



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

August 17, 2025



20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three." - Lk 12:50-52

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

*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

ERIE GIVES – AUGUST 12, 2025: Thanks to all those who donated to our various projects during the Erie Gives campaign. Your generosity is amazing, and your gifts will continue to nourish our parish, our churches and our cemeteries.

CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN THE EUCHARIST: We do not begin our celebration of the Eucharist with Christ's **absence** and then suddenly experience Christ's **presence**. God is always present to us; it is a matter of us being aware of that presence.

The Eucharist = Christ's real presence + our real presence.

I have been reflecting on the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Christ is present in four ways in the Eucharist: In the **Assembly** (people), the **Word of God** in the Scripture readings, the **Bread and Wine** that become the Body and Blood of Christ, and the person of the **Priest**. I have reflected the last two weeks on how Christ is presence in us, the assembly, and in the Word of God in the readings from Scripture. Allow me to look at Christ present in the bread and wine this week.

3. **Christ is present in the bread and wine.** This is the presence of Christ we may think we know best, but we don't often recognize the multiple presences of Christ in our celebration of the Eucharist in the forms of bread and wine.

In the Eucharist, God transforms the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ through the prayers and actions of the priest and the prayers and actions of the people present. We have a word for this, Transubstantiation. This word means that the bread and wine appear and taste like bread and wine, but in fact have been changed at the very level of their substance into the Body and Blood of Christ. This is what Jesus did at the Last Supper. He took the bread and wine and changed it into his Body and Blood and gave it to his disciples. Jesus also told them to "Do this in memory of me." And in fact, that is what we do in our celebration of the Eucharist.

Remembering that Jesus did this at the Last Supper, on the night before he suffered and died and then three days later rose from the dead, we also celebrate these mysteries of our salvation every time we celebrate the Eucharist. Jesus gives us his Body and Blood in order that we might be strengthened to enter into the dyings and risings that happen to us in our own lives. Ultimately, when we face our final death, we are given the promise and the hope of resurrection to eternal life.

We might also remember that when we eat a meal with people, we are drawn together with them and nourished at the same time. The same is true in the Eucharist, Jesus draws us together as his people and nourishes us to face the struggles, difficulties, and even deaths that we encounter in life. The unity that is created among us lies in the fact that we believe that "we are what we eat." We become the presence of Christ for others by our sharing in this Eucharist. We are called then to live out this presence of Christ in our daily lives, outside of church.

I mentioned at the beginning that we experience multiple presences of Christ in the forms of bread and wine in the Eucharist. This is something we do not always understand and can be confusing. As we enter the church, we recognize that the Body of Christ in the form of bread is reserved in the tabernacle. This is one presence of Christ in the Eucharist. This presence allows us to do two things: one is to recognize the presence of Christ that is always in our church building and two, there is always Eucharist that can be taken to the sick or the dying at any time.

Continued ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡



Sunday, August 17

8:00a.m. ✠Z. Marion & Irene Zaczekiewicz by Sue, Gary, and Joseph Johnston
(St. Thomas, Corry)

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

Monday, August 18

8:00a.m. ✠Jean Calfo by Irene Weaver
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, August 19

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

Wednesday, August 20

8:00a.m. ✠Steve Mennen by Joe & Paula Lukac
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, August 21

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

Friday, August 22

8:00a.m. ✠Chester Hajec by Dick & Elaine Hasbrouck
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, August 23

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

Sunday, August 24

8:00a.m. ✠Janet Mitchell by Donald Mitchell
(St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. ✠Diana Hanlin Strefeler by her daughter, Becky Boleratz (St. Teresa, Union City)

While this presence of Christ is in the tabernacle, the priest and people celebrating the Eucharist are transforming bread and wine on the altar to become the Body and Blood of Christ. So now there is the presence of Christ in the tabernacle and the presence of Christ on the altar.

During our celebration of the Eucharist, we come forward to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. So now there are multiple presences of Christ: in the tabernacle, on the altar, and in each one of us. When we receive the Body and Blood of Christ it does not disappear but actually dwells within us, in effect we become a tabernacle or an altar. We receive the Body and Blood of Christ and become what we eat, the very presence of Christ. The deacon or priest will send us forth at the end of Mass with the words, "Go in peace, proclaiming the Gospel by your lives." Our celebration of the Eucharist doesn't end in church but continues in the way we live our lives outside of church, by the ways that we are Eucharist to one another.

I suspect this final presence of Christ, the presence in each of us individually, is the presence we often fail to recognize. We fail to recognize it in ourselves and in each other. There should be a tremendous reverence for one another in the fact that we have now become the Body and Blood of Christ, we have become what we have consumed. Even as a church, we fail to recognize this presence

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" - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: What is one way you can be closer to Jesus today?

Question for Youth: We are assured that God will be with us as we go through life, so what strategy do you use to keep God in mind as you deal with the ups and downs of life as a young adult?

Question for Adults: Share about a time when life's struggles were so difficult for you that you nearly "threw in the towel." What signs did you see then that God remained with you?



Rev. James Gutting, Rev. Msgr. James Sanner, *Pray for Vocations*, Rev. John Santor, Rev. Obinna Paschal Ezeilhuoma, PhD, Rev. Lawrence Richards, Rev. James Power, and also *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

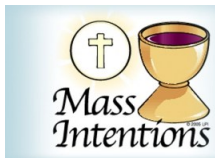
Volunteers Needed to Help Sell Gate Tickets at the Fair

The Corry Knights of Columbus are sponsoring the Sparty Fair Fundraiser Selling Gate Tickets at this year's fair going on **September 1st—6th**. This annual fundraiser benefits both the Corry Knights of Columbus and St. Thomas Parish. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older to sell tickets at the gates. We are hoping that parishioners from both St. Thomas and St. Teresa volunteer to help. For more information and available time slots, please contact Len Clark (814-664-8740), Deacon Randy Kondrlik (814-964-7823), Deacon Bill Saborsky (814-397-7332) or the parish office (814-663-3041). Much help is needed—sign up today!



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.



Requests for Mass Intentions

Please stop in or 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 for a loved one at either of our churches for just \$10 for one week.

Please be aware that our Mass Intention Book for the remainder of 2025 is full.



OPENING of the 2026 Mass Book will on SEPTEMBER 1, 2025.

Payment is expected at the time of making Mass requests.

Thank you.



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Thomas Church for the week of August 17th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Thomas Dyne by John, Joan, and Pat.

HELP

WANTED

Seeking Corry Cemeteries Business Manager

Our parish is looking for an individual to manage our 2 Catholic cemeteries (Sts. Thomas & Elizabeth) in Corry. This is a part-time position that requires management skills, computer skills, and the ability to physically visit the cemeteries occasionally. This position will be approximately 12-15 hours per week. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact our Business Manager, Missy Silka at the parish office 814-663-3041 or business@stparish.org

Cemetery Gravestone Cleaning Project

We will be offering gravestone cleaning on a limited scale at ST. THOMAS & ST. ELIZABETH CEMETERIES ONLY. Some members of our cemetery committees are trained in gravestone cleaning/preservation. The process will help remove dirt, lichen, and lighten up some discolorations/stains on gravestones. It is safe and gentle, so it will not damage the stones. Because each stone is unique, pricing may vary. Rate estimates are: Small stone (24"-35")—\$50; Medium (36"-59")—\$100; and Large (60"-75")—\$150. If you wish to have a loved one's stone cleaned, please contact the parish office. We will be taking orders for those who are interested. Thank you.



ZABAWA

Holy Trinity Parish
East 23rd and Reed Streets - Erie

A Celebration of our Polish Heritage

32nd ANNUAL - FREE ADMISSION

August 22nd, 23rd & 24th, 2025

Fri. 5-10 pm + Sat. 12-10 pm + Sun. 11 am-4 pm

Friday: Dyna Brass

Saturday: KOSMIX + Mar-Vels

Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men

Sunday: Polka Country Musicians

MC: DJ Ken Olowin

Polka Mass: Saturday 5:00 pm with Bishop Persico

Liturgical music by KOSMIX

Polish Heritage Mass: Sunday 10:30 am

Polish traditional hymns by Holy Trinity Choir

*Authentic Polish foods, bakery items
and beverages available daily.*

Plus Grand Prizes, Theme Baskets and More

The church and festival grounds are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Info: 814-456-0671 or www.holytrinityrc.org

**Additional parking and free shuttle service
from lot at East 34th and Ash Streets**

St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of August 17, 2025

Sun.: Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10 ♦ Psalm 40:2, 3, 4, 18 (14b) ♦ Hebrews 12:1-4 ♦ Luke 12:49-53
 Mon.: Judges 2:11-19 ♦ Psalm 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44 ♦ Matthew 19:16-22
 Tues.: Judges 6:11-24a ♦ Psalm 85:9, 11-12, 13-14 ♦ Matthew 19:23-30
 Wed.: Judges 9:6-15 ♦ Psalm 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 ♦ Matthew 20:1-16
 Thur.: Judges 11:29-39a ♦ Psalm 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 ♦ Matthew 22:1-14
 Fri.: Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22 ♦ Psalm 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10 ♦ Matthew 22:34-40
 Sat.: Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17 ♦ Psalm 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 ♦ Matthew 23:1-12
 Next Sun.: Isaiah 66:18-21 ♦ Psalm 117:1, 2 (Mark 16:15) ♦ Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 ♦ Luke 13:22-30

Extra Items for Sale from the St. Teresa Lawn Festival

We hope to sell some of the extra food from the festival. If interested, please contact Matt Moon or stop into the St. Teresa Parish Center after the 11:00am Mass to purchase. **Here is an update of what we have to sell:** Frozen French fries - \$10 for a 5 pound bag – there are 10 bags available. Pop is \$4 a 12 pack—quantity & kind available: 1 Coke, 2 Pepsi, and 2 mixed 12 packs.



Family Perspective

Today, Jesus warns us that His Word will create conflict between parents and children. In a permissive society that promotes individualism and consumerism, parents must steadfastly teach and embody the gospel values of respect, service to others, forgiveness, generosity, and compassion. A Christian family is a countercultural family.

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.



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of August 17th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of members of St. Teresa Church.

2025 Wedding Anniversary Celebration with Bishop Persico

Diocesan Anniversary Celebration for couples celebrating 25, 40, 50, 60 or more years of marriage in 2025 will hold a final celebration in the Diocese of Erie this summer at

• **Sunday, August 24 at St. Tobias, Brockway at 3:00pm**

Couples may complete registration online at <https://www.eriercd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html>, calling their parish office or contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at 814-824-1210. Registrations were accepted until August 14 for the Brockway celebration. You may also register until September 11 to have a scrolled mailed to you.



Engagement Encounter Opportunity

Show your support of an upcoming marriage by recommending a gift that lasts a lifetime: Engagement Encounter. The next EE will be held at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie on February 6-8, 2026. Space is limited and early registrations are encouraged. Call the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261 or visit <https://www.eriercd.org/familylifeoffice/> for more details and to register. Remember, "A wedding is one day, but marriage is for a lifetime."

Comfort Through Grief Ministry

On Monday, August 25, St. Joseph Church Bread of Life Community Center, 147 W. 24th St., Erie, will host the next *Comfort Through Grief Speaker Series*. Fr. Steve Schreiber will be the guest speaker with his program entitled "The Church and the Priest in Times of Grief." Doors open for registration at 5:30pm. Program runs from 6:15pm—8:00pm. All are welcome.

Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. **Amen.**



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: August 9 & 10, 2025

Total Offertory Income \$6,559.00
Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage.....\$1,141.00

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 the specific cemetery: 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!



THANK YOU! for Supporting Our Parish

We are grateful to everyone who supported us during Erie Gives Day 2025! Your generosity helps to ensure the future of our churches, cemeteries, and program for future generations.

Thank You for Supporting the Church in Latin America

Today's second collection was taken up in parishes throughout our Diocese. If you were not prepared to give today but wish to do so, please place your donation in an envelope marked '**Latin America Collection**' and put it in next weekend's collection basket. Thanks.

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 notify the Parish of changes to your address, phone numbers, or email.

Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News



Religious Education | 2025-2026 School Year

It is time to begin to think about 'back to school' now that we are already into the month of August. With that – it is also time to plan for our parish's Religious Education Program. Please watch the bulletin in the next few weeks for information about student registration and the date classes will begin. We hope you enjoy the last few weeks of summer and know that we are excited to again share the teaching of the Catholic faith in our Religious Education Program. *Looking forward to seeing returning families and hopefully some new ones!*

NEW—Small Group for Youth

Let's grow in faith, build friendships, and have some fun!
This year our Religious Education program is expanding to include Small Group. Our new Small Group will be for all confirmed youth in the parish who want to stay connected after Confirmation through relaxed meetups, shared meals, faith talks, service projects, and fun outings.

What to Expect:

- ✓ Real conversations about life & faith
- ✓ Snacks and chill time
- ✓ Activities & service opportunities
- ✓ A place where you belong

Please watch the bulletin for more details in the upcoming weeks.

[Message from the Pastor—continued]

and become focused instead on the presence of Christ in the tabernacle. The presence of Christ in the tabernacle is there so that we can take it to the sick and dying. It is not there for us at this point in our celebration of the Eucharist, because Christ has entered into our very person, we are in communion with Christ. This is the presence of Christ we should be focused on and be praying in thanksgiving for. But too often we dismiss this presence of Christ and focus on the presence of Christ in the tabernacle. Both are real presences, but I suspect the one God is most deeply concerned with is the presence that resides in each one of us.

- Fr. Tom

THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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

"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7

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 = \$66,713

Paid to date = \$57,728

Amount Pledged at **St. Teresa** to date = \$36,568

Paid to date = \$31,678

Total Number of Families who made a pledge = 225

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.

