



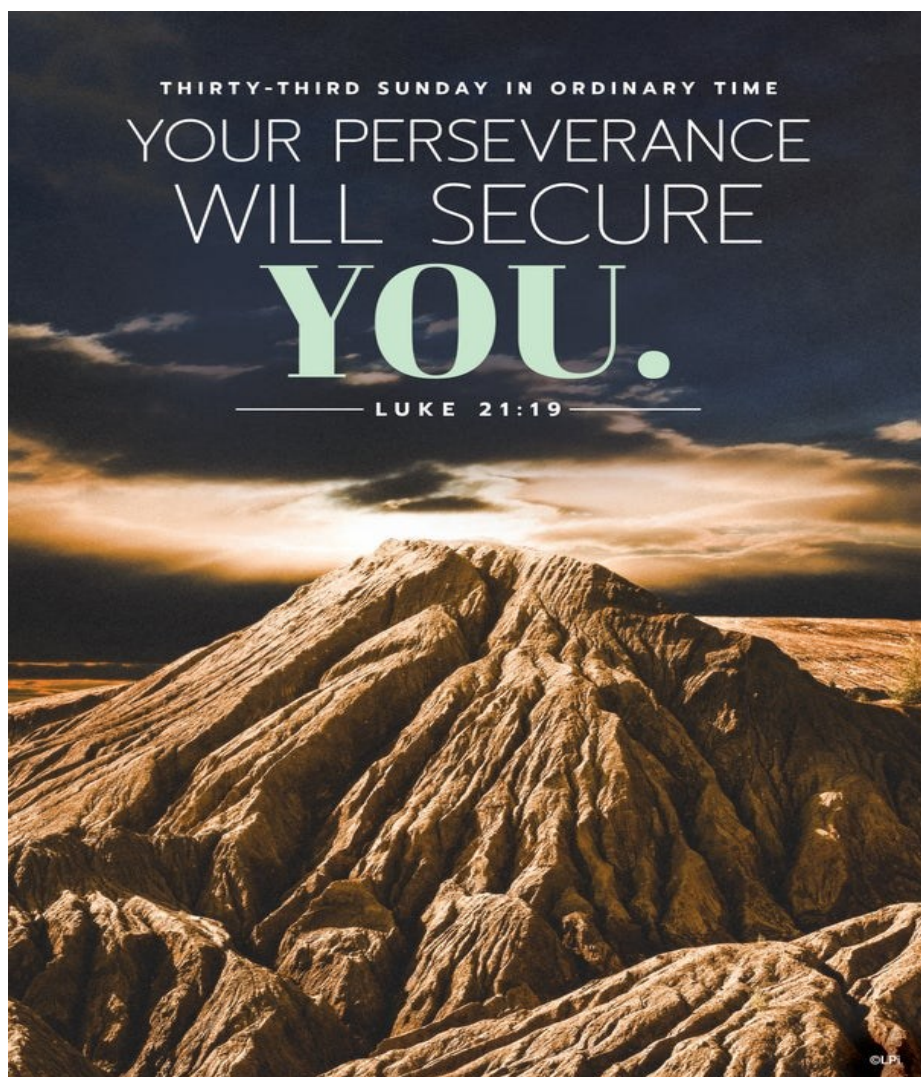
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
203 W. Washington Street
Corry, PA 16407

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

November 16, 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

WILSON FAMILY TRAGEDY: Recently, Michael, Heather, & Emily Wilson and Rosemary Hill, lost their house, their possessions, and their family pet in a terrible fire. They lost everything, but were able to escape with their lives. We can all help them rebuild their home and their lives by contributing to a GOFUNDME page at GoFundMe.com and search for "posie hill." If you are not able to use the GoFundMe page, you can place your donation in an envelope marked "Wilson Family" and place it in the collection basket. We will then forward the money on to the family with a check from the church. Thank you for your generosity in this terrible tragedy.

THANK YOU: We hosted a very prayerful All Souls Service on Monday, November 3. We invited families who had someone buried from our parish in the last year to this service. Thanks to all those who helped to make this such a prayerful and healing event: our parish staff, musicians and singers, and the Altar Rosary Societies from both churches. Your generosity and hospitality made this a wonderful event.

ST. TERESA CEMETERY: A number of people have approached me about a recent obituary that stated St. Teresa Cemetery is closed. St. Teresa Cemetery is not closed. We are grateful to our cemetery staff for the great work they do sometimes under trying circumstances and inclement weather.

BAPTISM: In my lengthy reflection on sacraments and sacramentals, I spoke about how the early church considered itself to be the Body of Christ, or the presence of Christ in the world today. How we live out that presence, or how we make that presence visible in the world and in our Church is where the seven sacraments come into play.

If we believe the Church to be the Body of Christ, how do we become members of that Body of Christ or that Church? The obvious answer for us is baptism. Community has always been an essential part of the Christian life. Christ is at the center, and the community is built around him. Baptism is the way we enter that community and become members of the body of Christ, the Church.

Baptism immerses us into the dying and rising of Jesus. In baptism we are immersed into the water and then raised up out of the water. The immersion into the water is Christ going down into the grave for our sins and the raising up is the rising of Jesus from the dead into the glory of eternal life with God. We are immersed into this mystery of Christ's dying and rising in our baptism. The mystery of Jesus dying and rising is the heart of our faith. In baptism we are given the promise that if we die with Christ we will also live with him in glory. Just as Jesus overcame death in the glory of resurrection, we are now immersed in this mystery of dying and rising. We have the hope that if we have died with Christ, we will also rise from the dead into the glory of eternal life.

Water: We know that a person can live for weeks without food but can only live a few days without water. But water can also remind us of death as well (flooding, drowning). Water then symbolizes our dying to an old way of life (sin) and the beginning of new life nourished by life giving water.

Oil: In ancient times kings and queens were anointed with oil as they were coronated. In baptism we are anointed with an oil called sacred chrism. It is a reminder of the dignity that we have as children of God and that we share in the kingly, priestly, and prophetic mission of Jesus.

White Garment: The white garment is a symbol that we have been washed clean of sin and are now clothed in Christ.

Continued ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡

**Sunday, November 16**

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

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

Monday, November 17

8:00a.m. †Priscilla Kozik by Shirley & Nancy Schultz
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, November 18

8:00a.m. For the special intentions of the Kelly Cragg Family
by Charlie Buckshaw (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, November 19

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

Thursday, November 20

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

Friday, November 21

8:00a.m. †Ed Weaver, Sr. by Dave & Vickie Stull
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, November 22

4:30p.m. †Barb Nichols by Judy Jaworski
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, November 23

8:00a.m. †Wascak, Stolar, and Froman Families by Carol
& Darrell Huffman (St. Thomas, Corry)

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

"I myself shall give you wisdom in speaking."

Luke 21:15

Baptismal Candle: This candle is lit from the Easter Candle and given to the child and its parents. The Easter Candle reminds us that Christ is the light of the world and this child has now been enlightened by Christ and is to walk always as a child of the light.

Responsibility of the parents: Since this child is not old enough to act on its own, the parents take responsibility to raise this child in the faith. This means the parents practice their faith with the child – going to mass each week, living according to the commandments, and serving the needs of others. The parents are responsible for enrolling the child in religious education classes and providing an example of Christian living.

Sponsors or Godparents: We use these two terms interchangeably. A Sponsor is someone who has received baptism, confirmation and eucharist in the Catholic church, who attends mass each week, is registered in the parish where they attend mass, and their marriage is recognized by the Catholic Church. Often times it is difficult to find people who fulfill ALL these requirements, but they are necessary for one to be a sponsor or a godparent. Some people think because they received their sacraments in a particular church that makes them a member there, even though they haven't been to that church in years. One needs to physically fill out a registration form at the church where one is currently going to Sunday Mass. That is where one is a member. One of the godparents must be a practicing catholic who fulfills these requirements.

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.*

"Question of the Week" - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: Jesus teaches us that work is good for us. What kind of work do you do during the week? How does it help you?

Question for Youth: Jesus tells us that even though bad things will happen, we are safe in God. When have you felt the safety of God's life in your own life?

Question for Adults: Paul's words to the Thessalonians are tough: if you want to eat, you must work! How does this translate into our society today? How do you reconcile this with Jesus' command to love and feed the poor?



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Thomas Church for the week of November 16th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Matthew Silvis by Mom.

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Rex Nichols** who passed away. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

St. Thomas Church Choir

With Advent and Christmas right around the corner, choir practice for St. Thomas began on **Thursday, November 13th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at St. Thomas Church**, and continue on Thursday evenings. If you love to sing or just want to give it a try, you are welcome to join us! If you have questions or need more information, call Gary Johnston at 814-462-6804.

Cemetery Gravestone Cleaning Project

Gravestone cleaning is offered on a limited scale for ST. THOMAS & ST. ELIZABETH CEMETERIES ONLY. Rates range from \$50—\$150, but because each stone is unique, pricing may vary. We are taking orders for those who are interested. Cleaning will begin again in the spring.



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. Thank you!

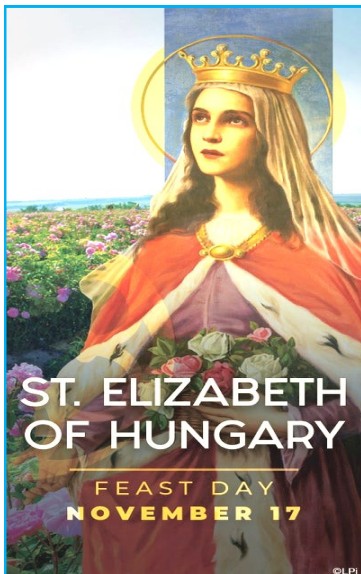


Holiday Pastry Sale by St. Thomas Altar Rosary

We will be selling pastries this weekend and next (November 22/23), before and after both the Saturday and Sunday Masses. **Cost is \$16 for Kolachi (Walnut or Apricot) and \$13 for Baklava.** Monies raised by the Altar Rosary are used for purchases made to enhance the altar and our church. Your support is always appreciated. Thank you.



THANK YOU to all (including members of the Knights of Columbus) who recently helped remove the bushes near the parish office. We appreciate everyone's efforts in maintaining our parish grounds.



DONATIONS ACCEPTED ONLINE OR BY ENVELOPE PLACED IN THE COLLECTION BASKET



#iGIVECATHOLIC
ON GIVING TUESDAY

DECEMBER 2, 2025

ADVANCED GIVING DATES
NOVEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 1

Scan the QR code or visit
www.iGiveCatholic.org
and search for
St. Thomas the Apostle.



St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of November 16, 2025

Sun.: Malachi 3:19-20a ♦ Psalm 98:5-6, 7-8, 9 (see 9) ♦
 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12 ♦ Luke 21:5-19
 Mon.: 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63 ♦ Psalm 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158 ♦ Luke 18:35-43
 Tues.: 2 Maccabees 6:18-31 ♦ Psalm 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 ♦ Luke 19:1-10
 Wed.: 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31 ♦ Psalm 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15 ♦
 Luke 19:11-28
 Thur.: 1 Maccabees 2:15-29 ♦ Psalm 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15 ♦ Luke 19:41-44
 Fri.: 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59 ♦ 1 Chronicles 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd ♦ Luke 19:45-48
 Sat.: 1 Maccabees 6:1-13 ♦ Psalm 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19 ♦ Luke 20:27-40
 Next Sun.: 2 Samuel 5:1-3 ♦ Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1) ♦
 Colossians 1:12-20 ♦ Luke 23:35-43



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Larry King** who passed away from St. Teresa Church. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.



O Lord, we are the people who long to see your face.

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Nov 21

Seminary Discernment Weekend

Any college-age young man, 18 years old or older, who is interested in learning more about the seminary, priesthood, or discernment is invited to attend a Seminary Discernment Weekend Retreat December 6-7, from noon Saturday until noon Sunday, at St. Mark Seminary, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. Erie. There is no cost to attend. However, those interested must contact Fr. Scott Jabo, Vocation Director, at 814-824-1198 or by email at SWJabo@eriercd.org. More information, go to www.erievocations.org.

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.

Be Cautious Sharing Personal Information

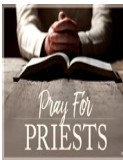
Scammers are impersonating pastors and parish staff, asking for gift cards or personal information. *These messages are fraudulent and are affecting churches nationwide.* Always verify unusual requests by calling your parish directly—use only the official phone number listed on the parish website or in the bulletin. **The Diocese of Erie, its clergy and parishes will never request personal or financial information unless you initiate contact.** Report gift card scams to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Learn more at consumer.ftc.gov/articles/avoiding-and-reporting-gift-card-scams.



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of November 16th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased loved ones.

Family Perspective

Parenting is challenging with so many conflicting voices and influences. In today's gospel, Jesus encourages parents to bravely give testimony and trust that He will provide the "wisdom" needed to be good parents. Remember, you are not alone in this journey; a loving Father is standing with you.



Rev. Stanley Swacha, Very Rev. Andrew Boyd, V.F., Rev. Denis Martin, Rev. Jason Glover, Rev. David Renne, The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, Rev. Msgr. Joseph Riccardo, and also *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

Amen, I say to you: Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you will receive, and it shall be given to you, says the Lord. Mark 11:23-24



Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Thanks to your generosity we are well on our way to being able to provide a Thanksgiving Dinner to 30 families! We gladly accept any donations but there a few items we could specifically use right now: **Yams, French fried onions, cream of mushroom soup, gravy, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin and desert mixes.** Other 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).

Monetary 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. 23rd.** Together, we can make this Thanksgiving special for our neighbors in need!



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: November 8 & 9, 2025

Total Offertory Income \$7,054.00
Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage \$(-646.00)

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!

**Have you paid in full your pledge to the 2025 CSA?
If not, please try to do so by the end of the year.**

Submission Deadline for Bulletin Items

Generally, items for publication in our bulletin must be sent to the parish office by Monday afternoon the week prior to when you wish your item to appear. Please email written content to secretary@stparish.org. Please note that during holiday seasons, bulletin deadlines are moved up as much as one week or more, so the earlier you provide the office with your bulletin items the better. All bulletin items are subject to approval and editing for content and space. Please call the parish office if you have any questions or wish to know the deadline schedule. Thank you.

[Message from the Pastor—continued]

2026 CALENDARS: The 2026 Calendars are available at the entrances/exits this weekend. We are grateful to our local funeral homes for sponsoring these calendars. PLEASE TAKE ONE CALENDAR for your home. If there are extras after a few weeks, then you will be welcome to take extra ones.

#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. Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish | #iGiveCatholic

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 Black Friday and Cyber Monday, GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season when many people focus on holiday and end-of-year giving.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News**Calendar Dates for Religious Education:**

- November 16 – Class
- November 23—Class/ Safe Environment
- November 30—NO Class/ Thanksgiving break

**Students to Help Provide Thanksgiving Meals**

We are working with St. Teresa Church who are collecting food donations for those in need this Thanksgiving. We are asking our Religious Education students to help provide items for the Thanksgiving Day meal. A list of needed items was recently sent home with students. Donations should be brought into class by November 23. Thank you.

Youth Mass—Thank You!

Thank you to all the students who participated in any way during the Youth Mass held during the 11:00am Mass at St. Teresa last Sunday, November 9. Everyone did a wonderful job!

The Rosary and Religious Education

October was the Month of the Rosary, and religious education students were discussing the Mysteries of the Rosary and reflecting on a special question. Below is a picture of the completed Rosary where all the beads are filled in. It is in the St. Teresa Parish Center.

**"A wedding is one day, but marriage is for a lifetime."**

Join **Engagement Encounter** for a weekend focused on building a strong foundation for your future together—away from the stress of wedding planning. The next retreat is scheduled for February 6-8, 2026 at St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie, PA. Details and registration: eriercd.org/familylifeoffice. All engaged couples welcome!

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 = \$67,153

Paid to date = \$64,538

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

Paid to date = \$34,581

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.

