



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 13, 2026



24th Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

"Peter approached Jesus and asked him, 'Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.'" Matthew 18:21-22

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

ROOF AND BOILER UPDATES: Last week the workers began replacing the roof on St. Teresa Parish Center. When the work is finished, they will begin work on the roofs at St. Thomas School building.

The boilers in the office and the church are now fully installed. Work has begun on the school boiler and will continue for a few more weeks.

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: Last week I started a column on comparing Meditation to Contemplation. These are two forms of prayer in our tradition that are often confused. They are also two forms of prayer that are not often taught in order to give people alternative forms of prayer. Not everyone prays in the same way. Each person needs to find their own way or ways of prayer. Sometimes changing our form of prayer can bring new life to our prayer time.

The author defined meditation as having two parts: raw material and a disciplined practice. The raw material might be reading a gospel passage and the disciplined practice reflecting on what that passage means for me – how is Jesus speaking to me through this passage. Meditation involves work on our part.

Contemplation:

It is now time to speak of contemplation. No hard and fast distinction separates meditation from contemplation, but they are different. It is probably best to think of them as two ends of a continuum. As suggested above, there comes a time in meditation when the mental engagement, the “pondering” stops, and the focus of awareness shifts from our own thoughts and feelings to a silence that is deeper than anything produced by our mental efforts. In contemplation, we make ourselves radically available for the presence of God. It is perhaps best expressed by the psalmist, “Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10) In its simplest form Contemplation is simply being silent in the presence of God and allowing that presence of God to nurture us, empower us. Contemplation affords us the opportunity to sit in silence and allow God to speak to us, allow God to love us, allow God to fill us with his spirit, by simply being in God’s presence.

The *Catechism* puts it this way. “Contemplative prayer is the simple expression of the mystery of prayer. It is a gaze of faith fixed on Jesus, an attentiveness to the Word of God, a silent love. It achieves real union with the prayer of Christ to the extent that it makes us share in his mystery.”

As for the witness of the saints, here is St. John of the Cross:



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)

Monday, September 14

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

Tuesday, September 15

8:00a.m. † Catherine Lackovic by family
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, September 16

8:00a.m. † Patty Glenn by Friends of the Manor
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, September 17

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

Friday, September 18

8:00a.m. † Virginia Poninsky by Carol & Pete Poninsky
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, September 19

4:30p.m. † Cragg and Sullivan Families by family
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, September 20

8:00a.m. † Sophie & Ed Girovsky by Diane Hall and
Jean Cressley (St. Thomas, Corry)

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

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.



contemplation is “naught else than a secret, peaceful and loving infusion from God which, if it be possible, enkindles the soul with a spirit of love.”

And St. Alphonsus: “In meditation, God is sought after by a discursive effort; in contemplation there is no effort of this kind, as God has been found and is gazed at.”

We should pray, then, for the gift of contemplation. It presupposes a receptive heart, and most often, the effort to attach ourselves to Christ through the practice of meditation. It is a kind of divine peace in the midst of the chaos of our lives. In the spirit of St. Paul, who identifies love as the greatest of the theological virtues, because it is the one that endures, so too, contemplation will absorb us for all eternity. It is the loving gaze of the beloved upon the wellspring of all love.

In the weeks to come, I will share some examples of Contemplative Prayer or Contemplation.

- 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.

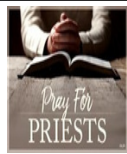
Persevere in Prayer

"Question of the Week" - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: Jesus says we should forgive from our heart. When did you ask forgiveness of someone you hurt? How did you feel?

Question for Youth: Jesus challenges us to forgive. Who needs your forgiveness? From whom do you need to ask forgiveness?

Question for Adults: Jesus tells us to forgive seventy times seven, which means always and forever. Name a time this past week when you forgave someone. Name, too, a time when you accepted another person's forgiveness.



Rev. Cesar Segovia, Rev. Mark Mastrian, Rev. Walter Packard, Rev. Stephen Schreiber, Very Rev. Marc Stockton, Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, and also Pray for All Priests and Deacons of our diocese.



Coffee & Donuts will take place TODAY - Sunday, September 13th after the 8:00am Mass at St. Thomas. Join us in the multipurpose room for fellowship and, of course, donuts! Stop by for a bit for a cup of coffee and some conversation. We hope to see you there.



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Thomas Church for the week of September 13th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Mary Kay Zimmer by St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society.



THANK YOU!

The Knights of Columbus wish to thank all the parish volunteers who helped sell gate tickets at the Spartansburg Fair last week. We are so grateful!

Knights of Columbus Meeting This Week

Brother Knights are reminded of our meeting this Tuesday, September 15th in the St. Teresa Parish Center in Union City. We will begin with the Rosary at 6:30pm and the business meeting will follow. All Knights are encouraged to attend. *See you there!*



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.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all my being, bless His holy name.

Readings for the week of September 13, 2026

Sun.: Sirach 27:30-28:7 | Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 | Romans 14:7-9 | Matthew 18:21-35
 Mon.: Numbers 21:4b-9 | Psalm 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 | Philippians 2:6-11 | John 3:13-17
 Tues.: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31a | Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 | John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35
 Wed.: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 | Psalm 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22 | Luke 7:31-35
 Thur.: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 | Psalm 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28 | Luke 7:36-50
 Fri.: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 | Psalm 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15 | Luke 8:1-3
 Sat.: 1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-49 | Psalm 56:10c-12, 13-14 | Luke 8:4-15
 Next Sun.: Isaiah 55:6-9 | Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 | Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a | Matthew 20:1-16a

PENNSYLVANIA MARCH FOR LIFE

Harrisburg, September 21, 2026



PEOPLE FOR LIFE BUS TRIP
\$55 / SEAT

Join us for this very important and powerful public pro-life statement.

- Leave Erie at 5 a.m.
- March and Rally at the State Capitol
- Return to Erie by 8 p.m.

Use the QR code (peopleforlife.org/pamarch) to reserve your seat(s) or send your payment to People for Life, 1625 W. 26th St., Erie, PA 16508. Include contact information and a name for each reservation.

Time will be available to tour the capitol building and visit your legislators.

PeopleforLife.org





BINGO 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

St. Teresa News

Seeking Volunteers to Help at Makers Event in Union City

The Buzz of Union City has invited St. Thomas to join the Makers Event on **Saturday, September 19, from 10:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.** They suggested bringing a little Lawn Festival nostalgia to the event 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, 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!



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of **September 13th** burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Virginia Poninsky by Pete & Carol Poninsky.

Shopping Anytime? Don't Forget RaiseRight!

If you are shopping for any occasion, 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 questions.



Please use the special collection envelope in your offertory packet to support the Catholic Education Collection on Sept. 19/20.



August 25, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to thank you for your generous support of Catholic education in the past. I also ask you to continue your generosity during the weekend of September 19-20 when our diocese will conduct the annual Catholic Education Collection.

This special collection supports the circle of lifelong Catholic education and faith formation throughout the Diocese of Erie, accompanying individuals and families at every stage of their faith journey. We have many reasons to be proud of the faith formation taking place at every level of Church life, from parish religious education and Catholic schools to baptismal preparation, OCIA and adult faith formation. Through these ministries, we teach the truths of the Catholic faith and form disciples of Jesus Christ.

Half of the funds raised from this collection remain in your parish to support local education and faith formation programs. The other half supports diocesan faith formation initiatives, tuition assistance for Catholic school students, educator leadership development, and the national collection for The Catholic University of America, as requested by the USCCB.

I encourage you to support this collection generously. Your gift to the Catholic Education Collection strengthens the Church's mission of passing on the faith to future generations and nurturing lifelong discipleship.

Contributions can be made directly at your parish or online at <https://www.eriecd.org/cec.html>. Be assured of my prayers for you and your family.

With every best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

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

Scan to give



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.



Family Perspective

Holding onto a past wrong and hoping for a better past is futile. We must move on by accepting that we were unjustly treated and that it won't be corrected. This doesn't mean we condone the injustice; it means we refuse to let it control our lives any longer. Forgiveness is essential for living a healthy life in the present.

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: September 5 & 6, 2026
Total Offertory Income \$7,894.25
Average Budgeted Offertory Income.....\$7,700.00
Offertory Overage.....\$194.25

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'.

If you are not receiving offertory envelopes from our parish and wish to, please contact the parish office. Thank you!

You may also give by simply scanning the QR Code here:

THANK YOU for supporting our parish.



THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!

We appreciate their support of our parish and ask our parishioners to please patronize their business.

The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger,
and rich in compassion.

Psalm 103

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



Faith Formation & Religious Education News

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



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Be sure to register for the 2026-2027 Religious Education School Year. **Classes start NEXT 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 are in the church and can also be found on our parish website: www.stthomastheapostle.church. School aged children (Pre-K to 9th Grade) are encouraged to attend. Please complete the packet and return it to the parish office. Questions - call Missy Silka. Thank you.

Important Parent Meetings THIS WEEKEND

Parents/guardians should plan to attend one of the following parent meetings: **Sat., 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 one of these meetings.

Members of Our Catechetical Team for This Year

We are grateful to the wonderful volunteers who help to teach the Catholic faith to the youth of our parish:

- Grades Pre-K & 1 - Mrs. Natalie Moss
- Grade 2 - Mrs. Donna Blessing
- Grade 3 - Mrs. Heather Wilson with assistant, Emily Wilson
- Grades 4 & 5 - Mr. Seth Moss and Mr. Eric Williams
- Grades 6, 7, & 8 - Mr. Jacob Bridgham
- Grade 9 - Deacon Randy Kondrlik

We thank our catechists for their dedication to passing on the Catholic faith to the next generation. *May they be blessed for their efforts.*

THANK YOU for Supporting Religious Education

We are grateful to everyone from the parish who supports us by making a donation using the Religious Education envelope in our offertory packet. Your generosity helps cover expenses in teaching the next generation of Catholics. We also ask for your prayers for our Religious Education Program.

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Diocese of Erie Child Protection Policies: Everyone that works and interacts with children should have clear boundaries in place. This includes rules like staying in public view and avoiding isolated one-on-one situations with children and ensuring that two or more adults are always paired together to work with children, as well as other guidelines found in the Policy for the Protection of Children. All those who minister to minors are screened, trained, and must follow the Policy that includes a Code of Conduct. To read the policy go to: <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/policies-1.html>. For additional information, contact the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth at 814-824-1195.