



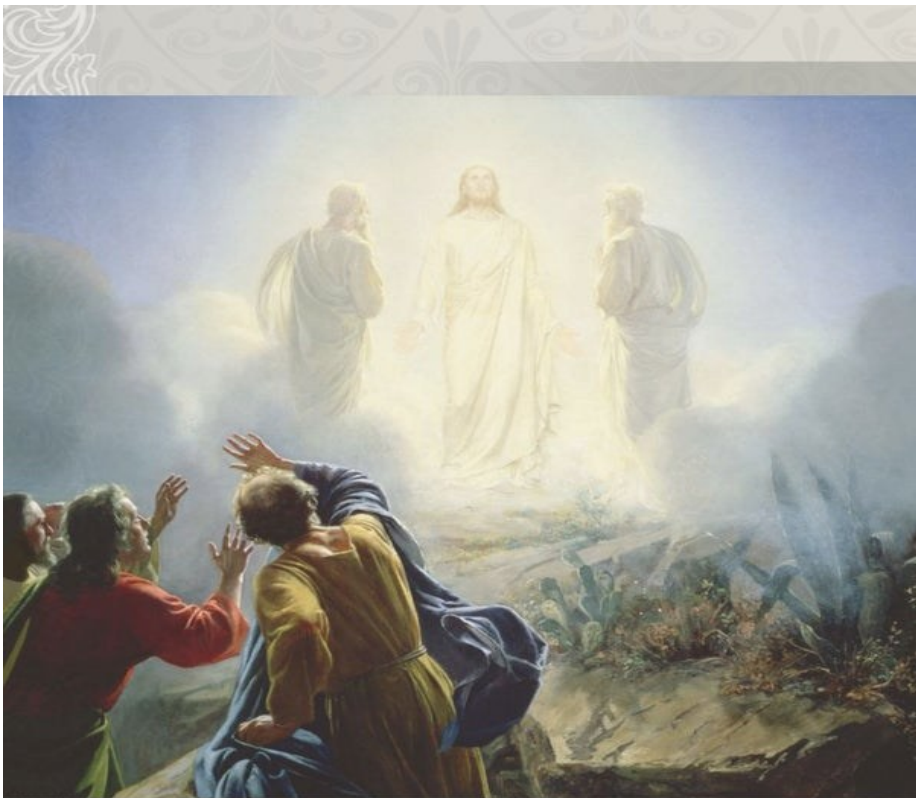
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
203 W. Washington Street
Corry, PA 16407

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

March 16, 2025



2nd Sunday OF LENT

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. - Lk 9:29

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

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

Notes from the Pastor

RITE OF ELECTION: Last Sunday, Renee Sawyer was one of a number of people who were a part of the Rite of Election at St. Peter Cathedral with Bishop Persico. Renee has been preparing to be baptized, receive communion and to be confirmed at the Easter Vigil. Deacon Bill Saborsky has been instructing her over the past several months. Renee was able to sign the Book of the Elect along with all the others. It was a very moving ceremony. There were people from various parts of our diocese who were preparing, like Renee, and others who had already been baptized but were looking to complete the other sacraments.

Renee will be involved in some ceremonies over the next few weeks where she will receive the Creed and the Our Father as symbols of our faith. We will be invited then, and I invite you now to remember her in your prayers, as well as all those who are being received into our Church.

FISH DINNERS: Our fish dinners are off to a roaring start. We had just under 300 dinners served at St. Thomas and almost 400 dinners at St. Teresa in the first week!! Thanks to all those who are volunteering their time to help with these dinners. There are some very hard workers in both parishes. Thanks to all those who are baking desserts – People head to the dessert table first, even before they get their dinner!

- Desserts: A huge part of the success of our dinners is that people get homemade desserts. We are asking the great bakers in our Churches to keep those ovens going and making those great desserts for this year's Fish Dinners. At **St. Teresa** desserts can be dropped off on Thursday from 4 to 7pm, or Friday any time after Noon. At **St. Thomas** desserts can be dropped off Thursday from Noon to 3pm or Friday any time after Noon.

- We are always in need of help serving dinners each night. This is a great way for young people to be involved, but is not limited to them, anyone can help.

- Posters for the Dinners are in the back of Church at St. Teresa. If you can help by placing a poster at your place of business or some other spot, please take one or more.

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL (CSA): So far in our Catholic Services Appeal we have 121 pledges for \$65,415 towards our goal of \$62,000. Every registered family should have received a pledge envelope, a flyer and a personal invitation in the mail. If not, there are pledge envelopes in the pews. The CSA is an opportunity for Catholics throughout the diocese to unite in carrying out the work of the Gospel. The CSA reminds us that we are all part of the same Catholic family and that the work of the diocese is the work of the Church.

The Church serves each of us and our support is essential in continuing God's work in our area. Every CSA donation also brings us closer to being able to complete our own parish projects of sealing or paving of parking lots. No gift is too small, but please give as generously as you can.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Stations of the Cross** will be prayed on Thursdays of Lent at St. Teresa at 7:00pm and on Fridays of Lent at St. Thomas at 7:30pm.

- **Penance Service** will be at St. Thomas on Sunday, March 23, at 1:30pm. There will be several priests there to hear confessions as a part of the service.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: The mission of the church has long been connected to issues of justice. The Apostles instructed Christians to practice charity by sharing in common necessary material goods: "All who believe were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need" (Acts 2:44-45).

In the fourth century, St. Ambrose wrote, "You are not making a gift of what is yours to the poor man, but you are giving back to him what is

Continued ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡

**Sunday, March 16**

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

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

Monday, March 17—St. Patrick's Day

8:00a.m. ✠Ed Weaver by Irene Weaver and family
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, March 18

8:00a.m. ✠Steve Mennen by Claudia Montani and family
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, March 19—Feast of St. Joseph

8:00a.m. Peace in our World by Barbara & Gil Wascak
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, March 20

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

Friday, March 21

8:00a.m. ✠Steven Paul Mongera by Steve & Cheryl Mongera
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, March 22

4:30p.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, March 23

8:00a.m. ✠Carl Buckshaw by Mary Buckshaw
(St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. ✠Diana Hanlin Strefeler by her daughter, Becky
Boleratz (St. Teresa, Union City)

his." And in the fifth century, St. Augustine shared a connection between charity and justice: "You give bread to a hungry person; but it would be better were no one hungry, and you could give it to no one. You clothe the naked person. Would that all were clothed and this necessity did not exist."

The official teaching of the Catholic Church has spoken out against injustice from the earliest times to the present. Consider a few of the issues the Church has spoken out about in recent times: human trafficking, universal access to health care, immigration reform, religious persecution of all kinds, war, the protection of life in the womb. As the structure of the Church became more organized throughout the centuries and thrived under the direction of Church leadership, she established hospitals, homes for battered women, orphanages, a school system that educated the poor, homes for the aged and dying, and countless other institutions that addressed people's needs. In fact, many of the world's leading human service agencies have their roots in the Church's mission to serve the needy. Catholic Charities is the largest private charitable organization in the United States, raising countless millions of dollars in support of those in need. Catholic Relief Services, founded in 1943 by the US Catholic Bishops to serve World War II survivors in Europe, now reaches more than 100 million people in ninety-one countries on five continents.

Some of the saints who were instrumental in carrying on the Church's mission of justice were St. Lawrence, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Martin de Porres, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Gaspar, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, St. Katherine Drexel, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, St. Gianna Beretta Molla, Dorothy Day, and St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

- Fr. Tom

St. Thomas News



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of March 16th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of the Wascak and Stolar Families by Carol & Darrell Huffman.



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.

This Week's Events at St. Thomas

Monday, Marcy 17

6:00pm Choir Practice at St. Thomas Church.

Wednesday, March 19

6:00pm Rosary Altar Meeting at St. Thomas multipurpose room.

Friday, March 21

7:30pm Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas Church.

Saturday, March 22

9:00am The Rosary prayed publicly at St. Thomas Church.

Readings for the week of March 16, 2025

Sun.: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 ♦ Psalm 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14 ♦
 Philippians 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1 ♦ Luke 9:28b-36
 Mon.: Daniel 9:4b-10 ♦ Psalm 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 ♦ Luke 6:36-38
 Tues.: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20 ♦ Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 ♦
 Matthew 23:1-12
 Wed.: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 ♦ Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 ♦
 Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22 ♦ Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
 Thur.: Jeremiah 17:5-10 ♦ Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 ♦ Luke 16:19-31
 Fri.: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a ♦ Psalm 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 ♦
 Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46
 Sat.: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20 ♦ Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 ♦
 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
 Next Sun.: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15 ♦ Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 (8a) ♦
 1Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 ♦ Luke 13:1-9

St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society Meeting—THIS WEEK

Members of the Altar Rosary will meet on Wednesday, March 19th at 6:00pm in the multipurpose room at St. Thomas. All members are encouraged to attend. *Hope to see you there!*

Erie East Deanery—Operation Rice Bowl: During Lent, we are invited to deepen our relationship and unite our hearts more fully with God and one another in an intentional way through the Catholic tradition of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This Lent, fast in solidarity with those of our neighbors who are hungry and who struggle to meet basic needs. Donate money saved to CRS Rice Bowl and help support local organizations such as the **Corry Food Pantry**, Inner City Neighborhood Art House, Safe Journey, and St. Martin Center. There is an envelope in your offertory packet dated April 17 which specifically goes to the Operation Rice Bowl collection. Please use this envelope to make your gift. Thank you for supporting those in need.



Rev. Msgr. Andrew Karg, *St. Patrick (Patron of the Erie Diocese)*, Rev. Dan Hoffman, Rev. Howard King, Rev. Jason Feigh, Rev. Christopher Beran, The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, and *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

Choir Rehearsals at St. Thomas

Choir Rehearsals for Lent and Easter are on **Mondays from 6:00pm—7:30pm** (March 10—April 14) at St. Thomas Church.

St. Teresa News



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of March 16th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Bob Adams by Melody Adams and family.

“Question of the Week” - Second Sunday of Lent

Question for Children: Jesus invites you to be close to him, to see him with clear eyes. What is Jesus like as a friend?

Question for Youth: What do you most want God to help you with?

Question for Adults: Sometimes we can see Christ with clear eyes, as the disciples did on that mountain. Share about such a time in your own life.

This Week's Events at St. Teresa

Thursday, March 20

7:00pm Stations of the Cross at St. Teresa Church.

Friday, March 21

4:30pm Fish Dinner at the parish center until 7:00pm.

Family Perspective

Jesus “**went up the mountain to pray**” and he was “**changed.**” Prayer has the power to transform us. This Lent, set aside a few minutes each day to pray for your family members. Pray before each meal, and if you are married, spend five minutes in prayer together.

Calling All Bakers!

We are in need of your delicious baked goods for St. Teresa's Lenten Fish Dinners. Items can be dropped off at the Parish Center on Thursdays from 4:00pm—7:00pm and on Fridays starting at noon. Please use the KITCHEN door, all other doors will be locked up until dinner time on Fridays. Thank you!!





St. Teresa

--LENTEN FISH FRY--

Dine in or Take Out

March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

April 4th and 11th

4:30 to 7:00 P.M.

St. Teresa Parish Center

Third Avenue • Union City, PA

Baked or Fried Fish (Haddock)
 Choice of Baked Potato, French Fries or Mac & Cheese, Homemade Coleslaw or Applesauce, Dinner Roll, Homemade Dessert and Beverage

Price: Adults \$14.00

Children Meal (12 and under) \$6.00
 Mac & Cheese, French Fries and Applesauce.
 *Add \$2.00 for Fish Sticks



For Take-outs Call
814 - 438 - 2000



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
JESUS IS TRANSFIGURED



I have been using the AT&T commercials with the theme “Just OK is not OK” to illustrate the themes of our Lenten Journey. This week the commercial is about a guy going in for his first tattoo. A guy goes into a tattoo parlor and sits in the chair waiting for a tattoo on his arm. The tattoo artist asks him if this is his first tattoo and assures him that everything is going to be OK. The guy says, “Just OK?” And the tattoo artist says, “I am one of the tattoo artists in the city.” The guy responds, “You mean one of the best tattoo artists in the city. The artist says, “Yeah, something like that.”

The Gospel today is about the transfiguration of Jesus – his appearance changes but who he is never changes. Lent is an opportunity for us to focus not on changing our appearance, but to focus on discovering who we really are at the depth of our person – made in the image and likeness of God – seeing ourselves as good, loving, wanting to be faithful in our relationships – to be there for those we love. Not just wanting to look good but to actually be good. Lent is an opportunity to grow in holiness.

Last week I reflected on how holiness can be found in two different models: the Greek and the Hebrew models. The Greek model was one that challenged us to be perfect in order to be holy. And we saw both the advantages and disadvantages of that approach. This week I would like to focus on the Hebrew model where holiness is seen as walking with God despite our flaws. Holiness is being in the divine presence, in spite of the fact that we are not perfectly whole, good, true, and beautiful. This model invites us, not to try to be perfect (because we can’t be), but to bring our helplessness (our realization that we can’t be perfect), our weakness, our imperfections, and our sin to God in order that we may walk with God, and that we never hide from God. God is like a good parent. God understands that we will make mistakes and disappoint both God and ourselves at times. What God asks is that we come home, that we share our lives with God, and that we let God help us in those times when we are powerless to help ourselves. Instead of trying to be perfect, we bring our imperfect selves into our relationship with God, just as we bring them into our relationships with others. But we allow God to help us to keep growing to be better people in spite of our flaws and imperfections.


And maybe the very first move we need to make on this path to holiness in the Hebrew model is to do what the Gospel today invites us to, what God invites us to – to LISTEN. Listen to God call us his beloved, because that is what we are. Listen to God saying that we are his beloved and really believe it and allow it to transform us from deep within. Not hearing God judge us or criticize us for not being perfect, but God loving us for who we are and just as we are with our gifts and our flaws. This week invites us to slow down, stop talking, and listen to God tell us that we are his beloved.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Loving God, as I enter this week of Lent, guide me to the path that leads to you. Fill my heart with gratitude, patience, strength, and peace as I strive to become the best version of myself, honestly admitting my shortcomings and sins. As I renew my resolve each day to become a better person, let me hear your voice in the deepest reaches of my heart. Help me to accept others, showing them your great love instead of casting judgment. Stay with me through the busy days this week and remind me that when I need comfort, solitude, wisdom, or guidance, I can always turn to you. Help me develop discipline and generosity through fasting and almsgiving, and come closer to you through prayer this Lent. Amen.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: March 8 & 9, 2025
Total Offertory Income \$6,348.00
Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Shortfall.....\$(-1,352.00)

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 = \$45,350
 Amount Pledged at **St. Teresa** to date = \$20,065
 Total Paid (both churches) to date = \$45,365
 Total Number of Families who made a pledge = 121

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.



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. Mark Seminary Auxiliary annual Card Party
 The annual St. Mark Seminary Card Party will be held Thursday, April 24 at 6:00pm at the St. Mark Center Gymnasium at 429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie. Doors will open at 5:00pm. Admission is \$10 and includes a light meal. The evening includes grand prizes, a gift basket auction, a money tree and more. For reservations, please call or text Erin 814-440-5885 by Friday, April 11. *Please pray for the vocation of our seminarians.*


The Lord is my light and my salvation. (Psalm 27)

 **March Month of St. Joseph**

St. Patrick *Pray for us!* 

Religious Education News

2024-2025 Religious Education Program
 Our Religious Education Program combined this year. **Now that we are in the second half of the Religious Education year (January—May) — ALL Classes will meet at St. Thomas school building from 9:00am—10:30am on Sundays.**



Calendar Reminders for Religious Education
 March 16—No Classes today
 March 23—Classes for all students at St. Thomas with Confessions
 March 30—Classes for all students at St. Thomas
 April 6—Classes for all students at St. Thomas
 April 13—Classes for all students at St. Thomas
 April 20—No Class / Happy Easter
 April 27—Classes for all students at St. Thomas

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation
 Pictured below are with their catechist, Lisa Weis and Fr. Tom, are our second grade students who recently made the Sacrament of Reconciliation: **Emmalyn Sill, Maelyn Moss, Anthony Proy, Philip Williams, and Alex Soety.** Please continue to keep them in your prayers. *May they continue to experience a loving friendship with the Lord as they grow in their faith.*





Rite of Election Celebrated at St. Peter's Cathedral
 As Fr. Tom mentioned in his column, Renee Sawyer is coming into the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil this year. Picture here with Renee at St. Peter's is her mother, Lois Woodcock, along with Fr. Tom and Deacon Bill & Jeanne Saborsky. Please continue to pray for Renee and all those preparing to come fully into the faith.

