



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 26, 2026



17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." - Mt 13:44

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 MARRIAGE (Continued from Last Week): What are some of the components of love in a marriage relationship:

1. **Self-Giving:** Married love is not just a feeling, but a choice one makes to love the other person unconditionally. In choosing to love we make a decision to give without resentment, to forgive fully, to put the other's needs before our own. Two people joined in marriage become one as they share freely the unique gifts alive in them for the sake of the other.

2. **Forgiving:** God's forgiveness for us is reflected in the way a couple reconciles their differences, forgives hurts, and heals each other. Their willingness to heal each other again and again and let go of personal gain for the other is an example of the desire for reconciliation that God has for us. A couple should challenge us to go beyond issues that divide us and seek reconciliation and healing in a broken world.

3. **Faithful:** God's faithfulness to people is evident in the commitment a couple makes to love each other for a lifetime. That love requires a sacrifice for the good of the other. This is not just in the major things like illness or tragedy. It is getting up at an awful hour just to have breakfast together; it is listening when the other person needs to talk rather than going to sleep.

It is trying to affirm instead of criticizing; it is allowing laughter to end a quarrel instead of insisting on being right. It is sharing hurts and fears instead of hiding them and being independent. It is understanding that some people just can't balance a checkbook; it is disciplining the children together. It is asking the other's opinion and responding to it.

God's faithfulness accepts us for who we are, affirms us, looks for the good in us, and helps us grow. A married couple should challenge all of us to an understanding that doesn't give up on others, but looks for the gifts in each one, affirms those gifts, and draws them forth for the good of the community.

4. **Creative:** Because they share in God's creative love, a couple is privileged to share in the most exalted part of God's creative work – the creation of another human being. Their generosity and love are surely a brilliant reflection of the Creator's love when God first brought the world into being.

But the sacrament of marriage is not of parenthood, it is of a relationship between man and woman. Parenthood flows from the love of a wife for her husband and a husband for his wife. The desire for children is the second reason for having them. The first is the love married people have for their spouses. An essential dimension of the sacrament of marriage is a willingness to empower one's spouse to be a parent. This is more than an act of conception; it is the encouragement and support given to each other during the raising of children. This willingness to bring life through each other and to mutually share in the work of nurturing that life to adulthood stands as a challenge to us, the community of believers.

5. **Unity or Oneness:** It is impossible to understand the oneness of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. But it is possible to recognize the strength and beauty of a couple who is truly one. Each person is distinct, and yet together they are a more complete whole. Each of us reveals the dimensions of God in different ways, yet it is specifically in terms of the relationship that God is best revealed, because God is relationship. In the blending of the two into one flesh, we, the Church, can catch a glimpse of the oneness of God.

**Sunday, July 26**

8:00a.m. ✠Nick & Betty Jo Waltier by Chris & Denny Anderson
(St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. ✠Bob Rhodes by Dorothy Rhodes & family
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, July 27

8:00a.m. ✠Roberto Masangcay by Angelina Masangcay and family
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, July 28

8:00a.m. ✠Betty Jean Suchar by Kimberly Hawkes
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, July 29

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

Thursday, July 30

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

Friday, July 31

8:00a.m. ✠Rita Zambelli by Ilene Zakovitch
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, August 1

4:30p.m. ✠Ed Weaver by Irene Weaver & family
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Sunday, August 2

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

11:00a.m. ✠Mary Ann Shinko by Dick & Elaine Hasbrouck
(St. Teresa, Union City)

SAVE THE DATE



TUESDAY– AUGUST 11, 2026

CHURCH STATUES: The statues in our churches are pieces of art and have been made in a particular way in order to express something about the saint. We should not be adding things to the statues – rosaries, clothing, stickers, etc..... For several months now, I have been removing things from the statues that are not intended to be there. I ask the person, or persons, who are responsible for this to please stop adding things to the statues. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

– 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 26th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Steven Mennen by Pamela Mennen.



Recent Baptism

With joy, we welcome into the family of God and the Church, **Christian Jack Cummings**, son of Robert & Ashley Cummings who was baptized on July 7, 2026 at Saint Thomas Church. *May God pour out His blessings on him, his parents, and godparents.*

LifeCare Baby Bottle Fundraiser

If you still have a LifeCare baby bottle (either full or empty), please return it to the church or parish office as soon as possible. LifeCare would like to have all of their bottles returned so they do have to purchase new ones for their next fundraiser. Thank you.



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 the 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. Thank you.

"Question of the Week" - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: If you could be with Jesus, what would you trade from your own things for that?

Question for Youth: Today's gospel reminds us that God's kingdom is worth sacrifice. What do you need to sacrifice in order to follow God in your own life? Why are you willing to make that sacrifice?

Question for Adults: Using Jesus' parable as your starting point, describe in your own words what the Reign of God is for you personally, and use a parable to describe it: "The reign of God is ____."

PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

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.



**LORD,
I LOVE THY
COMMANDS.**

PSALM 119

ZABAWA

Holy Trinity Parish

East 23rd and Reed Streets - Erie

A Celebration of our Polish Heritage

33rd ANNUAL - FREE ADMISSION

August 21st, 22nd & 23rd, 2026

Fri. 5-10 pm + Sat. 12-10 pm + Sun. 11 am-4 pm

Friday: Dyna Brass

Saturday: KOSMIX + Mar-Vels

Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men

Sunday: Frankie Liszka and the Blue Magic Band
MC: DJ Ken Olowin

Polka Mass: Saturday 5:00 pm with Bishop Persico
Liturgical music by KOSMIX

Polish Heritage Mass: Sunday 10:30 am

Polish traditional hymns by Holy Trinity Choir

*Authentic Polish foods, bakery items
and beverages available daily.*

Plus Grand Prizes, Theme Baskets and More

The church and festival grounds are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Info: 814-456-0671 or www.holytrinityrc.org

**Additional parking and free shuttle service
from lot at East 34th and Ash Streets**



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.

St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of July 26, 2026

Sun.: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 ♦ Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 ♦
Romans 8:28-30 ♦ Matthew 13:44-52 or 13:44-46
Mon.: Jeremiah 13:1-11 ♦ Deuteronomy 32:18-19, 20, 21 ♦ Matthew 13:31-35
Tues.: Jeremiah 14:17-22 ♦ Psalm 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 ♦ Matthew 13:36-43
Wed.: Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21 ♦ Psalm 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18 ♦
John 11:19-27 or Luke 10:38-42
Thur.: Jeremiah 18:1-6 ♦ Psalm 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab ♦ Matthew 13:47-53
Fri.: Jeremiah 26:1-9 ♦ Psalm 69:5, 8-10, 14 ♦ Matthew 13:54-58
Sat.: Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24 ♦ Psalm 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34 ♦
Matthew 14:1-12
Next Sun.: Isaiah 55:1-3 ♦ Psalm 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18 ♦ Romans 8:35, 37-39
♦ Matthew 14:13-21

Events in our Area

Parker Dam Fun: High School students are invited to a day of fun at Parker Dam. This is hosted by Faith Formation of Holy Spirit Parish and will be held at Parker Dam State Park, 28 Fairview Rd., Penfield, beginning at 2 p.m. on July 26. Hike, swim, have fun, food and drinks provided. RSVP to 814-371-8556 ext. 7 or at faithformation@weareholyspirit.com.

Green, White & Brews: Something fun is brewing! At Mercyhurst Prep, 538 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, All Alumni edition of Green, White & Brews with a Laker Day twist. Bring your Laker Day team to register for some fun games, small games of chance, or just enjoy catching up with friends. Aug. 8 from 5:00pm-10:00pm. Tickets are \$30 per person and are available at: <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=ZAqQpg>.

Cursillo Picnic: The annual diocesan Cursillo Picnic is Saturday, Aug. 1, from 1:00pm-4:00pm at the Our Lady of Peace picnic pavilion behind the school, 2401 W. 38th St., Erie. Bring a dish to share and a lawn chair. Chicken, hot dogs, corn, watermelon and beverages will be provided. Family members are welcome to attend. Please RSVP by July 27 through the "Contact Us" page on the Erie Cursillo website. If you would like to help with setup, cleanup or food preparation, call or text Debbie Patterson at 814-504-8400.



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of July 26th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Bob Rhodes by Dorothy Rhodes and family.

Family Perspective

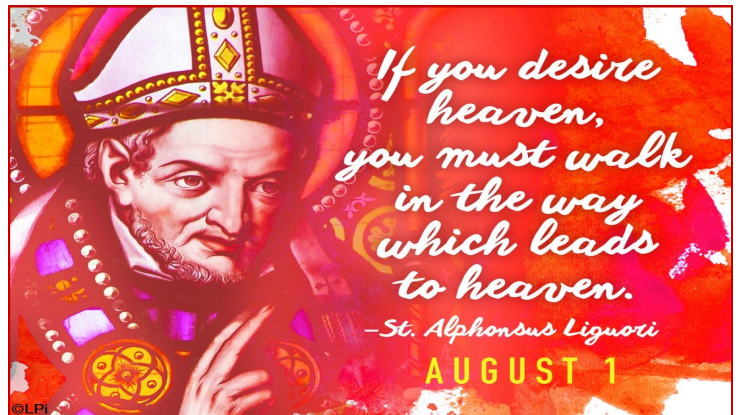
In today's gospel, the man "sold all he had" for the treasure he found. Family relationships are true "treasures" that demand our total personal investment. Dedicate yourself fully to the "treasure" of your family.

Bake Sale at St. Teresa Church NEXT WEEKEND

St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society will hold a Bake Sale at St. Teresa Church next weekend, August 1 & 2, at Mass. We hope you will support their efforts by purchasing a treat for yourself and/or your family.



We are grateful to the Rosary Altar Society who help to cover some of the expenses of items used on the altar at the church.



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



Feast Day | July 31

“

HE WHO
CARRIES GOD IN
HIS HEART BEARS
HEAVEN WITH
HIM WHEREVER
HE GOES.



FOUNDER
OF THE JESUITS



- ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

©LPI

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: July 18 & 19, 2026

Total Offertory Income \$5,868.00
 Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage (\$-1,832.00)

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

**The seed is the Word of God,
 Christ is the sower,
 all who come to Him
 will live for ever.**

**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 = \$77,065

Paid to date = \$63,925

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

Paid to date = \$38,595

Number of Families who made a pledge = 211



Diocese of Erie
**2026 Catholic
 Services Appeal**

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

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.**

**Blessing for Our Parish**

Dear God,

Pour Your blessing upon our parish,
 in need of Your renewal and inspiration.
 Prune the places that need pruning,
 and pour fresh grace and courage into our midst.
 Help us to find You and, with great joy,
 follow You wholeheartedly. Amen.

©LPi

**To The Heights**

Brotherhood
 Daily Mass
 Adoration
 Confession
 Meals &
 t-shirt
 provided

**A Catholic Men's 21-Mile
 Wilderness Retreat
 That Will Test Your Body
 and Renew Your Soul**

OCTOBER
 1-3, 2026
 in the
 Quehanna
 Wilderness

Register Now – Limited Spots!



*This retreat is for men who are 18 years or older and have graduated from High School or equivalent.



Ryan Sayers Fr. Ben Daghir Fr. Luke Daghir



\$100 Registration (Deadline: September 21, 2026)

Questions: totheheightserie@gmail.com

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.