



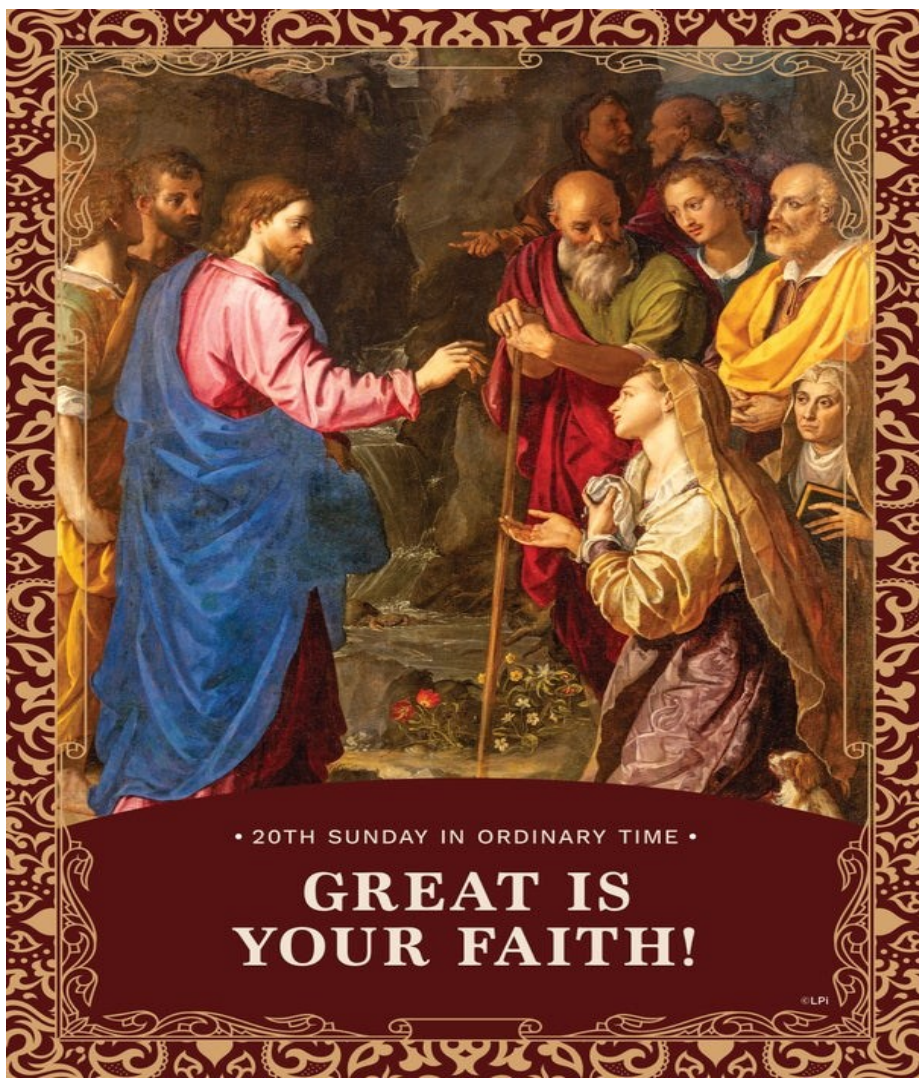
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church  
203 W. Washington Street  
Corry, PA 16407

# 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 16, 2026



• 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

### GREAT IS YOUR FAITH!

#### 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](http://www.stthomastheapostle.church)

**Saint Teresa of Avila Church**  
[www.st-teresa-unioncity.org](http://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 to facilitate 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:** One of the buzz words over the past 20 years has been “spirituality.” This word has a number of different meanings based on who is raising the issue. It has become an important topic because people will say, “I am spiritual but not religious.” Usually, this means that the person believes in God (spiritual) but does not practice a particular religion (religious). This can be the result of a bad experience of religion, or an understanding of religion as being just a set of beliefs and not a way of life. No matter what the reason, there is a great deal of confusion about spirituality and spiritual practice.

Allow me to attempt to address some of the concerns in this area by looking at some of our Christian Spiritual practices. As Christians, we believe that our lives are not only connected to God, but we need to do certain things in order that we might grow deeper in that relationship with God. Each person will need to find those spiritual practices that help them grow in their relationship with God and with others. At the heart of our spiritual lives are the promises we made in baptism and renew each year at Easter. Those baptismal promise are simply to reject everything that is not of God and to make every effort to live our lives in keeping with the ways of God. There are various ways that we try to live the ways of God, and these are our spiritual practices. These spiritual practices are various forms of prayer, different ways in which we care for others, and unique practices that help us grow as persons and as Christians.

I will attempt to look at various forms of prayer, care, and growth over the next several months. At times it will be a spiritual practice you are familiar with and use regularly, and at other times it will be a spiritual practice you may not have heard of but may find helpful. I will try to explain the meaning of the spiritual practice and then the steps of how to use it.

- Fr. Tom



**Sunday, August 16**

8:00a.m. ✠August & Mary Wascak by Gil & Barbara Wascak  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. ✠Carol Groner by Mini Sypniewski  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Monday, August 17**

8:00a.m. ✠Angeline Doan  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Tuesday, August 18**

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

**Wednesday, August 19**

8:00a.m. ✠George & Frances Butchko by Patricia Stolz  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Thursday, August 20**

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

**Friday, August 21**

8:00a.m. Thanksgiving for the Masangcay Family by Angelina Masangcay & family  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Saturday, August 22**

4:30p.m. ✠Mary Ann Shinko by Carol Raun and Herb & MaryAnn Hast  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**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)



**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.

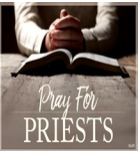
## St. Thomas News



**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 16<sup>th</sup>** burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of **Veronica Bailey** by the St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society.



Rev. William Barron, Rev. James Gutting,  
Rev. Leo Gallina, Rev. Raymond Hahn, Captain Joseph  
Campbell, Rev. Obinna Paschal Ezeihuoma,  
Rev. Msgr. Gerald Koos, and also *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.

### Family Perspective

The mother in today's gospel persisted, even when she was ignored and insulted. She would do whatever was necessary to bring relief to her child. Parenting is not just about bringing life into the world; it is also about daily sacrifices for your children.

## ZABAWA

**Holy Trinity Parish**  
East 23rd and Reed Streets - Erie

### *A Celebration of our Polish Heritage*

**33rd ANNUAL - FREE ADMISSION**

**August 21st, 22nd & 23rd, 2026**

**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:** Frankie Liszka and the Blue Magic Band

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](http://www.holytrinityrc.org)

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

### "Question of the Week" - 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Question for Children:** What is your favorite way to talk with Jesus? What words do you use?

**Question for Youth:** Do you trust that God hears your prayers? Do you believe that your prayer makes a difference?

**Question for Adults:** When you pray, how do you know that Jesus will really respond?

## PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

### Events in our Area

#### **St. Patrick Parish—Franklin Chicken BBQ and Carnival**

St. Patrick Parish, 949 Liberty St., Franklin, is hosting a Chicken BBQ and Carnival on Sunday Aug. 16 from 11:30a.m. – 5:30p.m. There will be a bouncy slide, carnival games, face painting, food and drink and raffle prizes. Cost for the BBQ dinner with sides is \$15, dine-in, drive-thru or take out. Sponsored by Voyten Electric and Hartle Funeral Home. The dinner benefits the St. Patrick Youth Group.

#### **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### **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.*



### **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.

## St. Teresa News

### Readings for the week of August 16, 2026

Sun.: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7 ♦ Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 ♦ Romans 11:13-15, 29-32 ♦ Matthew 15:21-28  
 Mon.: Ezekiel 24:15-23 ♦ Deuteronomy 32:18-19, 20, 21 ♦ Matthew 19:16-22  
 Tues.: Ezekiel 28:1-10 ♦ Deuteronomy 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab ♦ Matthew 19:23-30  
 Wed.: Ezekiel 34:1-11 ♦ Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 ♦ Matthew 20:1-16  
 Thur.: Ezekiel 36:23-28 ♦ Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 ♦ Matthew 22:1-14  
 Fri.: Ezekiel 37:1-14 ♦ Psalm 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 ♦ Matthew 22:34-40  
 Sat.: Ezekiel 43:1-7ab ♦ Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 ♦ Matthew 23:1-12  
 Next Sun.: Isaiah 22:19-23 ♦ Psalm 138:1-2a, 2b-3, 6 and 8 ♦ Romans 11:33-36 ♦ Matthew 16:13-20



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of August 16<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of the unborn lost to abortion.

### St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society

Members of the St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society recently meet for a summer gathering and dinner at the county club. A good time was had by all in attendance.

*We thank the Rosary Altar members for their continued support of our church.*



### Seeking Volunteers to Help at Makers Event in Union City

The Buzz of Union City has invited St. Thomas to join the **Makers Event** on **Saturday, September 19**, from **10:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.**

They suggested bringing a little Lawn Festival nostalgia to the event 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, 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? 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!*

★ **ERIE BENEDICTINES** ★

# GLINODO GOAT FEST

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1:00-4:00**

MEET THE GOATS

STORYBOOK TRAIL

NATURE ART

SNACKS, GAMES & MORE!

**A family-friendly event to celebrate the Earth and our connection to it.**

**The goats from Let's Goat Buffalo and Rosemary and Pine will be on the property helping us remove invasive species!**

Bring your own t-shirt, hat, or bag to get free Glinodo Goat Fest memorabilia printed on-site!

Science Consortium  
at Presque Isle

UPMC HEALTH PLAN

GLINODO CENTER  
6270 E LAKE RD

Thank you to all of our sponsors, including UPMC Health Plan & The Regional Science Consortium

### 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



**MARIA HOUSE PROJECT**  
A Community of Hope & Healing

# 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](https://MariaHouseProject.org)

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:** August 8 & 9, 2026

Total Offertory Income ..... \$6,333.00  
 Average Budgeted Offertory Income ..... \$7,700.00  
**Offertory Shortage ..... (\$-1,367.00)**

**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'.***

*If you are not receiving offertory envelopes from our parish and wish to, please contact the parish office. Thank you!*

**THANK YOU** to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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



Visit the Diocese of Erie's website at [www.eriecd.org](http://www.eriecd.org) for information, news and resources about our Catholic faith and much more.

**THANK YOU!** for Supporting Our Parish during Erie Gives.

We wish to thank everyone who supported our parish (and its various causes) in any way during Erie Gives 2026. We are grateful for your gift.

**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](http://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 = \$77,235

Paid to date = \$66,835

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

Paid to date = \$38,895

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 are available this weekend in the church for registered families to pick up and complete. Families wishing to enroll new students (grades K—9) in our Religious Education are invited to pick up a blank registration packet to complete and return to the parish office. Questions, please contact Missy Silka at the parish office.

**IMPORTANT**—Parents/guardians should plan on attending one of the parent meetings: **Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> following the 4:30pm Mass at St. Thomas in the multipurpose room OR Sunday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> following the 11:00am Mass at St. Teresa in the church.** At least one parent/guardian must attending one of these meetings.

*Looking forward to seeing returning families and hopefully some new ones! 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.*