



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 27, 2026



26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you." - Mt 21:31

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: CENTERING PRAYER: Last week I looked at the Jesus Prayer as one form of Contemplative Prayer. This week, I will focus on Centering Prayer.

Centering prayer is a method of silent, receptive prayer that prepares you to receive God's presence and action within. It is not about emptying the mind or focusing on a fixed object, but about consenting to God's presence in stillness. It is a process of letting go of thoughts, emotions, etc. and resting in God's presence in silence and stillness. The recommended time period is 20 to 30 minutes twice a day. It may take time to build to that level, be patient with yourself.

When combined with a sacred word or mantra, you choose a short, meaningful word or phrase (often from Scripture or your heart) and repeat it slowly in rhythm with your breath. This repetition can help anchor your attention and create space for deeper awareness.

How to Practice

1. Choose a sacred word or phrase (often called a Mantra)

- Examples: *God, Jesus, Abba, Amen, Love, Peace, Mercy, Silence, Stillness, Faith, Trust, Loving God, Heart of Jesus*
- The word is not sacred for its inherent meaning, but for the intention you give it — consent to God's presence.

2. Settle in a comfortable posture

- Sit with your back straight, eyes closed and let go of distractions. This is a time of stillness, not relaxation for sleep.

3. Introduce the mantra gently

- Whisper or silently repeat the word in harmony with your breathing.
- If other thoughts arise (and they will), gently repeat the mantra to return to the presence of God.

4. Repeat in rhythm with your breath

- Inhale and exhale, letting the mantra flow naturally.
- You may use a breath-focused approach, placing the mantra at the top or bottom of each breath.

5. End with a closing prayer

- Many practitioners conclude with the Lord's Prayer or another short prayer of gratitude.

Benefits

- **Quiets the mind** and reduces mental clutter
- **Deepens receptivity** to God's presence beyond words
- **Builds spiritual focus** and inner stillness.
- **Supports other prayer practices** like lectio divina or meditation



Sunday, September 27

- 8:00a.m. People of the Parish
(St. Thomas, Corry)
- 11:00a.m. † Julia & Andy Ryba by Judy Flynn
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, September 28

- 8:00a.m. † James Bryant by Carol Bryant
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, September 29

- 8:00a.m. † Z. Marion Zaczkiewicz by Sue, Gary & Joseph Johnston (St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, September 30

- 8:00a.m. † Florence & Dick Smith by Joe & Janet Jawdy
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, October 1 - Adoration at St. Thomas

- 8:00a.m. Communion Service at St. Thomas, Corry

Friday, October 2 - (First Friday) Adoration at St. Teresa

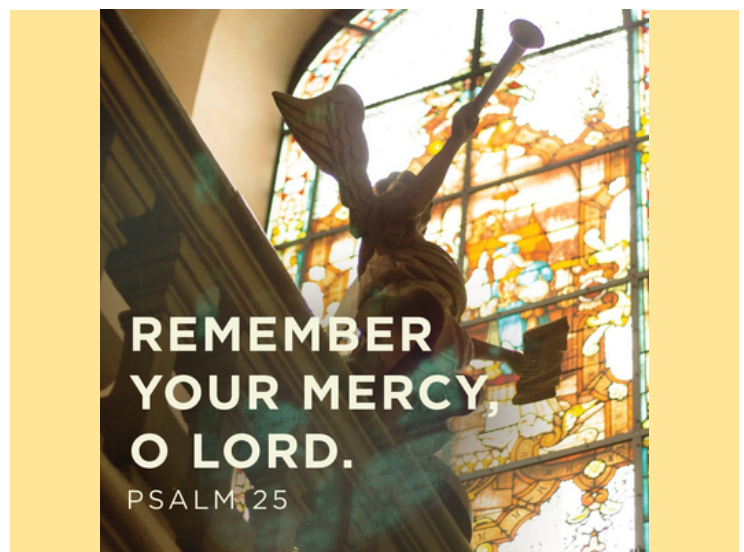
- 8:00a.m. † Andrea Kennedy by Mary Beth Nagorski
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, October 3

- 4:30p.m. † Gilbert Rowland by Nancy Gibling
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Sunday, October 4

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



• Those who practice Centering Prayer regularly see these benefits: greater access to God's own wisdom and energy; a significant increase in creativity; a decrease in compulsive behavior; a reduction of painful emotions and negative thoughts; being less judgmental, being more accepting of others; a greater generosity of spirit; a greater awareness of God's presence in each person.

- 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.

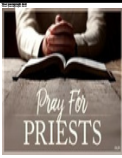
Persevere in Prayer

"Question of the Week" - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question for Children: How do you show your love for Jesus by doing what he asks, even when it is difficult for you?

Question for Youth: Today's parable reminds us that it isn't what we say that counts as much as what we do. How would someone know you are a Christian through your actions?

Question for Adults: How and when were you like each of the sons in the Gospel?



Rev. Christopher Beran, Rev. Michael, Scanga, Rev. David Renne, Rev. Raymond Hahn, Rev. Msgr. Robert Brugger, Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, and also Pray for All Priests and Deacons of our diocese.

Strengthening Our Daily Prayer Through Mary Retreat

The Bethany Retreat Center, 1031 Germania Rd, Frenchville, is hosting a day-long retreat on Monday, October 5, from 9:00am-3:00pm. The cost is \$25 per person and includes lunch. Monica Nachman will be the facilitator. This retreat will explore how Mary can lead us into a deeper relationship with Jesus and the Holy Trinity and offer an opportunity for prayer, lection and spiritual renewal. For more information, see the attached flyer. To register, please go to: <https://www.wetravel.com/trips/strengthening-our-daily-prayer-through-mary-anawim-ministries-bethany-retreat-center-12671422?wbc#about-this-trip>.



*Bless the Lord, all you angels, mighty in power,
fulfilling His word, and heeding His voice.*

Psalm 103 (102):20



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of September 27th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Richard Whitcomb, Sr. by his daughter, Susan Crawford.

Catholic Charities Event on October 15th

Catholic Charities invites you to be part of the *Helping Hands Gala*, Thursday, October 15, 2026, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Yehl Ballroom at Gannon University. The event will feature light hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and entertainment while celebrating the mission and impact of Catholic Charities. This year's honorees are, Helping Hands of Justice: Father John Jacquel and Helping Hands of Service: Joe and Rhonda Schember. Tickets are \$100 or \$750 for a table of 8. For more information, visit the website: <https://ccincerie.org/hhgala26>.

Bless the Lord, all you angels, you ministers, who do His will.

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.



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



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



St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society Bake Sale

Please be sure to stop by their table at St. Teresa Church NEXT weekend - Oct. 3 & 4 before and after Mass to pick up a delicious treat for yourself or to share with family & friends. Your support is appreciate as it helps the Rosary Altar Society continue to support the church with its needs. Thank you!



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of September 27th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Dorothy Rhodes.

Family Perspective

In today's gospel, Jesus asks, "What is your opinion?" We often mistake our opinions for dogma or fact, but they are merely our perceptions or feelings about a situation. Arguments over opinions can cause significant divides in families. Tread lightly on the opinions of others; the heart you break may be your own.



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of Dorothy (Harnak) Rhodes who passed away from Saint Teresa Church. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Readings for the week of September 27, 2026

Sun.: Ezekiel 18:25-28 | Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 | Philippians 2:1-11
or Philippians 2:1-5 | Matthew 21:28-32
Mon.: Job 1:6-22 | Psalm 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7 | Luke 9:46-50
Tues.: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12ab |
Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5 | John 1:47-51
Wed.: Job 9:1-12, 14-16 | Psalm 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15 | Luke 9:57-62
Thur.: Job 19:21-27 | Psalm 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14 | Luke 10:1-12
Fri.: Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5 | Psalm 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab |
Matthew 18:1-5, 10
Sat.: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17 | Psalm 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130 |
Luke 10:17-24
Next Sun.: Isaiah 5:1-7 | Psalm 80:9 and 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20 |
Philippians 4:6-9 | Matthew 21:33-43

Shopping for an Occasion? Don't Forget RaiseRight!

Would you like to support St. Thomas as you shop? You can 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.



WORD MADE FLESH

Altan Senwen Retreat

FREE TO ATTEND

SATURDAY, OCT. 17

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

St. Tobias Church, Brockway

ATTEND

Students grades 6-12 are **FREE** to attend.

Adoration with Bishop Persico

SCAN HERE

FREE LUNCH INCLUDED

BUSES

St. Francis Xavier — McKean
Depart 7:30 a.m.
Return 6:30 p.m.

Beloved Disciple Church — Grove City
Depart 8:30 a.m.
Return 4:30 p.m.

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

Scan to register today!

SUPPORT

Scan the QR code to learn more and make your gift online, or contact:

Toni Hess at: 814-824-1259 for more information.

ErieRCD.org

Support the next generation of disciples!

BUS NOW AVAILABLE!

50 spots!

Meet religious brothers & sisters † Adoration with Bishop Persico † Relics for viewing

ST. TERESA'S ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

HARVEST Moon

CARD PARTY

An Evening of Cards, Fun & Friendship!

DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2026

DOORS OPEN: 5:30 PM

ADMISSION: \$6.00

RESERVATIONS

Call 814-392-7950

Pumpkins and autumn leaves decoration

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: September 19 & 20, 2026
Total Offertory Income \$6,248.00
Average Budgeted Offertory Income.....\$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage.....\$(-1,452.00)

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!

Faith Formation & Religious Education News

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



Religious Education Class Schedule

Classes meet from 9:30am - 10:45am at St. Teresa Parish Center in Union City for ALL students (Sept. - Dec.).

September 27 - Class
 October 4 - Class
 October 11 - NO Class
 October 18 - Class
 October 25 - Class and Youth Mass at St. Teresa Church | 11am

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 to all of our bulletin sponsors!

We appreciate their support and ask that you patronize their businesses.

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



Amount Pledged at St. Thomas to date = \$78,515
 Paid to date = \$71,785

Amount Pledged at St. Teresa to date = \$42,345
 Paid to date = \$39,976

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.

All Invited to the Respect Life Mass

October is Respect Life Month. All are invited to celebrate life on October 4 at 10:45am at the Respect Life Sunday Mass, with The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico presiding at St. Joseph Church/Bread of Life Community, 147 W. 24th St., Erie. There will be fellowship immediately after in the community center. For questions, please contact Elizabeth Slaby at Catholic Charities, Office of Social Justice and Life at ESlaby@CCIncErie.org or by phone at 814-824-1254.

Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels - October 2nd -

Do you know that you have an angel to watch over you?....do you pray to your guardian angel?

The Catholic Catechism states that God surrounds "human life" with angels and that "each believer" has an angel (336).

God created guardian angels as spiritual beings, and he has assigned many of them to guard and guide his human disciples. Rooted in Sacred Scripture, the Catholic Church teaches that angels are spiritual creatures with intellect and will, and that guardian angels have a special divine mission. When we pray to our guardian angel, we ask for their intercession.

Angel of God,
 my guardian
 dear, to whom
 God's love
 commits me
 here. Ever this
 day be at my
 side, to light
 and guard, to
 rule and guide.
 Amen.

Eucharistic Adoration THIS WEEK

Our churches will hold their monthly Eucharistic Adoration this week. Adoration is from 8:00am until 12:00pm (noon) at both churches on the following dates:

- Thursday, October 1st
 at St. Thomas Church, Corry
- Friday, October 2nd
 at St. Teresa Church, Union City

All are welcome any time to spend a prayerful, quiet moment with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

