



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

November 2, 2025



THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who
sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life,
and I shall raise him up on the last day.” - Jn 6:40

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

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: Last week I started to talk about sacramentals and the distinction I was 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. This week I would like to reflect on Jesus as a sacrament and the Church as a sacrament.

People experienced Jesus in a variety of different ways. Some saw him as a teacher or a prophet; others saw him as a troublemaker and a blasphemer. Some saw him as the messiah and others saw him as a danger to the Jewish people and had him arrested and killed.

Other people saw Jesus as more than a human being. They felt as if God were speaking to them through Jesus. His curing of the sick led others to see the power of God at work in him. His loving and generous spirit led others to be more loving and generous in their lives. The disciples ask Jesus to show them the Father and Jesus told them that whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

Jesus was for these people a sign of God's presence, a sacrament of God's presence, love, concern, and power to heal. They experienced in the person of Jesus what we experience in the sacraments.

Jesus continues to be a sacrament for us today. Even though Jesus is no longer with us in person, his image in the gospels, liturgies, hymns, and art, continue to make God's presence real to us even to this very day. Jesus reveals to us so much of what we know and understand about God.

After Jesus lived, died, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven he was no longer present to his disciples as he had been during his lifetime. How would the disciples keep his presence alive now that he was gone? Jesus promised that he would be with his disciples even to the end of the world and he promised to send the Holy Spirit to empower the disciples. This new way of being present to his disciples enabled them to continue the work of Jesus and to keep his presence alive in the world.

St. Paul describes this new way of being present to us in his letter to the Ephesians. Paul speaks about how the church (the community of believers), was the Body of Christ – Christ present in the world. The disciples and the faithful people continued to do the things that Jesus did as they were filled with Holy Spirit. They told the stories of Jesus and shared his teachings, they formed community, cured the sick, and cared for the poor. The Holy Spirit now enabled the disciples to do what Jesus did. This community of believers, through the power of the Holy Spirit, had now become the Body of Christ, the presence of Christ in the world.

Through the centuries various religious orders (Franciscans, Benedictines, Jesuits, Dominicans...) and various individuals (Francis of Assisi, Vincent de Paul, Damien of Molokai, Mother Teresa, Carlo Acuti ...) ministered to the poor, the sick and the dying. Their lives were sacramental because people saw the love of God shining through them.

The work of Jesus is being carried out by lay people, religious orders, priests and deacons in the way they have devoted their lives to serving others. Whether they work in parishes, diocesan offices, or social work, in this country or as missionaries, and whether they

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**Sunday, November 2—All Soul's Day**

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

11:00a.m. †Charles & Marguerite Bengel by the family
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, November 3

8:00a.m. †Ed Weaver, Sr. by Bob & Helen Schuster
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, November 4

8:00a.m. †Chester Hajec by Linda & Mike Roden
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, November 5

8:00a.m. †Christine Lloyd by cousins
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, November 6

No Mass or services today at both St. Thomas & St. Teresa.

Friday, November 7

8:00a.m. †Thomas Zakovitch by Ilene Zakovitch
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, November 8

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

Sunday, November 9

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

11:00a.m. †Msgr. James Peterson by Judy Flynn
(St. Teresa, Union City)

work full time or part time, or as volunteers, these people are filled with the Holy Spirit and work to bring the presence of Christ to the world.

The work of Jesus also continues in families by the love that is shown in the home and in how faith is passed on from generation to generation. It continues in the ways neighbors care for each other and for the strangers in their midst. People see the very presence of God living and active in their lives.

The Second Vatican Council spoke about this notion of the Church as Sacrament when it proclaimed that the presence of Christ was real and active in the work the Church was doing in how it proclaimed the message of Jesus and cares for people as he did. When it stands up for moral issues in the world. Those people who make up the Church make visible the presence of Christ.

(Next week we will see how this Church as Sacrament also has seven moments when we believe this presence of Christ is experienced in a ritual and living way.)

THANK YOU: Thanks to Mary Jo and Nick Brunecz for the beautiful ferns that are adorning the altars at both Churches.

#IGIVECATHOLIC: #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

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

"Question of the Week" - All Souls Day

Question for Children: How did Jesus do God's will?

Question for Youth: Why did Jesus come down from Heaven?

Question for Adults: How have your thoughts about death and eternal life developed over time?



Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual Light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace. Amen.

Deceased from Our Parish since Last All Souls' Day

Thomas Pituch, Sr. - October 27, 2024
Helen Giacomina - November 14, 2024
John Patterson - November 21, 2024
Margaret Leute - December 8, 2024
Roman Bem, Jr. - December 23, 2024
Ronald Tomcho - January 9, 2025
Eden Marie Spelling - January 13, 2025
Agnes (Puckly) Deeds - January 25, 2025
Frank Lopez - February 22, 2025
Steven Mennen - March 4, 2025
Peggy Kubich - March 22, 2025
Stanley Zajac - April 12, 2025
Cathryn Landis - April 28, 2025
Richard Walter Polack - May 3, 2025
Rita Mong - May 4, 2025
Mary Jo Eddy - May 10, 2025
Candius Luba - May 29, 2025
Lois 'Jean' Calfo - May 30, 2025
Jim Burton - June 6, 2025
Chester Hajec - June 8, 2025
Tawnya (Diehl) Kressler - June 8, 2025
Elaine Lazarow—August 13, 2025

We continue to pray for these and all our loved ones.



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Thomas Church for the week of November 2nd burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Deborah Graves.



Coffee and Donuts TODAY

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

Holiday Pastry Sale by St. Thomas Altar Rosary

We will be selling pastries at Masses the weekends of Nov. 15/16 and Nov. 22/23. Cost is \$16 for Kolachi (Walnut or Apricot) and \$13 for Baklava. Monies raised by the Altar Rosary are used for purchases to enhance the altar and our church. Your support is always appreciated. Thank you.



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.



Choir Practice at St. Thomas

With Advent and Christmas right around the corner, choir practice for St. Thomas will begin on Thursday, November 13th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at St. Thomas Church, and continue on Thursdays 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.

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.



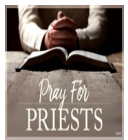
All are invited to join us for this special Mass honoring loved ones buried from our parish this year.

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 November 2, 2025

Sun.: Wisdom 3:1-9 ♦ Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 ♦ Romans 5:5-11 or
Romans 6:3-9 ♦ John 6:37-40
Mon.: Romans 11:29-36 ♦ Psalm 69:30-31, 33-34, 36 ♦ Luke 14:12-14
Tues.: Romans 12:5-16b ♦ Psalm 131:1bcd, 2, 3 ♦ Luke 14:15-24
Wed.: Romans 13:8-10 ♦ Psalm 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9 ♦ Luke 14:25-33
Thur.: Romans 14:7-12 ♦ Psalm 27:1bcd, 4, 13-14 ♦ Luke 15:1-10
Fri.: Romans 15:14-21 ♦ Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 ♦ Luke 16:1-8
Sat.: Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27 ♦ Psalm 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11 ♦ Luke 16:9-15
Next Sun.: Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 ♦ Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 ♦
1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17 ♦ John 2:13-22



Rev. Lawrence Richards, Rev. David Carter, Rev. John Chaplin, Rev. Zab Amar, Rev. John Miller, Rev. Ian McElrath, Rev. David Perry, and also *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

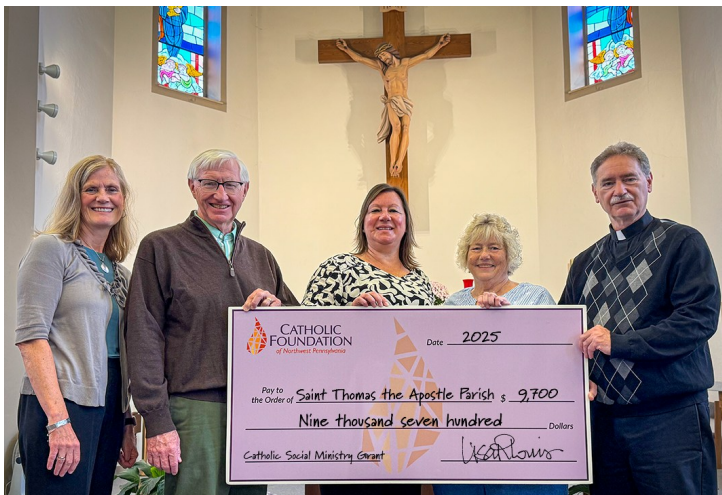
Mysteries of the Rosary Series—The Joyful Mysteries

This video series study makes the Rosary come alive in the hearts and minds of the participants. **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.



NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK | NOV. 2 - 8

Vocation: Your divine call to serve God through your unique life.
Pray for your vocation and for others who may discerning.



Check presentation from the Catholic Foundation for Grant to *Hearts & Hands: Cooking with Compassion—Senior Meals*. Pictured are Lisa Louis & Bob Crowley with the Catholic Foundation, Missy, Colleen Z. and Fr. Tom.

Consider Engagement Encounter

Getting married in 2026? Take time to invest in your future with an Engagement Encounter weekend, **February 6-8, 2026** at *St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie*. This retreat fulfills diocesan marriage preparation requirements and offers couples—Catholic and interfaith alike—a chance to deepen their connection before the big day. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Call the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261 or email: familylife@eriercd.org. Details and registration: <https://www.eriercd.org/familylifeoffice/>. Remember: *"A wedding is one day, but marriage is for a lifetime."*



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of November 2nd burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Mary Ann Shinko.

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.

Family Perspective

Today is All Souls Day. A special day when we remember and pray for all the people who have died, especially those who are in Purgatory. It's a time to think about our loved ones who have passed away and to pray that they are at peace with God. This day helps us remember that our prayers can help those who are no longer with us. Can you think of someone special who has passed away that we can pray for today?



"The souls of the just are in the hand of God..." Wisdom 3:1

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!*



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: October 25 & 26, 2025

Total Offertory Income \$6,841.00
 Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage.....\$(-859.00)

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!

Remember to Support Our Advertisers

No Checkbook or Offertory Envelope Today?

No problem! Just visit our parish website 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. If you decide to give regularly online, please let the parish office know so offertory envelopes can be stopped.



Use your phone to scan the QR Code to give today!

Winterizing Our Cemeteries

With the colder weather finally upon us, parishioners are reminded to remove all potted urns/plants from graves by Nov. 15th at our cemeteries. Cleanup of our Corry cemeteries is planned for Sat., Nov. 15 from 9am-11am. Holiday wreaths and decorations may be put out following Thanksgiving. Questions/concerns, please call the parish office. Thanks.



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

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 = \$67,148

Paid to date = \$63,678

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:**

- November 2—Class
- November 9—Class & Youth Mass
- November 16—Class
- November 23—Class/ Safe Environment

Pray for the Confirmation Student Retreat

Students in our parish's Confirmation Class will be attending a Confirmation Retreat this coming weekend (Nov. 8) at Gannon University with others from across our diocese. Please keep the retreat leaders and students in your prayers. *May the Holy Spirit stir into flame the hearts and minds of students so they will have an uplifting experience to strengthen them in their faith journey towards becoming an 'adult' in the Church.*



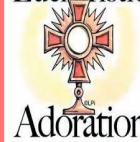
ELECTION DAY

**TUESDAY
 NOVEMBER 4th
 Please remember to
 VOTE**

Eucharistic Adoration THIS WEEK

Make haste and come to my help...

Our parishes will hold their monthly Eucharistic Adoration this week. It will be held on **Thursday, November 6th (8:00am) through Friday, November 7th (8:00am) at Saint Thomas Church.** It will also be held on **Friday, November 7th (8:00am –12:00pm) at St. Teresa Church.** All are welcome any time to spend a prayerful, quiet moment with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

**[Message from the Pastor—continued]**

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

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