



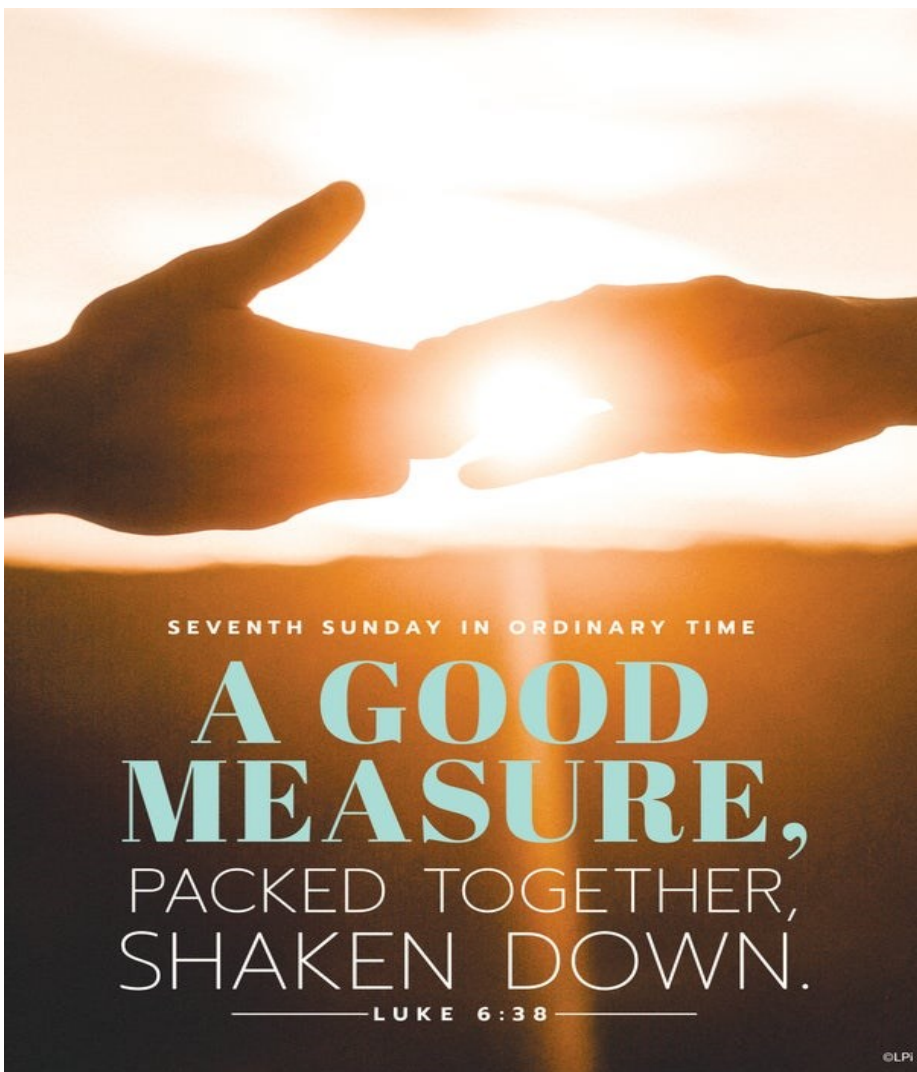
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
203 W. Washington Street
Corry, PA 16407

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

February 23, 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.

Notes from the Pastor

FISH DINNERS: We are gearing up for Fish Dinners at both Churches and that means we could always use your help.

- Desserts: A huge part of the success of our dinners is that people get homemade desserts. We are asking the great bakers in our Churches to start thinking about and getting ready for making desserts for this year's Fish Dinners. At **St. Teresa** desserts can be dropped off on Thursday from 4 to 7pm, or Friday anytime after Noon. At **St. Thomas** desserts can be dropped off Thursday from 12 to 3pm or Friday anytime after Noon.

- At St. Teresa we are in need of someone to deliver meals to Manly Heights. It is a Friday late afternoon delivery each week.

- We are always in need of help serving dinners each night. This is a great way for young people to be involved, but is not limited to them, anyone can help.

- Posters for the Dinners are in the back of Church at St. Teresa. If you can help by placing a poster at your place of business or some other spot, please take one or more.

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL (CSA): The 2025 Catholic Services Appeal *One Faith, One Family* will be held next weekend in our parish. Please be on the lookout for your personal invitation in the mail. The CSA is an opportunity for Catholics throughout the diocese to unite in carrying out the work of the Gospel. The CSA reminds us that we are all part of the same Catholic family and that the work of the diocese is the work of the Church.

The Church serves each of us and our support is essential in continuing God's work in our area. Every CSA donation also brings us closer to being able to complete our own parish projects of sealing or paving of parking lots. No gift is too small, but please give as generously as you can.

UPCOMING EVENTS: As Lent is rapidly approaching, here are some dates to keep in mind.

- **Ash Wednesday** is March 5. We will have Masses at St. Thomas at 8:00am and at St. Teresa at 7:00pm with ashes being distributed. There will also be a Liturgy of the Word service with the distribution of ashes at BOTH churches at Noon.

- **Stations of the Cross** will be prayed on Thursdays of Lent at St. Teresa at 7:00pm and on Fridays of Lent at St. Thomas at 7:30pm.

- **Penance Service** will be at St. Thomas on Sunday, March 23, at 1:30pm. There will be several priests there to hear confessions as a part of the service.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Last week I began this reflection on Social Justice by looking at how we understand the human person. We are made in the image and likeness of God, and our ultimate happiness is found in living our lives being true to our original goodness. The example of Jesus provides us with an example we can follow in order to find our true happiness.

This week allow me to reflect on the social nature we have as human beings. We believe that each person is individually unique, there is no other person exactly like us. But there is something that we all have in common as human beings – we are social beings. Not social in the sense of outgoing, but social in the sense of how we are called to *be with others*. At our very beginning we are born into a family, and that family is the beginning of our connection with other people.

We understand this social nature in terms of the society we live in and the society of all human beings. Every group we belong to is an expression of this in terms of the unity we form by being a part

Continued ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡

**Sunday, February 23**

8:00a.m. †George Baker by Rosemary Baker
(St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, February 24

8:00a.m. †Br. Bernard Moier by Judy Flynn
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, February 25

8:00a.m. †Wotus and Sarnicki Families by John & Debbie
Wotus
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, February 26

8:00a.m. †Mary Vinca by Tom & Kathy Savko
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, February 27

No Mass or Services at either Sts. Thomas or Teresa today.

Friday, February 28

8:00a.m. †Priscilla Kozik by Eric & Barb Jones
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, March 1

4:30p.m. †Jim Teed by Punk & Lana Messina
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, March 2

8:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas
(St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. †Bill Flynn by Valerie Downer
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Commit your life to the Lord, and he will help you. (Psalm 37)

of that group. It begins with family and expands to school, city, state, nation, world. Our shared humanity in these groups helps to form who we are through belonging, mutual service and dialogue. We might see our social nature as rooted in our being made in the image and likeness of God, a God who is a trinity of persons. God is social within God's very self – three persons in one God. In the same way we are called to be united with other people as individuals sharing a common humanity. One of the documents of Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes 24, states that we can fully discover our true self only in a sincere giving of ourselves. It is only in being true to our social nature that we will come to find our true happiness of being one with God and with each other.

We can also see our church community, our parish, as the people of God. In our church community we form a unity with God and one another through our worship and the practice of our faith. But our unity does not end there. We are always called to bring the message of God's love and mercy not only to each other, but to all people in the human family of God, the mystical Body of Christ.


And so, as people made in the image and likeness of God, we are called to not only pursue our happiness on our own, but in relationship with one another. This gives us the basis of our Catholic Social teaching. We will look next at how this calls us to work for justice.

- Fr. Tom

St. Thomas News


St. Teresa News

 The SANCTUARY CANDLES at both St. Thomas Church and St. Teresa Church for the week of February 23rd burn in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased parishioners. (If you wish to sponsor the Sanctuary Candle for a loved one, please call the parish office.)

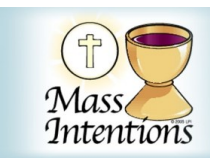
 **PRAYER LINE... call:** Gerrie (814-665-6944), Pam (814-664-7459), or Diane (814-882-6806).
Since prayer is an important ministry of trust, know that all requests are kept confidential.


PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

Choir Rehearsals at St. Thomas
We will be starting Choir Rehearsals for Lent and Easter on **Monday, March 10 from 6:00pm—7:30pm**. Rehearsals will be weekly on Monday evenings from March 10 through April 14. We had a very dedicated small group at Christmas and we welcome more voices to join the choir which helps to enhance our liturgies, especially for the Lent and Easter season. Please consider join us—thank you. Any questions, please ask Joan Allen or Gary Johnston. We hope to see you at practice.



Catholic Daughters Meeting THIS WEEK
Members of the local Catholic Daughters will meet on Thursday, February 27 at 5:00pm in the St. Elizabeth Parish Center. Please plan to join us and bring a friend. Hope to see you there.


 **Requests for Mass Intentions**
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. We suggest that you make a donation to the church with any 'extra' funds you wish to give towards Masses. You may also sponsor the Sanctuary Candle for a loved one at either of our churches for just \$10 for one week.



COAL Sweepstakes Raffle
The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Assembly #963 are selling COAL (*Chance Of A Lifetime*) raffle tickets with 16 prizes totaling \$65,000 and a top prize of \$15,000. Tickets are \$5 each and will be sold before and after weekend Masses at St. Thomas Church and also at the St. Thomas Fish Dinners through March. You may also contact Mike Gluvna (814-964-2387) to purchase tickets. Proceeds benefit the State Knights of Columbus Scholarship Program and Assembly #963 charities. Thank you.

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 Council Scholarship
Benefit State Council Scholarship
FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025 - 5:00 PM
THOSE TICKETS NOT SOLD BY 5:00 PM
DONATION FIVE DOLLARS
Date of Christ: March 1, 2025

 **LENTEN FISH FRY**
Both St. Thomas and St. Teresa are sponsoring Fish Dinners during the upcoming Lenten season. We hope that parishioners will support our efforts to raise money for our churches through this fundraiser. Many volunteers are needed to make our dinners a success. We will need people to help in the following areas: advertising, setup, prep work, cooking, serving, dessert bakers, dishwashers, cleanup, and more. If you would like to be a part of this year's Lenten Fish Dinners, please reach out to the following chairpersons at each church—Sue Vinca (814-964-0290) or Judy Green (814-964-1646) at St. Thomas and Becky Boleratz or Fr. Tom at St. Teresa. If you are not able to help work, please plan to support the church by joining us for dinner and/or making a monetary donation. Thank you!

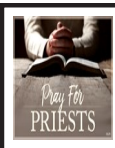
"Question of the Week" - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Question for Children: Jesus tells us to treat others as we would want others to treat us. How do you treat others as you want to be treated?
Question for Youth: How do you follow Jesus' teaching to "bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you?"
Question for Adults: Jesus says, "Give, and gifts will be given to you." When have you experienced your generosity coming back to you?



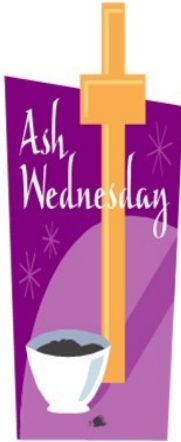
Family Perspective
Research on the effects of religion on family relationships reveals that hostility and prayer cannot coexist. You cannot harbor hostility toward someone you are praying for. Today's gospel encourages us: 'Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you.'

 *Stop judging and you will not be judged.
Stop condemning and you will not be condemned.
Father, help me to be a reflection of your merciful love.*

Readings for the week of February 23, 2025
Sun.: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 ♦ Psalm 103 ♦ 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 ♦ Luke 6:27-38
Mon.: Sirach 1:1-10 ♦ Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 ♦ Mark 9:14-29
Tues.: Sirach 2:1-11 ♦ Psalm 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40 ♦ Mark 9:30-37
Wed.: Sirach 4:11-19 ♦ Psalm 119:165, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175 ♦ Mark 9:38-40
Thur.: Sirach 5:1-8 ♦ Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 ♦ Mark 9:41-50
Fri.: Sirach 6:5-17 ♦ Psalm 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35 ♦ Mark 10:1-12
Sat.: Sirach 17:1-15 ♦ Psalm 103:13-14, 15-16, 17-18 ♦ Mark 10:13-16
Next Sun.: Sirach 27:4-7 ♦ Psalm 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a) ♦ 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 ♦ Luke 6:39-45

 Rev. Thomas Brooks, Rev. Matias Quimno, Rev. David Renne, Rev. Cesar Segovia, Rev. LaMounte Sayers, *Pray for Vocations*, and also please *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

Lent 2025 Schedule for St. Thomas the Apostle and its mission, St. Teresa of Avila



ASH WEDNESDAY: Wednesday, March 5, is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent. Masses with the distribution of ashes will be celebrated at 8:00AM at St. Thomas and 7:00PM at St. Teresa. There will also be a prayer service at Noon with the distribution of ashes at both Churches.

PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING: and other forms of self-denial are encouraged during Lent. Daily Mass is particularly encouraged.

ASH WEDNESDAY, ALL FRIDAYS IN LENT, AND GOOD FRIDAY: are days of abstinence from eating meat for those 14 years of age and older.

ALL FRIDAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR: outside of Lent remain days of penance. Each Friday is an opportunity for us to reflect on the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross made on Good Friday. As part of our gratitude for what God has done for us some act of penance should accompany each Friday of the year. The traditional practice of abstinence from meat, together with fasting, for the cause of peace in the world is highly recommended. However, some other practice of voluntary self-denial or personal penance may be substituted.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY: are **DAYS OF FASTING** for those age 18 to 58 inclusive. (Those bound by the law of fasting may take one full meal and two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength according to one's needs. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are permitted. When health or work is seriously affected, the law does not oblige.)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During the Lenten Season we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross on Thursday evening at 7:00PM at St. Teresa and on Friday evenings at 7:30PM at St. Thomas.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE: Sunday, March 23 at 1:30PM at St. Thomas Church in Corry. Several priests will be available to hear individual confessions.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

April 12/13 —PALM SUNDAY MASSES: Saturday 4:30PM (St. Teresa)
Sunday 8:00AM (St. Thomas)
Sunday 11:00AM (St. Teresa)

April 17 — HOLY THURSDAY: 7:00PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (St. Thomas)

**April 18 — GOOD FRIDAY: 3:00PM Stations of the Cross (St. Thomas)
7:00PM GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE (St. Teresa)**

**April 19 — HOLY SATURDAY: NOON - Blessing of Easter Food at both Churches
8:30PM - EASTER VIGIL (St. Thomas)**

**April 20 — EASTER SUNDAY MASSES: 8:00AM (St. Thomas)
11:00AM (St. Teresa)**



Please clip and post on your refrigerator for quick reference.

Lent 2025

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: February 15 & 16, 2025

Total Offertory Income \$5,123.00

Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00

Offertory Shortfall.....\$(-2,577.00)*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!***12th Annual Men's Conference— Next Weekend: March 1**

Join men from across the Diocese of Erie for the 12th Annual 22:32 Men's Conference on Saturday, March 1st from 8:30am—1:00pm. This day of inspiration and spiritual growth, open to men of all faiths, features national speakers Dan DeMatte and Jeff Joaquin. Multiple ways to attend: (1) Live in-person at St. Jude the Apostle Parish, 2801 W. 6th St., Erie, (2) Live-streamed/attend at **Hope House, 61 East High St. in Union City with Fr. Suppa there to hear confessions and celebrate Mass**; or (3) Live-streamed to your home. Don't miss this opportunity to grow in your relationship with the Lord. The event is \$25. For information and to register, visit www.2232men.com or call 814-455-7364.

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.***Religious Education News****2024-2025 Religious Education Program**

Our Religious Education Program combined this year. **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 Sundays.**

**Calendar Reminders for Religious Education**

February 23—Classes for all students at St. Thomas
March 2—Classes for all students at St. Thomas (Youth Mass)
March 9—Classes for all students at St. Thomas (Lenten activity)
March 16—No Classes today/Interviews for Confirmation students
March 23—Classes for all students at St. Thomas with confessions
March 30—Classes for all students at St. Thomas

THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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

2025 Wedding Anniversary Celebration with Bishop Persico

Mark Your Calendars for the 2025 Wedding Anniversary Celebration with Bishop Persico. Couples celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or more wedding anniversaries are invited to attend the annual Diocesan Anniversary Celebration. This year's celebrations will be held on **Sunday, August 3, 2025 at Our Lady of Peace, Erie, 2:00m** and **Sunday, August 24, 2025 at St. Tobias, Brockway, 3:00pm**. More information will be coming, as will the registration form. We look forward to celebrating this beautiful sacrament with you in August 2025.




**One Faith
One Family**

**Help support our
parish through the
2025
Catholic Services
Appeal!
Every dollar raised
over our CSA goal
stays in our parish.**

*Diocese of Erie
2025 Catholic
Services Appeal*

The 2025 Catholic Services Appeal *One Faith, One Family* **Commitment Sunday will be held next weekend (March 1 & 2)** in our parish. Please be on the lookout for your personal invitation in the mail. The CSA is an opportunity for Catholics throughout the diocese to unite in carrying out the work of the Gospel. The CSA reminds us that we are all part of the same Catholic family and that the work of the diocese is the work of the Church. The Church serves each of us and our support is essential in continuing God's work in our area. Every CSA donation also brings us closer to being able to complete our own parish projects (see Pastor's column for details). No gift is too small, but please give as generously as you can. Thank you!