☐ St. Teresa of Avila

Please drop into the Offertory Basket or mail to the 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

I GIVE CATHOLIC: starts on December 1. There are envelopes in the pews and at the entrances. You can also use your own envelope, just clearly mark what your gift is for. On our parish website is a link to the online giving site and the various projects that we are funding with this money. Two of the big projects that we are funding are the boilers at St. Thomas and the roof at St. Teresa Parish Center. Thanks to all those who have been so generous in contributing to these two big projects.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE: Our Advent Penance Service will be **Sunday, December 6, at 1:30pm at St. Teresa Church**. There will be four priests available to hear confession during the Penance Service.

HOLY DAY MASSES FOR THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY: Masses will be **Tuesday, December 8, at 8:00am at St. Thomas in Corry and at 7:00pm at St. Teresa in Union City**.

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS AT BOTH CHURCHES: We will decorate for Christmas at **St. Teresa on Sunday, December 20, after the 11:00 Mass**, and at **St. Thomas on Monday, December 21, at 9:30am**. All are welcome to come and help.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: **Thursday, December 24, Mass will be at 4:30pm at St. Thomas and at 7:00pm at St. Teresa. On December 25, Mass will be at 10:00am at St. Thomas in Corry**.

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES: Mass on **New Year's Eve will be at 6:00pm at St. Teresa and Mass on New Year's Day will be at 9:00am at St. Thomas.**

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES: This week I would like to share with you an ancient practice in the Church that is gaining attention and practice among people today. It is called ***Lectio Divina***.

Lectio Divina is a spiritual discipline of meditation on Scripture in which you slowly and prayerfully read and re-read a text in order to listen and apply God's word to your life. It's an ancient monastic practice that is used by many Christians today.

There are traditionally four steps in *Lectio Divina*: ***lectio*** (reading), ***meditatio*** (meditation), ***oratio*** (prayer), and ***contemplatio*** (contemplation). You can also use four R's to remember the four steps as read, reflect, respond, and rest.

1. **Read**: choose a passage of Scripture and slowly, prayerfully, read the passage. Be aware of the words, phrases, or images that catch your attention. These may be hints as to where God is leading you.

2. **Reflect**: read the passage a second time paying attention to the words, phrases, images that caught your attention in your first reading of the text. How do these words, phrases, images deepen your understanding of the passage. What might God be saying to you as you reflect on this reading?



Sunday, November 29 - *First Sunday of Advent*
8:00a.m. ✝ Louise 7 Charlotte Sproveri by Chris & Denny Anderson (St. Thomas, Corry)
11:00a.m. ✝ Eileen Anthony by David & Mary Louise Capan (St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, November 30
8:00a.m. ✝ Marie Whitman (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, December 1 - *#iGiveCatholic* | *GivingTuesday*
8:00a.m. ✝ Joe DeMarte, III by Jill Lutton (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, December 2
8:00a.m. ✝ Paul Suchar by the Craig Suchar Family (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, December 3 - *Adoration*
8:00am Communion Serivce at St. Thomas Church

Friday, December 4 - *First Friday* | *Adoration*
8:00a.m. ✝ James & Veronica Whitman (St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, December 5
4:30p.m. ✝ Linda Fucci by Mary Harned (St. Teresa, Union City)

Sunday, December 6 - *Second Sunday of Advent*
8:00a.m. ✝ Steve Mennen by Zela Munsee (St. Thomas, Corry)
11:00a.m. People of the Parish (St. Teresa, Union City)

Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
1:30PM
ST. TERESA CHURCH

We will have several priests available to hear individual confessions.

Come to prepare your heart for Christmas and receive one of God's most special gifts of mercy and healing.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

3. **Respond**: read the passage a third time and make some response to God about the passage. This is your prayer. It may be thanking God for the insight you gained. It may be asking God to help you live out the insight you became aware of about your own life. It may be to ask God to help you understand this insight better.

4. **Rest**: you rest quietly in God's loving arms. No words are necessary at this point and may detract from simply being in God's loving presence. This is the goal of Lectio Divina. Whatever insight you have gained has deepened your relationship with God. Simply rest in the presence of the God who has chosen to share this insight with you out of love.

- 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.

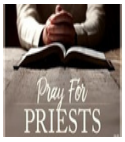
Persevere in Prayer

"Question of the Week" - First Sunday of Advent

Question for Children: What special things do you do to get ready for a visitor at your house? What things can you do like that to get ready for Jesus?

Question for Youth: What is one thing that you can do this week to help you remember that Jesus is coming?

Question for Adults: When you're getting ready to receive a guest, what are some things you do? How do you apply this to receiving Christ?



Rev. Zab Amar, Rev. Mark Mastrian, Rev. Mark Nowak, Rev. Benjamin Daghir, Very Rev. Richard Tomasone, VF, Rev. Jeffrey Lucas, and also Pray for All Priests and Deacons of our diocese.

Pastry Sale by St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society



Only a few pastries left to enjoy at your holiday table! Be sure to see the ladies of the Altar Rosary at their table after Mass. Costs is $18 for Kolachi (Walnut and Apricot) and $13 for Baklava. Monies raised by the Altar Rosary are used for purchases to enhance the altar and our church.



Coffee & Donuts Next Weekend at St. Thomas

Please join us for some fellowship and hot coffee with a delicious donut after 8:00am Mass on Sunday, December 6th in the St. Thomas multipurpose room.

Please support St. Thomas the Apostle & St. Teresa of Avila - THANK YOU!



#iGIVECATHOLIC ON GIVING TUESDAY

December 1, 2026

erie.igivecatholic.org

Advanced Giving Dates: November 16 - 30

Please consider a gift to #iGiveCatholic: You can support St. Thomas and St. Teresa with an offline gift of check or cash by placing your gift in the #iGiveCatholic envelope found in the pews at both our churches. Please be sure to designate which project/church you wish your gift to be applied.

St. Thomas - funds to help offset the cost of new boilers
St. Teresa - funds to pay for the new parish center roof

You may give online at: **erie.igivecatholic.org** (search for St. Thomas)

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish!



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of November 29th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Margaret Porter by Sue & Gary Johnston.

Knights of Columbus Food Drive



Thanks to everyone who brought in non-perishable food items and placed them in the baskets/bins by the doors at St. Thomas Church. Your donation goes to support the Corry Food Pantry and local families. Thanks!

Join Us for Choir Practice at St. Thomas

We will meet for choir rehearsals to prepare for the Advent and Christmas season on **Mondays from 6:00pm-7:30pm in St. Thomas Church**, now until Dec. 21. All who like to sing are invited to join us. Questions: contact Gary or Joan.

Cemetery Gravestone Cleaning Project



Looking for a unique Christmas gift....we offer gravestone cleaning on a limited scale at ST. THOMAS & ST. ELIZABETH CEMETERIES ONLY. Think about this as a gift for your loved one or a family member. The process will help remove dirt, lichen, and lighten up some discolorations/stains on gravestones. If you wish to have a loved one's stone cleaned, please contact the parish office (814-663-3041). We are taking orders for those who are interested.

PRAYER
for a NEW BISHOP

O Almighty God,,
Pour forth the Holy Spirit upon the Holy Father
and those who assist him
in the discernment of our new bishop.
May the one chosen have the strength
to be a compassionate leader,
who models humility and joy.
Grant him the wisdom of Solomon,
the courage of the apostles,
and the tenderness of your Son, the Good Shepherd.

We also pray for the Diocese of Erie
that he is called to serve.
may we welcome him with open hearts
and work with him in a spirit of synodality,
called to listen, collaborate, and build unity.

Through the intercession of the
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church,
St. Joseph, the protector of the Church,
and St. Patrick, the patron of our diocese,
may we journey the path of life
with an unwavering focus
on the hope we have in Christ.

For he lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Imprimatur, October 28, 2025
The Most Revrend Lawence T. Persico, J.C.L., Bishop of Erie



Beautiful Christmas Wreaths at Misty Meadows

Looking for a Christmas wreath to brighten your front door, decorate your home, or remember a loved one at the cemetery? Check out the beautiful selection at Misty Meadows Greenshouse, 18477 Elgin Rd., Corry. Be sure to mention **St. Thomas** with your purchase and a portion will be donated to the church.

St. Teresa News

Family Perspective

Today's gospel calls us to "Be watchful." Families already practice this: parents watch over their children's health, grades, and friendships, while children notice their parents' moods. The gospel invites us to direct that attentiveness toward God's presence in the innocence, tenderness, love, and forgiveness found within our families. "Be watchful"—the Lord is already with you.

Readings for the week of November 29, 2026

Sun.: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 | Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 | 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 | Mark 13:33-37
Mon.: Romans 10:9-18 | Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11 | Matthew 4:18-22
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 40:1-5, 9-11 | Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 | 2 Peter 3:8-14 | Mark 1:1-8

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.
Psalm 80

Blessed is the servant whom the Lord finds watching when He comes.

Tour Erie's Only Monastery at Mount Saint Benedict!

Come for a guided monastery tour at 4:00pm on Saturday, Dec. 12. You may also stay for supper with the sisters in the monastery dining room, and the 7:00pm Advent Vigil in the chapel. Reservations are needed for the tour and dinner, call Michelle at 814-899-0614 extension 2507. The monastery address is 6101 East Lake Road in Erie. The monastery gift shop, *Chapter 57*, will also be open that day. Discover meaningful handmade gifts, shop peacefully, and support the outreach of the Benedictine Sisters at *Chapter 57 Gift Shop*.





The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of November 29th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased members of our parish.

St. Teresa Rosary Altar Bake Sale Next Weekend at Mass

Please stop by their table at Mass next weekend, December 5/6, to pick up a treat for yourself or to share with your family. Thanks for supporting the ladies of the Altar Rosary who do so much to help the church.

Starting Your Holiday Shopping? Don't Forget RaiseRight!

Would you like to support our parish as you shop? You can simply by purchasing gift cards through RaiseRight!
Whether you're shopping in-store or online, you can buy gift cards for many of your favorite retailers right from the RaiseRight app. You can also use the app to shop online through participating retailers and earn rebates for our parish.
If you haven't already, download the RaiseRight app today and start earning while you shop. It's an easy way to support St. Thomas!
Just scan the QR code for more information, visit the website www.raiseright.com (enrollment code: JWFHT6MPCX7L), or download the app and see how easy it is to give back!

SCAN ME

Please contact Missy Silka at the parish office if you have any questions.

WELCOME

If you are new to our parish, we extend a warm welcome and hope you will find 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 returing it in the Offertory Colleciton or to 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.

SACRAMNET 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 mailing address, phone numbers, or email. Thank you.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: Nov. 21 & 22, 2026

The Financial Stewardship Report for the weekend of November 21 & 22 will be published in the next bulletin (December 6th) 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.

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.

DONATE ONLINE

Please know that you can now give all your donations online by visiting our parish website at www.StThomastheApostle.Church and click 'Donate Online'.

You may also give by simply scanning the QR Code here:
THANK YOU for supporting our parish.

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 and ask that you patronize their businesses.

Saturday Vigil Mass Changes Churches in December
Please be reminded that the 4:30pm Saturday Masses will now be at St. Teresa Church in Union City during the month of December.



Faith Formation & Religious Education News

We are excited to share the teaching of the Catholic faith in our Religious Education Program

Religious Education Class Schedule
Classes meet from 9:30am - 10:45am at St. Teresa Parish Center in Union City for ALL students (Sept. - Dec.).
November 29 - NO Class / Thanksgiving break
December 6 - Class / Advent Student Confessions
December 13 - Class
December 20 - Class / Advent Group Activity
December 27 - NO Class / Christmas break



Eucharistic Adoration THIS WEEK

Our churches will hold their monthly Eucharistic Adoration this week.
Adoration is from 8:00am until 12:00pm (noon) at both churches on the following dates:
- **Thursday, December 3rd** at St. Thomas Church, Corry
- **Friday, December 4th** at St. Teresa Church, Union City

All are welcome any time to spend a prayerful, quiet moment with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

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.

Early Bulletin Deadlines

The holidays are fast approaching and with it comes early bulletin deadlines. They are as follows:
For the Nov. 29 Bulletin - articles due by Nov. 18
For the Dec. 6 Bulletin - articles due by Nov. 28
For the Dec. 13 Bulletin - articles due by Dec. 3
For the Dec. 20 Bulletin - articles due by Dec. 10
For the Dec. 27 Bulletin - articles due by Dec. 16
Please be sure to have any items for the bulletin to the parish office well in advance to ensure publication. You may email the information to: *secretary@stparish.org* or drop it off in the parish office. Thank you.



Giving Trees Up at Our Churches
Help make Christmas a little brighter for local children right here in **Corry and Union City**!
Feel free to take a tag from the Giving Tree at either St. Thomas or St. Teresa and help make a child's Christmas extra special.

Please purchase the suggested gift listed on the tag and return it to the church by **Sunday, December 13th**. Please be sure to attach the tag to the outside of the gift.
St. Thomas Giving Tree: Gifts should be placed in gift bag (please do not wrap them) with the original tag attached to the outside.
Thank you for your generosity and for helping spread a little Christmas joy to children in our communities!