

THE PARISH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE AND ITS MISSION ST. TERESA OF AVILA

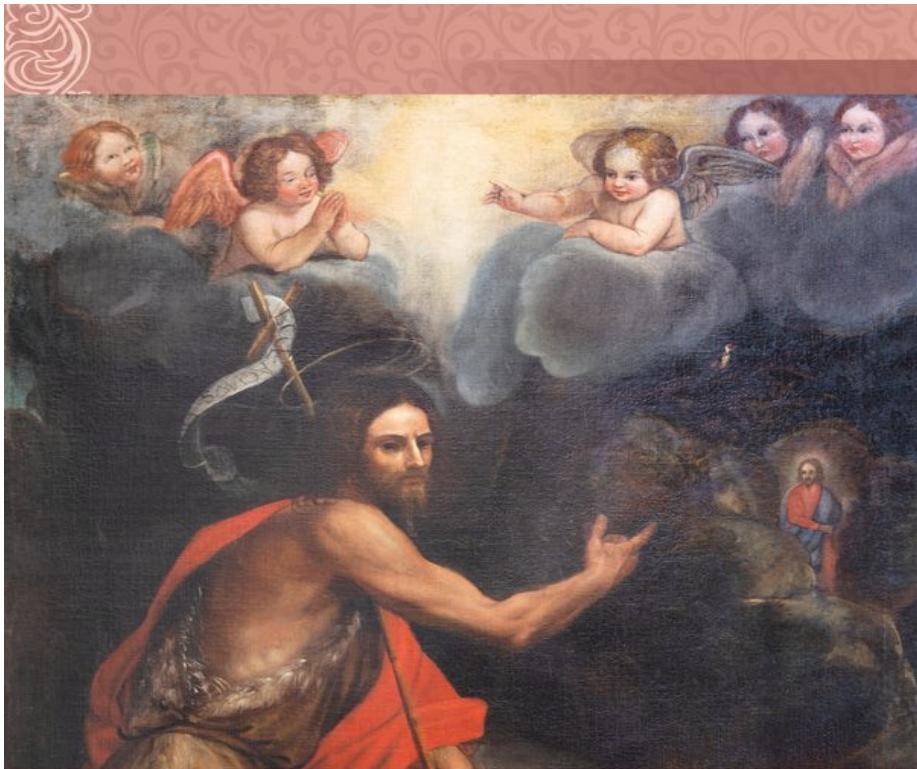


Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
203 W. Washington Street
Corry, PA 16407



Saint Teresa of Avila Church
9 Third Avenue
Union City, PA 16438

January 18, 2026



2nd Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

"John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.'" Jn 1:29

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

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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

UN - DECORATING FROM CHRISTMAS AT BOTH CHURCHES: Thanks to all those who helped to undecorate and clean up both Churches from our Christmas season.

EPIPHANY PARTY: Thanks to the Altar Rosary Society of St. Teresa for putting on a delicious luncheon and a very fun event. Thanks to the Rosary Altar Society of St. Thomas for bringing so many members to this event on a very snowy day. Everyone had a great time in spite of the weather.

This is one of the events where people from both parishes come together and build community. There are other examples of this happening in Religious Education, the Knights of Columbus, and other areas of our life together as a parish. Thanks to all those who are making these great things happen.

ASH WEDNESDAY: One month from today is Ash Wednesday. We will follow the same schedule as last year: 8:00am Mass at St. Thomas, distribution of ashes at both churches at Noon, and 7:00pm Mass at St. Teresa.

HEALTH UPDATE: Two years ago, I announced that I would be greeting people at the doors before and after Mass, but that I would NOT be shaking people's hands. I did this because I am immune suppressed and didn't want to take unnecessary risks and not pass those on to others. Most people have been very gracious in cooperating with my request to NOT shake hands (fist bump or anything else). I ask for your continued diligence with that as cold and flu season is in full swing.

As some of you may know, I have been experiencing some health issues since August. After months of tests and doctors appointments, I am having surgery to resolve my issues. My surgery will be early in February and will entail some "down time" on my part including not being able to drive for two weeks. I will be able to walk to Mass at St. Teresa but will not be able to drive to St. Thomas for those two weeks. Fr. Leo Gallina and Fr. Tom Suppa will cover the weekend Masses for me on those two weekends.

LITTLE BLACK BOOKS: I have placed a few copies of what are called "little black books" for Lent at back of both Churches. Please feel free to take these and use them for Lent. Please let me know if you think these are worth investing in for the future.

We are giving the Religious Education Students a little purple book for Lent and have given our First Eucharist Students little books on the Eucharist.

Where do these come from? Many years ago, Bishop Ken Untener, from Saginaw, Michigan started these "little books" in his diocese. Bishop Untener was an amazing individual in many ways before his death in 2004. He gave a retreat to some of the priests of the diocese of Erie that I was privileged to be a part of. Some people from the Saginaw Diocese have continued his work with these "little books."

CONTACT INFORMATION: When a parishioner is in the hospital, please call the parish office (814-663-3041) to let us know so someone can visit them and provide them with communion and/or the anointing of the sick. The same is true if someone is in the nursing home – particularly the Corry Manor. I visit the Manor each month to anoint the Catholic residents and one of our Eucharistic Ministers takes communion there each month as well.

In case of someone needing to be anointed you can call the parish office (814-663-3041) or the number at the rectory at St. Teresa is 814-438-6048. Remember that I live at St. Teresa but am in the office at St. Thomas part of the week. Don't be afraid to leave messages at

Continued ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡

**Sunday, January 18**

8:00a.m. For the People of the Parish
(St. Thomas, Corry)
11:00a.m. †Ronald Tomcho by the Shinko & Fifer Families
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, January 19

8:00a.m. †Fr. John Santor
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, January 20

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

Wednesday, January 21

8:00a.m. †Don & Mary Perry by Richard & Jean Farver
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, January 22

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

Friday, January 23

8:00a.m. †Larry King by Dick & Elaine Hasbrouck
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, January 24

4:30p.m. †Steve Mennen by the St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society (St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, January 25

8:00a.m. †Judith Johnston by Gary, Sue and Joseph Johnston (St. Thomas, Corry)
11:00a.m. For the People of the Parish
(St. Teresa, Union City)

both places for me. It is hard to be in two places at one time.

PARISH COUNCIL: We owe a debt of gratitude to our Parish Council for working through some difficult times over the past three years. They have worked through a parish partnership, the merging of three parishes into one parish and a mission church, as well as the sale of the property at Our Lady of Fatima. Those Council members were **Becky Boleratz, Ken Calfo, Nancy Ferro, Amy Helmer, Pat Keys, Paige Megat, Karen Puckly, Mike Roden, Jonathan Swank, Pat Valimont, and Bill Zimmer**. At our last meeting we discussed a new format for Council, and I thought it would be good to give this group a well-deserved break by ending their terms on Council. Please extend your thanks to them for all their hard work.

The new format for Council is still in the early stages of development. The heart of this new Council will be that they will brainstorm ideas to keep our parish moving forward and building community. They will not only be responsible for the idea phase but will also be responsible for making those ideas become reality. It will be a Council of planning and implementing those plans. Over the next few months, I will be interviewing people who may be interested in being a part of this Council. Depending on the number of interested people, we may have a Council and then a group of people who are interested in helping us implement the ideas Council proposes. If you are interested in interviewing for some part of this Council, please contact me at the parish office (814-663-3041) or by email (TJWhitman@eriercd.org) to schedule an appointment.

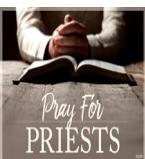
- Fr. Tom

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.

The SANCTUARY CANDLE at our churches for the week of January 18th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased members of the church.



Rev. Philip Oriole, Martin Luther King Day, Rev. Johnathan Schmolt, Rev. William Laska, Rev. Jerome Simmons, Rev. David Carter, The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, and also please *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

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 10. Need not be present to win. Proceeds help benefit Knights Council #425 and the good works they do for our parish and community.

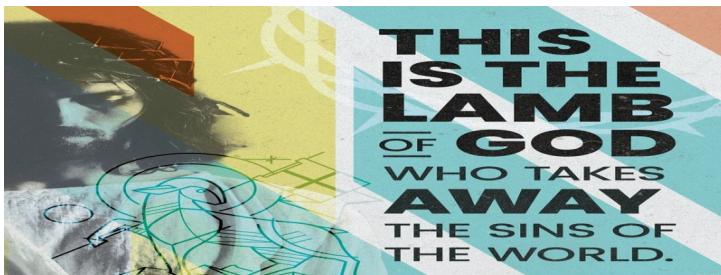


SNOWMAN RAFFLE
1st PRIZE - \$100.00 CASH
2nd PRIZE - \$50.00 CASH
3rd PRIZE - \$25.00 CASH
Drawing at Knights of Columbus "February Meeting"
Donation: \$1.00

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

Catholic Daughters Meeting THIS WEEK

Members of the local Catholic Daughters will meet on Thursday, January 22, at 5:30pm in the St. Elizabeth Parish Center. Please join us and bring a friend. *Hope to see you there.*



COAL Tickets (Chance of a Lifetime) are on sale now from the local 4th Degree Council of the Knights of Columbus. You may contact Mike Gluvna (814-664-4416) or stop into the parish office to get your tickets. Donation of \$5 per ticket will

give you a chance to win a prize. Winners will be drawn in May. Proceeds benefit the Knights State Council Charities. Thank you.



Saturday Morning Rosary

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

Coffee and Donuts TODAY—January 18th

Coffee and Donuts will be served in the multipurpose room at St. Thomas following Sunday's 8:00am Mass on January 18th. Donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of the donuts. All are welcome to join us for a time of fellowship.

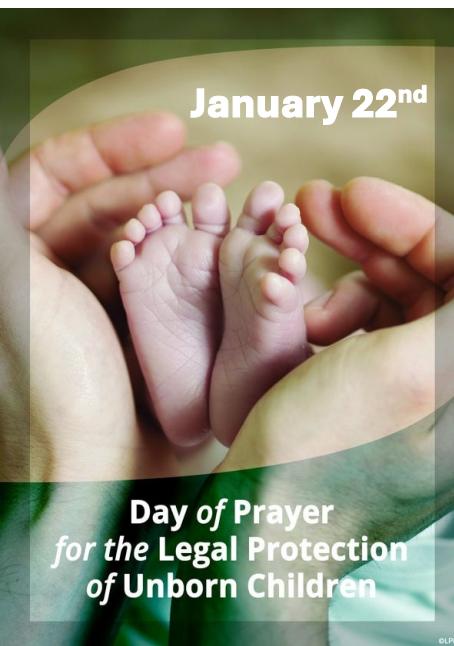


"Question of the Week" - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: If someone were to ask you, "who is Jesus?" how would you answer?

Question for Youth: How are you able to see through all the busyness, the distractions, and the din of today's world to really see Christ as he makes himself present today? Where do you see him or experience his presence?

Question for Adults: In the gospel today, John tells us who Jesus is for him. If someone were to ask you, how would you answer this question: Who Jesus is for you?



In all the dioceses of the United States, January 22 shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person.

General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373

Pray that ALL life is protected from conception until natural death.



Follow Us on Facebook! Be sure to check out and follow our updated, combined Facebook page: St. Thomas the Apostle & its Mission St. Teresa

It's a great way to stay connected with parish news, events, and announcements!



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.



St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of January 18, 2026

Sun.: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 ♦ Psalm 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 ♦ 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 ♦ John 1:29-34
 Mon.: 1 Samuel 15:16-23 ♦ Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 ♦ Mark 2:18-22
 Tues.: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 ♦ Psalm 89:20, 21-22, 27-28 ♦ Mark 2:23-28
 Wed.: 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51 ♦ Psalm 144:1b, 2, 9-10 ♦ Mark 3:1-6
 Thur.: 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7 ♦ Psalm 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13 ♦ Mark 3:7-12
 Fri.: 1 Samuel 24:3-21 ♦ Psalm 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11 ♦ Mark 3:13-19
 Sat.: 2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27 ♦ Psalm 80:2-3, 5-7 ♦ Mark 3:20-21
 Next Sun.: Isaiah 8:23-9:3 ♦ Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14 ♦ 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17 ♦ Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of January 18th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased members of the church.

Family Perspective

"Have you testified that Jesus is the Son of God?" If you're not discussing Jesus within your family, you're missing an opportunity to testify. Remember, if your actions don't align with your words, your children will see your words as meaningless.

EXPLORE THE
INTERNATIONAL THOMAS
MERTON SOCIETY



THOMAS MERTON BIOPICT

WHAT TO EXPECT

- WATCH THE BIO-PIC
- HAPPY HOUR
- DISCUSS THE WORK OF INTERNATIONAL THOMAS MERTON SOCIETY

OUR LADY OF MERCY
837 BARTLETT RD.,
HARBORCREEK



3:00 PM
24 JANUARY

RSVP TO AARON AT AKERR@ERIERCD.ORG

MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.REALLYGREATSITE.COM HELLO@REALLYGREATSITE.COM

'Comfort Through Grief' Ministry Meetings Resume

St. Joseph/Bread of Life Parish Community Comfort Through Grief ministry's next presentation will be on Monday, Jan. 26, with registration starting at 5:30pm. Program from 6:00-8:00pm. This upcoming program will be "Finding Comfort From Reports of Near Death Experiences—The Catholic Perspective". These meetings will be held on the 4th Monday of every month at St. Joseph, upstairs in the multipurpose room, 147 W. 24th Street, Erie. For more information, email dulcibarb@aol.com.

Openings Remain for Engagement Encounter!

Next to your wedding day, this could be the most memorable weekend of your journey together. **Engagement Encounter** offers couples a chance to step away from the planning and focus on building a strong foundation for lifelong love.

When: **February 6-8, 2026**

Where: *St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie*

A few spots are still available—space is limited, so register soon! This retreat fulfills diocesan marriage prep requirements and welcomes **Catholic and interfaith couples**. Call the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261 or email familylife@erieRCD.org. Register and learn more at eriercd.org/familylifeoffice.

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

Here I am Lord; I come to do Your Will. Psalm 40

SAVE-THE-DATES

Men's Conference on Saturday, March 7, 2026
 Women's Conference on Saturday, April 18, 2026

THIS MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY, WE PRAY FOR A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO LOVE, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND NONVIOLENCE



Monday
January 19th

OUR LIVES BEGIN TO END THE DAY WE BECOME SILENT ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

MARCH FOR LIFE WASHINGTON, DC JANUARY 23, 2026 "LIFE IS A GIFT"

ANNUAL BUS TRIP

Leave Erie on Thursday evening, January 22, 11 p.m.
 March in Washington, DC on Friday, January 23
 Return Saturday morning, January 24 about 1:30 a.m.

- ✓ \$70 / seat
- ✓ Sign up while seats are still available!
- ✓ Inquire about sponsorship.
- ✓ peopleforlife.org/january2026
- ✓ facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip
- ✓ Call or e-mail with questions.
- ✓ Sponsorship donations welcome

PEOPLE FOR LIFE

1625 W. 26th St., Erie, PA 16508
 (814) 882-1333 • (814) 459-1333
hq@peopleforlife.org

www.PeopleforLife.org

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: January 10 & 11, 2026

Total Offertory Income \$6,995.00
Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage \$(-705.00)

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

THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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

Year End Giving Statements

To request your 2025 giving statement from the church please contact Sue Johnston in the church office by Calling: 814-663-3041 or E-mailing: secretary@stparish.org

Thank you for supporting our parish of St. Thomas the Apostle and its mission, St. Teresa of Avila.

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 be sure to notify the Parish Office of any changes to your address, phone numbers, or email address. Thank you.

Religious Education News

Religious Education Program

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 Sunday mornings.



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

Calendar Reminders for Religious Education

Sunday, Jan. 18—No Classes

Sunday, Jan. 25—Classes for ALL students at St. Thomas

Sunday, Feb. 1—Classes for ALL students at St. Thomas

Sunday, Feb. 8—Classes for ALL students at St. Thomas

Sunday, Feb. 15—No Classes

Sunday, Feb. 22—Classes for ALL students at St. Thomas

Sunday, Mar. 1—Classes for students & Youth Mass at St. Thomas

Parish Office Closed on Monday, January 19th

We will not be open on Monday this week—sorry for any inconvenience. Please call or visit the parish office this week on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday (January 20—22). Thank you.



January 6, 2026
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Communicating the Gospel has always been at the heart of the Catholic Church's mission. Today, that mission takes on renewed urgency as we work to reach the faithful across our 13 counties through meaningful stories, clear teaching, and accessible outreach.

That is why I am inviting you to support the **Help Spread the Faith Communications Collection**, taken up on the weekend of January 24-25, 2026, which sustains two vital ministries in our diocese:

- **Faith magazine**
- **Catholic Communications (digital, video and news outreach)**

Your generosity makes it possible for us to:

- **Deliver Faith magazine** to tens of thousands of households – sharing stories of hope, service and discipleship.
- **Reach those on the margins** who no longer attend Mass regularly but stay connected through our publications and digital presence.
- **Strengthen our digital evangelization**, including video messages, online storytelling and social outreach.

- **Provide clear, trustworthy communication** during moments of celebration, challenge or transition in the life of the church.

Many parishioners have shared how a single article, homily quote or online reflection brought comfort in grief, encouraged a return to the sacraments or reignited a desire for deeper faith. These moments are grace at work – and your support makes them possible.

As we look forward to the year ahead, I ask you to prayerfully consider a gift to this year's collection. Your contribution directly helps us:

- Preserve **Faith magazine** as a free resource for every Catholic household.
- Expand our ability to proclaim the Gospel in innovative and compelling ways.
- Ensure that the Good News reaches every corner of northwest Pennsylvania.

You have my heartfelt gratitude for the many ways you support the mission of the Catholic Church. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones.

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