



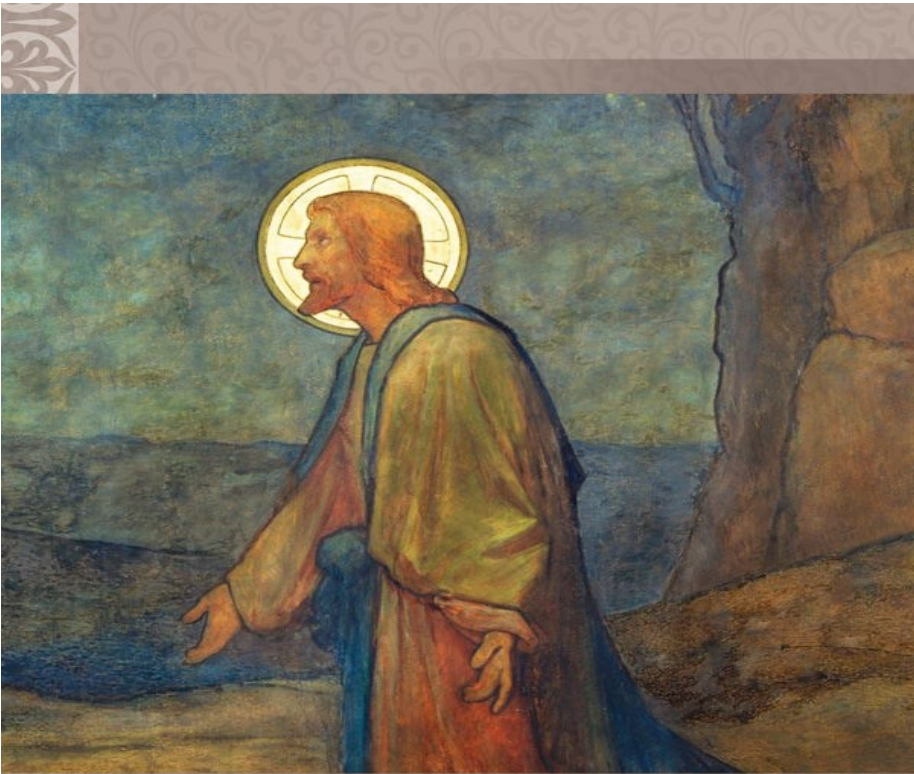
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
203 W. Washington Street
Corry, PA 16407

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

May 17, 2026



7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you.'" John 17:1

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

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: Congratulations to our young people who received the sacrament of Confirmation on Friday: Hunter Donoghue, Emma Geer, Luca Proy, Chase Whitmeyer, and Emily Wilson. Thanks to Anne and Deacon Randy Kondrlik for preparing the students for this sacrament.

THANK YOU to Dick and Elaine Hasbrouck for coordinating the CASH BINGO last weekend. Thanks to all those who donated to the event, all those who came to play Bingo, and all those who volunteered. It was another event with great fun and great prizes.

OCTOBER COUNT: Every year during the month of October parishes in the diocese of Erie count the number of people in attendance at Mass. Those numbers have provided a snapshot of Mass attendance for years. As the diocese continues its Pastoral Planning efforts, those numbers become increasingly important in decisions about which parishes stay open and which close. I reported back in October that our numbers remained the same from the year before, almost exactly. The diocese is encouraging people to look at these numbers and the accompanying commentary to see where and why cuts need to be made given the number of priests available. You can find this information at the following website: <https://eriercd.org/octobercount.html>

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST: Last week I began to reflect on the second part of our celebration of the Eucharist: The Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Concluding Rite. I left off where we were singing the Great Amen to acknowledge that we believe that the Bread and Wine have truly become the Body and Blood of Christ.

We then stand and pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us – the Our Father. This prayer invites us to recognize how God feeds us with our daily bread and how this nourishment strengthens us to forgive others as we have been forgiven by God.

We then offer each other a sign of peace. If we have forgiven one another, then we are at peace with each other. We share that peace, but also, we share the peace that Christ brings to us with each other. This celebration of the Eucharist is to unite us to one another in the peace that Jesus brings to us.

Then we pray together the Lamb of God – a reminder that John the Baptist pointed out Jesus as the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. We remind ourselves that we are about to receive the Lamb of God who takes away our sins as well.

As we prepare to receive communion we pray, “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.” We remember that no one is worthy to receive the Eucharist, but that Jesus in his tremendous love for us invites us to receive the real presence of God in this bread and wine, so that we might grow closer to God. It is not about our being worthy or not, but about God’s tremendous love and generosity toward us. Matthew and Luke tell the story of a Roman Centurion who asked Jesus to heal his servant. As Jesus approaches the centurion’s home, the centurion says, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof, just say the word and my servant will be healed.” Jesus marvels at his faith and gives the word for his servant to be healed. We pray in that same humble way acknowledging our unworthiness but pleading for the healing power of God to enter our lives.

Then we receive communion, return to our places, and remain standing and singing the communion song. When the song is

**Sunday, May 17**

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

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

Monday, May 18

8:00a.m. †Ronald Tomcho by the Shinko and Fifer Families (St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, May 19

8:00a.m. † Nancy Brigham by Marie Mitchell and Rosemarie Ross (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, May 20

8:00a.m. †Nancy Brigham by St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, May 21

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

Friday, May 22

8:00a.m. †Linda Dean by the Kowalski Family (St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, May 23

4:30p.m. †Richard Adamaszek by his wife, MaryJane (St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, May 24—Pentecost Sunday

8:00a.m. †Ronald Triscuit by Vicki, Frank, Marty and Evan Melnichak (St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. †Diana Hanlin Strefeler by her daughter, Becky Boleratz (St. Teresa, Union City)

finished everyone sits and prays in an extended period of silence. A moment when we offer our thanks to God for what we have just received in this Eucharist.

Then there is a closing prayer to end the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

We then move into a very brief Concluding Rite: We are given a final blessing by the priest and then we are dismissed by the priest or deacon. We are then sent out. We do not just celebrate the Eucharist here and then forget about it. We celebrate the Eucharist here and then we are sent out into the world to be the Body of Christ for others. The presence of Christ we receive in the Eucharist is not gone but remains in us. We are then invited to go out and live as Jesus taught us to live.

I conclude this reflection by calling to mind that Jesus is always present to us, but we must work to be more aware of his presence and our being really present to him. If there is one thing I hope we become more aware of in the celebration of the Eucharist is that simple, yet profound reality, that we come here to celebrate the sacrificial love of Jesus on the cross by changing bread and wine into his Body and Blood as he asked us to do at the Last Supper. But in the process of doing that we are invited to open our hearts to be transformed to become more like Christ, to become the Body of Christ in the World. We come here to experience the presence of Christ so that we might be the presence of Christ for others.

– 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 May 17th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Paul & Sally Griebel by Joan & Brad Allen.



Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, Rev. Jerome Simmons, Very Rev. John Detisch, V.F., Rev. Christopher Singer, Rev. Nicholas Fratus, Rev. Mark Mastrian, Rev. Thomas Trocchio, and also please *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*



Knights of Columbus Degree Ceremony

Council #425 of the Knights of Columbus will hold a Degree Ceremony on Monday, May 18 at 7:00pm at St. Teresa Church, Union City. This is part of the initiation of our new members. The event is open to families of members. Questions—contact Gary Johnston at 814-462-6804.

October COUNT

View the 2025 October Count Sunday Mass attendance report online, including full diocesan data and statistics across all 13 counties, at ErieRCD.org/OctoberCount.html.



LifeCare Baby Bottle Fundraiser

Pick up your baby bottle today after Mass to help support LifeCare and their pro-life Christian ministries. This is their annual fundraiser, Baby Bottle Boomerang. Fill bottles with change and/or bills and return it at Mass on Fathers' Day (June 21), or place your donations in the large baby bottles that are at the entrances of the church. 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.

Cemetery Gravestone Cleaning Project

Gravestone cleaning is offered on a limited scale for ST. THOMAS & ST. ELIZABETH CEMETERIES ONLY. Rates range from \$50—\$150, but because each stone is unique, pricing may vary. We are taking orders for those who are interested. Cleaning will begin again soon.



"Question of the Week" - 7th Sunday of Easter

Question for Children: Jesus helps us be strong in our faith. When do you need to be really strong in faith?

Question for Youth: Prayer is essential to being a disciple, because it is the way we build our relationship with God—through talking and listening. What is one way you can take more time this week to listen to God in prayer?

Question for Adults: In these heartfelt instructions from a leader of the church, what are the ways in modern life that we sometimes suffer for our faith? Or are there no such ways?

St. Thomas Altar Rosary Meeting THIS WEEK

Members of the St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society will meet on **Wednesday, May 20 at 6:00pm in the multipurpose room at St. Thomas.** *We hope to see you there!*

Important Meeting for Catholic Daughters of the Americas

The local chapter of the Catholic Daughters will meet this week on **Thursday, May 21 at 6:00pm in the multipurpose room at St. Thomas.** **This is an important meeting as we hold election of officers.** We ask that ALL members please attend. For those who may need to attend choir practice, you may vote first then go over to the church for practice. This is a closed meeting for members only, please no guests/friends at this meeting. Thank you.

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

Missionary Co-Op Collection— the Weekend of May 30/31

Our parish will host a missionary from the Archdiocese of Mwanza in the northwestern region of Tanzania, one of the vibrant nations of East Africa. We are blessed to border Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Tanzania is also home to Mount Kilimanjaro—Africa's tallest peak and the second-highest mountain in the world. Through their mission appeal, they humbly seek support in three critical initiatives that are vital to the life and growth of the Church and its people:

1. Priestly Formation—to secure the future of our faith, the Archdiocese of Mwanza is deeply committed to the formation of young men for the priesthood. Currently we have 100 major seminarians preparing for ordination. It costs approximately \$1,000 per seminarian each year to cover tuition, transportation, accommodation, and health insurance.

2. Education for Girls— in our region, education has long favored boys, while girls are often married off in exchange for dowries, treated merely as a source of income. This injustice deprives young women of their dignity and perpetuates cycles of poverty and inequality. We hope to build primary and secondary schools dedicated to educating girls.

3. Clean Drinking Water Project—in many of our remote areas, people share contaminated water sources with livestock, leading to illness and loss of life. We are actively drilling deep wells to provide clean, safe drinking water. Each well costs about \$8,000.

Please use the special envelope in our offertory packets for Missionary Co-Op or plan to bring your gift in an envelope with your name on it. We will have a special second collection at all Masses the weekend of May 30/31.

St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of May 17, 2026

Sun.: Acts 1:1-11 ♦ Psalm 47: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9/Ephesians 1:17-23 ♦
Matthew 28:16-20
Mon.: Acts 19:1-8 ♦ Psalm 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab ♦ John 16:29-33
Tues.: Acts 20:17-27 ♦ Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21 ♦ John 17:1-11a
Wed.: Acts 20:28-38 ♦ Psalm 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab ♦ John 17:11b-19
Thur.: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 ♦ Psalm 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 ♦
John 17:20-26
Fri.: Acts 25:13b-21 ♦ Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab ♦ John 21:15-19
Sat.: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 ♦ Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7 ♦ John 21:20-25
Next Sun.: *Vigil:* Genesis 11:1-9 or Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ezekiel 37:1-14
or Joel 3:1-5 ♦ Psalm 104:1-2, 24 and 35, 27-28, 29b-30 ♦
Romans 8:22-27 ♦ John 7:37-39 or,
for the Extended Vigil: Genesis 11:1-9 ♦ Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20b ♦
Ezekiel 37:1-14/Joel 3:1-5 ♦ Romans 8:22-27 ♦ John 7:37-39
Day: Acts 2:1-11 ♦ Psalm 104:1 and 24, 29-30, 31 and 34 ♦
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 ♦ John 20:19-23



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of May 17th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Sandy & Larry King by Kim and family.

Family Perspective

Just as Jesus appointed apostles, He also appoints parents to represent Him in the family. "Make disciples of your children, baptizing and teaching them all I have taught you. Don't worry, I am with you always."

St. Teresa Cash Bingo

A big 'THANK YOU' to Dick & Elaine Hasbrouck, chairpersons, and their volunteers for a wonderful bingo event on May 9. We appreciate everyone's efforts—to those who organized, worked, donated items, and attended. The profit from the bingo event is approximately \$5,000. We are truly grateful for everyone's effort and support. Thank you!

St. Teresa Reverse Raffle

Again we wish to thank Kim & Larry Yapple, chairpersons, and their team of volunteers and all those who helped make our Reverse Raffle held on Saturday, April 25th a success again this year. We could not have done it without everyone's help and support! The profit from the Reverse Raffle was \$7,800.

Lawn Festival Chairperson Needed

We are seeking a volunteer to serve as chairperson for the St. Teresa Lawn Festival. This important event brings our parish community together for fellowship, fun, and fundraising, and we are looking for someone willing to help lead and coordinate the festival efforts. Responsibilities include organizing committees, coordinating volunteers, and helping oversee festival planning with guidance from the past coordinator. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Fr Tom. *Your time and talents would be greatly appreciated!*

PARISH FESTIVAL

Events in our Area

Purse Bingo: The Saint Lawrence Ladies of the Rosary is hosting a Purse Bingo on Saturday, May 30. This event is at the St. Lawrence Parish Center, 145 E. Pearl St., Albion, with doors opening at 11:30am and bingo beginning at 1:00pm. Tickets are \$30 per person and include lunch & snacks. Please call St. Lawrence church office at 814-756-3623 to purchase tickets.

Free concert at All Saints Parish: All Saints Parish, 11264 Rt. 97 N, Waterford, will host Catholic composer, musician and speaker Steve Angrisano for a concert on Friday, May 29, at 7:00pm. Registration is required at www.allsaintsrcc.org or by calling the parish office at 814-796-3023. There is no fee to attend; freewill offerings will be accepted. Space is limited.

Villa Maria-thon 5K Run and 2-Mile Walk: Villa Maria Education & Spirituality Center will sponsor its 16th annual Villa Maria-thon 5K Run and 2-Mile Walk on Sat., June 6 at 9:00am at Villa Maria Community Center in Villa Maria, PA. The event includes activities for the entire family! Go to vmesc.org for registration and information. All proceeds benefit the center's youth and adult programs.

FAMILY SERVICE WEEK

Young People Who Care
1031 Germania Rd
Frenchville, PA 16836
814-263-4177

We are looking for families who would like to serve others for a day, or 2, or 4 days!

JUNE 28 - JULY 3, 2026

OUR ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Yardwork - gardens
- ✓ Clearing garages, attics, basements
- ✓ Outdoor painting
- ✓ Cleaning - visiting Elderly

HOW TO JOIN OUR TEAM?

- FILL OUT THE APPLICATION FORM
- CALL TO SPEAK TO SISTER SUZANNE

814-263-4177 YPWCMISSION@GMAIL.COM

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



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: May 9 & 10, 2026

Total Offertory Income \$6,874.00
Average Budgeted Offertory Income.....\$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage\$(-826.00)

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!

Mother's Day Memorials

St. Thomas Church.....\$1,040.00
 St. Teresa Church.....\$665.00

THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!



*** MAY 16 ***

Thank you to all who have given and served.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

May 5, 2026

As members of the worldwide Catholic family, we can be proud of the Church's outreach to our fellow brothers and sisters of the human family. Believers and non-believers alike know first-hand of the generosity of Catholics the world over. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless, wherever and whomever they may be. The Church has been doing this work for centuries, and today I ask your assistance so that it may continue.

The annual Collection for International Needs, to be taken up in the Diocese of Erie on the weekend of May 23-24, offers a concrete way for us to reach out to those who live in distant lands. It is actually a combination of three national collections.

- It provides aid to Catholics in the Church in Central and Eastern Europe to help build churches; train and educate seminarians, clergy, and lay leaders; publish Catholic newspapers; support orphanages; and support evangelization among children, youth, and adults.

- It also helps all people, regardless of race, creed, or nation through Catholic Relief Services, providing for the victims of war and natural disasters, aiding the Church suffering under persecution, alleviating poverty, and educating the poor.

- It provides needed assistance to the Church in Africa, a rapidly growing and vibrant Church which is rich in vitality but poor in resources.

I ask for your generous response to the Collection for International Needs on May 23-24. Just as important is your prayer for those in need, whether here in the Diocese of Erie, or across the globe. Please know that your gift is appreciated. You and your family remain in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
 + Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
 Bishop of Erie

Religious Education News

We wish all of our students, catechists, and religious education families a wonderful summer break. See you in the Fall for more fun and learning about our Catholic Faith!



Congratulations to Our Newly Confirmed

Ninth grade students from our parish received the Sacrament of Confirmation celebrated during Mass with Bishop Persico on Friday, May 15 at St. Francis Xavier Church in McKean. Congratulations to **Hunter Donoghue, Emma Geer, Luca Proy, Chase Whitmeyer, and Emily Wilson.**

May they be blessed by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

IMPORTANT NOTICE—Scam Alert

Parishioners and staff are receiving fraudulent messages from individuals posing as the pastor, often requesting gift cards or money. These are scams. Do not respond or send money. Always verify any request by calling the parish using the official phone number listed in the bulletin or on the parish website—never a number provided in the message. The Diocese of Erie, its clergy, parishes and schools will not request money or personal information through unsolicited emails, texts or calls. Report suspected scams to the Federal Trade Commission at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

Turn Your Everyday Shopping into Support for Our Parish!

We're excited to introduce online gift cards through **RaiseRight!** Simply purchase gift cards for stores you already shop at, and a percentage of each purchase goes directly back to support our church.

It's an easy way to give back while you shop for groceries, gas, dining, and more!

Interested? 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!

We'll be sharing more information (and a quick demo!) soon — so stay tuned! In the meantime, questions? No problem! Give Missy a call at the parish office. We hope you will help support us!



I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living. Psalm 27



Monday, May 25
9:00am Mass
St. Thomas Cemetery Chapel
All are invited to attend.

EVENT CANCELLED | 2026 Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Due to several circumstances, there will **NOT BE any Diocesan Anniversary Celebrations this year.** All couples celebrating milestone (25th, 40th, 50th, 60th) wedding anniversaries this year will be invited to attend next year's Diocesan Anniversary Celebration in 2027 for in-person recognition.



Parish Wedding Anniversary Recognition

Our parish wishes to recognize those couples from St. Thomas and St. Teresa who are celebrating milestone 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.