



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 6, 2026



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother." - Mt 18:15

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 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

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: Meditation compared to Contemplation: Allow me to take the next two weeks to look at two forms of prayer: meditation and contemplation. They are somewhat similar but the distinction is an important one. They offer us two more forms of prayer that people might find helpful. Allow me to use parts of an article by Fr. Dennis Gallagher, AA as found in *Catholic Digest*.

These two kinds of prayers are not the same and the terms should not be used interchangeably. One way of making sense of the difference is to understand that, according to our Catholic tradition, those who enter heaven will spend all of eternity contemplating God. This suggests that contemplation represents a fulfillment of all of our efforts to deepen our personal relationship with God. It has the character of a gift: we are given the grace of gazing lovingly on the very source of our life.

Before going any further, please remember that the goal of all types of prayer is to help us grow in our relationship with God. We should not be so preoccupied with the particular kind or method of prayer that we lose sight of the reason for praying in the first place. As with all relationships, it requires concentrated effort, but it also involves an openness to receive from the other. Amid the many distractions of our daily lives, growing in intimacy with God will not happen without putting aside time each day to focus on the essentials of our lives. For us Catholics, this means focusing on the God who has created us for Himself and who, through his beloved Son, has redeemed us from our sins. By first giving attention to the relationship, you may then be prepared to discover what form of prayer suits you best.

Meditation:

There are many different kinds of meditation, but they all involve an engaged form of mental activity. When we meditate, we do some work. We might read the Gospel and ponder its meaning in itself and for our own lives. We can meditate on the mysteries of the faith, as we do when we recite the Rosary. This helps us to see that two elements of meditation are some kind of "raw material" and a disciplined practice. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, in meditation the "mind seeks to understand the why and the how of the Christian life, in order to adhere and respond to what God is asking." (CCC 2705)

Let's take an example. A recent Sunday Gospel passage narrated the miracle of the loaves and fishes in Matthew's Gospel. This is a scene that lends itself to meditation on a number of different levels. We might find ourselves pondering the hunger of the people after a long day without food and drink. That could lead us to think about those in the world, perhaps not



Sunday, September 6

8:00a.m. † Deceased Members of the Farver and Shone Families by Richard & Jean Farver (St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. † Tinko and Weaver Families by Irene Weaver and family (St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, September 7 - Labor Day

8:00a.m. † Marky Petrasek by Judy Flynn (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, September 8

8:00a.m. † Madalyn Jawdy by Joe & Janet Jawdy (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, September 9

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

Thursday, September 10

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

Friday, September 11- Patriot Day

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

Saturday, September 12

4:30p.m. Special Intentions of Tracy Blair by Barbara & Gil Wascak (St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, September 13

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

11:00a.m. † Amy Basso by the Vandever Family (St. Teresa, Union City)

so distant from us, who suffer from food insecurity, or we may get in touch with our own various hungers. We may focus our attention on the disciples and how helpless they must have felt when Jesus told them to provide food for the people themselves, echoing the helplessness we can often feel in the face of the needs of others. Or we may meditate on the miracle itself, and how the little they were able to give turned out to be enough to satisfy vast numbers of people. That is a powerful lesson in trust and humility, recognizing how much good, through the power of God, can be done with the few resources at our disposal. We may also wish to ponder the abundant mercy of Jesus, whose compassionate heart responds to the material and spiritual hungers of the crowd. Finally, we may do well to meditate on Christ's gift of himself in the Eucharist, so clearly foreshadowed in the blessing and breaking of the loaves. All of this, in turn, will lead us in the direction of contemplating the immensity of God's love for us.

There is enough in this one scene in the Gospel to provide "raw material" for a whole week's worth of meditations. So much of this will be personal, depending on the circumstances of one's life at any particular moment and how one is led, through the promptings of God's Spirit, to one or another aspect of the scene. Note that this is one scene, and that the Scriptures are an inexhaustible resource for "understanding the why and the how of the Christian life" and in deepening our relationship with God.

- 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.

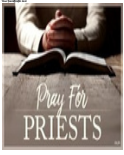
Persevere in Prayer

"Question of the Week" - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: What is one thing you would do for someone whom you loved?

Question for Youth: Jesus tells us about the importance of community and friendship. When have you helped heal an argument between friends? How did that feel?

Question for Adults: How do you make sure you follow the way of love as described by Paul in today's reading? What steps do you take to eliminate the unloving - grudges, hatred, prejudice, or others.



Rev. Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Rev. Samuel Bungo, Rev. Msgr. Joseph Riccardo, Rev. Cory Pius, Rev. Gregory Passauer, Rev. Kyle Seyler, and also Pray for All Priests and Deacons of our diocese.



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Thomas Church for the week of September 6th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Tony Montani by Claudia Montani.



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 **this 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 of Columbus. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to help sell tickets at this year's fair.

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.



DONUT SUNDAY IS BACK!

Coffee & Donuts will resume at St. Thomas on Sunday, Sept. 13th following the 8:00am Mass. Please join us for a cup of coffee, a sweet donut, and conversation. Meet us in the multipurpose room. All are welcome. *Hope to see you there!*



IF WE LEARN NOTHING ELSE FROM THIS TRAGEDY, WE LEARN THAT LIFE IS SHORT AND THERE IS NO TIME FOR HATE.

Sandy Dahl, wife of United Flight 93 pilot Jason Dahl

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

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
 Psalm 95



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 CHOSEN SEASON 6

EARLY ACCESS EVENT | EPISODE 1
 St. Francis Xavier Parish

8880 Main St.

McKean, PA 16426

Tuesday, September 15th 7:00 p.m.

RSVP through QR Code, visiting our website:
www.stfrancisxaviermckean.org, or contacting Irene: 814-476-7657 x7
 PRESENTED BY COME AND SEE



St. Teresa News

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 a 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? 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!*

Readings for the week of September 6, 2026

Sun.: Ezekiel 33:7-9 | Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7b, 7c-9 | Romans 13:8-10
Matthew 18:15-20
Mon.: 1 Corinthians 5:1-8 | Psalm 5:5-6, 7, 12 | Luke 6:6-11
Tues.: Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30 | Psalm 13:6ab, 6c |
Matthews 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23
Wed.: 1 Corinthians 7:25-31 | Psalm 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17 |
Luke 6:20-26
Thurs.: 1 Corinthians 8:1b-7, 11-13 | Psalm 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24 |
Luke 6:27-38
Fri.: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22b-27 | Psalm 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12 | Luke 6:39-42
Sat.: 1 Corinthians 10:14-22 | Psalm 116:12-13, 17-18 | Luke 6:43-49
Next Sun.: Sirach 27:30-28:7 | Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 |
Romans 14:7-9 | Matthew 18:21-35

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 6th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of all babies lost before birth.

Family Perspective

The key word in today's gospel is "listen." We cannot change another person—not alone, not with others, and not even with a whole Church. All we can do is state our position, and if they listen, they can take the necessary steps to change themselves. Change comes from within.

Shopping for an Occasion? Don't Forget RaiseRight!

As you shop, 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: August 29 & 30, 2026

Total Offertory Income \$6,637.00
Average Budgeted Offertory Income.....\$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage.....\$(-1,063.00)

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!

Second Collection: Church in Latin America.....\$1,056.00

Thank you for supporting this special second collection taken up on August 15/16. Your generous donation helps our brothers and sisters to continue to build up the Church in other parts of the world.

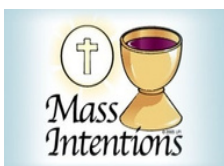
THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!
We appreciate their support.



Missed Our Milestone Anniversary Celebration?

Couples celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or more wedding anniversaries are still welcome to receive a certificate mailed to you. Registrations will close on September 13. Couples may complete the registration online at <https://www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html>, call their parish office or contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at 814-824-1210. *Congratulations to all couples celebrating.*

Now Accepting Requests for 2027 Mass Intentions



Come in or contact the parish office 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.

You may also sponsor the Sanctuary Candle for a loved one at either of our churches for just \$10 for one week.

Payment is expected when making requests. Thank you.



Faith Formation & Religious Education News

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



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

We are now accepting registration for the 2026-2027 Religious Education School Year. **Classes start 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).

Registration Packets were mailed to families. If you did not receive one, please call the parish office. School aged children (Pre-K to 9th Grade) are encouraged to attend. Please complete the packet and return it to the parish office prior to the first class. Questions - call Missy Silka. Thank you.

Important Parent Meetings

All 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 attend.

Looking forward to the start of this year in Religious Education! We hope you will join us.

REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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



Diocese of Erie
2026 Catholic
Services Appeal

Amount Pledged at St. Thomas to date = \$78,500
Paid to date = \$71,085

Amount Pledged at St. Teresa to date = \$42,345
Paid to date = \$39,220

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



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.

