



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

## January 12, 2025



### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The Holy Spirit descended upon him.  
- Lk 3:21-22a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

#### 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](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

Notes from the Pastor

**CHRISTMAS THANK YOU:** As we bring our Christmas season to a close today, we need to be thankful to all those who made our Advent and Christmas seasons beautiful and prayerful encounters with God. I want to thank those who prepared the liturgies, our musicians and choir members, our sacristans, altar servers, lectors, our parish staff members, and those who so graciously helped to decorate our churches for these days. Your hard work made our Advent and Christmas seasons something to remember and opportunities for prayerful encounters with God. Thank you so very much!

**THANK YOU:** To those who decorated St. Teresa: Steve & Cheryl Mongera, Deacon Randy, Anne & Joe Kondrlik, Liam, Lucas, Nick & Missy Silka, and Jack Brigham. To those who decorated St. Thomas: Kelly & Rachel Cragg, Mini Sypniewski, Denny & Chris Anderson, Roger & Marybeth Minnick, Dick Farver, Kris & Clancy Walsh, Dave & Patty Brown, Cheryl Frisina, Judy Christensen, Deacon Randy Kondrlik, Lois & Renee Woodcock. Your generosity and hard work are greatly appreciated.

**CHILD PROTECTION POLICY:** There are a number of things we are doing to keep our children safe during Religious Education Classes. One of those things is that only those who have the proper clearances and training are permitted in the building when Religious Education Classes are in session. This sometimes comes as a shock to some people, or a surprise, that they are not permitted in the building while classes are in session. This can be an inconvenience for people, but it is part of our Diocesan Policy to protect our young people.

**PARISH REGISTRATION AND SPONSORS CERTIFICATES:** It seems every so often we need to remind people about parish registration and sponsor certificates.

**Parish Registration:** Every baptized Catholic is welcome to be a member of our Parish. Part of being a member is to physically fill out a registration form that gives us contact information for you. This gives you access to information about parish events and enlists you in our parish envelope system to help support the services our parish provides for you. It offers us a means to contact you, or your family, in the case of an emergency.

Being a member of a parish means more than just having your name on the parish roster. Being a member means you attend Mass on a weekly basis, you support the parish with your time, talent, and treasure, you are a part of what happens at the parish in terms of service, worship, and fund raising. Everyone fulfills that responsibility according to their particular situation and means. You might think about it in terms of a sports team. You are considered a member of the team if you go to the practices and the games. You do what the other members of the team do to support the team. If you don't go to the practices or the games, it is really quite a stretch to say you are a member of the team.

Children are considered members under their parents until they are no longer dependents of their parents. At this point, they are asked to register on their own. Those who no longer live here are expected to register in the parish where they live and go to church. Membership is about belonging to the parish where you live and worship.

**Sponsor Certificates:** This term covers those who are asked to be sponsors for confirmation or those who are asked to be godparents for someone being baptized. This is a special certificate that states

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**Sunday, January 12 –Baptism of the Lord**

8:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

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

**Monday, January 13**

8:00a.m. †Bill Flynn by Mary Ann Shade  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Tuesday, January 14**

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

**Wednesday, January 15**

8:00a.m. †Betty Jean Suchar by Len & Ann Clark  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Thursday, January 16**

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

**Friday, January 17**

8:00a.m. †Barb Krol by Irene Weaver

**Saturday, January 18**

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

**Sunday, January 19**

8:00a.m. †Sophie & Ed Girovsky by Diane Hall and Jean  
Cressley (St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. †Thomas Zakovitch by Ilene Zakovitch  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

that this person is: 1. A registered member of our parish. 2. Has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist in the Catholic Church. 3. They participate in the celebration of the Eucharist (Mass) on a weekly basis. 4. If they are married, their marriage either took place in the Catholic Church or has been blessed by the Catholic Church.


Some people mistakenly think that a baptismal certificate can be used for a Sponsor Certificate. This is not true. A Sponsor Certificate states much more than simply someone was baptized in the Catholic Church as indicated above. At times people are denied a Sponsor Certificate because they do not fulfill all the requirements to be a sponsor or a godparent. I spend more time explaining this in Baptism class than I do on the actual Sacrament of Baptism because it is often difficult to find people who fulfill all these requirements today. You need to take special care in making decisions about whom you will ask to be a sponsor or a godparent.

**INVITATIONS OF WELCOME:** This past week members of Parish Council, Finance Council, and the Altar Rosary Societies addressed invitations to people whom we have not seen at the parish in a long time. The reasons why people fall away from the practice of their faith can be many. Recently, COVID was a reason people were away from attending church, and some of them never came back. Parish Council suggested that we try in some way to engage those who have fallen away and try to invite them back.

You may hear from a family member, a neighbor, or a friend that they received one of these invitations. You might help to encourage them to come back to church with your own words and example.


- Fr. Tom

# St. Thomas News



**Jubilee Journey:**  
Celebrating Together for Holy Year 2025

Journey with the Diocese of Erie  
[ErieRCD.org/HolyYear2025.html](http://ErieRCD.org/HolyYear2025.html)

 The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of January 12<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Anna & James O'Brien by their estate.

**“Question of the Week” - Baptism of the Lord**

**Question for Children:** What are some things you can do to please God?

**Question for Youth:** "With you I am well pleased." What are you doing right now that is pleasing to God? How does it feel to live that way?


**Question for Adults:** Name a time when you felt your actions were pleasing to God.

**Have you paid in full your pledge to the 2024 CSA? If not, please try to do so by the end of January. The 2025 CSA will begin soon. Thank you.**

**St. Thomas Fish Dinner Meeting Next Sunday**


There will be a Fish Dinner planning meeting on Sunday, Jan. 19 beginning at 10:45am at the St. Thomas School Building. Anyone interested in helping plan the Lenten dinners is welcome to attend. If you are unable to attend and would like to help with the dinners or have comments or ideas, please call or text Sue Vinca (814-964-0290) or Judy Green (814-964-1646). Thank you!




 **Knights of Columbus Meeting This Week**

Corry Knights, Council #425 will hold their monthly meeting at St. Elizabeth Parish Center on Tuesday, January 14 at 6:30pm. All Brother Knights are encouraged to attend. *Hope to see you there.*

**John said: One mightier than I is coming; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.** Luke 3:16



**PERSEVERE IN PRAYER**

 **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.

**Snowman Raffle Tickets for Sale**

If interested, tickets are for sale at the parish office (see Sue) or contact a Corry Knight. Drawing will be at the Knight's February meeting on Tuesday, February 11. Need not be present to win. Proceeds help benefit Knights Council #425 and the good works they do for our parish and community.

 **SNOWMAN RAFFLE**

1st PRIZE - \$100.00 CASH  
2nd PRIZE - \$50.00 CASH  
3rd PRIZE - \$25.00 CASH

Drawing at Knights of Columbus "February Meeting"  
Donation: \$1.00



**It's true that we don't know what this new year will hold. But it's equally true that we know the One who holds the new year in His hands. PRAY: "Jesus—I trust you completely."**

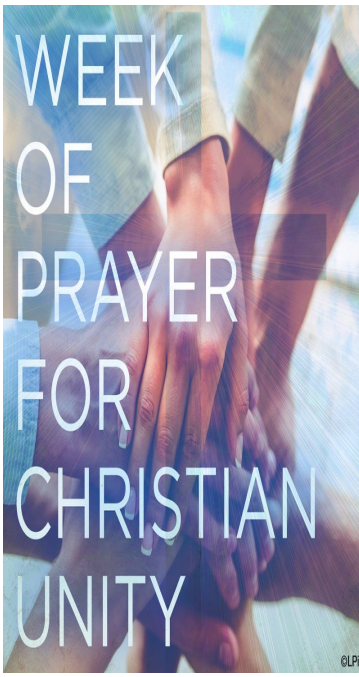
**St. Thomas Church Organizations / Groups**

- Altar—Rosary Society  
Meets the third Wednesday of the month
- Knights of Columbus—Corry Council #425  
Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM
- Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
Meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

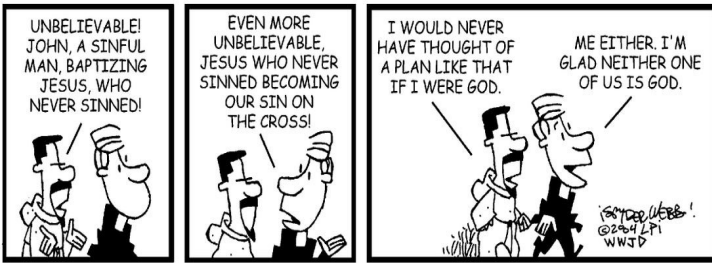
*Prayer for Christian Unity*

Our Father, we seek you in so many ways and places in our life. We seek you for guidance and for comfort. But you have told us that when there is hunger, it is up to us to feed the hungry. We ask you to help us see you in other Christians and humbly ask you for strength in the search for what we have in common. Bless our efforts to look at all the ways we are united in faith, and grant us courage to change our hearts and minds to realize your will. We ask all this through Christ our Lord and brother, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



# St. Teresa News

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

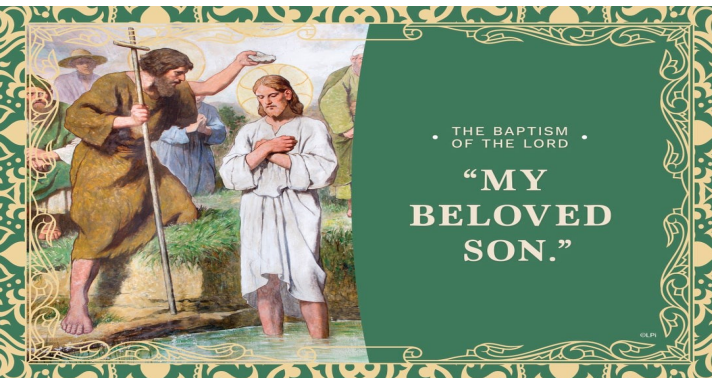


**Family Perspective**

In today's gospel Jesus was publicly AFFIRMED by his Father: "You are my beloved son, with you I am very pleased." As parents we can become so focused on misbehaviors we overlook the good behaviors. Jesus needed AFFIRMATION and so do our children.

**Undecorate Our Churches from Christmas**

As the Christmas season comes to a close, we need to take down the decorations at both churches. **Help is needed on Monday, January 13—we will be working at St. Thomas Church at 9:00am and at St. Teresa Church at 6:00pm.** Please join us if you are able to help. Thank you.



**The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of January 12<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Sandy King by Larry, Kim, and family.**

Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Roman Bem, Jr.** who was recently buried from St. Teresa Church. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

**Rosary Societies—Epiphany Gathering**

Ladies of both the **St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society** and **St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society** are reminded that we will meet for our Epiphany gathering **TODAY— Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 1:00pm in the St. Teresa Parish Center.** (This gathering was postponed until today due to the snowy weather on January 5). All members are invited to attend. We hope you will join us.

**Readings for the week of January 12, 2025**  
 Sun.: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 ♦ Psalm 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1) ♦ Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 ♦ Luke 3:15-16, 21-22  
 Mon.: Hebrews 1:1-6 ♦ Psalm 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 ♦ Mark 1:14-20  
 Tues.: Hebrews 2:5-12 ♦ Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 ♦ Mark 1:21-28  
 Wed.: Hebrews 2:14-18 ♦ Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 ♦ Mark 1:29-39  
 Thur.: Hebrews 3:7-14 ♦ Psalm 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 ♦ Mark 1:40-45  
 Fri.: Hebrews 4:1-5, 11 ♦ Psalm 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8 ♦ Mark 2:1-12  
 Sat.: Hebrews 4:12-16 ♦ Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15 ♦ Mark 2:13-17  
 Next Sun.: Isaiah 62:1-5 ♦ Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 (3) ♦ 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 ♦ John 2:1-11

Rev. Richard Allen, Rev. Nicholas Fratus, Rev. William Fischer, Rev. Robert Manning, Rev. Dennis Martin, Rev. Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Rev. Christopher Wheeler, and also *Pray for All Priests and Deacons*.

**St. Teresa Church Organizations / Groups**  
 •**Rosary—Altar Society**  
 Meets the first Monday of each month at 4:30 PM  
 •**Knights of Columbus**  
 Meet every third Wednesday at 7:00 PM  
 •**Religious Education Guild**  
 Meets during the school term

**47TH ANNUAL**  
**PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST**  
**January 18, 2025 ♦ 9 A.M.**  
 Bayfront Convention Center  
 Erie, Pennsylvania

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**KAYLEE STOCKTON**  
 Nursing Student  
 Single Mom at Eighteen  
 Students for Life Activist  
 School Shooting Survivor

**See you at the Breakfast!**  
 Adults & Teens...\$28  
 Ages 3-12...\$22 • Under 3...Free  
**Reservations due by January 10**  
 Early reservations are appreciated.  
 Reservations are required. Please mail name(s), address, and phone number with a check payable to "People for Life" or visit our website to use a credit or debit card.  
**FREE CHILDCARE WITH FUN ACTIVITIES**

**PEOPLE FOR LIFE**  
 1625 W. 26th Street  
 P.O. Box 1126  
 Erie, PA 16512  
 For more information  
 (814) 882-1333 ★ (814) 459-1333  
 office@peopleforlife.org  
[www.PeopleforLife.org](http://www.PeopleforLife.org)  
 Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast

**Monthly Bingo Fundraiser at All Saints Parish**  
 All Saints Parish, 11264 Rt 97 N in Waterford, has a monthly Bingo fundraiser. On the third Saturday of the month doors open at 5:30pm, and the first game is called at 6:15pm. A variety of bingo games are called throughout the evening including a cover-all jackpot at the end of the night. Cost is \$25 for a 12-on, 10-game book or \$20 for a 6-on, 10-game book; special bingo papers are \$1 each. There is food available to purchase. Must be 18 years of age to attend. (Check [www.allsaintsrcc.org](http://www.allsaintsrcc.org) for possible cancellations due to weather) Join us on January 18<sup>th</sup>, February 15<sup>th</sup>, March 15<sup>th</sup>. No Bingo in April—it is Easter weekend. We will resume on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Invite family and friends and get ready to shout "BINGO!" and win cash prizes!

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:** December 28 & 29, 2024

<b>Amount in Envelopes:</b> (129) .....	\$5,094.00
<b>Loose</b> .....	\$364.00
<i>(Above amounts combine total offertory from ALL 3 weekend Masses)</i>	
<b>Online Giving</b> (13) .....	\$480.00
<b>Faith Formation/Rel. Ed.</b> .....	\$0.00
<b>Continuing the Vision.</b> .....	\$0.00
<b>Total Offertory Income</b> .....	\$5,938.00

**Average Weekly Expenses**.....\$11,390.00  
*(Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)*

**Weekly Average Shortfall**..... **\$(5,452.00)**

*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](http://www.StThomastheApostle.Church) and click 'Donate Online'.***

**Christmas Masses Collections:** Dec. 24 & 25, 2024

<b>Amount in Envelopes:</b> (136) .....	\$5,900.00
<b>Loose</b> .....	\$1,437.00
<b>Total Offertory Income</b> .....	\$7,337.00
<i>(Above amounts combine total offertory from ALL 3 Christmas Masses)</i>	

**Holy Day — Solemnity of Mary:** Dec. 31 & Jan. 1

<b>Amount in Envelopes:</b> (49) .....	\$1,050.00
<b>Loose</b> .....	\$240.00
<b>Total Offertory Income</b> .....	\$1,290.00
<i>(Above amounts combine total offertory from BOTH Holy Day Masses)</i>	

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:** January 4 & 5, 2025

<b>Amount in Envelopes:</b> (127) .....	\$6,041.00
<b>Loose</b> .....	\$343.00
<i>(Above amounts combine total offertory from ALL 3 weekend Masses)</i>	
<b>Online Giving</b> (15) .....	\$1,000.00
<b>Faith Formation/Rel. Ed.</b> .....	\$0.00
<b>Buildings &amp; Grounds.</b> .....	\$75.00
<b>Total Offertory Income</b> .....	\$7,459.00

**Average Weekly Expenses**.....\$11,390.00  
*(Average Weekly Expenses are for normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs.)*

**Weekly Average Shortfall**..... **\$(3,931.00)**

*If you are not receiving offertory envelopes from our parish and wish to, please contact the parish office. Thank you!*

**Religious Education News**

**2024-2025 Religious Education Program**



Now that we are in the second half of the Religious Education year (January—May) — ALL Classes will now be meeting at the St. Thomas school building from 9:00am—10:30am.

**Calendar Reminders for Religious Education**

Sunday, January 12—Classes for all students at St. Thomas  
 Sunday, January 19—Classes for all students at St. Thomas  
 Sunday, January 26—No Classes today

**Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**3 Ways for Teens to Reboot**—Sending and receiving messages late at night can make it hard to fall asleep or interrupt sleep. Teens want to stay connected to friends, but the lack of sleep or interrupted sleep can affect everything from their mood to their sports performance. Here are 5 tips to follow at night that will help boost energy and focus in the morning. 1.) Log off your messaging apps, social media and email at bedtime. 2.) Turn off your phone when it's time for bed don't just set it to vibrate. 3.) Get in the habit of powering off your devices – especially if they are in your room. Turn off all electronics, like laptops, tablets, TVs, and video game consoles. Blinking lights and glowing screens can make it harder to fall and stay asleep. Sticking to a cut-off curfew each night for your devices will give your brain some much needed tech-free downtime. For additional resources visit [www.eriecd.org/childprotection](http://www.eriecd.org/childprotection).

January 6, 2025



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I want to take a moment to express how deeply inspired I am by your faith and generosity. As we celebrate this Holy Year, your support allows us to share the Good News of Christ in every corner of our diocese, which is why I **ask you to consider making a gift to the Help Spread the Faith Communications Collection, held the weekend of January 25-26, 2025.**

The 2025 Jubilee invites us to be pilgrims of hope, and this month celebrates the Jubilee of the World of Communications. Mark 16:15 states: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature."

Our diocesan Office of Communications is central to this calling. It supports me in uniting and evangelizing our Catholic family across all 13 counties of the Diocese of Erie. Through Faith Magazine, Diocese of Erie-News, and social media, we proclaim the Gospel, connect our community and inspire discipleship.

This year, I ask you:

- Were you inspired by an article shared in Faith Magazine?
- Have you learned about an historic event in our Catholic Church by reading Diocese of Erie-News or through our social media channels?
- Did your family find a new way to connect by reading the new Jubilee Journey: Pilgrims of Hope newsletter?

These vital communication tools are made possible through your contributions to this special collection. Faith Magazine reaches over 34,000 households and organizations – at no cost – sharing uplifting stories and reflections to deepen connections with Christ. On social media, we extend Christ's love beyond diocesan borders, inviting others to encounter him in new ways.

Your gift enables us to collaborate with parishes, schools and ministries, sharing their stories and providing resources to enrich their missions. Thank you for making this vital work possible.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*+ Lawrence T. Persico*  
 The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL  
 Bishop of Erie