



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

December 14, 2025



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." - Mt 11:10

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

ADVENT REFLECTION SERIES BY DOLORES SMYTH: A few years ago I came across an article by Dolores Smyth about finding balance in our lives. As we begin another Advent and Christmas Season, things get very busy and sometimes we lose our focus. Hopefully, these reflections from her article can be of help to us all.

3. Nurture the ties that bind to feel happier, live longer

The Gospels tell us that Jesus' first miracle was performed at a wedding he attended with his mother (John 2:1-11). It's telling that Jesus chose to commence his ministry while surrounded by friends and family. It's also telling that, upon embarking on his ministry, Jesus selected a steady group of supporters with whom to travel and carry out his work.

Numerous studies have shown that people in supportive relationships are happier, have fewer health problems, and live longer than those without such social bonds.

To seize opportunities for quality time with others, I turned outings alone into time spent with loved ones. I discovered that time together didn't have to be fastidiously planned or the destination especially noteworthy. In fact, some of my most enjoyable get-togethers have been in the midst of running errands. I'm lucky to have loved ones nearby, but if that isn't the case for you, join a club or take up a hobby that might introduce you to like-minded people with whom to enjoy your time.

YOUR GENEROSITY IS APPRECIATED: We have been involved in a number of community projects in recent weeks and I want to thank everyone who helped to make these projects so successful. First, I want to thank all those who have been reaching out and donating to help the Wilson family after the loss of their home due to a fire. The support has come in a variety of ways: the GoFundMe page that people have supported, we collected \$6,175 from parishioners so far, and our Religious Education Program provided all the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal. Your response has been incredible. And I know Heather and her family are overwhelmed by the generous response of people. We can all help them rebuild their home and their lives by contributing to a GOFUNDME page at GoFundMe.com and search for "posie hill." If you are not able to use the GoFundMe page, you can place your donation in an envelope marked "Wilson Family" and place it in the collection basket. We will then forward the money on to the family with a check from the church. Thank you.

We have also been involved in the collection of food at both Churches – at St. Thomas the Knights of Columbus have been collecting food for the Food Pantry in Corry and at St. Teresa parishioners and Religious Education students collected food to feed 30 families at Thanksgiving. Even the 30 turkeys were donated by a generous parishioner. And in recent days we have been receiving presents that you purchased to help needy children at Christmas. I just want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your generosity to these various causes and the good things you are doing to help those in need in our parish and our community.

2026 CALENDARS: The 2026 Calendars are available at the entrances/exits this weekend. We are grateful to our local funeral homes for sponsoring these calendars. PLEASE TAKE ONE CALENDAR for your home. If there are extras after a few weeks, then you will be welcome to take extra ones.

Continued ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡

**Sunday, December 14—3rd Sunday of Advent**

8:00a.m. ✠ Deceased & Living Members of the Vinca and Buccolini Families by Julie & Steve Rushin (St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. For the People of the Parish (St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, December 15

8:00a.m. ✠ Anna & Si Springer by Judy Flynn (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, December 16

8:00a.m. ✠ Jim Burton by Barb Diehl (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, December 17

8:00a.m. ✠ Thomas Oldani by Family (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, December 18

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

Friday, December 19

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

Saturday, December 20

4:30p.m. For the People of the Parish (St. Teresa, Union City)

Sunday, December 21—4th Sunday of Advent

8:00a.m. ✠ Deceased & Living Members of the Rushin and Hennings Families by Steve & Julie Rushin (St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. ✠ Tommy Bengel by Family (St. Teresa, Union City)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Christmas Eve Masses will be at 4:30pm at St. Thomas Church and at 7:00pm at St. Teresa Church.

Mass on Christmas Day will be at 10:00am at St. Thomas Church.

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS AT BOTH CHURCHES: We will be decorating the Churches for Christmas on the following dates: All are welcome to help!

- St. Teresa: Sunday, December 21 at Noon
- St. Thomas: Monday, December 22 at 9:00am

- 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.

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

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.



Thank You from the St. Thomas Altar Rosary Pastry Sale

We wish to thank everyone who supported our pastry sale by purchasing kolachi and/or baklava. Also, thank you to our members who helped sell the pastries before and after Masses. We hope you enjoy your treats this holiday season. Remember, the Altar Rosary Society uses raised funds for purchases to enhance our altar and church. Your support is always appreciated. Thanks again.

Advent Reflection

In a season filled with busyness and noise, it can be easy to overlook the quiet ways God wishes to enter our lives. Just as Mary and Joseph made room for Jesus in a humble stable, we too are called to make space for His presence within us. How is God calling you to make more room for Christ this Advent in your home, your heart or your daily life? This month, choose one concrete way to open that space through prayer, forgiveness or an act of kindness that reflects His love to others.



Teach me your ways, O Lord. Psalm 25

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

- Monday, December 22—12:30pm until 3:30pm
- Tuesday, December 23—8:30am until 3:30pm
- Wed., December 24 through Sunday, January 4—CLOSED

Our staff may occasionally be in to check messages/email and prepare for liturgies, but we will not be open to the public.
Sorry for any inconvenience.

Come, O Lord, do not delay.

"Question of the Week" - Third Sunday of Advent

Question for Children: Why is Christmas such a time of happiness for people?

Question for Youth: God speaks to you every day: Isaiah tells us our ears and eyes will be opened in Christ to hear God's voice. What do you hear God saying to you?

Question for Adults: What is there in this promise from the Prophet Isaiah that gives you hope? How have you seen this promise fulfilled in Christ?



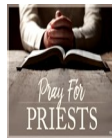
The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of December 14th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Tawnya Diehl Kressler by her Mom and children.

St. Thomas Church Choir

Choir practice is on Thursdays evenings from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at St. Thomas Church to prepare for Advent and Christmas. If you love to sing or just want to give it a try, you are welcome to join us!

Catholic Daughters Meeting THIS WEEK

Ladies of the Catholic Daughters will hold their meeting this Thursday, December 18th (moved up on week due to the Christmas holiday). We will meet at St. Elizabeth Parish Center at 5:30pm for our regular monthly meeting. Hope you will join us.



Rev. Michael DeMartinis, Rev. Robert Horgas, Rev. Brandon Feikles, Rev. Joseph Dougherty, Rev. Chris Hamlett, Rev. Ignatius Camello, OSB, Very Rev. John Detisch, V.F., and also *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*



48TH ANNUAL PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST

January 17, 2026 ♦ 9 A.M.

Bayfront Convention Center
Erie, Pennsylvania



SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
LYDIA TAYLOR DAVIS

National Spokesperson
and Social Media Producer,
Students for Life of America

See you at the Breakfast!

Regular Reservations...\$30
Ages 3-12...\$22 • Under 3...Free

Reservations due by January 11.

Early reservations appreciated.

Reservations are required. Mail name(s), address, and phone number with a check payable to "People for Life." Call or visit our website to use a credit or debit card.

FREE CHILDCARE WITH FUN ACTIVITIES

PEOPLE FOR LIFE

1625 W. 26th Street
Erie, PA 16508

(814) 882-1333 • (814) 459-1333
office@peopleforlife.org

PeopleforLife.org/january2026

Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast

St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of December 14 2025

Sun.: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 ♦ Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4) ♦ James 5:7-10 ♦ Matthew 11:2-11
 Mon.: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a ♦ Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 ♦ Matthew 21:23-27
 Tues.: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 ♦ Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 ♦ Matthew 21:28-32
 Wed.: Genesis 49:2, 8-10 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 ♦ Matthew 1:1-17
 Thur.: Jeremiah 23:5-8 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 ♦ Matthew 1:18-25
 Fri.: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a ♦ Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 ♦ Luke 1:5-25
 Sat.: Isaiah 7:10-14 ♦ Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 ♦ Luke 1:26-38
 Next Sun.: Isaiah 7:10-14 ♦ Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b) ♦ Romans 1:1-7 ♦ Matthew 1:18-24

Local Red Kettle Campaign Seeking Bell Ringers

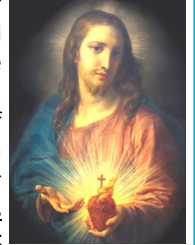
The Salvation Army needs bell ringers for this year's annual Red Kettle Campaign! Bell ringers are needed Mondays through Saturdays up until Christmas Eve. Solo ringers, pairs of ringers, & even groups are welcome! This is a wonderful opportunity to earn service hours or just help spread Christmas cheer. The kettle is in the (heated) lobby of Tops, so no fear of standing out in the cold! Bell ringers can sign up for one hour or more time slots each day. Please call or (preferably) text Elizabeth Malec at 814-490-7394 to get scheduled! Thank you.



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of December 14th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased loved ones.

Knights Sponsoring Sacred Heart Holy Hours this Week

Through the Pilgrim Icon Program, Knights of Columbus, Corry Council #425 is organizing Sacred Heart Holy Hours featuring an icon depicting the most famous image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, painted in 1767 by Pompeo Batoni. This is one of more than 300 icons traveling across the world, from council to council, for veneration and use in prayer services. **The icon and holy hour will be held at St. Thomas Church on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 6:00pm. It will then move to St. Teresa Church where the holy hour will follow the 8:00am Mass on Monday, Dec. 15.**



The Sacred Heart Holy Hour includes readings from Sacred Scripture and reflections from Pope Francis on the Sacred Heart, as well as the Divine Mercy Chaplet, prayers to the Sacred Heart and time for silent prayer. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament may also be included. *All are invited to join us.*

"Be watchful! Be alert!

You do not know when the time will come." (Mk 13:33)

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

December 15
 ALL SAINTS PARISH
 11264 RT 97 N WATERFORD

SPIRIT of Christmas

CONCERT
 featuring the Millcreek Area
 Community Band and
 All Saints Youth

Doors open at 6 PM — All Saints Youth Choir 6:15 PM
 Millcreek Area Community Band 7:00 to 8:00 PM
 Light Refreshments following the concert
 Free will offerings accepted

LORD

SAVE US.

PSALM 146

Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious | December 13 & 14

Thank you for your generosity in today's special second collection which significantly benefits for the retired Sisters in our diocese, as well as the over 20,000 retired religious throughout the country. Your generous gift provides help for their ongoing health care supporting them as they age safely, with dignity, and comfort. If you were not prepared to give today, and still wish to do so, please return the envelope from your offertory packet (or mark another 'Religious Retirement') and place it in next weekend's collection (Dec. 20/21).

SAVE THE DATE

13th Annual Men's Conference | Saturday, March 7

A half-day men's conference providing an opportunity to grow closer to Christ is coming up during Lent 2026. The conference will be held at St. Jude Church in Erie. Great speakers, reflection, prayer, Confession, Mass & Adoration.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: December 6 & 7, 2025

Total Offertory Income \$8,980.00
 Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Overage.....\$-1,280.00

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!

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

Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News**Calendar Dates for Religious Education:**

- December 14 — *Class / Advent Activity*
- Dec. 21 & 28 — **NO Class / Christmas break**



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

*** Classes resume on Sunday, January 4, 2026.**

Please note that beginning in January, ALL classes will be in Corry at St. Thomas (in the former school building) starting at 9:00am.

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Bullying is defined as any unwanted aggressive behavior by another youth or group of youths that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated. 20% of youth ages 12-18 experience bullying. When adults respond quickly to bullying behavior, they send the message that bullying is not acceptable. There are ways parents can make a positive difference. Parents can educate themselves on the signs that a child is being bullied or is a bully. Parents should keep the lines of communication open with their child and model for their child how to treat others. Encourage your child to be inclusive by welcoming others to join their activities and groups. For more information on how to prevent bullying in your community visit www.stopbullying.org.



Office of the Vicar General

Diocese of Erie

429 East Grandview Boulevard
 Erie, Pennsylvania 16504

**NOTICE
from**

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie

In response to requests for clarification, the Diocese of Erie wishes to remind the faithful of the status of **Dilworth "Skip" Davis**. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1998 but abandoned active ministry without permission on September 27, 2021.

Dilworth "Skip" Davis is not a priest in good standing in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie. He has no ministerial responsibilities at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Corry, or any Catholic church in the Diocese of Erie.

Although he continues to identify himself as "Fr. Skip", he does not act on behalf of the Catholic Church and is not permitted to officiate at any sacraments or ceremonies according to Catholic rites including funerals, baptisms or weddings. He does not have the faculty to validly absolve in confession except for in danger of death, nor does he have the right to distribute Holy Communion publicly or privately.

In addition, he has no authority to raise funds for Catholic ministries. Any attempts to raise funds for his initiatives have no relationship to legitimate ministries of the Catholic Church or the Diocese of Erie.

Anyone with questions or concerns about religious services performed by Dilworth "Skip" Davis since September 2021 is encouraged to speak with their local pastor.

December 3, 2025

This notice is to be placed in the bulletins of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Corry, and its secondary mission church of St. Teresa of Avila Church, Union City.

Prayer for Advent Joy

Dear Jesus,
 The news of your coming was met
 with boundless joy — fill us anew
 with the wonder of your presence.
 You are Emmanuel, God with us.
 Amen.

©LPi

**Decorating Our Churches for Christmas**

We will be putting up the Christmas decorations at each of our churches on the following dates. Help is needed and appreciated.

- St. Teresa on Sunday, December 21st at noon.
- St. Thomas on Monday, December 22nd at 9:00am

BEHOLD

"This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you."

MATTHEW 11:10