



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 23, 2026



21st Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

"And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 16:18-19

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
Faith Formation Administrator*
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

ERIE GIVES – AUGUST 11, 2026: Thanks to everyone who supported our parish in the annual Erie Gives campaign. Your support helps us provide needed services and maintain our buildings. I am grateful to everyone who donated and to our staff for facilitating the various components to this campaign.

QUESTIONS: From time to time, people have questions about the Catholic Faith or are confused by things they see or read in the media. We have been talking about a way for people to ask those questions and to get answers to them. I am proposing that we use this column as a way for people to ask questions and receive a response. If you have a question, you can write it out, mail it to the office or place it in the collection basket. You can also email your questions to the parish office or to me. One thing we ask is that there is a name and contact information on the request, so we can clarify the question, if need be, or maybe it is a question that needs to be answered privately. Your name will not be associated with the question or answer in this column. Anonymous questions will not be answered.

SPIRITUALITY: OUR FATHER: To start this series on spiritual practices, I will begin with the Our Father. This is a prayer that is familiar to all Christians and can be the source of unity among us in prayer. Sadly today, there are times at funerals and wakes where this prayer is said as part of the service and yet a number of the people remain silent – either not choosing to participate or not even knowing this prayer. I suspect we all know the prayer, but maybe some background or detail to the prayer might enrich our praying of this prayer.

We find this prayer in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. Matthew's version is the one we traditionally use. Luke's version is slightly different. It is also found in an early Christian text called the Didache with some additions.

This prayer is found in the context of Jesus inaugurating the Kingdom of God here on earth and his hope of advancing that kingdom. The prayer can be broken up into two parts: the first part contains three petitions about God's purposes and glory, and the second part has three petitions for human need.

The address, "Our Father" has all sorts of meanings beginning with the fact that God is not just MY Father, but he is OUR Father. Our oneness in God's family that crosses all boundaries and barriers. But even more importantly for prayer is that this address expresses an intimate trust, like that of a child and a father. It is the intimate trust that then characterizes Christian prayer. This relationship we have with God begins with trust. Also, the Aramaic word for Father used here is "Abba" which can mean Dad, Daddy, Father, but an intimate and unique sense of sonship and how we share in that sonship through the Holy Spirit.

The first three petitions focus on God's glory and purpose that Jesus hopes to bring to life on this earth. God's name is to be respected and honored. We do this by allowing God's wisdom and power to work in our world and we, God's creatures, would worship and give glory to God. This kingdom comes about through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. God's love and purpose overcome the obstacles we find in this world, even death itself. There is also a petition for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Despite centuries of misunderstanding that Christianity is not about escaping earth and going to heaven, but how God is renewing both heaven and earth and bringing them into unity or oneness. These petitions invite us to trust in God and his kingdom.



Sunday, August 23

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

11:00a.m. ✠ Laura Hanlin Chew by the Hanlin Family
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, August 24

8:00a.m. ✠ Alfred & Lois Tujetsch by Carol Bryant
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, August 25

8:00a.m. ✠ Wascak and Stolar Families by Carol & Darrell Huffman (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, August 26

8:00a.m. ✠ Lutz and Amoroso Families by the family
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, August 27

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

Friday, August 28

8:00a.m. ✠ Ed Weaver, Sr. by Richard & Barbara Maloney
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, August 29

4:30p.m. ✠ Andrew Pribonic by David & Mary Louise Capan (St. Teresa, Union City)

Sunday, August 30

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

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

The last three petitions are focused on our human needs. The notion of "daily bread" reminds us of our dependence on God our creator for all things, even our daily food. The second petition focuses on forgiveness – our being forgiven and our forgiveness of others – it reminds us that we are all weak humans who are not perfect. We need to be forgiven and we need to forgive – the heart of God's kingdom. The last petition prays for help in our struggle with evil. The first part of the petition asks that we might be spared the ultimate test – Jesus was not spared this, nor were many of the early Christians who gave their lives in witness to their faith. We pray that God's kingdom will grow in such a way that no one has to endure the ultimate test of faith, but that we can enjoy the peace and harmony that living our faith can bring. The last part of this prayer asks us to be delivered from evil in general and from the evil one. Again, can we live the ways of God in such a way that we might reduce the influence of evil in the world?

Hopefully, the breakdown of the prayer can help us to pray it more effectively. This prayer was taught to the disciples, and eventually to us, by Jesus himself. Hence, this prayer is of utmost importance in our lives and in our celebration of the Eucharist.

If you are looking for a book to read on the "Our Father," I would suggest *"The Our Father: A New Reading"* by Gerhard Lofink. He goes into greater detail about each petition and some of the cultural background that animates this prayer.

Continued (on shared page 4) ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡

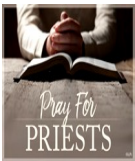
St. Thomas News



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.*



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of August 23rd burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Peter & Lila Sander by Rick, Debbie, and Richelle Ayers.

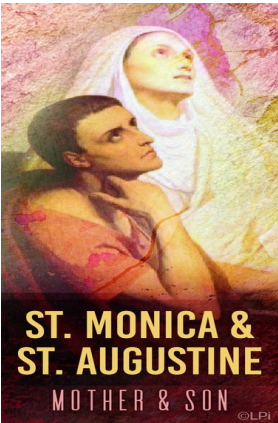


Very Rev. Brandon Kleckner, VF, Rev. Msgr. Henry Krebs, Rev. Ian McElrath, Rev. Cory Pius, Rev. John Miller, Very Rev. Michael Ferrick, VF, and also please *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*



Help Sell Gate Tickets at This Year's Sparty Fair

The Knights of Columbus are seeking volunteers from our parish to sell gate tickets at the Spartansburg Fair the week of **September 7—12**. If you wish to help with this project, please call the parish office to have your name placed on a list or talk to a member of the Knights. Thank you.



NOTHING
is far from
GOD

-St. Monica

Feast Days: St. Monica—August 27
St. Augustine—August 28

Cemetery Gravestone Cleaning Project

We are 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 are taking orders for those who are interested. Thank you.

Below is a recent example of how the cleaning process will transform the look of a headstone.



"Question of the Week" - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: What are three things you know about Jesus?

Question for Youth: Today's Gospel is about identity – the revealing of Jesus' true self. How difficult is it to you to reveal your true self? What holds you back from being who God created you to be?

Question for Adults: If Jesus turned and asked you the same question, who would you say he is? How would you describe Jesus to someone who did not know him?

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

Catholic Daughters' Meeting THIS WEEK

Members of the local Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet on Thursday, August 27th at 6:00pm at St Elizabeth Parish Center. We hope you will join us and be sure to bring a friend.

PRAYER for a NEW BISHOP

O Almighty God,,
Pour forth the Holy Spirit upon the Holy Father
and those who assist him
in the discernment of our new bishop.
May the one chosen have the strength
to be a compassionate leader,
who models humility and joy.
Grant him the wisdom of Solomon,
the courage of the apostles,
and the tenderness of your Son, the Good Shepherd.

We also pray for the Diocese of Erie
that he is called to serve.
may we welcome him with open hearts
and work with him in a spirit of synodality,
called to listen, collaborate, and build unity.

Through the intercession of the
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church,
St. Joseph, the protector of the Church,
and St. Patrick, the patron of our diocese,
may we journey the path of life
with an unwavering focus
on the hope we have in Christ.

For he lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Imprimatur, October 28, 2025
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, J.C.L., Bishop of Erie



YOUR LOVE
IS eternal.
DO NOT
FORSAKE
THE WORK OF
YOUR HANDS.
Psalm 138



St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of August 23, 2026

Sun.: Isaiah 22:19-23 ♦ Psalm 138:1-2a, 2b-3, 6 and 8 ♦ Romans 11:33-36 ♦ Matthew 16:13-20
 Mon.: Revelation 21:9b-14 ♦ Psalm 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 ♦ John 1:45-51
 Tues.: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a, 14-17 ♦ Psalm 96:10, 11-12, 13 ♦ Matthew 23:23-26
 Wed.: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18 ♦ Psalm 128:1-2, 4-5 ♦ Matthew 23:27-32
 Thur.: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 ♦ Psalm 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 ♦ Matthew 24:42-51
 Fri.: 1 Corinthians 1:17-25 ♦ Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11 ♦ Matthew 25:1-13
 Sat.: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 ♦ Psalm 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21 ♦ Mark 6:17-29
 Next Sun.: Jeremiah 20:7-9 ♦ Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 ♦ Romans 12:1-2 ♦ Matthew 16:21-27



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of August 23rd burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased loved ones.

Family Perspective

Like Jesus in today's gospel, we are perceived by others in various ways. However, those who know us best are usually our own family. Who do they say you are?

Seeking Volunteers to Help at Makers Market in Union City

The Buzz of Union City has invited us to join the annual **Homecoming Makers Market** on **Saturday, September 19, from 10:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.** This is the popular community event where local artisans, crafters, and small businesses showcase their creations and have booths to sell their products to the public. Our parish is invited as a longstanding community member in Union City. Organizers suggest having a little Lawn Festival nostalgia to the Makers Market with a fun festival-style game (or something similar), and we think it would be a great way to share some parish fun with the community! But before there can be a "yes," we need to know if there will be volunteers to make it happen! If you'd be willing to spend a little time helping at our booth to run a festival-style game, we'd love to hear from you. It's a great way to have some fun, meet people in the community, and represent our parish. Interested or Questions? You can sign up on the sign up sheets in the back of the church and/or contact Fr. Tom or Missy. *We hope you'll join in the fun!*

Bingo Bash

Sunday, September 13, 2026

at the JPTF Foundation Event Center
2319 West 38th St., Erie, PA

Doors Open: 1:00pm
Bingo Starts: 2:00pm

Bring your own drinks and food.

\$30 Online Pre-sale
\$35 at the Door

Includes all regular games & jackpot!

**\$1,000
JACKPOT
PRIZE!**

Basket Raffle
50/50
Instants & More!

All proceeds benefit Maria House Project

Purchase Tickets Online at MariaHouseProject.org



Interested in Becoming Catholic?

We are looking to start classes for those who wish to become Catholic, or those who wish to update their understanding of their faith. If you are interested in becoming Catholic, please contact Father Tom or Deacon Randy or the parish office.

Events in our Area

St. Gregory Thaumaturgus Hosts Bereavement Speaker

St. Gregory Thaumaturgus Parish, 48 South Pearl St., North East, Circle of Hope Bereavement and Support Group is hosting an evening with Mr. Timothy Elkin. Mr. Elkin is from Elkin Funeral Home and will be speaking on Thursday, Sept. 3 beginning at 6:30p.m. at St. Gregory's. The topic of discussion will be *Procedures and planning for end of life, what to do and how to do it*. This event is free and open to the public.

St. James Craft and Vendor Market

St. James Parish Social Hall (St. James Place), 2622 Buffalo Rd., Erie, is hosting the 5th Annual Fall Craft and Vendor Market. This will take place on Saturday Sept. 12 from 10a.m.- 3p.m. and Sunday Sept. 13 from 12p.m.- 4p.m. The admission is free and there will be food trucks, a gift card auction and over fifty local vendors.



Follow Us on Facebook!

Be sure to check out and follow our Facebook page: **St. Thomas the Apostle & its Mission St. Teresa**. It's a great way to stay connected with the parish!

PENNSYLVANIA MARCH FOR LIFE

Harrisburg, September 21, 2026



PEOPLE FOR LIFE BUS TRIP

\$55 / SEAT

Join us for this very important and powerful public pro-life statement.

- Leave Erie at 5 a.m.
- March and Rally at the State Capitol
- Return to Erie by 8 p.m.

Use the QR code (peopleforlife.org/pamarch) to reserve your seat(s) or send your payment to People for Life; 1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA 16508. Include contact information and a name for each reservation. Time will be available to tour the capitol building and visit your legislators.

PeopleforLife.org



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: August 15 & 16, 2026

Total Offertory Income \$6,835.00
Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage \$(-865.00)

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'.

Assumption of Mary envelope (Aug. 15).....\$510.00
 Thank you to those who used this envelope from our offertory packet.

Message from the Pastor (continued from page 1):

LIFECARE MINISTRY: I received a very nice thank you note from Lifecare Ministries in regard to the "Baby Bottle Boomerang." They reported that \$18,405.50 was raised in this effort and \$1,420.27 came from St. Thomas Church. The thank you included these words, "We are trying to find the adequate words to thank you for your participation in this very important and essential financial fundraiser...We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your sacrificial gifts that will help us continuing existing programs and start new ones." Thank you for being so generous to this important community resource.

- Fr. Tom

Back-to-School Shopping? Don't Forget RaiseRight!

As you head out for back-to-school shopping, don't forget that you can support St. Thomas simply by purchasing gift cards through **RaiseRight!** Whether you're shopping in-store or online, you can buy gift cards for many of your favorite retailers right from the RaiseRight app. You can also use the app to shop online through participating retailers and earn rebates for our parish.

If you haven't already, **download the RaiseRight app today** and start earning while you shop. It's an easy way to support St. Thomas!

Just scan the QR code for more information, visit the website www.raiseright.com (enrollment code: **JWFHT6MPCX7L**), or download the app and see how easy it is to give back! Please contact Missy Silka at the parish office if you have questions.



2026 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals:

Diocesan Goal for our parish is \$64,881

St. Thomas portion is \$38,000 / St. Teresa portion is \$27,000

Stretch Goals: St. Thomas—\$123,00 / St. Teresa—\$94,000

Amount Pledged at **St. Thomas** to date = \$77,240

Paid to date = \$68,015

Amount Pledged at **St. Teresa** to date = \$42,345

Paid to date = \$39,020

Number of Families who made a pledge = 212



Diocese of Erie
2026 Catholic Services Appeal

Be sure to make your check payable to 'ST. THOMAS CHURCH' when making a CSA payment.

Religious Education News

Religious Education | 2026-2027 School Year



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

We are excited to share the teaching of the Catholic faith in our Religious Education Program.

Classes for this year will start on Sunday, September 20th meeting from 9:30am—10:45am at St. Teresa Parish Center for ALL students. We will again be holding our Religious Education Classes for the first half of the year at St. Teresa in Union City and the second half of the year at St. Thomas in Corry.

Registration packets were mailed out to registered families. If you did not receive one, please call the parish office. Information and forms are available online by going to our parish website. Completed packet need to be returned to the parish office. Questions, please contact Missy Silka at the parish office.

IMPORTANT Parent Meetings

Confirmation (Grade 9): Parents/guardians and their student will meet on **Sunday, August 30th after the 11:00am Mass in Union City at the St. Teresa Parish Center.**

All other Parents/Guardians need to attend one of the following parent meetings: **Saturday, Sept. 12th following the 4:30pm Mass at St. Thomas in the multipurpose room—OR—Sunday, Sept. 13th following the 11:00am Mass at St. Teresa in the church.** At least one parent/guardian must attending one of the above meetings.

We are so grateful to all of the volunteer catechists and all of the students and families who help to make our program a success in teaching and sharing the Catholic faith with the next generations. *See you soon!*

REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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 celebrate 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.