



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

October 4, 2026



27th Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

"There was a landowner who planted a vineyard,
put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built
a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a
journey." Matthew 21:33

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

FATIMA STATUE BLESSING: Recently, the outdoor statues from Our Lady of Fatima Church were painted and placed at St. Teresa Cemetery. There will be a blessing of the statues on Sunday, October 18, at 1:00pm at the cemetery.

FIRST FRIDAY VISITATION OF THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND: One of the things I started when I arrived here, three years ago, was what we call "First Friday Calls." Catholics who are sick or homebound are visited on the First Friday of each month to receive Communion and the Anointing of the Sick. Some people have taken advantage of this, and others have not. I have altered this so that one Friday I will visit those in Corry and the next month those in Union City. This gives people support in their illness and at times of isolation. This is what the Anointing of the Sick is intended for. It prevents the cases where we try to find a priest at the last minute to anoint someone who is dying, because they have already been anointed. This also alleviates the fear that often surrounded Last Rites because when the priest came to visit you, you must be dying. This caused, and still causes, tremendous fear in people because the sacrament is not used correctly. (Below is a description of the Anointing of the Sick).

If you, or some member of your family, is homebound, please have them call the parish office to be put on the First Friday List.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: The Anointing of the Sick was started 50 years ago as a way to better minister to those who were seriously ill and dying. Some of you may remember what the church called Last Rites. Last Rites was a sacrament that could be received only once in a lifetime and thus people waited until their last breath to receive it. Sometimes the priest arrived in time and sometimes he didn't. Priests even anointed dead bodies. The Catholic Church no longer has what is called "last rites." It has been replaced with the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. It is surprising that people 50 years later are still using the term "last rites" and even talking about the sacrament in terms that we stopped using 50 years ago.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a healthy revision of what was called Last Rites. The Anointing of the Sick can be received as many times as a person needs it, where last rites was given only once. The Anointing of the Sick still carries with it forgiveness of sins, a prayer for physical healing, and a prayer for strength in the midst of one's suffering. The Anointing of the Sick is intended to strengthen people in faith and hope in the midst of their struggle with illness and even death. We try to minister to people in their illness and suffering rather than just waiting until they are at the moment of their last breath. Today, a priest is not allowed to anoint someone who has died – sacraments are for the living, not the dead. Anyone who has a serious or chronic illness, is preparing for major surgery, or who is struggling with a serious mental illness can, and should, be anointed. If you are not sure if the illness is serious or not, the person should be anointed. The sacrament can be received as many times as needed.

RECEIVING COMMUNION: I have written this before and yet people are still not receiving communion in the appropriate ways. Even some daily mass participants are not doing it correctly. This is often the reason for hosts being dropped. If you think you are doing it correctly, please read this carefully.

First of all, if you choose to receive the Precious Blood from one of the cups, you are to take the cup in your hands and drink from the cup. Typically, people take a small sip. IT IS NEVER PERMITTED TO TAKE THE HOST AND DIP THE HOST INTO THE WINE. The minister of the Eucharist should cover the cup and instruct you to please consume the host first and then consume the wine.

If you choose to receive communion on the tongue, you need to respond "Amen" to the Minister of the Eucharist's statement, "The Body of Christ." You should lean your head back open your mouth wide and extend your tongue. The minister of the Eucharist will place



Sunday, October 4

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

11:00a.m. † Andrew & Helen Harnak by Dorothy Rhodes
and family (St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, October 5

8:00a.m. † Amy Basso by Grace & Ed Monk
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, October 6

8:00a.m. Peace on Earth by Gil & Barbara Wascak
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, October 7

8:00a.m. † Deceased & Living Members of the Rushin and
Hennings Families by Steve & Julie Rushin
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, October 8

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

Friday, October 9

8:00a.m. † Ann Tudorache by Ilene Zakovitch
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, October 10

4:30p.m. † MaryAnn Shinko by Irene Weaver
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Sunday, October 11

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

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

the host on your tongue. You should not try to bite the host out of the hand of the minister of the Eucharist. The host is placed on your tongue.

If you choose to receive communion in the hand, the minister of the Eucharist will say "the Body of Christ," and you will respond by saying, "Amen." ("Amen" is the only acceptable response and nothing further. "Thank You" is not an acceptable response. You are stating "Amen" as a belief in the real presence of Christ.) If you are right-handed, then your left hand should be extended to be flat and your right hand should be underneath your left hand. The host will be placed in the palm of your hand. You should immediately take the host with your right hand and place it in your mouth. Please do not grab the host from the minister of the Eucharist. Allow the minister of the Eucharist to place the host in your hand and wait until the minister's hand is out of the way before you reach to take the host in your hand to consume it. Remember that we take the host from our hand and place it in our mouth, we do not eat the host out of our hand. Please make sure your hand is flat, not cupped. Please make sure that one hand is underneath the other, not side by side. There should be no need to flip the host from one hand to the other, if you are properly placing your strong hand beneath your weak hand.

The appropriate gesture before receiving communion is a slight bow of the head, not a full body bow. Once the host has been placed in your hand, take one step to the side and immediately place the host in your mouth. Some people will make the sign of the cross after receiving the host, but it is made AFTER you place the host in your mouth, not before. Genuflecting is not an appropriate gesture after receiving communion.

- 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.

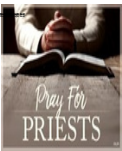
Persevere in Prayer

"Question of the Week" - 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: What makes you feel peaceful inside? What makes you feel restless?

Question for Youth: How do you thank God for the talents that you have? How do you give back to God through the use of your talent?

Question for Adults: What steps do you take each week to make sure you are doing as Paul directs: "Live according to what you have learned and accepted."?



Rev. Festus Okoye, Rev. Joseph Czarkowski, Rev. Frank Dicristina, Rev. Chijioke (John) Nwankwo, Rev. Charles Hamlett, Rev. John Miller, Rev. Ian McElrath, and also Pray for All Priests and Deacons of our diocese.



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.

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

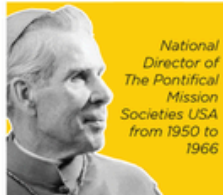
Psalm 80

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

ONE IN CHRIST, UNITED IN MISSION

OCTOBER 18, 2026

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



National Director of The Pontifical Mission Societies USA from 1950 to 1966



SUPPORTING MISSIONARY WORK

Pope Leo XIV calls on the entire Church to renew its missionary vocation in prayer, solidarity and support for the missionary work of the Church.

Funds raised support:

- Missionary catechists & faith formation
- The formation of seminarians, priests and religious
- The building and support of churches and parishes
- Catholic schools, health centers, orphanages and other ministries

Two Ways to Give: Use your parish offertory envelope or online giving platform OR make a gift online at EierCD.org/WorldMissionSunday.html.



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of October 4th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Ed & Sophie Girovsky by Diane Hall and Jean Cressley.



Coffee & Donuts at St. Thomas

Here is a heads up for all of you who need to plan ahead - there will be Coffee & Donuts

NEXT Sunday, October 11th, after the 8:00am Mass in the multipurpose room at St. Thomas (inside the former school building). Please join your fellow parishioners for a chance to catch up with each other and meet new parishioners over a cup of hot coffee and a delicious donut. *See you there!*

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.



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.

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



St. Teresa News

THANK YOU for Helping at Union City's Makers' Market

We wish to thank members of the parish who donated 2-Liter bottles of pop and helped us with our carnival games at the Homecoming Makers' Market event on September 19th. We especially want to thank those who worked at our booth: Flo Down, Carol & Darrell Huffman, and Barb Maloney.

Getting married in 2027?

Take time to invest in your future with an **Engagement Encounter weekend, February 5-7, 2027 at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie**. This retreat fulfills diocesan marriage preparation requirements and offers couples—Catholic and interfaith alike—a chance to deepen their connection before the big day. Space is limited. Call the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261 or email: familylife@erieRCD.org. Details and registration: <https://www.erieRCD.org/familylifeoffice/>

"A wedding is one day, but marriage is for a lifetime."



Readings for the week of October 4, 2026

Sun.: Isaiah 5:1-7 | Psalm 80:9 and 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20 |
Philippians 4:6-9 | Matthew 21:33-43
Mon.: Galatians 1:6-12 | Psalm 111:1b-2, 7-8, 9 and 10c |
Luke 10:25-37
Tues.: Galatians 1:13-24 | Psalm 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15 |
Luke 10:38-42
Wed.: Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14 | Psalm 117:1bc, 2 | Luke 11:1-4
Thur.: Galatians 3:1-5 | Luke 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75 | Luke 11:5-13
Fri.: Galatians 3:7-14 | Psalm 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 | Luke 11:15-26
Sat.: Galatians 3:22-29 | Psalm 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 | Luke 11:27-28
Next Sun.: Isaiah 25:6-10a | Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 |
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20 | Matthew 22:1-14 or 22:1-10



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of October 4th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of **Jenine Mineo and Elizabeth Tyson by the Mineo and Tyson families.**

Family Perspective

Every family faces difficult times that can either unite or divide them. These hardships, which we might quickly reject, have the potential to become the unifying "cornerstone" where we drop our pettiness and defenses, coming together through a common bond and love for one another.

Shopping for an Occasion? Don't Forget RaiseRight!

Would you like to support St. Thomas as you shop? You can 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.

**ST. TERESA'S
ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY**

HARVEST Moon

CARD PARTY

♠ ♥ ♣ ♦

*An Evening of Cards,
Fun & Friendship!*

DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2026

DOORS OPEN: 5:30 PM

ADMISSION: \$6.00

RESERVATIONS
Call
814-392-7950

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: September 26 & 27, 2026
Total Offertory Income \$6,378.00
Average Budgeted Offertory Income.....\$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage.....\$(-1,322.00)

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!

Faith Formation & Religious Education News

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



Religious Education Class Schedule

Classes meet from 9:30am - 10:45am at St. Teresa Parish Center in Union City for ALL students (Sept. - Dec.).

October 4 - Class

October 11 - NO Class

October 18 - Class

October 25 - Class and Youth Mass at St. Teresa Church | 11am

WHILE YOU'RE SHOPPING.....GRAB AN EXTRA BAG!

Our Religious Education **Fall Trail of Treats** event is coming up, and we'd love your help making it a spooktacular event for our kiddos! The next time you're at the store, consider grabbing one of the following items to donate:

- Bag of candy
- Box of individual chips
- Apples
- Sundae toppings – caramel, hot fudge, mini m&ms, nerds, mini chocolate chips, etc
- Apple Cider

Donations are needed by October 18. They can be dropped off at the back of St. Teresa Church, St. Thomas Church, and at the parish office. Every little bit helps us make this a fun and memorable event for our Religious Education students. Thank you for helping us treat our kiddos!

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 = \$78,520

Paid to date = \$71,875

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

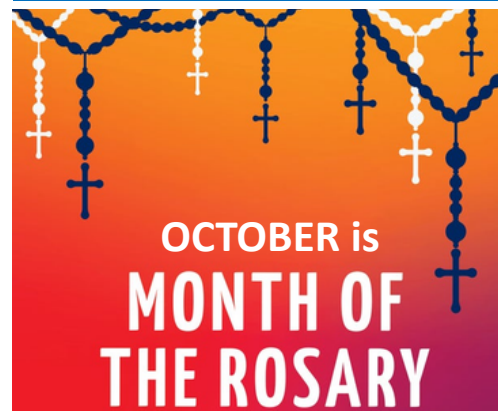
Paid to date = \$40,026

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



October is Respect Life Month. Respecting life means valuing all human life and creation – especially the lives of the weak, the vulnerable, the unborn, the poor, even those we disagree with. Treat everyone with respect and dignity - show them God's love.



Devote more time this month to praying The Rosary - let each mystery bring you closer to the heart of Jesus, helping us to fix our minds on Him through the eyes of his mother, Mary.

THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!

We appreciate their support and ask that you patronize their businesses.

RESPECT LIFE
 OCTOBER 2026
MONTH



Events in the Area

Annual Rosary March

The 32nd Annual Rosary March, sponsored by the Diocese of Erie World Apostolate of Fatima and the Legion of Mary, will be **Sunday, October 11, at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie.** The outdoor Rosary March will begin at 2:00pm. Participants are asked to arrive by 1:45pm. The Rosary will also be prayed inside the Cathedral beginning at 2:00pm. A special prayer service will follow at 3:00pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a Gospel reading, homily by Fr. Jerry Priscaro and Benediction. For more, contact John Walsh at 814-868-1100.

Spaghetti Dinner at Epiphany of the Lord Parish

Epiphany of the Lord Parish will host a spaghetti dinner on **Sunday, Oct. 11, from 11:30am - 5:00pm** at St. Mary of Grace Church, 1085 Water St., Meadville. Dinner includes spaghetti with homemade sauce and two meatballs, salad, bread, beverage and dessert. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children ages 5-10. Children under age 5 eat free. Live music from 2:00pm-4:00pm, also gift basket auction, 50/50 and raffle.

St. Lawrence/ St. Philip Parish Fall Roast Beef Dinner

Dinner is **Sunday, October 11 from 11:30am - 2:00pm** (or until sold out) at St. Lawrence Parish, 129 East Pearl St., Albion. Cost is \$15 per person and includes: roast beef, gravy, mashed potatoes, corn or green beans, applesauce, coleslaw, a roll with butter and pie. There will also be an auction, bake sale, raffle and 50/50.

Catholic Charities Event on October 15th

Catholic Charities invites you to be part of the Helping Hands Gala, **Thursday, October 15, 2026, from 6:00 to 8:00pm in the Yehl Ballroom at Gannon University.** The event will feature light hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and entertainment while celebrating the mission and impact of Catholic Charities. This year's honorees are, Helping Hands of Justice: Father John Jacquel and Helping Hands of Service: Joe and Rhonda Schember. Tickets are \$100 or \$750 for a table of 8. For information, visit our website: <https://ccincerie.org/hhgala26>.