



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

July 12, 2026



15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." - Mt 13:23

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

LAWN FESTIVAL CANCELLED: The Lawn Festival for this year has been cancelled. No one has come forward to take over the event since Matt Moon stepped down as the coordinator. Thanks to all those who have been so faithful in supporting this event in the past.

PARISH COUNCIL: I am still looking for people to be part of Parish Council from both Churches.

The new format for Council is still in the early stages of development. The heart of this new Council will be that they will brainstorm ideas to keep our parish moving forward and building community. They will not only be responsible for the idea phase but will also be responsible for making those ideas become reality. It will be a Council of planning and implementing those plans. Over the next few months, I will be interviewing people who may be interested in being a part of this Council. Depending on the number of interested people, we may have a Council and then a group of people who are interested in helping us implement the ideas Council proposes. If you are interested in interviewing for some part of this Council, please contact me at the parish office (814-663-3041) or by email (TJWhitman@eriercd.org) to schedule an appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: *A sacrament is an efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Jesus Christ and entrusted to the Church, through which divine life is dispensed to the faithful (CCC 1131) . Sacraments have both a visible reality—the ritual, words, and actions performed—and an invisible reality, which is the grace of God received by the participant. They are considered channels through which the Holy Spirit works in the Church, guiding believers toward spiritual growth, forgiveness, healing, and service.*

Marriage celebrates how love is unifying, permanent, faithful, and life giving. We saw this kind of love in the life of Jesus. Marriage mirrors the love of God that is unifying, permanent, faithful and life giving. God indeed blesses this love and the commitment the spouses make to each other. The Catholic concept of Christian marriage involves much more than holding the wedding in church. What makes a marriage Christian isn't a church blessing added on to a legal contract. Christian marriage is a personal relationship of unifying, permanent, faithful, and life-giving love in which a man and a woman make the love of Christ present to each other and become a sign of the love of Christ to those around them.

All the other sacraments are given to individual people, but this is the one sacrament that is shared by two people. It is also unique in that all the other sacraments are administered by a priest or a bishop. In marriage, the husband and wife are the ministers of the sacrament, the priest (deacon or bishop) is the official witness.

The Catholic church believes that a marriage between two baptized Christians is sacramental – a sign of Christ – even if they were not married in a Catholic Church. And Catholics believe a marriage between two Protestants cannot be broken by divorce any more than a marriage between two Catholics cannot be broken because both marriages are sacramental.

Although many people get married there is still a lack of real understanding of the sacredness and witness value that the love of a married couple can have in the world and in the Church. It is not unusual that many married couples are unaware of how to live their marriages as a sacrament.



Sunday, July 12

- 8:00a.m. People of the Parish (St. Thomas, Corry)
- 11:00a.m. †Ray Rhodes by Dorothy Rhodes and family (St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, July 6

- 8:00a.m. †Eileen Anthony by Dave & Patty Brown (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, July 7

- 8:00a.m. †Henry & Philomena Groner by George Groner (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, July 8

- 8:00a.m. †Michael 'Mickey' Johnson by Knights of Columbus, Council #425 (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, July 9

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

Friday, July 10

- 8:00a.m. †Ron Triscuit by Shirley Triscuit and family (St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, July 11

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

Sunday, July 12

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

Parish Wedding Anniversary Recognition

Our parish wishes to recognize those couples from St. Thomas and St. Teresa who are celebrating milestone (25th, 40th, 50th, 60th) anniversaries this year. **The recognition will be at weekend Masses on August 8 & 9.** Couples are asked to call the parish office and let us know the number of year's married and which Mass time they will attend. Couples celebrating this year will also be eligible to participate in the Diocesan celebration in 2027. You may also register online for the wedding anniversary celebration at St. Thomas Parish by going to <https://www.eriercd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html> and scroll down the page to locate the celebration for St. Thomas Parish. *Congratulations to all the couples who are celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary! May God continue to bless your marriage.*



Marriage is not just the situation in which married people serve God. It is precisely their love for each other that is their service of God, the way in which they make Christ present to each other. That's why the ministers of the sacrament of marriage are the husband and wife themselves.

The sacramental nature of the marriage is how this couple makes visible in their daily lives, the invisible reality of the love of God.

- Fr. Tom

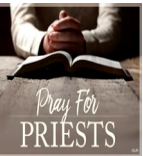
St. Thomas News



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.



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of July 12th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Carol Groner by George Groner.



Rev. Alexander Amico, Rev. Msgr. Andrew Karg, Rev. Chris Hamlett, Rev. Msgr. David Rubino, Rev. Msgr. Robert Brugger, Rev. John Jacquell, Rev. Nicholas Fratus, and also please *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Mary Kay Zimmer** who passed away from Saint Thomas Church. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Lucille Nelson** who passed away from Saint Thomas Church. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Local Catholic Daughters of the Americas Elect New Officers

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the local Catholic Daughters: **Regent:** Pat Phillips / **Vice Regent:** Shirley Kuszajewski / **Secretary:** Rosemary Baker / **Treasurer:** Mary Ann Watrous / and **Financial Secretary:** Lois Woodcock

We congratulate these women on their election and thank them for their willingness to serve. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their new terms of leadership. May God bless them with wisdom, faith, and joy as they continue the mission of the Catholic Daughters through service to the Church and our community.

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" - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: Who helps you to grow deeper in your faith?

Question for Youth: When the sower, in this week's Gospel, sowed his seed, not all of it fell in "good soil." What can you do in the coming week to make sure that you are open to God in your life? What is getting in the way of your being "good soil?"

Question for Adults: Using the parable of Jesus in this reading, describe how faith has been planted in your life? How long did it take for that seed to land "on good soil?"



Thank You for Supporting the Barber Center in Corry

Our local Knights of Columbus, Council #425 recently completed their fundraising campaign to help support the Barber Center in Corry. Thanks to all who donated, as well as Walmart, for allowing them to collect in front of the store. Your support of this annual Barber Center collection is appreciated.

FIRST ENCYCLICAL OF POPE LEO XIV

ENCYCLICAL LETTER OF THE HOLY FATHER LEO XIV
MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS
On safeguarding the human person in the time of Artificial Intelligence

5 of 5
Chapter 5 & Conclusion

BUILDING THE CIVILIZATION OF LOVE
 Technology, war, and responsibility in the digital age

<p>A constantly growing connection between technology, power, and violence</p> <p>Culture of Power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normalization of war • Logic of the "strongest" • Economic interests (weapons) <p>Risks of technology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automated decisions • Unclear responsibility • Citizens reduced to "data" 	<p>Peace = the fundamental condition of the common good</p> <p>Civilization of Love</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice + Charity • Fraternity among peoples • Universal common good <p>Role of technology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves the human person, not the other way around • Fosters real relationships • Builds community
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⚔️ | "No algorithm can make war morally acceptable." MH 198

<p>What is not working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Weak multilateralism ⊗ Politics based on force ⊗ Disinformation ⊗ War economy 	<p>What we can do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Disarm words ⊙ Build justice ⊙ Listen to victims ⊙ Have balanced realism (no cynicism, no naïveté) ⊙ Dialogue and diplomacy
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⚔️ | "Nothing is lost with peace, whereas with war everything can be lost." MH 199

The civilization of love is born from **small daily actions**. We cannot change everything, but we can do our part.

No technological transformation can be fully embraced without a **conversion of the heart** and without a concrete practice of **justice, solidarity, and care for the most vulnerable**.

"The Magnificat" as a key for interpretation: upending power and recognizing the value of humility.

Let us become "builders of communion, rather than architects of Babel"! (MH 18) so that humanity may not lose its magnificence and the world may recognize, in the human heart, the place where God desires to dwell.

DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
www.humandevlopment.va

As artificial intelligence continues to shape communication, education, work and everyday life, Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* ("Magnificent Humanity"), offers the Church and the world a timely reflection on the dignity of the human person in an increasingly digital age. The Holy See / Vatican website can be accessed to see more information on Pope Leo's first encyclical by going to: <https://www.humandevlopment.va/en/magnifica-humanitas.html>

St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of July 12, 2026

Sun.: Isaiah 55:10-11 ♦ Psalm 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14 ♦ Romans 8:18-23 ♦
Matthew 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

Mon.: Isaiah 1:10-17 ♦ Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 ♦
Matthew 10:34-11:1

Tues.: Isaiah 7:1-9 ♦ Psalm 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8 ♦ Matthew 11:20-24

Wed.: Isaiah 10:5-7, 13b-16 ♦ Psalm 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15 ♦
Matthew 11:25-27

Thur.: Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19 ♦ Psalm 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21 ♦
Matthew 11:28-30

Fri.: Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8 ♦ Isaiah 38:10, 12abcd, 16 ♦ Matthew 12:1-8

Sat.: Micah 2:1-5 ♦ Psalm 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14 ♦ Matthew 12:14-21

Next Sun.: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 ♦ Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 ♦
Romans 8:26-27 ♦ Matthew 13:24-43 or 13:24-30



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of July 12th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Bob Adams by Melody Adams and family.

Family Perspective

The stress and anxieties of family life can be like "thorns that choke off" any opportunity to reflect on God's presence in our lives. In today's gospel, Jesus "went out of the house" to connect with the people He loved. Take five minutes each day to appreciate the people you love.

Millions of Monicas | Praying for Children Who Left the Faith

St. James Parish at the St. Mark Campus, 695 Smithson Ave., Erie, is hosting "Millions of Monicas," a prayer movement for mothers whose children have drifted from the Catholic faith. Inspired by Saint Monica and the counsel to "tell God about your child," women gather to pray in a simple yet powerful way. The first meeting will be held Thursday, July 16 at 6:00pm. Women from all parishes are welcome. Learn more at the national website: Home - Millions of Monicas




Oppose House Bill 2632 to

PROTECT CATHOLIC EDUCATION

House Bill 2632 could reduce access to Pennsylvania's tax credit scholarship programs, impacting thousands of students and families who rely on these opportunities to choose a quality education rooted in faith and values.

Message your legislators today:
Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Voter Voice
<https://www.pacatholic.org/voter-voice/>

We invite you to learn more and advocate for educational opportunity.



DIOCESE OF ERIE
ROMAN CATHOLIC

The glory of the Lord is higher than the skies.
Psalm 113


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.

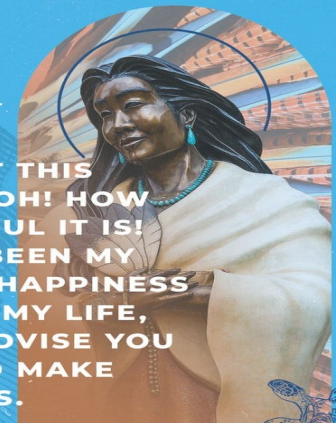


Imprimatur, October 28, 2025
The Most Revrend Lawrence T. Persico, J.C.L., Bishop of Erie

Feast Day | July 14

LOOK AT THIS CROSS; OH! HOW BEAUTIFUL IT IS! IT HAS BEEN MY WHOLE HAPPINESS DURING MY LIFE, AND I ADVISE YOU ALSO TO MAKE IT YOURS.

- ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA



LITTY OF THE MOHAWKS

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 = \$77,025
Paid to date = \$63,110

Amount Pledged at **St. Teresa** to date = \$41,730
Paid to date = \$37,230

Number of Families who made a pledge = 209

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



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: July 4 & 5, 2026

Total Offertory Income \$7,600.00
 Average Budgeted Offertory Income.....\$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage (\$-100.00)

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 for information, news and resources about our Catholic faith and much more.

GOD WORKS WITHIN THE
Mess



Don't despair ...
 take it to prayer.
 God is ready to help all those who seek Him and ask.

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

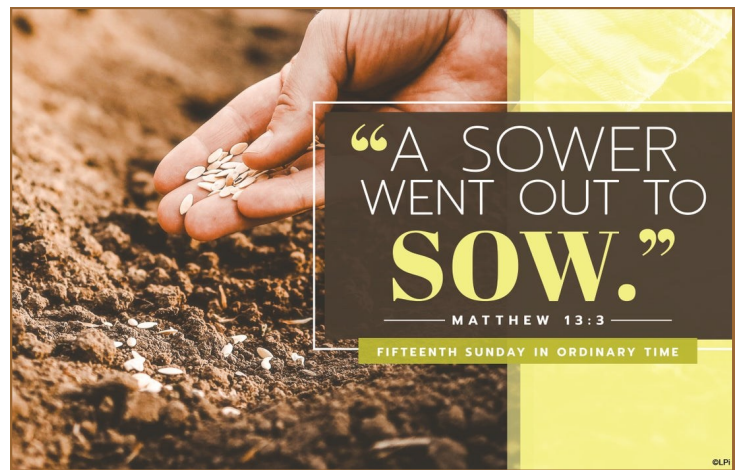
Confessions are offered at the following times/locations: 3:30pm—4:00pm on Saturdays at the church where the anticipatory Mass is celebrate that evening—at St. Thomas Church, Corry or at St. Teresa Church, Union City (depending on the month); and other times by request made to the Parish Office.

Please be sure to notify the Parish Office of any changes to your address, phone numbers, or email address. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE



TUESDAY- AUGUST 11, 2026



July 1, 2026



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When we think of mission territory, we are likely to think of Africa or Asia, not of parts of our own country. Yet, there are many poor, sparsely populated dioceses in our country who need our help to minister to the People of God and to spread the Good

News.

The Collection for National Needs, to be taken this year on July 18 and 19, gives each of us the opportunity to stand in solidarity with poorer dioceses in the United States. This collection is a combination of two other collections:

- The Catholic Home Missions Appeal impacts the lives of nearly 9 million Catholics. Through annual grants, the Catholic Home Missions Appeal funds catechesis for children and adults, seminarian education, lay ministry training, Hispanic ministry and other pastoral programs in needy dioceses. The dioceses funded by the appeal comprise nearly 45 percent of all US dioceses.
- The Black and Indian Mission Collection helps to evangelize and support our African American, Native American and Alaskan Native communities with mission schools, religious education programs, the purchase of catechetical materials and ministry training.

The struggle to receive basic pastoral care and catechesis is faced by thousands of faithful living in dioceses within our own country. **I ask your generous response to the Collection for National Needs on July 18 and 19.** Your support will truly make a difference in strengthening the Church at home. Be assured of my prayers for you and your families in these summer months.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
 + Lawrence T. Persico
 The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
 Bishop of Erie