



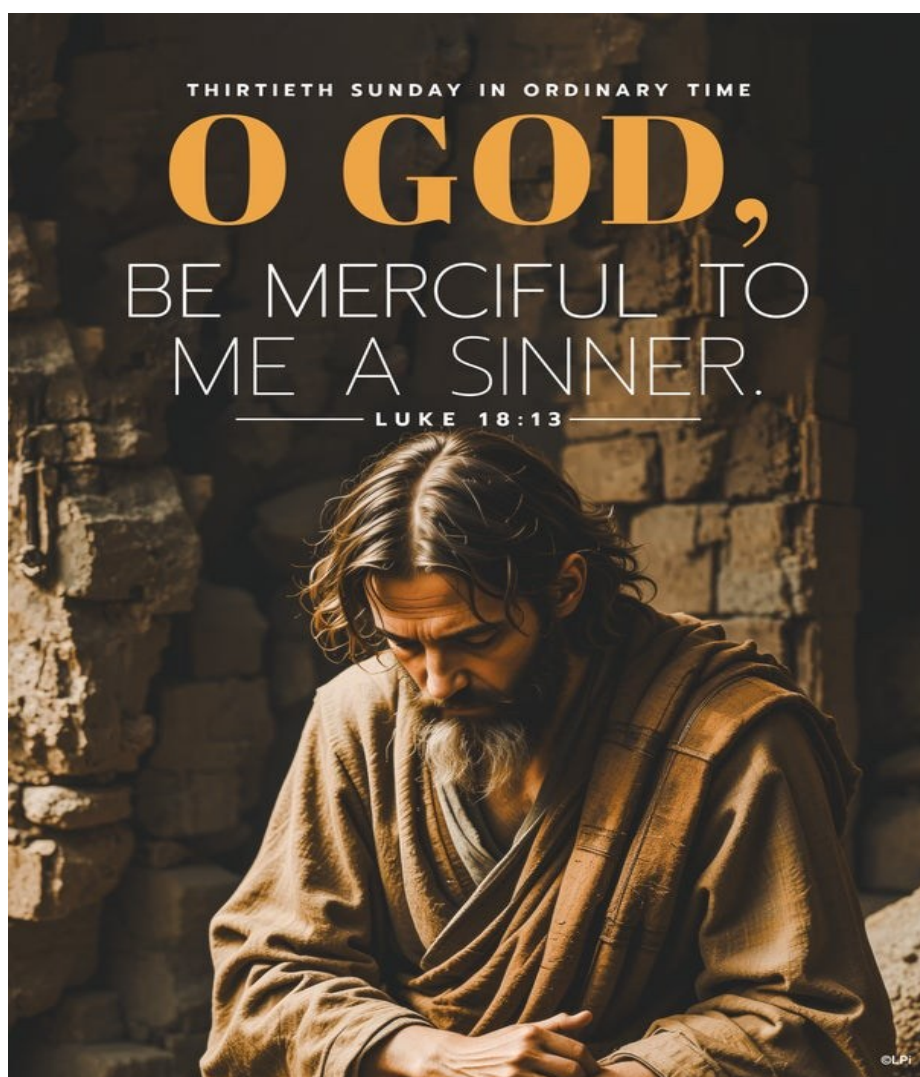
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
203 W. Washington Street
Corry, PA 16407



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

October 26, 2025



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

SACRAMENTALS AND SACRAMENTS: I would like to take some time to reflect on each of the sacraments in this column, but first I want to talk about SACRAMENTALS which will lead us into talking about sacraments. The distinction I will try to be making is that sacramentals can be things that lead us to think about God or be signs and symbols that invite us to reflect on what is precious or meaningful in our lives, but they are not sacraments. Sacraments, the seven sacraments of our church, are not mere signs and symbols, but they are real experiences of God's presence. The signs and symbols we use can help us to experience this real presence of God.

At times people will pull out old family picture albums and look at pictures of family members and family events. In the discussion about those pictures and events, it can seem like those people are here again or that the events are being re-lived.

Or maybe you come across a souvenir from a vacation you took long ago. As you hold that souvenir you think about the good times you had on that vacation. The memories all come back to you.

Many people have photos in frames on the wall or on the mantle of those who have died or who live in other places. When we look at those photos, we are reminded of how important those people were to us or are to us.

These ordinary incidents from everyday life are signs or symbols of things or people we consider important, maybe even sacred. We might call them SACRAMENTAL because they are signs of something dear to us or sacred. What is sacred to us, doesn't have to be something connected to God or religion, but it may be something that is precious or important to us.

We might think of dishes our mother gave to us, or tools our father gave us, old furniture, or things that we have passed down from generation to generation. These are things that are important or precious to us. They bring feelings and memories to life within us that are dear to us.

Some people might look at a moonlit or starlit night sky and think there has to be someone who made all this. Standing at the edge of the ocean and watching the sunrise or sunset can lead us to the same wonder at the world we live in and how it all began. Or we might take a walk through the woods and feel at one with the beauty of life that surrounds us. These moments are precious, sacred, and important to us. These may be ways we experience how nature can be SACRAMENTAL. These can be moments when we feel God's presence. St. Augustine viewed the whole world and all the wonderful things in it as SACRAMENTAL, revealing the grandeur and majesty of God.

Think about a time when you entered a beautiful church and suddenly felt God was there. Or maybe you have made a pilgrimage to Lourdes, Fatima, Assisi, or some other holy shrine and felt God's presence there. Or maybe you have made a retreat, a Cursillo, or some other spiritual event where you had a heightened experience of God's love and presence. These are also SACRAMENTAL moments.

In these SACRAMENTAL moments we might notice two things happening: one is that there is something you experience with your hands or see with your eyes. And the other things you experience is this sense that there is something more that you perceive in your mind's eye or sense in your heart or soul. This something more may be something that is precious to you, and it may even be an experience of God's presence or love. In effect, we look through the visible sign or symbol to see in faith that there is something more here than meets the eye.

Continued ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡

**Sunday, October 26**

8:00a.m. ✠ Joseph Jawdy, Sr. by Joe & Janet Jawdy
(St. Thomas, Corry)

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

Monday, October 27

8:00a.m. ✠ Mary Jo Eddy by Geraldine Swanson
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, October 28

8:00a.m. ✠ Scott Brady by Charlie Buckshaw
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, October 29

8:00a.m. ✠ Mildred Pachuta by the Oldani Family
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, October 30

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

Friday, October 31

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

Saturday, November 1—*Feast of All Saints*

4:30p.m. ✠ Lutz and Amoroso Families by the Family
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, November 2—*All Souls' Day*

8:00a.m. For the People of the Parish
(St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. ✠ Charles & Marguerite Bengel by Family
(St. Teresa, Union City)

We may experience this as we pray before the tabernacle, or before a statue of our favorite saint. It may be when we bless ourselves with holy water or when we receive ashes on our forehead on Ash Wednesday. It may be when we hear the Scriptures read at Mass or when we are saying the Stations of the Cross. These moments are times when we experience a physical thing that somehow speaks to our heart. All of these things are NOT sacraments, but SACRAMENTALS. These experiences put us in touch with some aspect of our faith in God.

(Next week, I will look at how we move from Jesus to the Sacraments.)

#GIVECATHOLIC: #iGiveCatholic is on GivingTuesday, December 2, 2025. You can support your local Catholic parish, school, or ministry on that day or you can make an #iGiveCatholic donation at any time during the advanced giving period from November 17 through December 1, 2025. Gifts made by check or cash can be made directly to qualifying organizations during this same time frame.

What is GivingTuesday? GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season when many people focus on holiday and end-of-year giving.

BOOK OF THE REMEMBRANCE: This is the last weekend to write names in the Book of Remembrance. This book will be closed on October 31 and placed near the altar for the month of November to remind us to pray for our deceased loved ones.

Continued (on shared page 4) ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡

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



You're Invited to Coffee and Donuts

Coffee and Donuts at Saint Thomas Parish will be served in the multipurpose room **following the 8:00am Mass on Sunday, November 2nd**. Donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of the donuts. All are welcome to join us for a time of socializing.

Cemetery Gravestone Cleaning Project

We are 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 base 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.



Liturgical Overview for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

As the year moves towards its close, the Church presents us with another of those poignant readings from Saint Paul, this time from the second Letter to Timothy. In it we have the statement of the Apostle at the end of his life, looking forward to what is to come with absolute faith, and looking back at his life with absolute contentment - not because it was easy, but because it was meaningful, it was fulfilling, it was a challenge worthy of a lifetime.

At the end of our days, and at the end of the liturgical year, it is important to see our own lives in this context. Are we pouring our days out in honor of God? Do we act with justice and humility in our relationships with other people? Are we stewards of creation, using the gifts of the earth wisely? Questions such as these reveal how simple the Christian message is. It is not complicated, but it is challenging.

@Liturgy.com

"Question of the Week" - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: Jesus teaches us to be humble – but what does that mean? How do you show you are humble?

Question for Youth: God knows when we are doing things just for show, and when they come from the goodness of our heart. When have you caught yourself doing something just to be more popular or liked? How does it feel to do something that you know is good and just?

Question for Adults: This Gospel reading suggests that we approach God and each other with humility. What does this mean, in practical terms? How do we "humble" ourselves? What does that mean?



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Thomas Church for the week of October 26th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased members of our parish.



Knights of Columbus Food Drive Collection

The Knights of Columbus, Council #425 is holding a food drive to benefit the Corry Food Pantry from now until the week prior to Thanksgiving. Parishioners are asked to please donate non-perishable food items. Place donations in the marked bins at the entrances of St. Thomas Church.



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Deborah Graves** who passed away from Saint Thomas Church. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.



All are invited to join us on Saturday mornings at Saint Thomas Church at 9:00am as we pray The Rosary together in community.

OCTOBER DEVOTION

The Month of the Rosary



Rev. Brian Vossler, Rev. Msgr. Bruce Allison, Rev. Michael DeMartinis, Rev. Scott Detisch, Rev. Joseph Dougherty, Rev. James Campbell, *Pray for All Saints*, and also *Pray for All Priests and Deacons* in our diocese.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Families of those who have had loved ones buried from our parish will have an opportunity to carry up a candle in remembrance of their loved one at this special Mass.



All are invited to join us for this special Mass honoring loved ones buried from our parish this year.

7:00pm – Monday, November 3, 2025

St. Thomas the Apostle Church
203 W. Washington St., Corry, PA

St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of October 26, 2025

Sun. Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18 ♦ Psalm 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23 (7a) ♦
 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 ♦ Luke 18:9-14
 Mon.: Romans 8:12-17 ♦ Psalm 68:2 and 4, 6-7ab, 20-21 ♦ Luke 13:10-17
 Tues.: Ephesians 2:19-22 ♦ Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5 ♦ Luke 6:12-16
 Wed.: Romans 8:26-30 ♦ Psalm 13:4-5, 6 ♦ Luke 13:22-30
 Thur.: Romans 8:31b-39 ♦ Psalm 109:21-22, 26-27, 30-31 ♦ Luke 13:31-35
 Fri.: Romans 9:1-5 ♦ Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 ♦ Luke 14:1-6
 Sat.: Revelations 7:2-4, 9-14 ♦ Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 ♦ 1 John 3:1-3 ♦
 Matthew 5:1-12a
 Next Sun.: Wisdom 3:1-9 ♦ Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 ♦ Romans 5:5-11 or
 Romans 6:3-9 ♦ John 6:37-4



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of October 26th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased priests who served our diocese.

Family Perspective

In today's gospel, Jesus says, "...who humbles himself will be exalted." It's not the occasional big events, but the daily, humble routines of family life and "ordinary time" that create bonds and relationships that last a lifetime. Embrace this approach, and you'll see the difference.

OCTOBER | Respect Life Month—Pray for All Life from birth to natural death.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

We are looking to **provide 30 families right here in Union City** with everything needed to enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner! **Items needed** to fill each meal include:

Canned Items: Vegetables (corn, green beans, carrots, peas), Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Fruit, Pumpkin, Gravy.

Boxed & Pantry Items: Stuffing Mix, Dessert Mixes (cake, brownies, Jell-O, etc.), French Fried Onions, Cream of Mushroom or Chicken Soup, Broth (Chicken, Vegetable, or Turkey).

Donations are also a wonderful way to help! We will be purchasing fresh rolls for each meal. You can contribute by dropping monetary donations in the collection basket or in the mailbox next to the rectory garage. You may also bring food donations to the entrance of St. Teresa Church Monday–Thursday, 8:30AM–4:00PM, or before and after weekend Masses. Donations will be accepted now until Sunday, Nov. 19th. *Together, we can make this Thanksgiving special for our neighbors in need!*



Mysteries of the Rosary Series—The Joyful Mysteries

Enter into the Mysteries of Christ and rediscover the power of the Rosary! Mysteries of the Rosary integrates deeply reflective insights on the life of Christ, theological truths, and captivating stories together with breathtaking scenery, illuminating sacred art, and inspiring music. By filming on location in the Holy Land, our aspiration is to make the Rosary come alive in the hearts and minds of the participants. Please join us for this video series, discussion and prayer time. **Series began on Oct. 23rd and meets Thursdays from 6:30pm-7:45pm in St. Teresa Parish Center.** Contact Paige Megat (814-722-7784) for more information.



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Mary Ann Shinko** who passed away from Saint Teresa Church. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

OCTOBER: Clergy Appreciation Month 2025

We give thanks and praise to all our priests and deacons who shepherd and guide the faithful in our diocese.

May God bless them in their ministry. Lord, give them health, strength, peace and encouragement as they serve Your people.

THANK YOU from the St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society

Thank you to all who participated in the Harvest Moon Card Party at St. Teresa on Wed., October 15. We wish to thank all who worked and came to play. It was an enjoyable evening for our parish and the community.

**Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
 turn to the Lord and his strength;
 constantly seek His face.** Psalm 105 (104):3-4



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.



COMING SOON...

NEW Parish Website

We are transitioning to a new parish website featuring both Sts. Thomas & Teresa. We are working with a team from the diocese to create the new site and have it operational soon. The changeover date was set for last week, but there was some issues. You may experience a delay or error if attempting to reach either Sts. Thomas or Teresa's current websites. We ask for your patience during this transition. Both former websites will cease operation once the transition is complete. Thank you.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: September 20 & 21, 2025

Total Offertory Income \$5,766.00
 Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage.....\$(-1,934.00)

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!

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

[Message from the Pastor—continued]

RCIA is now OCIA: You may be familiar with the RCIA program where we help those seeking to become Catholic to learn more about our faith. It is now called the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). We are hoping to begin a class for those who are interested in becoming Catholic in October. If you know of someone who is interested in becoming Catholic, please contact the parish office.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Keep in mind that our annual **All Souls Service will be held on Monday, November 3**, at 7:00pm at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. All are welcome to attend. We will be remembering in a special way all those who have died in the past year and were buried from St. Thomas or St. Teresa.

Thanksgiving Day Mass will be at 9:00am at St. Thomas Church in Corry.

Our **Advent Penance Service** will be **Sunday, December 7**, at 1:30pm at St. Thomas Church.

Christmas Eve Masses will be at 4:30pm at St. Thomas and at 7:00pm at St. Teresa. **Mass on Christmas Day** will be at 10:00am at St. Thomas Church.

- Fr. Tom

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 = \$67,143
 Paid to date = \$63,508

Amount Pledged at **St. Teresa** to date = \$36,555
 Paid to date = \$34,256

Total Number of Families who made a pledge = 226

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****Calendar Dates for Religious Education:**

- October 26 – Class / Youth Event TBD
- November 2 – Class
- November 9 – Class/Youth Mass at St. Teresa
- November 16 – Class
- November 23 – Class / Safe Environment Training
- November 30 – No Class / Thanksgiving Break

We are grateful for the opportunity to teach our faith to future generations.

THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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

#iGIVECATHOLIC
ON GIVING TUESDAY

Parish of
St. Thomas
the Apostle
and its mission
St. Teresa of
Avila

Save the Date!

Nov 17 - Dec 1
Advanced Giving

December 2
GivingTuesday

Go to www.igivecatholic.org/community/erie



Turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday evening, as Daylight Savings Time Ends on Sunday, November 2nd at 2:00am. Enjoy your 'extra' hour!

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.