



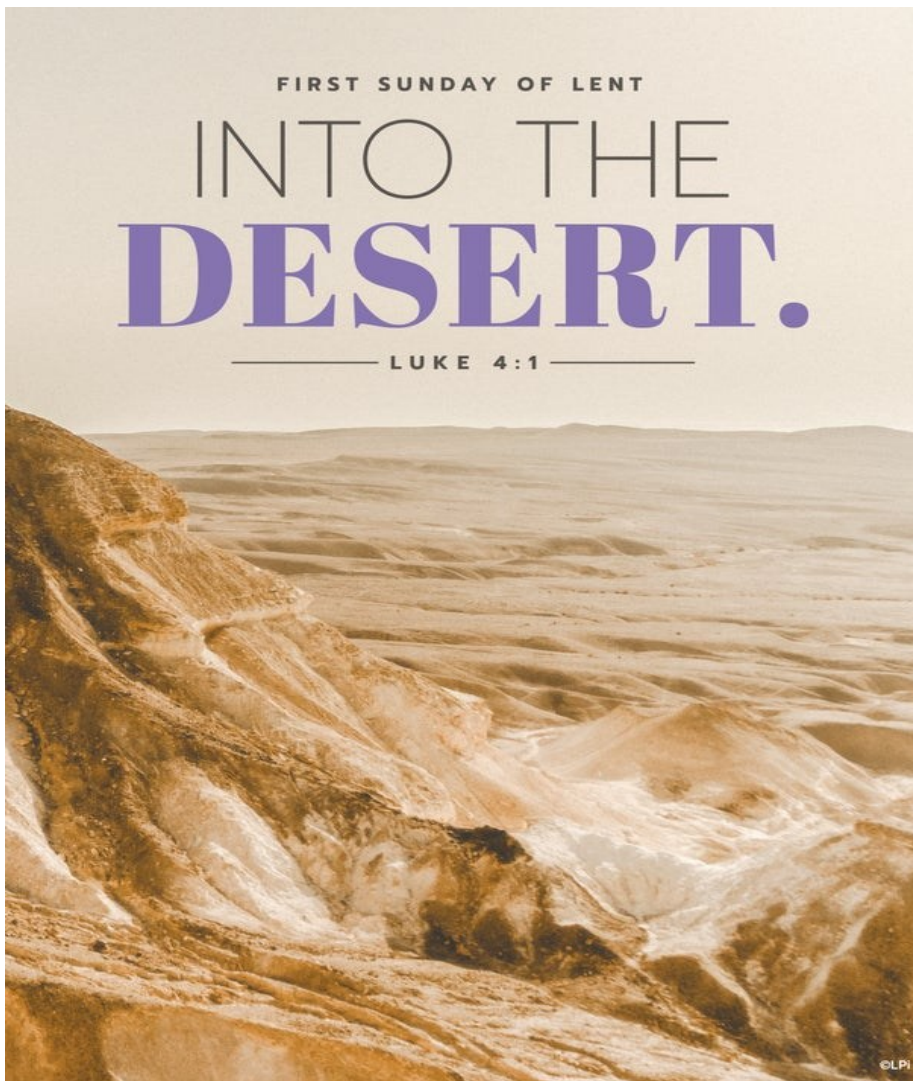
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church  
203 W. Washington Street  
Corry, PA 16407

# 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 9, 2025



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

# INTO THE DESERT.

LUKE 4:1

**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

### 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.

**Notes from the Pastor**

**FISH DINNERS:** We are gearing up for Fish Dinners at both Churches and that means we could always use your help.

- 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 start thinking about and getting ready for making desserts for this year's Fish Dinners. At **St. Teresa** desserts can be dropped off on Thursday from 4 to 7pm, or Friday anytime after Noon. At **St. Thomas** desserts can be dropped off Thursday from 12 to 3pm or Friday anytime 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.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION:** Last weekend we had a retreat for our First Reconciliation class and their parents. It was a wonderful experience of prayer, learning, and fun. By the time you read this, they will have celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.

**Congratulations to Anthony Proy, Alex Soety, Maelyn Moss, Emmalyn Sill, and Philip Williams.**

A great note of thanks goes to Mrs. Lisa Weis who has been teaching these students all year. We are truly blessed with great teachers who give great example to our young people. We are also blessed with a great Religious Education Director, Mrs. Missy Silka and those who assist her each week behind the scenes.

**YOUTH MASS:** Last weekend we celebrated another Youth Mass at 8:00am at St. Thomas. I was impressed that the young people got up early and made it to Church early, not to mention dressed up, to greet, usher, read, and carry gifts. Keep encouraging them to be a part of all the things we do here.

**CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL (CSA):** So far in our Catholic Services Appeal we have 85 pledges for \$47,880 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:** In my reflection on Social Justice, I touched on three types of justice that outline our responsibilities to each other, to society, and society to us. When we try to determine what things need our attention in terms of justice, we often use a term called the Common Good.

The Common Good is a set of conditions that help the human person flourish. Charity (Love) is always essential to justice. Together justice and charity can combat social sin (injustice).

*Continued* ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡

**MASS INTENTIONS****Sunday, March 9**

8:00a.m. †Janet Mitchell by Rosemarie Ross  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

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

**Monday, March 10**

8:00a.m. †Barb Krol by Pat Kusiak (St. Teresa, Union City)

**Tuesday, March 11**

8:00a.m. †Amoroso and Lutz Families by Family  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Wednesday, March 12**

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

**Thursday, March 13**

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

**Friday, March 14**

8:00a.m. †Shirley & Paul Flynn by Judy Flynn  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Saturday, March 15**

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

**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)

The Common Good refers to the social conditions which allow people, like groups or individuals, to achieve their fulfillment more fully and easily. The three essential elements of the Common Good are: Respect for the life and dignity of every person; a commitment to the social well-being and development of the group, especially by ensuring that individual's basic needs are met; and the establishment of a peaceful and just society.

The Common Good always begins with the needs of individuals. Because of the social nature of human beings, the good of the individual is inseparable from the Common Good. Society then builds structures and methods that meet these needs. It is the role of the state to defend and promote the common good of civil society and its citizens. As Pope Benedict said, "To desire the common good and strive toward it is a requirement of justice and charity. The more we strive to secure a common good corresponding to the real needs of our neighbors, the more effectively we love them. (Caritas in Veritate, 7)

Charity and justice need to work together. Jesus gave us two great commandments to love God and to love our neighbor. Charity then requires us to have a loving gaze toward the poor that compels us to give food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, and clothing to the naked (see Mt. 25:31-46). Working to achieve justice for those in need requires acts of charity from us.

The injustice we find in our world is often the result of our sin. The consequences of our sins can cause others to sin in the same way and create a pattern of sin that we call Social Sin. Social Sin includes attitudes, actions, and structures that foster unjust treatment of others. When we continue to practice sin and others join in that practice, we create an attitude that this sin is permissible, when it is not. This leads to structures and actions that treat people unjustly. We need to remember that our sin has consequences, and those consequences affect other people.

- Fr. Tom

## St. Thomas News



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of March 9<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Mary T. Kostyal and brother Steven B. Kostyal by Darlene Wawrejko.



**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

Sunday, March 9  
9:00am Rel. Ed. Classes at the former school building  
Friday, March 14  
4:30pm Fish Dinner at St. Elizabeth Parish Center until 6:30pm  
7:30pm Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas Church  
Saturday, March 15  
9:00am The Rosary prayed publicly at St. Thomas Church

*Lord, help me to draw closer to you through my Lenten practices.*

### St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society

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



### Corry Knights of Columbus, Council #425 News

**Meeting Reminder:** Brother Knights are reminded of our meeting on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the St. Elizabeth Parish Center. We especially wish to invite members from St. Teresa Knights of Columbus to join us.

**Thank You:** The St. Thomas Fish Dinner Committee wishes to thank the Corry Knights for their generous donation of \$250 to help kickoff our Lenten Fish Dinners this season. We are so grateful!



### Donations of Dessert Needed

Fish Dinners are here! It truly takes a team effort to make our dinners successful. We are seeking donations of desserts (**NO cream pies**—due to regulations). Dessert donations can be dropped off on Thursdays from 12:00pm—3:00pm or the day of the dinners beginning at 12:00pm. **Also looking for people to help at the dinners.** Questions—please contact Sue Vinca (814-964-0290) or Judy Green (814-964-1646). Thank you.

**Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.** (Psalm 91)

### Choir Rehearsals at St. Thomas

We will be starting Choir Rehearsals for Lent and Easter on **Monday, March 10 from 6:00pm—7:30pm.** Rehearsals will be weekly on Monday evenings from March 10 through April 14. We had a very dedicated small group at Christmas and we welcome more voices to join the choir which helps to enhance our liturgies, especially for the Lent and Easter season. Please consider joining us—thank you. Any questions, please ask Joan Allen or Gary Johnston. *We hope to see you at practice.*



## St. Teresa News



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of March 9<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Chuck Tyson by family.

### "Question of the Week" - First Sunday of Lent

**Question for Children:** When you feel tempted to do wrong, how do you remain strong in your faith?

**Question for Youth:** What is one thing you will do during Lent to become more open to God in your life?

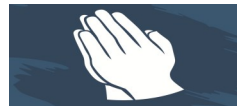
**Question for Adults:** As you come to understand the temptation of Jesus in the desert, which one of the devil's offerings is hardest for you to resist?

### This Week's Events at St. Teresa

Thursday, March 13  
7:00pm Stations of the Cross at St. Teresa Church  
Friday, March 14  
4:30pm Fish Dinner at the parish center until 7:00pm

### Readings for the week of March 9, 2025

Sun.: Deuteronomy 26:4-10 ♦ Psalm 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (see 5b) ♦ Romans 10:8-13 ♦ Luke 4:1-13  
Mon.: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18 ♦ Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15 ♦ Matthew 25:31-46  
Tues.: Isaiah 55:10-11 ♦ Psalm 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 ♦ Matthew 6:7-15  
Wed.: Jonah 3:1-10 ♦ Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 ♦ Luke 11:29-32  
Thur.: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 ♦ Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 ♦ Matthew 7:7-12  
Fri.: Ezekiel 18:21-28 ♦ Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 ♦ Matthew 5:20-26  
Sat.: Deuteronomy 26:16-19 ♦ Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 ♦ Matthew 5:43-48  
Next 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



PRAY



FAST



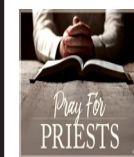
GIVE

### Family Perspective

We may often feel like the Prodigal Son, but the gospel encourages us to focus on the father who was forgiving and understanding. We all make mistakes and need forgiveness. Who in your family needs your forgiveness and acceptance this Lent?

### 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!!



Rev. Msgr. Casimir Bogniak, Rev. Joseph Petrone, Rev. James McCormick, Rev. Gregory Passauer, *Pray for Consecrated Life*, Rev. William O'Brien, Rev. Thomas Aleksa, and also please *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**JESUS IS TEMPTED IN THE DESERT**



“Just OK is not OK.” I began this Lenten season by reflection on this statement from a popular AT&T commercial. It is interesting that one of the commercials shows couples out for dinner and the waitress coming to take their order. They ask if she has any recommendations. She says “the salmon is OK.” And the response is “OK? Just OK?” The waitress continues by saying that “the cook tried it earlier today but he went home sick.” The point of the commercial is that we don’t just settle for food that is OK, or in this case food that might not be good. We have a higher standard for what we expect of our food, especially when we go out to eat.

Do we settle for “food” that is “just OK,” when we are talking about our spiritual food? This might call to mind our struggle with what holiness really is. What are we trying to become and how can we nourish ourselves with the right things to become holy? This is really our yearly journey during Lent to try to become “holier.”

But part of the problem is that traditionally we have two different concepts of holiness – one from the Greek way of thinking and one from the Hebrew way of thinking. In the Greek idea of holiness we try to become perfect – to have no flaws, no faults, no deficiencies. Holiness in the Greek way of thinking means to measure up to some ideal standard – the standard of being completely whole, true, good, and beautiful. To be holy is never to sin. The Hebrew idea of holiness (the one that Jesus grew up with) is quite different. In the Hebrew idea holiness means to walk with God, despite our flaws. Holiness here means to live in the divine presence, in spite of the fact that we are not completely whole, true, good, and beautiful. There is a sense that we can be holy by staying close to God, even though we may not be perfect, or without sin.

Unfortunately, our concept of holiness in the Western world has been shaped very much by the Greek idea of holiness as perfection. There are good things and bad things associated with this view of holiness. One of the merits of this view is that we set our sights on the highest standards and try to achieve them. It is something that can keep us from laziness, mediocrity, settling for second best, or accepting things that are just OK. But the downside to this view of holiness is that nobody ever measures up. As the spiritual writer John Shea puts it, “Nobody does God very well.” Only God is perfect, we can never be perfect. We all fall short at times and this leads us to beat ourselves up because we can’t attain perfection, or thinking that sheer willpower will help us to overcome our addictions or our bad habits. In this model we often give up or quit. Why try when the result is always the same. The temptation here is to think that being an OK Christian is OK. It is all I can do. And so, we leave the holiness thing to the saints, to people who are not like us.

Maybe we need to incorporate a better understanding of holiness into our lives this Lenten season. Next week we will look at this idea of holiness from the Hebrew perspective. Until then remember, Just OK, is not OK.

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** Loving God, as I enter this first 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 1 & 2, 2025

Total Offertory Income ..... \$8,836.00


Average Budgeted Offertory Income ..... \$7,700.00

**Offertory Overage.....\$1,136.00**

*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'.*

*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**



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 9—Classes for all students at St. Thomas (Lenten activity)

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

**Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Pledge to Heal:** The Diocese of Erie remains committed to helping survivors of clergy sexual abuse heal and recover. The diocese will provide counseling assistance for those who have been abused by a member of the clergy. For more information, please contact Dr. Gerard Tobin, our Victim Assistance Coordinator, at 814-451-1521. *The diocese encourages anyone who has experienced abuse or misconduct by a member of the clergy or any employee or volunteer of the church to contact their local law enforcement. To report abuse to the independent investigators retained by the diocese, email [ErieRCD@KLGates.com](mailto:ErieRCD@KLGates.com). Victims/survivors or concerned individuals can report abuse directly to the diocese by calling 814-451-1543.*



**One Faith One Family**

Thanks to those who've made a pledge! Please pray about your pledge if you have not yet made one.

**Help support our parish through the 2025 Catholic Services Appeal!**

**Every dollar raised over our CSA goal stays in our parish.**

*Diocese of Erie 2025 Catholic Services Appeal*



This Lent, we invite you to join us for spiritual opportunities to rekindle your relationship with our Lord. All are welcome!

**St. Thomas Lenten FISH DINNERS**

Ash Wednesday, March 5

Fridays, March 14, 28 & April 11

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

St. Elizabeth Parish Center  
33 W. Pleasant St., Corry



Beer Battered or Crumb-Topped Baked Alaskan Cod, Baked Potato or Fresh Cut Fries or Mac & Cheese, Coleslaw or Applesauce, Italian Bread, Dessert & Beverage

Kids Meal: Fish Sticks or Beer Battered Fish, choice of sides, dessert & beverage

Adults - \$15 Child (6-12) - \$7

Dine-in, Takeout or Delivery

For Delivery Call 664-9187

*Food, Fellowship & Basket Raffles!!*

**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**

**THANK YOU** to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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