



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

September 14, 2025



THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man." For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. - Jn 3:13, 17

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

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

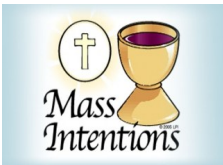
SYNOD LISTENING SESSIONS: We will be holding listening sessions on the role of the laity in the Church and all are invited to attend. **The listening session at St. Teresa will be on Monday, September 22, in the Parish Center, and at St. Thomas on Wednesday, September 24, at St. Elizabeth Center from 6:30 to 8:00pm.**

You may remember these Synod listening sessions started under Pope Francis and are now continuing under Pope Leo. The ideas gathered from these sessions are collected at each parish and then sent to the diocese, then passed on to a national committee, and finally are presented to a committee in Rome. Your input is very important.

Here are the four questions we will be focusing on:

1. How does being baptized as a follower of Christ shape the way you live your faith at church and in everyday life?
2. In what ways do you feel personally called to share in the Church's mission and help carry it forward?
3. Where have you noticed the Holy Spirit moving or guiding you in your life of faith or your connection to the Church?
4. What gives you hope when you think about the role of everyday Catholics in the Church and the world—and what would you love to see in the future?

- Fr. Tom

Now Accepting Requests for 2026 Mass Intentions

Come in or contact the parish office 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.

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 when making request. Thank you.

**Sunday, September 14**

- 8:00a.m. ✠Catherine Lakovic by Family
(St. Thomas, Corry)
- 11:00a.m. For the People of the Parish
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, September 15

- 8:00a.m. ✠Diana Hanlin Strefeler by her daughter,
Becky Boleratz
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, September 16

- 8:00a.m. ✠Cragg and Sullivan Families by the Craggs
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, September 17

- 8:00a.m. ✠George & Helen Groner by George & Carol
Groner
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, September 18

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

Friday, September 19

- 8:00a.m. ✠Fred Zakovitch by Ilene Zakovitch
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, September 20

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

Sunday, September 21

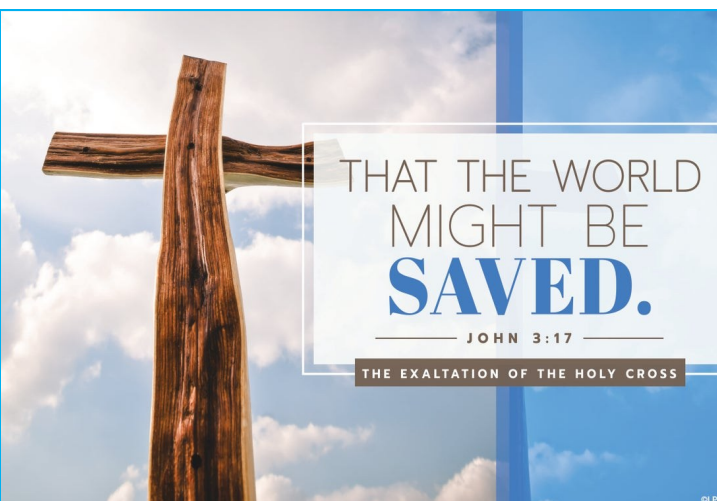
- 8:00a.m. ✠Sophie & Ed Girovsky by Diane Hall and
Jean Cressley
(St. Thomas, Corry)
- 11:00a.m. ✠Jane Zakovitch by Ilene Zakovitch
(St. Teresa, Union City)

September 14

Happy 70th Birthday
Pope Leo XIV



Diocese of Erie
ROMAN CATHOLIC



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.*

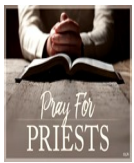
PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

"Question of the Week" - Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Question for Children: What do you think of when you see a cross?

Question for Youth: What does a cross mean to you?

Question for Adults: God loved the people of the world so much that he sent his Son to save us so that we could have eternal life with God in heaven. What does it mean to you that Jesus saved you?



Rev. Joseph Petrone, Rev. John Beal, Rev. Walter Packard, Rev. Stephen Schreiber, Rev. Christopher Beran, Rev. Thomas Tyler, Rev. Christopher Wheeler, and also *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

THANK YOU

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

St. Patrick Parish Irish Festival

The annual Erie Irish Festival will be held on the grounds of Saint Patrick Church, 130 East 4th Street, Erie, for three days on: Friday, Sept. 19, from 5:00pm—10:30pm; Saturday, Sept. 20, from 11:00am—10:30pm; and Sunday, Sept. 21, from 11:00am—4:00pm. Enjoy Irish games of chance, memorabilia, brews, pub fare and a traditional Irish bake sale. Live music, entertainment and Irish dancers throughout the weekend. For more information, visit www.erieirishfestival.com/new/.

Cemetery Gravestone Cleaning Project

We will be 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.



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 September 14th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Tawnya Diehl Kessler by Mom.

Thanks for Helping Sell Gate Tickets at the Fair

The Corry Knights of Columbus wish to thank everyone from the parish and beyond who help with the Sparty Fair Fundraiser Selling Gate Tickets at this year's fair held **September 1st—6th**. This annual fundraiser benefits both the Corry Knights of Columbus and St. Thomas Parish. We will let you know how much was raised in a future bulletin. Thanks again—we couldn't have done it with YOU!



Catholic Daughters' Basket Winners at Sparty Fair

The local Catholic Daughters, Court Conception #35, are pleased to announce the winners of their basket raffle at the fair last week. The winners are:

Bathroom Basket—Deacon Randy Kondrlik
Snack Basket—Brian Mills
Coffee & Tea Basket—Carol Huffman
Fall Basket—Stephanie Kent

Thank you for all the people who supported the Catholic Daughters and the Sparty Fair. Thanks also to members who donated items for the baskets. God bless.

St. Thomas Altar Rosary Meeting THIS WEEK

Ladies are reminded that the Altar Rosary will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 17th at 6:00pm in the multipurpose room.

Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Psalm 78

Hearken, my people, to my teaching;

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable,

I will utter mysteries from of old.

Save-the-Date | Saturday, October 4th

Winds of Autumn — Corry Band Show Competition

Please join us as the Corry Marching Band hosts a home competition for all to enjoy! The competition will be at Corry High School (rain or shine) on Saturday, October 4th



with opening ceremonies at 5:30pm and awards at 8:00pm. Admission: Adults—\$8 and Students—\$6. There will be seven marching bands from area high schools performing. Come to enjoy not only the music & performances, but Concessions, Bake Sale, Raffle Baskets and more. Hope to see you there!

St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of September 14, 2025

Sun.: Numbers 21:4b-9 ♦ Psalm 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 ♦
 Philippians 2:6-11 ♦ John 3:13-17
 Mon.: 1 Timothy 2:1-8 ♦ Psalm 28:2, 7, 8-9 ♦ John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35
 Tues.: 1 Timothy 3:1-13 ♦ Psalm 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6 ♦ Luke 7:11-17
 Wed.: 1 Timothy 3:14-16 ♦ Psalm 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 ♦ Luke 7:31-35
 Thur.: 1 Timothy 4:12-16 ♦ Psalm 111:7-8, 9, 10 ♦ Luke 7:36-50
 Fri.: 1 Timothy 6:2c-12 ♦ Psalm 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20 ♦ Luke 8:1-3
 Sat.: 1 Timothy 6:13-16 ♦ Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 ♦ Luke 8:4-15
 Next Sun.: Amos 8:4-7 ♦ Psalm 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b) ♦
 1 Timothy 2:1-8 ♦ Luke 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

Family Perspective

Parents are like the shepherd in today's gospel; they don't give up and can't rest if one of their children has wandered away. A parent's persistent love offers a glimpse of the unconditional love God, Our Father, has for each of us. A parent is a window to the Divine.



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of September 14th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Ed Weaver by Irene Weaver and family.

Fall Retreats at Bethany Retreat Center

As the seasons change and fall approaches, Bethany Retreat Center, 1031 Germania Road, Frenchville PA, invites you to take time for rest, renewal and spiritual growth. Our upcoming retreats are designed to nourish your soul, deepen your faith and offer moments of peace in the midst of life's busyness. Visit <https://www.anwimministries.com/> to view all the fall retreats. For more information or questions, please contact Lisa at 814-780-8101 or lisam@anwimministries.org. We look forward to welcoming you this fall!

Gratitude + Hope

Faithful Servants 2025

VIEW THE JUBILEE ANNIVERSARIES IN THE DIOCESE OF ERIE
 CELEBRATING PRIESTS | DEACONS | RELIGIOUS

Go online to the Diocese of Erie website to view.

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.

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.

BINGO Bash

Sunday, September 28, 2025

at the JPTF Foundation Event Center
 2319 West 38th St., Erie, PA

Doors Open: 1:00pm **\$30 Online Pre-sale**
Bingo Starts: 2:00pm **\$35 at the Door**

Bring your own drinks and food. Includes all regular games & jackpot!

\$1,000 JACKPOT PRIZE! **Basket Raffle**
 50/50
 Instant & More!

All proceeds benefit Maria House Project

Purchase Tickets Online at MariaHouseProject.org

Beware of AI Voice Scams

Deepfake technology is getting more convincing every day. Using AI, scammers are now able to clone the faces and voices of friends, family and even the IT personnel who support your computer systems. Use two factor authentication on your financial accounts. When it comes to family members, have a family password. Before giving information or login credentials to computer support personnel, call them separately using contact information you have saved locally before divulging any information or clicking on any links. Remember, scammers rely on urgency to get you to let down your guard. So, trust your gut. When the caller puts pressure on, pause and verify. Read more from the FTC: <https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2024/04/fighting-back-against-harmful-voice-cloning>. Share this information with coworkers and friends/family.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: August 30 & 31, 2025

Total Offertory Income \$6,901.00
 Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage.....\$(-799.00)

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!

Church in Latin America Collection\$1,212.00

Thank you for your donations to this special second collection taken up the weekend of August 16/17 at our parish. This collection supports many pastoral projects that benefit the faithful in Latin America and the Caribbean. Thank you for your generosity.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: September 6 & 7, 2025

Total Offertory Income \$8,371.00
 Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Overage.....\$671.00

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 = \$66,733

Paid to date = \$59,593

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

Paid to date = \$32,889

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.

**Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News****Religious Education | 2025-2026 School Year**

We are excited to share the teaching of the Catholic faith in our Religious Education Program. **Classes for this year will start on Sunday, September 21st**

meeting from 9:30am—10:45am at St. Teresa Parish Center for ALL students of the parish. Registration packets are available in the church for registered families to pick up and complete. Families wishing to enroll new students (grades K—9) in our Religious Education are invited to pick up a blank registration packet to complete and return to the parish office. Questions, please contact Missy Silka at the parish office.

IMPORTANT TODAY—Parents/guardians should plan on attending one of the parent meetings: **Sept. 13th following the 4:30pm Mass at St. Thomas in the multipurpose room OR Sunday, Sept. 14th following the 11:00am Mass at St. Teresa in the church.** *Looking forward to seeing returning families and hopefully some new ones!*

NEW—Small Group for Youth

Let's grow in faith, build friendships, and have some fun! This year our Religious Education program is expanding to include Small Group. Our new Small Group will be for all confirmed youth in the parish who want to stay connected after Confirmation through relaxed meetups, shared meals, faith talks, service projects, and fun outings.

What to Expect:

- ✓ Real conversations about life & faith
- ✓ Snacks and chill time
- ✓ Activities & service opportunities
- ✓ A place where you belong

August 25, 2025



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am writing to thank you for your generous support of Catholic education in the past. I also ask you to continue your generosity during the **weekend September 20-21 when we will conduct the Catholic Education Collection in our diocese.**

This annual special collection supports lifelong education and faith formation opportunities for everyone throughout our entire diocese. We have many reasons to be proud of the faith formation occurring at all levels - from parish religious education to Catholic schools, from baptismal instruction to adult faith formation and OCIA. We are teaching the truths of the Catholic faith and forming disciples.

Half of the funds raised from this collection remain in your parish to support local education and faith formation programs. The other half supports diocesan faith formation initiatives, tuition assistance for Catholic school students and educator leadership development. A small portion also supports The Catholic University of America.

Please generously support this collection. Your gift to the Catholic Education Collection renews the very heart of the Church as we strive to carry out our mission to teach the Christian faith to each new generation. Contributions can be made directly at your parish or online at <https://www.eriecd.org/cec.html>. Be assured of my prayers for you and your family.

With every best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
 Bishop of Erie

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Diocesan Child Protection Policies: The Diocese of Erie, is committed to protecting minors who are entrusted to our care. The Diocese has policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse, to aid in the prevention of abuse and to develop and maintain safe environments. All those who minister to minors are screened, trained, and agree to a Code of Conduct. To read the Policy that includes the Code of Conduct, go to: <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/policies-1.html>. For more information, contact the diocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Youth at 814-824-1195.