



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 28, 2025



THE HOLY FAMILY

He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth,
so that what had been spoken through the
prophets might be fulfilled. - Mt 2:23

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY: On this day we remember the Holy Family: Joseph, Mary and Jesus. Sometimes this feast sets up an ideal that is impossible to live up to and is actually unrealistic. We often think that the Holy Family was perfect. We think they never disagreed or struggled. I suspect there were some hard times for Mary and Joseph: Mary riding a donkey from Nazareth to Bethlehem while she was almost full term in her pregnancy was not a comfortable or easy trip. The flight to Egypt with a newborn baby was no picnic either. And spending a significant amount of time in Egypt as refugees with no job, no house, no food, was a strain on all of them.

This feast is not about us being perfect but about how we strive as a family to live together through good times and bad times. How we create character in ourselves and our children by navigating the changes and transitions that happen in life in a loving and caring way. At times that will mean we have to make sacrifices for one another, times when we will have to do without what we want so someone else can have what they need, and times when we will have to say, "I'm sorry" and someone else will accept our apology and forgive us. It is also about remembering that we all grow and mature at different times and in different ways in our lives. We will have to be patient with those who are struggling or having difficulty in their growth or maturity. Ultimately, we will have to recognize that none of us is perfect, and we must learn to be patient and understanding of each other's imperfections.

This feast is then about acknowledging the importance of family and being willing to make the sacrifices necessary to grow together as the people God calls us to be.

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.

UN - DECORATING FROM CHRISTMAS AT BOTH CHURCHES: We will be taking down the decorations from Christmas on the following dates: All are welcome to help!

- St. Teresa: Sunday, January 11 at Noon
- St. Thomas: Monday, January 12 at 9:00am

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS: From time to time, I make recommendations of good books on Catholic Spirituality. One author that I recommend for everything he has written is Fr. Ronald Rolheiser. The three books that he has written on the spiritual life are excellent and easy to read. These three are part of a trilogy on the spiritual life.

1. *The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality*
2. *Sacred Fire: A Vision for a Deeper Human and Christian Maturity*
3. *Insane for the Light: A Spirituality for our Wisdom Years*

The first book is a general overview of Spirituality. The second is a spirituality for the second half of life. The third is a spirituality for the last part of life.

- Fr. Tom

**Sunday, December 28—Feast of the Holy Family**

8:00a.m. ✠Zackiewicz, Motuz, and Johnston Families by Gary, Sue, and Joseph Johnston (St. Thomas, Corry)

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

Monday, December 29

8:00a.m. ✠Herb & Sophie Combs by family (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, December 30

8:00a.m. ✠Agnes Deeds by Theresa Baker (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, December 31

7:00p.m. ✠Msgr. John Hagerty and Mary Louise Sproveri by Denny & Chris Anderson (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, January 1—Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day) /New Year's

9:00a.m. For the People of the Parish (St. Teresa, Union City)

Friday, January 2

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

Saturday, January 3

4:30p.m. ✠Cragg & Sullivan Families by the family (St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, January 4—Epiphany of the Lord

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

11:00a.m. ✠Irene Tinko by Irene Weaver and family (St. Teresa, Union City)



Wise Men Still Seek HIM!

THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for all families this year!

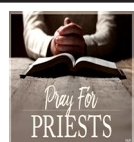


THE HOLY FAMILY

"Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt." - Mt 2:14

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

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Rev. Benjamin Daghir, Rev. Michael Scanga, Rev. Msgr. John Herbein, Rev. Joseph Petrone, *Happy New Year*, Rev. Raymond Hahn, Rev. Thomas Brown, and also *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

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

Snowman Raffle Tickets for Sale

If interested, tickets are for sale at the parish office (see Sue) or contact a member of the Knights. Drawing will be at the Knight's February meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Need not be present to win. Proceeds help benefit local Knights Council #425 and the good works they do for our parish and community.



COAL SWEEPSTAKES 16 50093806

1 st Prize \$15,000	2 nd Prize \$10,000	3 rd Prize \$7,500	4 th Prize \$5,000
5 th Prize \$5,000	6 th Prize \$5,000	7 th Prize \$2,500	8 th Prize \$2,500
9 th Prize \$2,500	10 th Prize \$2,000	11 th Prize \$2,000	12 th Prize \$2,000
13 th Prize \$1,000	14 th Prize \$1,000	15 th Prize \$1,000	16 th Prize \$1,000

Drawing - PA State Grand Convention, Philadelphia, PA
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026 - 6:00 PM
Prizes will be drawn in random order.
Donation: FIVE DOLLARS

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.

Thank You from the Corry Food Pantry

The Corry Food Pantry wishes to express their gratitude for the generous gift of \$940 they received through donations from you, our parishioners, utilizing the envelope for Thanksgiving in our offertory packet. Your generosity will help those in need in our community. God bless.

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

"Question of the Week" - Feast of the Holy Family

Question for Children: When is it the hardest for you to obey your parents?

Question for Youth: In Colossians, St. Paul lays out a way of life for the followers of Christ. As you read through this list, which one of these is most difficult for you to follow? Which one is easiest?

Question for Adults: We are invited to let the word of Christ dwell within us and direct our daily lives. Which one of the lifestyle suggestions in this reading speaks most loudly to you?

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.



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Thomas Church for the week of December 28th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Sue Dyne Nichols by family.

Prayer to the Holy Family by Pope Francis

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate the splendor
of true love,
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again
experience violence, rejection
and division:
may all who have been hurt or
scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.
Amen.



Basketball Free-Throw Competition for Youth

Four Knights of Columbus Councils from Corry, North East, Harborcreek and St. George's in Erie are sponsoring a Free -Throw Competition for youth ages 9-14, both boys and girls, on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at St. Gregory School, 140 W. Main St., North East, PA. Registration is at 9:00am and the competition begins at 10:00am on January 17. All are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please call David Spacht at 814-464-4477.



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

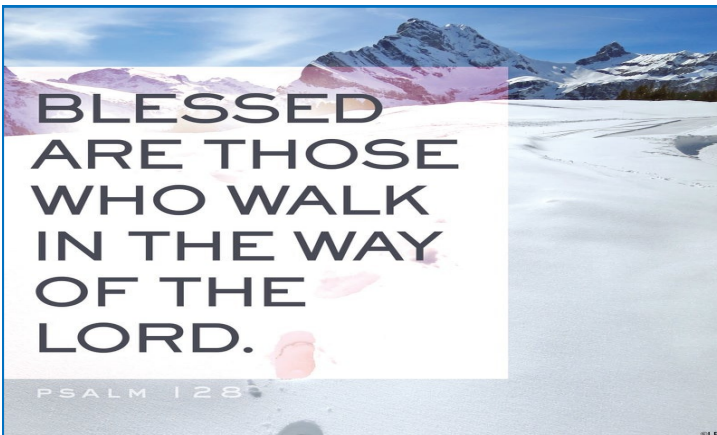
PeopleforLife.org/january2026

Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast

St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of December 28, 2025

Sun.: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 ♦ Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 ♦
 Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 ♦ Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
 Mon.: 1 John 2:3-11 ♦ Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 ♦ Luke 2:22-35
 Tues.: 1 John 2:12-17 ♦ Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 ♦ Luke 2:36-40
 Wed.: 1 John 2:18-21 ♦ Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 ♦ John 1:1-18
 Thur.: Numbers 6:22-27 ♦ Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 ♦ Galatians 4:4-7 ♦
 Luke 2:16-21
 Fri.: 1 John 2:22-28 ♦ Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 ♦ John 1:19-28
 Sat.: 1 John 2:29-3:6 ♦ Psalm 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 ♦ John 1:29-34
 Next Sun.: Isaiah 60:1-6 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 ♦
 Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 ♦ Matthew 2:1-1



A Meaningful Gift for the New Year

Planning a wedding in 2026? Start your marriage with intention and faith. Attend the Engagement Encounter retreat on **February 6-8 at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie**. The weekend fulfills diocesan marriage prep requirements and welcomes Catholic and interfaith couples. Call the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261 or email them at familylife@erieRCD.org. You may register online: <https://www.erieRCD.org/familylifeoffice/>.



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 = \$67,233

Paid to date = \$66,298

Amount Pledged at **St. Teresa** to date = \$36,887

Paid to date = \$36,012

Total Number of Families who made a pledge = 227



Diocese of Erie
2025 Catholic
Services Appeal

Be sure to make your check payable to

'ST. THOMAS CHURCH' when making a CSA payment.

Please plan to pay your 2025 CSA pledge in full by December 31.



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of December 28th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of **Richard Makohus**.

Rosary Altar Society's Next Meeting

Members are reminded that we will hold our first meeting of 2026 on Monday, January 5th at 4:30pm in St. Teresa Parish Center. *Hope to see you there.*

St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society—Epiphany Lunch

Members of the Rosary Altar Society are reminded that we will meet for our Epiphany tureen lunch on Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 1:00pm in the St. Teresa Parish Center. All members are encouraged to attend. You are asked to bring a dish to share with the group, an exchange gift, and a donation for the food bank. We hope you will join us.

With Grateful Hearts

A heartfelt thank you to all of our parishioners who took a tag from the Giving Tree and helped provide Christmas gifts for local children in need. Your generosity and kindness are a beautiful reflection of Christ's love in action. Because of you, many children in our community will experience the joy and warmth of Christmas. We are deeply grateful for your compassion and willingness to share God's blessings with others. Thank you for helping make this Christmas brighter for our local families.



—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.



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: December 13 & 14, 2025

Total Offertory Income \$6,667.00
Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage \$(-1,033.00)

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!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: December 20 & 21, 2025

Total Offertory Income \$6,549.00
Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage \$(-1,151.00)

Christmas Flower Fund \$2,352.00
 The above are totals for all Christmas Flower Envelopes turned in for both Sts. Thomas & Teresa. Thank you for your donation which purchased our beautiful Christmas poinsettias for the Christmas season.

Religious Retirement Collection \$2,191.00
 Thank you for donating to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your gift impacts religious brothers and sisters and religious order priests, who have dedicated their lives to service of God's people, by providing them a dignified retirement. Thank you.

Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News

*** 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) meeting at 9:00am.



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

Calendar Reminders for Religious Education

Sunday, Dec. 28—No Classes / Christmas break
 Sunday, Jan. 4—Classes for ALL students at St. Thomas
 Sunday, Jan. 11—Classes for ALL students at St. Thomas
 Sunday, Jan. 18—No Classes
 Sunday, Jan. 25—Classes for ALL students at St. Thomas

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Our parish office will be CLOSED from Wed., Dec. 24 through Sunday, January 4, 2026 so staff may enjoy the holiday with their families.

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.

In case of sacramental emergency, please phone the office and follow the prompts. Thank you.



January 1st—Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

New Year's Day and World Day of Peace
 (Holy Day of Obligation—2 Masses offered)

- Wed., Dec. 31 at 7:00pm - St. Thomas
- Thur., Jan. 1 at 9:00am - St. Teresa

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord!" Luke 1:42



Additional Christmas Flower Fund Donations for both St. Thomas & St. Teresa

In Memory

Steve & Gary Munsee
 Fred & Mary Walsh and Skye Elizabeth Sherwood
 Paul & Sally Griebel
 Ed Gordon and Dick & Barb McKeta
 John & Mary Rejzer, Dr. Ron Rejzer, John & Helen Zielinski, Stan & Sonya Zielinski
 Steven Mennen

Donated by

Sylvia Munsee
 Sheila Walsh
 Brad & Joan Allen
 John & Rita Mineo
 Joe & Marlene Zielinski
 Pamela Mennen

We apologize if any names/donations were omitted from flower fund listings which appear here and in last weekend's bulletin. Also, if there were any errors in spelling of names—we are truly sorry.

Thanks to all who donated to the Christmas Flower Fund, which helped decorate our churches with beautiful poinsettias for the holiday season.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

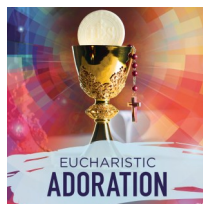


JESUS
 is the Reason
 for the Season



Adoration Suspended in January

With Thursday of this week being New Year's Day—Eucharistic Adoration for the month January is suspended. We will resume our normal monthly Adoration schedule in February (Feb. 5 & 6) at both Sts. Thomas and Teresa.



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!