



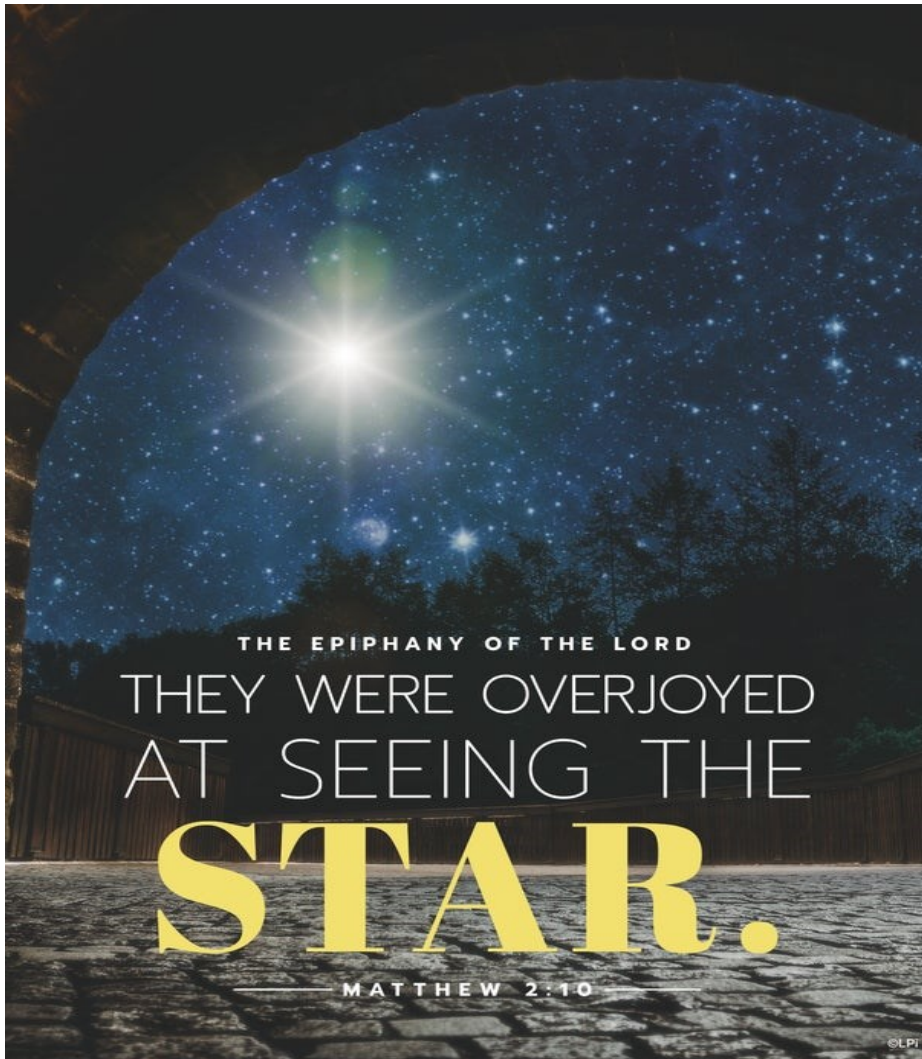
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
203 W. Washington Street
Corry, PA 16407

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 5, 2025



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

Saint Teresa of Avila Church
www.st-teresa-unioncity.org

Parish Office
203 W. Washington Street
Corry, PA 16407
814-663-3041

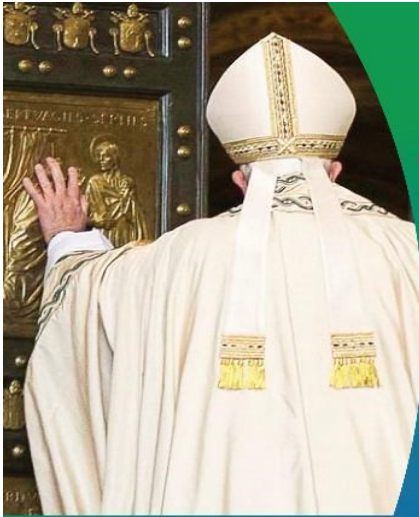
Parish Office Hours
Monday: 12:30pm—3:30pm
Tuesday & Wednesday: 8:30am—3:30pm
Thursday: 8:30am—12:00pm (noon)
Friday: Closed

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.



Jubilee Journey:

Celebrating Together for Holy Year 2025



 Journey with the Diocese of Erie
ErieRCD.org/HolyYear2025.html

Plenary Indulgence

At least once during the Holy Year:

- Receive sacramental confession and absolution
- Receive Holy Communion

And carry out any of the following:

- Make a visit to either St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, or St. Leo Magnus Church, Ridgway, to pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.
- Visit the sick or others in need.
- Perform personal acts of penance for an entire day, such as:
 - Abstain from eating meat
 - Abstain from distractions
 - Abstain from unnecessary consumption of food or drink
- Perform significant acts of charity:
 - Contribute to the poor
 - Support the homeless, etc.
 - Volunteer a significant amount of time in support of human life and dignity

Each person can receive one plenary indulgence per day.

Visit the Diocese of Erie Holy Year website for the full decree



- Sunday, January 5—*Epiphany of the Lord***
- 8:00a.m. †George Baker by Deacon Randy & Anne Kondrlik (St. Thomas, Corry)
 - 11:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa
- Monday, January 6**
- 8:00a.m. †Ed Weaver, Sr. by Richard & Barbara Maloney (St. Teresa, Union City)
- Tuesday, January 7**
- 8:00a.m. †Amoroso and Lutz Families by family (St. Thomas, Corry)
- Wednesday, January 8**
- 8:00a.m. †Deceased & Living members of the Vinca and Buccolini Families by Julie & Steve Rushin (St. Thomas, Corry)
- Thursday, January 9**
- No Mass or Services at either Sts. Thomas or Teresa today.
- Friday, January 10**
- 8:00a.m. †Paul Mongera, Sr. by Lillie Mongera
- Saturday, January 11**
- 4:30p.m. In Honor of Tracy Blair for health by Barbara & Gil Wascak (St. Thomas, Corry)
- 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)

THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!
 We appreciate their support of our parishes and ask our parishioners to please patronize these business.

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
Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast

MARCH FOR LIFE WASHINGTON, DC

JANUARY 24, 2025

LET'S MAKE EVERY LIFE GREAT AGAIN!

52ND ANNUAL TRIP

Depart from Erie on Thursday evening, January 23, 11 p.m.
 March in Washington, DC on Friday, January 24
 Return Saturday morning, January 25 about 1:30 a.m.

- ✓ \$90 / seat
- ✓ Early reservations recommended.
- ✓ Sponsorship inquiries are welcome!
- ✓ peopleforlife.org/january2025
- ✓ www.facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip
- ✓ Please call or e-mail with questions.

PEOPLE FOR LIFE

1625 W. 26th St., Erie
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512
 (814) 882-1333 ★ (814) 459-1333
 office@peopleforlife.org
www.PeopleforLife.org

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 5th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory all our loved ones.



How silently, how silently this wondrous gift is given.

Make a resolution to spend more time with Jesus in 2025—visit the church for silent prayer, attend daily Mass, pray at home, say a Rosary, read the Bible, and show kindness to others.

Thank You for Preparing the Church for Christmas

We wish to thank all the volunteer who helped clean St. Thomas Church on Thursday, Dec. 19 and/ or who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season. We appreciate the time and effort given by your in service to our church. *Thank you!*



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

Thank You from the Corry Food Pantry

We wish to thank everyone who used their Thanksgiving Day envelope to donate to the Corry Food Pantry. We were able to gift them \$305 through the generosity of YOU—our parishioners. Thank you for sharing your blessings with others. The parish received a thank you note from the Corry Food Pantry expressing their gratitude and much appreciation for the donation.

St. Thomas Church Organizations / Groups

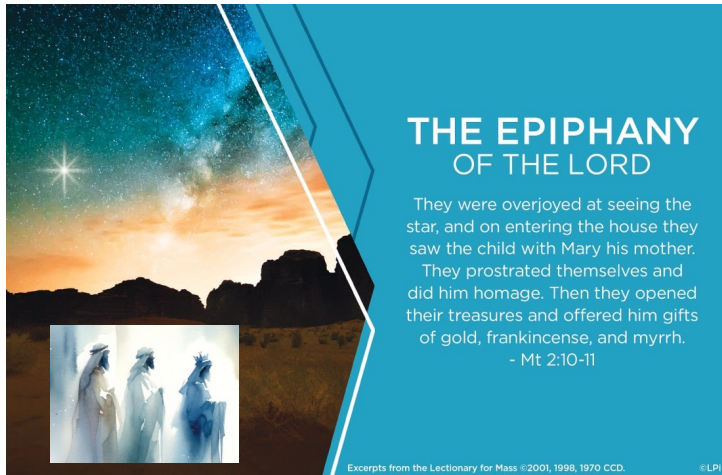
- Altar—Rosary Society**
Meets the third Wednesday of the month
- Knights of Columbus—Corry Council #425**
Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM
- Catholic Daughters of the Americas**
Meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM



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.

St. Teresa News



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
 - Mt 2:10-11

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

"Question of the Week" - Solemnity of the Epiphany

Question for Children: In your life, who helps you to see Jesus in other people such as a classmate or a friend?

Question for Youth: The star guided the Magi to Jesus. What are the people or events who have guided you in your relationship with Jesus?

Question for Adults: How this past week did you demonstrate God's love at home and at work?

Family Perspective

After meeting Jesus, the Magi returned home by "another way." What in your family needs to be done "another way?" Do you need "another way to resolve differences, to communicate or show affection? This is a new year, time to change what isn't working. Take a tip from some wise men, there's always "another way."

With Grateful Hearts

Thank you to those who donated gifts to the St. Teresa Giving Tree during the Christmas season. You helped make Christmas special for those in need. Thanks again for your generosity.



Thank You for Helping Decorate

Thanks to all you stayed after Mass on Sunday, Dec. 22 to decorate the church for Christmas. We appreciate it.



Rev. Scott Detisch, Rev. Joseph Dougherty, Rev. Jeffrey Lucas, Rev. John Malthaner, Rev. Robert Horgas, Rev. Frank Dicristina, Rev. Thomas Aleksa, and also please *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

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

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: December 28 & 29, 2024

The Financial Stewardship Report for the weekend of Dec. 28 & 29 will be published in the next bulletin (January 12). Today's bulletin had to be submitted to our publisher early due to holiday schedules. Thank you to all who regularly use your church offertory envelopes and/or give to the parish collection. We appreciate your support.

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'.

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

Readings for the week of January 5, 2025

Sun.: Isaiah 60:1-6 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11) ♦
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 ♦ Matthew 2:1-12
Mon.: 1 John 3:22—4:6 ♦ Psalm 2:7bc-8, 10-12a ♦ Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25
Tues.: 1 John 4:7-10 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 ♦ Mark 6:34-44
Wed.: 1 John 4:11-18 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 ♦ Mark 6:45-52
Thur.: 1 John 4:19—5:4 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 ♦ Luke 4:14-22a
Fri.: 1 John 5:5-13 ♦ Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 ♦ Luke 5:12-16
Sat.: 1 John 5:14-21 ♦ Psalm 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b ♦ John 3:22-30
Next 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

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**2024-2025 Religious Education Program**

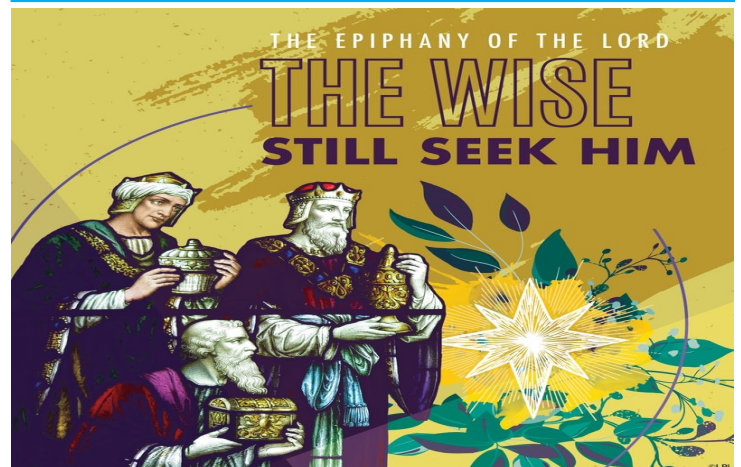
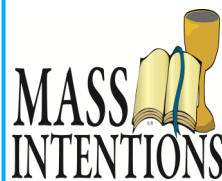
Our Religious Education Program combined this year. Combining our resources makes our program stronger. For the 2024-2025 Religious Education Year, classes are at St. Teresa for the first half of the year (September—December) and at St. Thomas for the second half of the year (January—May). **Now that we are in the second half of the Religious Education year— ALL Classes will meet at St. Thomas school building from 9:00am until 10:30am.**

**Calendar Reminders for Religious Education**

Sunday, January 5—Classes resume at St. Thomas
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

Mass Intentions for Our Parishes

Contact the parish office at 814-663-3041 to schedule Mass intentions for loved ones. We will do our best to accommodate date requests. **The stipend is ONLY \$10 per Mass.** Please do not send extra money as it causes our books to be out of balance. Thank you. You may also sponsor the Sanctuary Candle at either church for a loved one for one week—cost is only \$10.

**Epiphany Home Blessing**

The Epiphany household blessing is an ancient practice in the Church. This tradition is a beautiful way to observe the coming of the magi while invoking God's blessing on your home and all who enter it. All that is needed is chalk and a prayerful heart!

There are a few different formulas for blessings, but the essence of the ritual is always the same: a priest or the head of the household calls down God's blessing on the house and everyone who comes into it, and an inscription is made above the door in chalk. The inscription reads: the first two digits of the year (20) + C + M + B + the last two digits of the year (25). The initials C, M and B represent the names of the magi — Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar — and also signify the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* which is "May Christ bless the house."



GOD IS MADE FLESH IN THE PERSON OF JESUS
PRESENCE

“And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. (Luke 2:19)” All the things that surrounded the birth of Jesus – the census, the journey to Bethlehem, no room at the inn, the shepherds, and the angels – were things that Mary kept in her heart or remembered, and then reflected on them as to their meaning. All these things that caused those who experienced them to wonder, “What will this child be?” The mystery of it all that needed to be pondered and reflected upon because they did it all.

Sometimes we use this word “mystery” as a cop out. Because we cannot explain it or we do not want to take the time to figure it out, we say, “It is a mystery.” Sometimes we see this mystery as a puzzle that we need to figure out. But mystery is a real thing in religion. Paul speaks about it in his letters in reference to the nature of Jesus and to resurrection from the dead. I suspect that mystery is meant to remind us that we will never have God all figured out and that we need to spend time in our own prayer “keeping these things and reflecting on them in our hearts.” What did all this mean for Mary and Joseph? What did it mean for the shepherds and the magi? What did it mean for the Jewish people? What did it mean for those who were not Jewish? What does it mean for you and me? If we could figure it out, then it really would not be about God, but about us. We cannot figure out God with our limited human minds. But if it is a mystery, then it is something that stirs up wonder, awe, amazement, and astonishment in us, just as it did for those who experienced it on that first Christmas day.

Even the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us that “Christ’s whole life is a mystery (512-70). There are so many things we know from the Gospels about the human life of Jesus, but there are so many more things we do not know about what those elements of his life really mean, and what they really mean for you and me. This story of the birth of Jesus is not a one and done kind of thing, but something we need to go back to time and time again to reflect on what it means for us NOW. The element of mystery in the life of Jesus means that there is always something more for us to learn or take away from reflecting on the events of his life. This mystery of who Jesus is and what he means for us can never be exhausted. Our life of prayerful reflection and meditation on the life of Jesus is part of the nourishment and strength that God who is ever present to us, provides. This element of mystery stirs within us that God is really present to us, and that presence is one that continues to nourish and strengthen us.

This event of the birth of Jesus has stood the test of time. For over two thousand years people have celebrated this day with wonder and awe at how God could become one of us. People have celebrated the hope that this day brings to us in the way God’s Love is made visible to us in this world and that love has continued to be a source of hope and strength for people in the best of times and in the worst of times. This day is one that celebrates the mystery of God, invisible, yet visible, in the things of our human lives and our human world. This day reminds us that God is present to us in ways we cannot understand and in ways that we not only understand but live in our own lives.

