



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 7, 2025



### 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." - Lk 14:27

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

*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](http://www.stthomastheapostle.church)

**Saint Teresa of Avila Church**  
[www.st-teresa-unioncity.org](http://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**

**BACK TO SCHOOL:** Where did the summer go? As school starts up again for our young people, so also does our Religious Education Program for our young students. Last year was the first year we combined our program and shared time at both churches. It was a great year thanks to our dedicated teachers, our religious education coordinator, parents, and students who made quick friends with each other. Thanks for making the year a wonderful learning experience about our faith and also about what it means to be a parish with two different worship sites. It will be another exciting year particularly for those students who are receiving sacraments.

It might also be a time when we as adults take a moment to update our own faith. What we learned 20, 30 or 50 years ago was great for that time, but we face a different world and often a world that has no time for God, church, or community. This might be a great time to find a way to deepen our faith – through reading, study, or even videos we can watch on our phone or computer. I still recommend Pope Francis' autobiography, *HOPE*, for its challenging teachings on some of the important issues of our day. One of the sites I continue to recommend for people of any age is [bustedhalo.com](http://bustedhalo.com). This site has new things all the time in short video lessons. Some very good reviews or updates on the sacraments can be found here. And each season of the year, Advent, Lent, Easter, Ordinary time, has a new way to engage ourselves in the season and deepen our relationship with God and with one another.

**CREMATION:** For many years this was not permitted in the Catholic Church. It was only in 1963 that the Church allowed people to choose cremation with the stipulation that the cremains (what is left after the process of cremation) be buried in the ground or entombed in a mausoleum. Often times people forget the stipulation or the full statement of the rule and just say the church allows cremation. The Church still believes that full body burial is the proper respect to be given to the body after death, since we believe that the body will be reunited with the soul after death in the glory of eternal life. Just as Jesus rose body and soul from the dead, so we believe that the same will happen to us.

Here is another way to state that: Cremation of the body quickly reduces the body to about four to ten pounds of bone fragments. The Church requires that these remains of the body be placed in a respectful vessel and treated in the exact same way that a family would treat a body in a casket.

Since the human body has an eternal destiny in any form, the Church requires that cremated remains of a body be buried or entombed immediately after the Funeral in the same timely manner as a body. Cremated remains of a loved one are not to be scattered, kept at home or divided into other vessels among family members, just as it is clear that these practices would desecrate a body in a casket. The Church allows for burial at sea, providing that the cremated remains of the body are buried in a heavy container and not scattered.

*Continued ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡*



**Sunday, September 7**

8:00a.m. ✠Red & Pearl Harned by Gary & Terri Snell  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

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

**Monday, September 8**

8:00a.m. ✠Barb Krol by Janet Blakeslee  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Tuesday, September 9**

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

**Wednesday, September 10**

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

**Thursday, September 11**

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

**Friday, September 12**

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

**Saturday, September 13**

4:30p.m. ✠Deceased and Living Members of the Rushin  
and Hennings Families by Steve & Julie Rushin  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Sunday, September 14**

8:00a.m. ✠Catherine Lackovic by family  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

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



All of these teachings on the treatment of cremated remains of the body correspond with the Christian's foundational belief in eternal life—both body and soul—in Jesus Christ among the Communion of Saints.

*- 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.*

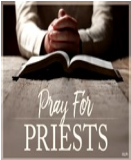
### PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

#### "Question of the Week" - 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Question for Children:** Jesus says that in order to be one of his followers, we must be close to him. When do you feel closest to Jesus?

**Question for Youth:** Jesus tells his disciples that they must renounce their possessions in order to be His disciple. If you had to, could you leave everything behind to be with God? What would hold you back? How much of a struggle would it be?

**Question for Adults:** Today's Gospel is demanding. How do you as a modern man or woman "denounce your possessions?" What does this mean for you?



Rev. John Hindman, Rev. Richard Toohey,  
Rev. Edward Walk, Rev. Cory Pius, *Patriot Day—  
remembering victims of 9/11*, Rev. Gregory  
Passauer, *Pray for Consecrated Life*, and also *Pray  
for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*



#### Thanks for Helping Sell Gate Tickets at the Sparty Fair

The Knights of Columbus wish to thank everyone who came out to help us sell gate tickets during last week's Spartansburg Fair. Money raised through this fundraising effort will go to support Knights Council #425 and our parish in their good works for the church and the community. We really appreciate everyone's time and effort in selling gate tickets. We couldn't have done it without you!



## Celebrating The Millennial & Mountaineer

September 7, 2025

THE CANONIZATIONS OF BLESSED  
**Carlo Acutis**  
+  
**Pier Giorgio Frassati**

Visit the Diocese's website for more at  
[www.eriecd.org/canonization.html](http://www.eriecd.org/canonization.html)



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of September 7<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased members of the parish.

#### 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.



*In every age,*  
**LORD, YOU HAVE  
BEEN OUR REFUGE.**



Save-the-Date | Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

*Winds of Autumn* — Corry  
Band Show Competition

Please join us as the Corry  
Marching Band hosts a home  
competition for all to enjoy!  
More information to come.



*The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.*

Psalms 145

#### Prayer for Hope

**Lord, Restore my hope!**

**Where I fear the future, write a new script in my heart.**

**Where I doubt Your goodness, fill me anew.**

**Give me steadfast hope for a beautiful tomorrow.**

**Amen.**

## St. Teresa News

### Readings for the week of September 7, 2025

Sun.: Wisdom 9:13-18b ♦ Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1) ♦  
Philemon 9-10, 12-17 ♦ Luke 14:25-33  
Mon.: Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30 ♦ Psalm 13:6ab, 6c ♦  
Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23  
Tues.: Colossians 2:6-15 ♦ Psalm 62:6-7, 9 ♦ Luke 6:12-19  
Wed.: Colossians 3:1-11 ♦ Psalm 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab ♦ Luke 6:20-26  
Thur.: Colossians 3:12-17 ♦ Psalm 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 ♦ Luke 6:27-38  
Fri.: 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14 ♦ Psalm 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11 ♦ Luke 6:39-42  
Sat.: 1 Timothy 1:15-17 ♦ Psalm 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7 ♦ Luke 6:43-49  
Next Sun.: Numbers 21:4b-9 ♦ Psalm 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 ♦  
Philippians 2:6-11 ♦ John 3:13-17

### Milestone Anniversary Celebrations

Couples celebrating 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> or more wedding anniversaries are still welcome to receive a certificate mailed to you. Registrations will close on Thursday, September 11. Couples need to complete the registration online at <https://www.eriercd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html> or contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at 814-824-1210.



### Devotions— Explained | *Lectio Divina*

*Lectio divina* ("divine reading") is a practice of praying through the reading of Scripture, opening oneself to the inspiration and communication of the Holy Spirit.

The practice of *Lectio divina* dates to ancient monastic communities, but it has gained popularity in modern times as a way to meaningfully engage with the word of God.

The formula for *Lectio divina* is simple and follows four steps. The text of the Scripture is read (*lectio*) multiple times, and the reader takes note of any words or phrases that resonate with him in a particular way. The reader then reflects deeply on the passage (*meditatio*) and the words that he noticed, turning them over in his mind. Following this, the reader prays with the passage (*oratio*), and dialogues with God, inviting him to illuminate the reader's understanding of the text. Finally, there is rest and contemplation (*contemplatio*).

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### Prayer for Grandparents

Dear God,  
What a grace to live in a  
world of all ages and stages.

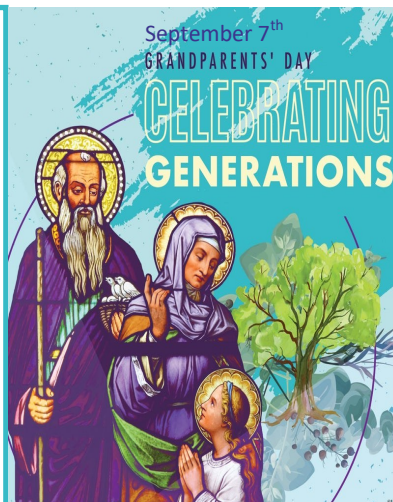
Bless our grandparents, today  
and always.

Thank You for their  
experiences, wisdom, and  
insight.

Thank You for the gifts they  
bring the Church.

Thank You for the lessons  
they teach the next  
generations. Amen.

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The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of September 7<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased members.

### Family Perspective

Today's gospel is clear: commitment to another involves sacrifice. Before we accept commitments such as marriage or parenting, we must plan carefully, like the king in today's gospel. These are serious commitments that demand complete self-giving and are not for the faint-hearted or selfish.

### 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](mailto:business@stparish.org).

ST. JAMES PLACE - 2622 BUFFALO ROAD

FREE ADMISSION FOOD TRUCKS 4th Annual FALL CRAFT AND VENDOR MARKET GIFT AUCTION OVER 50 LOCAL VENDORS

September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>: Saturday 10am-3pm & Sunday 12pm-4pm

*God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called.*  
*Jesus, help me to do my part to proclaim your kingdom*  
*and entrust the rest to you!*

### Give to the Parish Online—Anytime at Your Convenience

No checkbook or offertory envelope today? No problem! Just visit our website ([www.stthomastheapostle.church](http://www.stthomastheapostle.church)) to make a one-time donation or, even better, set up a recurring donation for hassle-free, consistent giving. You'll never have to worry about forgetting again! Thank you for your generosity and support. Your contributions are invaluable and help us continue our mission. We deeply appreciate your kindness. You can also scan this QR Code to access online giving. Thank you!



keep marching in pennsylvania

September 22

PENNSYLVANIA  
Join us in Harrisburg or participate from home!  
MARCH FOR LIFE

Join us in giving a voice for the most vulnerable—visit the Diocese of Erie webpage for more information: <https://www.eriercd.org/pamarch.html>



### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: August 30 & 31, 2025

The Financial Stewardship Report for the weekend of August 30 & 31 will be published in the next bulletin (September 14). Today's bulletin had to be submitted to our publisher early due to the Labor Day holiday schedule. Thank you to all who regularly use your church offertory envelopes and/or give to the parish collection. We appreciate your support.

#### 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](http://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!*

### 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.

### Special Collection for the People of Gaza –TODAY

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has requested an emergency special collection to provide humanitarian relief in Gaza and surrounding areas. **A collection was taken in our diocese this weekend—September 6 & 7, 2025.** Thank you for your generosity. If you were not prepared to donate today, please place your gift in an envelope marked 'Gaza Collection' and put it in next weekend's collection basket. 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 = \$66,723

Paid to date = \$58,453

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

Paid to date = \$32,178

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 21<sup>st</sup> meeting from 9:30am—10:45am at St. Teresa**

**Parish Center for ALL students of the parish.** Registration packets are available this weekend 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**—Parents/guardians should plan on attending one of the parent meetings: **Sat., Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> following the 4:30pm Mass at St. Thomas in the multipurpose room OR Sunday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> 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

Please watch the bulletin for more details in the upcoming weeks.

*"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7*

## 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.*