



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

September 20, 2026



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Are you envious because I am generous?” Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.” - Mt 20:15-16

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY & ZIP _____
PHONE _____

☐ St. Thomas the Apostle ☐ St. Teresa of Avila

Please drop into the Offertory Basket or mail to the 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

THANK YOU: Thanks to Nick and Mary Jo Brunecz for the beautiful mums that adorn St. Thomas Church for the fall. Your kindness is greatly appreciated and adds to the beauty of our celebration of the Eucharist.

ROOF AND BOILER UPDATES: Last week the workers began replacing the roof on St. Teresa Parish Center. When the work is finished, they will begin work on the roofs at St. Thomas School building.

The boilers in the office and the church are now fully installed. Work has begun on the school boiler and will continue for a few more weeks.

SAFETY ISSUES: I have mentioned this from time to time, and now that school and religious education are back in session, it might be good to mention it again. Please be extra careful in the parking lot as children are being dropped off and picked up after religious education classes on Sunday morning. Where there are yellow lines to park is where you can park. Fire lanes, no parking areas, and spaces where there are no lines, are not available for parking and create safety hazards in case of a fire or an emergency vehicle needing to get close to the building. For the past few weeks there have been people parked in places where they should not be parked and this creates a dangerous situation. Thank you for being mindful of others.

SPIRITUALITY: THE JESUS PRAYER: I have been making the distinction between meditation and contemplation as two forms of prayer people may find helpful. Allow me to introduce two forms of contemplative prayer: the **Jesus Prayer** and **Centering Prayer**.

The Jesus Prayer was developed by desert monks in Egypt and then spread to Greece, then to the Eastern Orthodox Church in Eastern Europe, and in the 19th century became popular in the Western Church.

Many Christians have learned about the **Jesus Prayer** through the 19th century classic, *Way of a Pilgrim*, which has been translated into some forty languages. The book has the author telling stories about himself. One day he heard in church a reading from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians to "pray without ceasing." The author pursued a number of preachers and teachers to help him develop a life of praying without ceasing but was greatly disappointed because no one was able to present a practical way to pray without ceasing. Finally, he encounters an elderly monk who taught him the Jesus Prayer. After much practice, he was able to use the prayer to pray unceasingly.

The standard form of the prayer is: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner." In practical use, the prayer can be shortened in a variety of ways. "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me; or, Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me; or, Lord Jesus, have mercy."

How then do you pray this prayer? It can be prayed in two different ways: structured and spontaneous. The structured way of reciting the prayer is to set aside a period of time every day, such as ten, twenty, or thirty minutes, and silently repeat the prayer as you sit in silence. The silent repetition of the prayer places us in the presence of God and focuses our attention on



Sunday, September 20

- 8:00a.m. † Sophie & Ed Girovsky by Diane Hall and Jean Cressley (St. Thomas, Corry)
11:00a.m. People of the Parish (St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, September 21

- 8:00a.m. † Fr. John Hindman (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, September 22

- 8:00a.m. † Carl Buckshaw by Mary Buckshaw and family (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, September 23

- 8:00a.m. † John Wrzeszcz by a Friend of the Manor (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, September 24

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

Friday, September 25

- 8:00a.m. † James & Veronica Whitman (St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, September 26

- 4:30p.m. † Lutz and Amoroso Families by family (St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, September 27

- 8:00a.m. People of the Parish (St. Thomas, Corry)
11:00a.m. † Julia & Andy Ryba by Judy Flynn (St. Teresa, Union City)



Any college-age young man, 18 years old or older, who is interested in learning more about the seminary, priesthood, or discernment is invited to attend a Seminary Discernment Weekend.

The retreat is Oct. 24-25 at St. Mark Seminary 429 E. Grandview Blvd, Erie

There is no cost to attend. However, those interested must contact Fr. Scott Jabo, Vocation Director, at 814-824-1198 or by email at SWJabo@eriercd.org. More information can be found at www.erievocations.org.

the mercy of God with us. The spontaneous way of reciting the Jesus Prayer is to freely repeat the prayer throughout the day. Spiritual masters recommend using both methods so the prayer gradually accompanies us throughout the day. The holy name of Jesus will spontaneously appear on our lips and in our hearts at different times and occasions throughout the day.

The Jesus Prayer is a proven way to achieve watchfulness, or inner stillness and unceasing prayer.

- Fr. Tom

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.

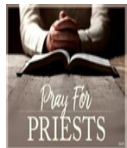
Persevere in Prayer

"Question of the Week" - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: How do you experience God being generous to you: through your family, friends, school, or parish?

Question for Youth: This Gospel reminds us that God is always seeking us out and welcoming us into his generous love. Through whom has God reached out to you? Who is always encouraging you to say "yes" to God?

Question for Adults: Using Jesus' parable as your starting point, describe in your own words how God will treat those who come to be part of the church, even those who come late.



Rev. Thomas Brown, Rev. Lawrence Richards, Rev. Benjamin Daghir, Rev. Luke Daghir, Rev. James Piszker, Rev. Msgr. Richard Siefer, Rev. Robert Manning, and also Pray for All Priests and Deacons of our diocese.



St. Mark Seminary Auxiliary Seeks New Members

The St. Mark Seminary Auxiliary has begun its 2026-27 year, and all are invited to attend the next meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 13, with Mass at 7:00pm at St. Mark Seminary. The Auxiliary is a meaningful way to support our seminarians through prayer, fellowship and service. For more information, contact Auxiliary President Alice Ballentine at aah1224@gmail.com or 814-897-3548.



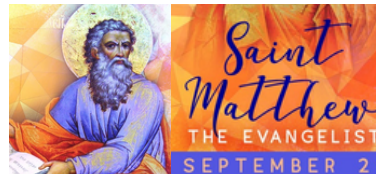
Saturday Morning Rosary: All are invited to join us on Saturday mornings at Saint Thomas Church at 9:00am as we pray The Rosary together in community.



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Thomas Church for the week of September 20th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Veronica Bailey by Shirley Kuszajewski.

Catholic Daughters Meeting THIS WEEK

Members of the local Catholic Daughters will meet on Thursday, September 24 at 6:00pm in the St. Elizabeth Parish Center. All members are encouraged to attend - and, please bring a friend.



'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, says the Lord.'

Matthew 28:19-20

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.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION COLLECTION SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2026



Our Mission

Provide support for every stage of faith formation and learning.

YOUR GIFT HELPS WITH

- Faith formation programs and Catholic schools
- Completing and receiving the sacraments
- Faith formation retreats and conferences
- Leading to a deeper relationship with Christ.



Please give generously!

ErieRCD.org/CEC.html



St. Teresa News

Mass Intentions Needed at St. Teresa in 2026

We have a few open Masses remaining at St. Teresa Church for this year (2026), primarily on Mondays and Fridays. If you wish to have a Mass said for a loved one, please call the parish office.

CELEBRATING OUR *Faithful Servants*

The Diocese of Erie joyfully celebrates the 2026 Faithful Servants, now featured on the diocesan website. This special tribute honors jubilarians marking anniversaries of religious life and ministry.



We invite you to visit the site to learn more about all of our jubilarians.

ErieRCD.org/FaithfulServants2026.html



Readings for the week of September 20, 2026

Sun.: Isaiah 55:6-9 | Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 | Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
Matthew 20:1-16a
Mon.: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13 | Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5 | Matthew 9:9-13
Tues.: Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13 | Psalm 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44 |
Luke 8:19-21
Wed.: Proverbs 30:5-9 | Psalm 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163 |
Luke 9:1-6
Thur.: Ecclesiastes 1:2-11 | Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17bc |
Luke 9:7-9
Fri.: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 | Psalm 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4 | Luke 9:18-22
Sat.: Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8 | Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17 |
Luke 9:43b-45
Next Sun.: Ezekiel 18:25-28 | Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 |
Philippians 2:1-11 or 2:1-5 | Matthew 21:28-32

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



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of September 20th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Andrew & Helen Harnak by Dorothy Rhodes and family

Family Perspective

Today, Jesus asks us, "Why are you idle? Go into my vineyard." Our family is the vineyard entrusted to us, as mentioned in today's gospel. Successful families are built by "laborers" who actively work on their relationships, not by spectators who merely watch from a distance.

Shopping for an Occasion? Don't Forget RaiseRight!

As you are 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 any questions.



WELCOME

If you are new to our parish, we extend a warm welcome and hope you will find 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 in the Offertory Collection or to 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 mailing address, phone numbers, or email. Thank you.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: September 12 & 13, 2026
Total Offertory Income \$5,267.00
Average Budgeted Offertory Income.....\$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage.....\$(-2,433.00)

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'.

You may also give by simply scanning the QR Code here:



THANK YOU for supporting our parish.

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 and ask that you patronize their business.



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.

Faith Formation & Religious Education News

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



CLASSES BEGIN THIS WEEKEND!

We hope that your students (Grades Pre-K to 9th) are registered for the 2026-2027 Religious Education School Year. **Classes start TODAY - Sunday, September 20th meeting from 9:30am - 10:45am at St. Teresa Parish Center for ALL students.** We will again be holding our classes for half of the year in Union City (Sept. - Dec.) and then the second half year in Corry (Jan. - May). If you have any questions or need to register, please reach out to Missy Silka. Thank you.

Members of Our Catechetical Team for This Year

We are grateful to the wonderful volunteers who help to teach the Catholic faith to the youth of our parish:

- Grades Pre-K & 1 - Mrs. Natalie Moss
- Grade 2 - Mrs. Donna Blessing
- Grade 3 - Mrs. Heather Wilson with assistant, Emily Wilson
- Grades 4 & 5 - Mr. Seth Moss and Mr. Eric Williams
- Grades 6, 7, & 8 - Mr. Jacob Bridgham
- Grade 9 - Deacon Randy Kondrik

We thank our catechists for their dedication to passing on the Catholic faith to the next generation. *May they be blessed for their efforts.*

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 - \$123,000 | St. Teresa - \$94,000



Amount Pledged at St. Thomas to date = \$78,510

Paid to date = \$71,695

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

Paid to date = \$39,770

Number of Families who made a pledge is 213

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

All Invited to the Respect Life Mass

October is Respect Life Month. All are invited to celebrate life on October 4 at 10:45am at the Respect Life Sunday Mass, with The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico presiding at St. Joseph Church/Bread of Life Community, 147 W. 24th St., Erie. There will be fellowship immediately after in the community center. For questions, please contact Elizabeth Slaby at Catholic Charities, Office of Social Justice and Life at ESlaby@CCIncErie.org or by phone at 814-824-1254.

Erie Irish Festival

St. Patrick Parish, 130 E. 4th St., Erie, is celebrating *Halfway to St. Patrick's Day* this weekend on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 11:00am to 10:30pm; and Sunday, Sept. 20, from 11:00am to 4:00pm. The weekend will feature Luck of the Irish games of chance and basket raffles, Irish memorabilia for purchase, Irish brews including Irish beers, whiskeys, coffee and mead, and Irish grub and fare including Reubens, Irish stew and shepherd's pie. Admission is free.

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 16505. Include contact information and a name for each reservation.

Time will be available to tour the capitol building and visit your legislators.

PeopleforLife.org

