



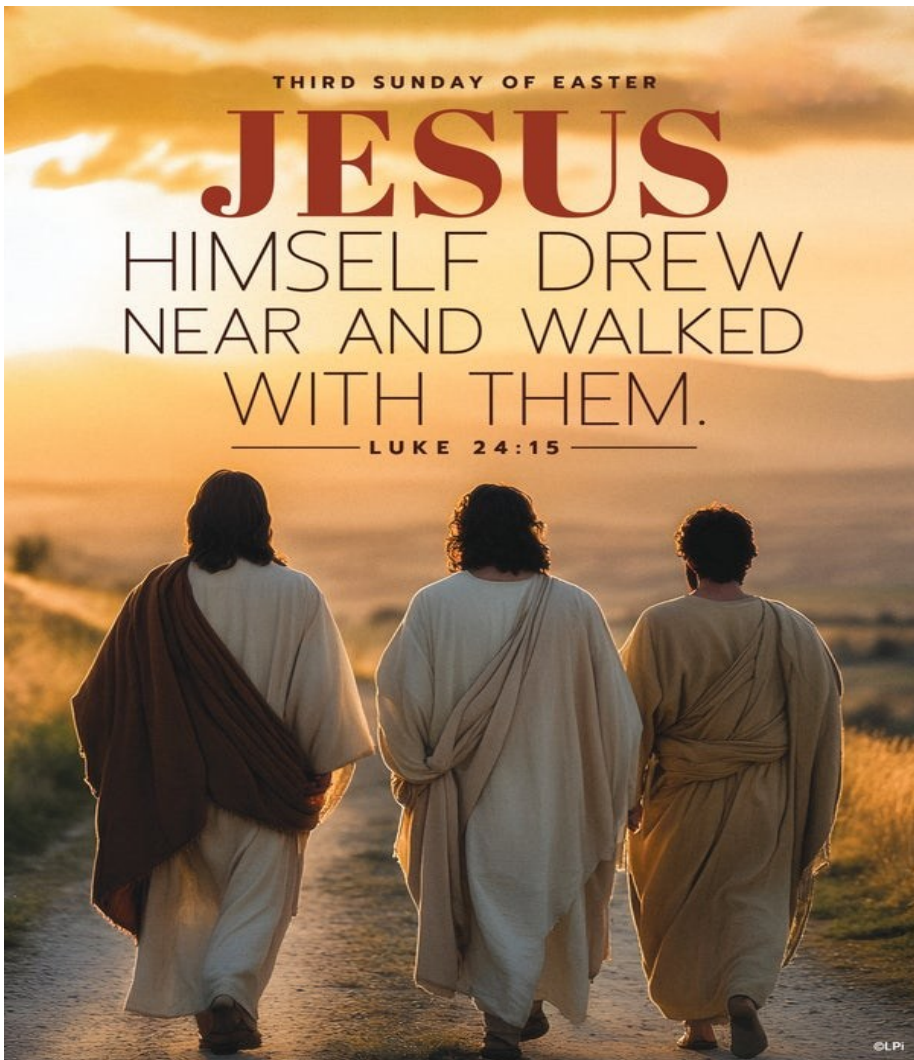
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church  
203 W. Washington Street  
Corry, PA 16407

# 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

## April 19, 2026



**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](http://www.stthomastheapostle.church)

**Saint Teresa of Avila Church**  
[www.st-teresa-unioncity.org](http://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

### 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.

**Message from the Pastor**

**GRATITUDE:** I want to offer my personal gratitude to those of you who have been praying for my surgery and recovery. By the time you read this I will have been home from the hospital for a week. Thanks to your prayers the surgery appears to have gone well, now the healing and hopefully the cure sets in. I am truly grateful for all of your kindness to me in this long process that started seven months ago. Your prayers, good wishes, offers to help and offers to drive me to places have been a heartwarming experience. Your kindness to me is greatly appreciated. Thank You!!

**BOOK RECOMMENDATION:** I made this recommendation a few weeks ago, before I finished reading the book. Now I make the recommendation even stronger. Fr. Ronald Rolheiser is one of my favorite spiritual writers, not just for his content, but also for his gift of clarity in his writing. He has written a number of books but three that I recommend highly as they are part of a series: *The Holy Longing*, *Sacred Fire*, and now *Insane for the Light*. *Insane for the Light* is his most recent book on spirituality for our Wisdom Years. I cannot recommend this book highly enough for those of us in our senior or wisdom years. *The Holy Longing* is an introduction to spirituality, *Sacred Fire* is a spirituality for the middle of life, and now *Insane for the Light* is a spirituality for the last part of life.

**SACRAMENTS:** I have been reflecting on the Eucharist as one of our sacraments. I have made some introductory remarks about how our celebration of the Eucharist is first and foremost prayer, and in particular communal prayer. Allow me to begin to look at various parts of the Mass.

Today, I would like to begin to reflect on the first half of our celebration of the Eucharist: the introductory rites and the Liturgy of the Word. We speak about the real presence of God in the Eucharist, but we need to remember that God is always really present to us, but we are not always conscious, engaged, aware, attentive, alert to the presence of God. Our prayer helps us to be really present to God. In order to celebrate the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, we need to be really present to what we are doing and what is happening in our celebration of the Eucharist.

We begin with a song to gather us together and focus us on the presence of God that we come here to engage. We sing the song TOGETHER allowing the words to remind us why we have gathered here and what God’s presence might be inviting us to. The song usually connects to the readings from Scripture, setting a theme.

We then make the sign of the cross which is one of the most important gestures of our faith. Again, we need to be more careful about how we make the gestures we use in order that they might truly remind us of God’s presence. We need to be mindful of what we are doing and why we are doing it.

One of the best descriptions of the sign of the cross comes from Romano Guardini who says: “When we cross ourselves let it be with a real sign of the cross instead of some small, cramped gesture that gives no notion of its meaning. Let us make a large unhurried sign from forehead to breast, from shoulder to shoulder, consciously feeling how it includes the whole of us - our thoughts, our attitudes, our body and soul – every part of us at once, how it consecrates and sanctifies us. It does this because it is the sign of the universe and the sign of our redemption. Only the cross of Christ redeems humankind; by the cross he sanctifies us to the last thread and fiber of our being. We make the sign of the cross before we pray to



**Sunday, April 19**

- 8:00a.m. †Betty Jean Suchar by the Craig Suchar family (St. Thomas, Corry)
- 11:00a.m. †Dorothy & Steve Mongera by Steve & Cheryl Mongera (St. Teresa, Union City)

**Monday, April 20**

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

**Tuesday, April 21**

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

**Wednesday, April 22**

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

**Thursday, April 23**

No Mass or Services at both St. Thomas and St. Teresa today.

**Friday, April 24**

- 8:00a.m. For the People of the Parish (St. Teresa, Union City)

**Saturday, April 25**

- 4:30p.m. †Ed Weaver by Dave & Mary Louise Capan (St. Teresa, Union City)

**Sunday, April 26**

- 8:00a.m. †Pete Sander by Theresa & Bob Marr (St. Thomas, Corry)
- 11:00a.m. For the People of the Parish (St. Teresa, Union City)



collect and compose ourselves and to fix our minds and hearts on the will of God. In temptation we sign ourselves to strengthen us, in danger to be protected. The sign of the cross is made upon us in blessing in order that the fullness of God might sanctify us. Think of these things when you make the sign of the cross. It is the holiest of signs.” Indeed, our gestures need to mean something, or they risk becoming empty motions.

**SPRINKLING RITES:** During the Easter Season the sprinkling rite replaces the penitential rite in our celebration of the Eucharist. When you are sprinkled with Holy Water the proper reverence is to make the sign of the cross as a reminder that in baptism you were incorporated into the mystery of the cross. It is NOT a time to genuflect. We genuflect only to the presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

- 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 April 19<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of lives lost to war and violence.



Rev. Philip Oriole, Very Rev. Michael Ferrick, VF, Rev. Jeffrey Noble, Rev. Msgr. David Rubino, Rev. Samuel Bungo, Rev. Mark O'Hern, and also please *Pray for All Priests and Deacons* in our diocese.

April 30, 2026  
 at 6:00 PM



## SAINT MARK SEMINARY AUXILIARY ANNUAL CARD PARTY

St. Mark Catholic Center Gym  
 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie  
 Doors open at 5:00 PM  
 Admission \$15 & light meal  
 Grand prizes, gift auction & more!

**Reservations**  
 Text or call Erin  
 814-440-5885  
**By April 17**

### 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 = \$72,715

Paid to date = \$48,300

Amount Pledged at **St. Teresa** to date = \$35,570

Paid to date = \$29,095

Number of Families who made a pledge = 182



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

**Please Support the 2026 Catholic Services Appeal!**  
 Thank you to those who returned their pledge envelopes.  
 Be sure to make your pledge to help our two churches.  
 Return pledge envelopes NOW in any collection basket.



### 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. Thomas Parish Scholarship

The St. Thomas Memorial Scholarship is available to graduating Seniors from Corry Area High School who attend St. Thomas Parish: Application can be found on our parish website, <https://www.stthomastheapostle.church/> or at the parish office. Deadline to apply is June 1.

### 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" - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

**Question for Children:** What is your favorite time to share a meal with your family?

**Question for Youth:** The disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread. How have you experienced Jesus at Mass, in the breaking of the Eucharistic bread? How have you experienced Jesus at meals and with friends and family?

**Question for Adults:** Share about great meals you've been part of, ones which are still memorable to you.

### Seeking Donations for Garden Flowers at St. Thomas Church

It's that time of year to get started working on the gardens around St. Thomas Church. Donations are being accepted toward this project. Please place your donation in an envelope marked "St. Thomas Garden Flowers" and put it in the collection basket at Mass or send it to the parish office. We hope to start planting once garden beds are cleaned up. Annuals and perennials will be purchased for around the church grounds. Thank you for your generosity.



### APRIL DEVOTION

## The Month of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Spirit

### Catholic Daughters Meeting This Week

Members of the local Catholic Daughters of the Americas will hold their monthly meeting this **Thursday, April 23 at 6:00pm** (please note the new time!) in St. Elizabeth Parish Center. We encourage all members to attend, and bring a friend. Hope to see you there.



### Blessing for Spring

Dear Lord,

As this new season begins,  
 bring new life to our hearts as well.  
 Prune what has grown despondent,  
 brush back that which darkens and clouds.

As the flowers bud and bloom,  
 bless us with new wonder, new hope,  
 new promise, new joy.

Amen.

©LPI



Earth Day  
 EVERY DAY



April 22<sup>nd</sup>

©LPI

# St. Teresa News

## Readings for the week of April 19, 2026

Sun.: Acts 2:14, 22-33 ♦ Psalm 16:1-2 and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 ♦ 1 Peter 1:17-21  
 ♦ Luke 24:13-35  
 Mon.: Acts 6:8-15 ♦ Psalm 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 ♦ John 6:22-29  
 Tues.: Acts 7:51-8:1a ♦ Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab ♦  
 John 6:30-35  
 Wed.: Acts 8:1b-8 ♦ Psalm 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a ♦ John 6:35-40  
 Thur.: Acts 8:26-40 ♦ Psalm 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 ♦ John 6:44-51  
 Fri.: Acts 9:1-20 ♦ Psalm 117:1bc, 2 ♦ John 6:52-59  
 Sat.: 1 Pt 5:5b-14 ♦ Psalm 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 ♦ Mark 16:15-20  
 Next Sun.: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 ♦ Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 ♦ 1 Peter 2:20b-25 ♦  
 John 10:1-10

## Divine Mercy Encounter (DME) Retreat for Teen and Young Adults

Do you want a chance to deepen your faith, come to **DME Retreat April 24<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>**. Get a chance to grow in your faith and grow closer to Jesus. Go to [www.divinemercyencounter.com](http://www.divinemercyencounter.com) for information and registration. *Jesus is waiting for you!*  
 DME is a 3-day retreat with each day having a different focus. The weekend includes talks, exposure to different types of prayer, Mass, community, and more. DME is open to all but typically is geared for high school & college students or young adults.

### 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



## Family Perspective

In today's gospel, the disciples were so downcast on their journey home that they didn't recognize Jesus' walking with them. Similarly, in our homes, we can become so overwhelmed with responsibilities that we fail to see God with us. Today's gospel encourages us to pause and open our eyes to 'see Christ' in each other.



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of April 19<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Ray Rhodes by Dorothy Rhodes and family.

## St. Teresa Reverse Raffle—Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

Our annual Reverse Raffle is coming up on the last Saturday of April. We are in need of help to make this event another success this year.

**Dessert Donations are Needed**—Attention Bakers—we need your help with dessert items for the Reverse Raffle. Baked goods can be dropped off at St. Teresa Parish Center on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00am until the start of the event at 5:00pm.

**Volunteers Needed to Work the Raffle**—if you can help at the event, please call Kim Yaple at 814-397-1268. Volunteers must be aged 21 or older to help. Thank you.

“Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?”.... Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how He was made known to them in the breaking of bread. (Luke 24:33, 35)

## Erie March for Life—May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Participants should arrive at Perry Square in downtown Erie by 10:4am on Saturday, May 2. The theme will be “Big or Small, Respect for All.” The March is approximately one mile long and will include a series of speakers (including Congressman Mike Kelly) when marchers return to Perry Square. The entire event will conclude by 12:30pm. Learn more at [PeopleforLife.org/eriemarchforlife](http://PeopleforLife.org/eriemarchforlife) or call 814-882-1333.

## St. Teresa Church



## Saturday, May 9, 2026

Doors open at 4:30 - Bingo starts at 6:00

Union City Fire Hall  
 50 2nd Avenue • Union City, PA

**Admission \$30.00**

- BYOB
- Food Truck
- On Site
- Basket Raffle
- Chinese Auction
- Lottery Tree
- 50-50 and more...

For reservations contact Dick or Elaine Hasbrouck  
**814-450-2766**

No one under 18 admitted • St. Teresa Church Lic.#SGC257619



Follow Us on Facebook!  
 Be sure to check out and follow our updated, combined Facebook page:  
**St. Thomas the Apostle & its Mission St. Teresa**  
 It's a great way to stay connected with parish news, events, and announcements!

## Seeking Raffle Items for Our Cash Bingo

We are asking for donations of items to include in our raffle at the Cash Bingo—lotter tickets, gift cards, or cash (to purchase items). Questions, please contact Elaine Hasbrouck.

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:** April 11 & 12, 2026

Total Offertory Income ..... \$6,269.00  
 Average Budgeted Offertory Income.....\$7,700.00  
**Offertory Shortage .....\$(-1,431.00)**

**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!*

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: QUARTERLY UPDATE**

Total Offertory Income (1-1 through 3-31)..... \$ 87,970.00  
 Total Miscellaneous Income.....\$87,251.00  
 (includes rentals, fundraisers, misc. income)  
 Total Income.....\$175,221.00  
 Total Expenses.....\$167,715.00  
 (Includes normal operating expenses, this does not include extraordinary repairs)  
 Total Income after Expenses.....\$ 7,506.00

**THANK YOU** to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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

**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](http://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!



**Mark Your Calendars | 2026 Wedding Anniversary Celebration**

Couples celebrating 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> or more wedding anniversaries are invited to attend the annual Diocesan Anniversary Celebration. This year's celebrations will be held on:

- Sunday, August 23 at St. George, Erie—2:00pm
- Sunday, August 30 at St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway—2:00pm. We look forward to sharing this beautiful celebration with you in August 2026. More details and registration forthcoming.



**Religious Education News**

**Religious Education Program**

During the second half of the Religious Education year (January—May) — ALL Classes meet at the St. Thomas school building from 9:00am—10:30am on Sunday mornings.



*We are grateful for the opportunity to teach our faith to future generations.*

**Calendar Reminders for Religious Education**

- Sunday, April 19—Classes for students
- Sunday, April 26—Classes for students
- Sunday, May 3—Last Class for 2025/2026 Rel. Ed. Year
- Friday, May 15—Confirmation Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church in McKean with Bishop Persico



**Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Child Abuse Prevention Month: Report Child Abuse:** It is every adult's moral responsibility to report known or suspected abuse or neglect of a minor to the responsible authorities. Physical and sexual abuse of minors are pervasive societal problems, and only concerted and sustained efforts by all adults in every segment of society can help to protect children and youth. According to the latest Pennsylvania statewide report in 2024 there were 5,214 substantiated reports of child abuse. 1,693 or 32.5% of the substantiated reports were for sexual abuse and 1,410 substantiated reports were physical abuse. 61.4% of child abuse victims were female. Mother and Father remain the person most responsible for abuse of their children. *To report child abuse, call Childline at 800-932-0323 (anytime 24/7). For questions on reporting abuse in the Diocese of Erie, you may call the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth at 814-824-1195.*

April 12, 2026



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When you look back on your life, you can easily remember times when your life was transformed by the ministry of your parish priest as he celebrated the Sacraments with you and your family. Our priests have given their lives to our Lord and to you, dedicating themselves to the celebration of the Eucharist, to ministry and to service. I imagine that, like me, many of you have feelings of gratitude toward these priests who have served you so well over the years.

**On the weekend of May 2 - 3, our annual Good Shepherd Collection for retired diocesan priests will be taken in our parishes.** This is our opportunity to express our gratitude with a financial gift to those priests who spent their lives in service to the Church and the Diocese of Erie.

We look to you, to help with the care of those priests who are retired now, and those who will retire in future years. I thank you in advance for your generosity to our annual Good Shepherd Collection and for the support and care of our retired Diocesan priests.

If you prefer to make your gift online, simply scan the QR code below to access the online giving site for the Good Shepherd Collection. Finally, I ask you to remember all our priests in your prayers. Pray for those who are currently serving you, those who have retired and those who have died.

Please also pray for vocations to the priesthood. We pray that others will follow in the footsteps of those who have given their lives as Good Shepherds, leading you, the People of God, by their priestly ministry. I wish you and your families a blessed Easter Season



Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Lawrence T. Persico*

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

*\* Please give using the special envelope in your offertory packet.*