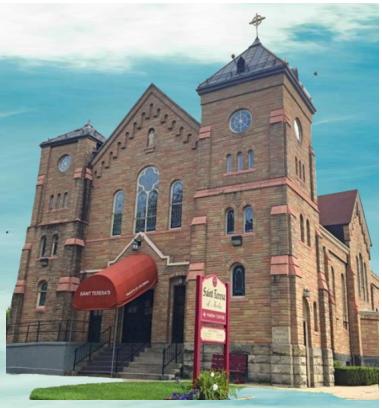


THE PARISH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE AND ITS MISSION ST. TERESA OF AVILA

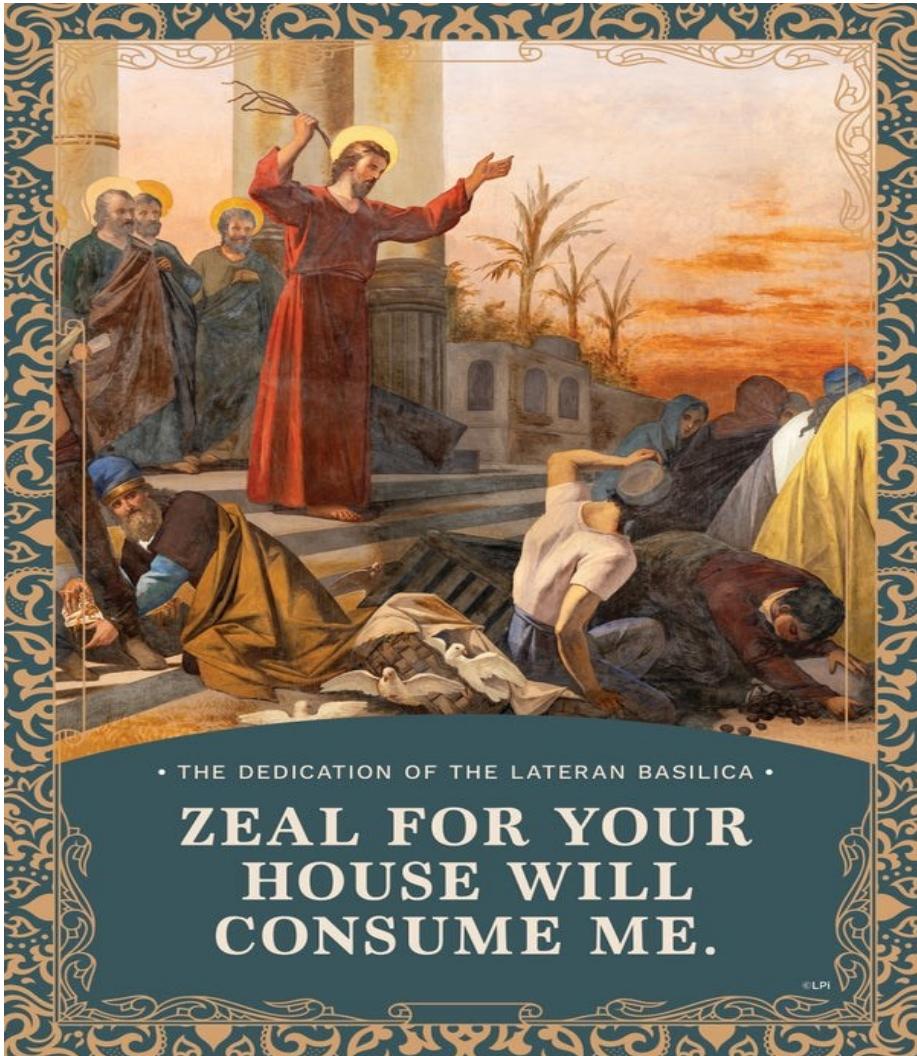


Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
203 W. Washington Street
Corry, PA 16407



Saint Teresa of Avila Church
9 Third Avenue
Union City, PA 16438

November 9, 2025



• THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA •

ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME.

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
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

WILSON FAMILY TRAGEDY: Last week, Michael, Heather, and Emily Wilson, and Rosemary Hill, lost their house, their possessions, and their family pet in a terrible fire. They lost everything, but were able to escape with their lives. We can all help them rebuild their home and their lives by contributing to a GOFUNDME page at GoFundMe.com and search for "posie hill." If you are not able to use the GoFundMe page, you can place your donation in an envelope marked "Wilson Family" and place it in the collection basket. We will then forward the money on to the family with a check from the church. Thank you for your generosity in this terrible tragedy.

ST. TERESA CEMETERY: A number of people have approached me about a recent obituary that stated St. Teresa Cemetery is closed. Saint Teresa Cemetery is not closed. We are grateful to our cemetery staff for the great work they do sometimes under trying circumstances and inclement weather.

SACRAMENTALS AND SACRAMENTS: I have deliberately not mentioned the seven sacraments of the Church in this reflection on sacraments in order to develop a clear idea of what sacramental symbols are and how they are found in our experiences of everyday life, even if we don't call them sacraments.

We all express what we are through what we do. We express our roles as mothers and fathers by the way we take care of our children. We express who we are as business people and professionals by doing our jobs. We express who we are as Catholics by being involved in our parish or some kind of ministry.

A similar thing is true of communities and institutions: they express who they are by what they do. Families express who they are by how they interact with each other and the things they do together. Restaurants serve as places to eat, factories serve as places to make things, schools are places where children learn, and hospitals are places where aid is given to those who are sick or injured.

Sometimes communities go a step further by expressing what they are on special occasions. Businesses, sports teams, military groups all have moments where they recognize the good work that people are doing with awards and ceremonies. Schools hold graduations. Families celebrate holidays and birthdays with special meals and gatherings. As Christians we observe Lent and Easter, Advent and Christmas, and feasts of various saints and holy people.

In these and many other ways we express who we are as members of these groups and organizations.

The church's seven sacraments are like this. We believe that Jesus instituted sacraments in a variety of ways. We see how new members are initiated through baptism, how we share bread and wine to celebrate the presence of Jesus and the mystery of his death and resurrection, and we celebrate confirming our faith by prayer, service and study. As the Body of Christ, we have developed other sacraments that express who we are as Christ's living presence in the world. Jesus as a sacramental person founded a Church that continues to be his Body and his presence through these seven ritual actions we call sacraments.

Let me take a brief look at each sacrament now and later examine each one in depth.

Baptism receives new members into the church and immerses the person into the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus called people to convert from the ways of the world to the ways of God.

Confirmation goes back to Jesus because he was filled with the Holy Spirit in his life and ministry. He also promised and gave the Holy Spirit to his disciples and the early Church to continue his ministry on earth. The apostles continued to invoke the Holy Spirit upon the early Church through the laying on of hands and the anointing with oil.

**Sunday, November 9**

8:00a.m. For the People of the Parish
(St. Thomas, Corry)
11:00a.m. †Msgr. James Peterson by Judy Flynn
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Monday, November 10

8:00a.m. †Don Tinko by Irene Weaver and family
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, November 11—Veterans Day

8:00a.m. †Deacon Bill Sproveri by Pat Sproveri and family
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, November 12

8:00a.m. †Wotus and Sarnicki Families by John & Debbie Wotus (St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, November 13

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

Friday, November 14

8:00a.m. †Msgr. James Peterson by Judy Flynn
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, November 15

4:30p.m. †Hand Family by Judy Green
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, November 16

8:00a.m. For the People of the Parish (St. Thomas, Corry)
11:00a.m. †Diana Hanlin Strefeler by her daughter,
Becky Boleratz (St. Teresa, Union City)

Eucharist (often called the Mass) originated at the Last Supper where Jesus commanded us to celebrate this meal in memory of him. This meal celebrates the presence of Jesus that is still with us.

Penance, Reconciliation, or Confession has its roots in Jesus' practice of forgiving people of their sins. Eventually, the Church developed a formal way to celebrate this forgiveness of Jesus. It is a reminder that we are a reconciling Church.

Anointing of the Sick has its roots in Jesus' healing ministry and how the Church today is meant to be a healing community. Most often today, caring for the sick is done by family members, hospitals, or healthcare facilities. The anointing of the sick reminds those struggling with illness that God is still with them and is bringing both physical and spiritual healing.

Marriage celebrates how love is permanent, faithful, and life giving. Marriage mirrors the love of God that is permanent, faithful and life giving. God indeed blesses this love and the commitment spouses make to each other.

Ordination embodies the call of Jesus to "Come, follow me." Priests, deacons and bishops are all ordained to serve the Body of Christ, the Church, through preaching the Word, administering the sacraments and teaching in Jesus' name.

Think about how each of these sacraments has been celebrated in your life and in the lives of others. Think about how the Mass, baptisms, weddings, penance services, anointing of the sick rituals, confirmations, and ordinations embody what we are called to be as Christians. Think about how these events speak about the meaning, purpose and prophetic nature of the Catholic Church.

As Christians, we believe these sacraments are revealed in the **Continued (on shared page 4)** ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡

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.

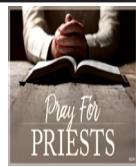
PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

"Question of the Week" - Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Question for Children: How does the church help "build up" your faith?

Question for Youth: How do your words and actions "build up" or "tear down" the Church?

Question for Adults: What does it mean to you that you have a choice of whether to "build up" or "tear down" the Church? In what way do you have **zeal** for the Church?



Rev. F. Thomas Suppa, Rev. Cesar Segovia, Rev. Michael Scanga, *Pray for Vocations*, Rev. Stephen Schreiber, Rev. Mark Hoffman, Rev. Patrick McCormick, and also *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese*.

Winterizing Our Cemeteries

With the colder weather finally upon us, parishioners are reminded to remove all potted urns/plants from graves by Nov. 15th at our cemeteries. **Cleanup of our Corry cemeteries is planned for Sat., Nov. 15 from 9am-11am.** Holiday wreaths and decorations may be put out following Thanksgiving. Questions/concerns, please call the parish office. Thanks.



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Ronald Triscuit** who passed away from St. Thomas Church. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.



Next Knights of Columbus Meeting

Brother Knights of Council #425 will meet on Tuesday, November 11 at St. Elizabeth Parish Center. We will pray The Rosary at 6:30pm and the business meeting will follow. Hope you will join us.

Knights of Columbus Food Drive Collection

The Knights of Columbus, Council #425 is holding a food drive to benefit the Corry Food Pantry from now until the week prior to Thanksgiving. Parishioners are asked to please donate non-perishable food items. Place donations in the marked bins at the entrances of St. Thomas Church. Thank you!



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Thomas Church for the week of November 9th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Ronald Triscuit.

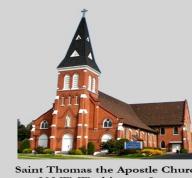
Holiday Pastry Sale by St. Thomas Altar Rosary

We will be selling pastries the weekends of November 15/16 and November 22/23, before and after both the Saturday and Sunday Masses. Cost is \$16 for **Kolachi (Walnut or Apricot)** and \$13 for **Baklava**. Thank you for your support.



St. Thomas Church Choir

With Advent and Christmas right around the corner, choir practice for St. Thomas will begin on **Thursday, November 13th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm** at St. Thomas Church, and continue on Thursday evenings. If you love to sing or just want to give it a try, you are welcome to join us! If you have questions or need more information, call Gary Johnston at 814-462-6804.



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



Join us for



St. Teresa of Avila Church
9 Third Avenue
Union City, PA 16438

iGIVECATHOLIC
ON GIVING TUESDAY

DECEMBER 2, 2025

ADVANCED GIVING DATES
NOVEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 1

Scan the QR code or visit
www.iGiveCatholic.org
and search for
St. Thomas the Apostle.



2025 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) Totals:

Diocesan Goal for our parish is \$61,792

St. Thomas portion is \$37,000 / St. Teresa portion is \$25,000

Amount Pledged at **St. Thomas** to date = \$67,153

Paid to date = \$64,148

Amount Pledged at **St. Teresa** to date = \$36,555

Paid to date = \$34,456

Total Number of Families who made a pledge = 226

Prayerfully consider what God is leading you to give.
Please make a pledge today. Thank you.

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

No gift is too small, but give as generously as you can.



Diocese of Erie
2025 Catholic Services Appeal

St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of November 9, 2025

Sun.: Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 ♦ Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 ♦ 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17 ♦ John 2:13-22
 Mon.: Wisdom 1:1-7 ♦ Psalm 139:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-10 ♦ Luke 17:1-6
 Tues.: Wisdom 2:23-3:9 ♦ Psalm 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19 ♦ Luke 17:7-10
 Wed.: Wisdom 6:1-11 ♦ Psalm 82:3-4, 6-7 ♦ Luke 17:11-19
 Thur.: Wisdom 7:22b-8:1 ♦ Psalm 119:89, 90, 91, 130, 135, 175 ♦ Luke 17:20-25
 Fri.: Wisdom 13:1-9 ♦ Psalm 119:1, 2, 10, 11, 17, 18 ♦ Luke 17:26-37
 Sat.: Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9 ♦ Psalm 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-43 ♦ Luke 18:1-8
 Next Sun.: Malachi 3:19-20a ♦ Psalm 98:5-6, 7-8, 9 (see 9) ♦ 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12 ♦ Luke 21:5-19



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of November 9th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Larry King by Kim Proper and family.

Family Perspective

Jesus reminds us that the day will come for 'the children of God' where the complications of our earthly life will no longer matter. Just as parents recognize the sound of their children's voices, when you call out "Lord," will God say, "Who's there?"

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments— Know the Warning Signs of a Predator: Perpetrators are not waiting on the street to snatch kids; only 10% of sexually abused children are abused by strangers. 90% are abused by someone known and trusted by the child/child's family. Perpetrators integrate themselves into everyone's life, not just the child. They build relationships so that they are trusted to be alone with the child. One of the most important ways to ensure the safety of children in our environments is to know the warning signs of adults who present a risk of harm to children. Among these signs are when the person (1) always wants to be alone with a child in areas where no one can monitor the interactions, (2) allows a child to do things their parents would not permit, (3) is always more excited to be with children than with adults, and (4) discourages others from participating in activities involving kids. Visit www.erercd.org/childprotection/ for more information and resources.

Mysteries of the Rosary Series—The Joyful Mysteries
 This video series study makes the Rosary come alive in the hearts and minds of the participants. Series began on Oct. 23rd and meets Thursdays from 6:30pm-7:45pm in St. Teresa Parish Center. Contact Paige Megat (814-722-7784) for more information.



Cabrini Celebration Movie Night

Be "Keepers of Hope." Celebrate the feast day of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, patron saint of all immigrants, with Catholic Charities on **Thursday, November 13. Showtime is 6:15pm**. The Office of Social Justice & Life will host a FREE screening of "Cabrini" (PG-13) from Angel Studios at the H. David Bowes Auditorium of Cathedral Preparatory School, 250 W. 10th Street, Erie, PA. **Reservations are required** due to limited seating. RSVP at <https://bit.ly/CCCabrini>. For more details, see our website <https://ccincerier.org/> or contact Elizabeth Slaby at 814-824-1254 or ESlaby@ccincerier.org.



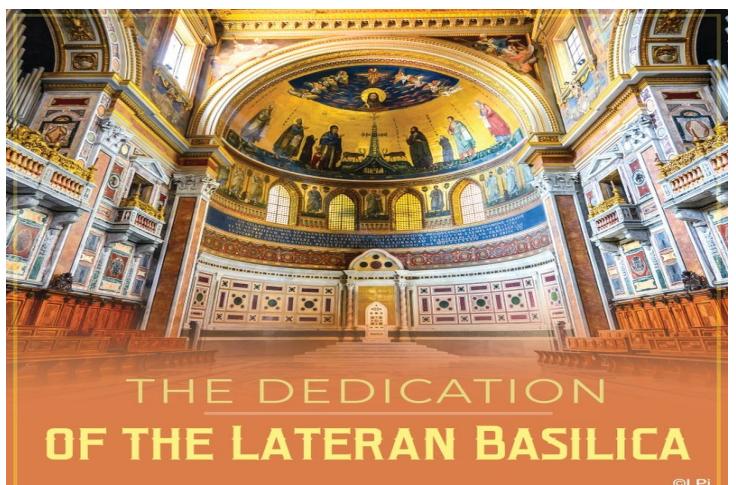
Shine like lights in the world, as you hold on to the Word of Life. Phil. 2:15d, 16a

THANK YOU

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



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Jerry Adams, Jr.** who passed away. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.



Thanksgiving Food Baskets

We are looking to provide 30 families right here in Union City with everything needed to enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner! **Items needed** to fill each meal include:

Canned Items: Vegetables (corn, green beans, carrots, peas), Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Fruit, Pumpkin, Gravy.

Boxed & Pantry Items: Stuffing Mix, Dessert Mixes (cake, brownies, Jell-O, etc.), French Fried Onions, Cream of Mushroom or Chicken Soup, Broth (Chicken, Vegetable, or Turkey).

Donations are also a wonderful way to help! We will be purchasing fresh rolls for each meal. You can contribute by dropping monetary donations in the collection basket or in the mailbox next to the rectory garage. You may also bring food donations to the entrance of St. Teresa Church Monday–Thursday, 8:30AM–4:00PM, or before and after weekend Masses. **Donations will be accepted now until Sunday, Nov. 19th.** Together, we can make this Thanksgiving special for our neighbors in need!



Help Wanted—St. Teresa Cemetery Maintenance Manager

We are seeking a **Cemetery Maintenance Manager** for St. Teresa Cemetery to oversee the daily maintenance of our cemetery. This role involves coordinating burials, maintaining grounds, and ensuring compliance with regulations, while treating all visitors, property, and graves of the deceased with respect and reverence.. If interested, please contact the Parish Office (814-663-3041) or email Missy Silka, Business Manager at business@stparish.org.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:	November 1 & 2, 2025
Total Offertory Income	\$8,886.00
Average Budgeted Offertory Income	\$7,700.00
Offertory Overage	\$1,186.00

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 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'.



Mission Sunday Collection	\$1,336.00
----------------------------------	-------------------

Thank you for your donations to this special second collection taken up the weekend of October 18/19 at our parish. Our financial contributions are signs of our communion with the global Church to support them and the ongoing evangelization of peoples who may be hearing the Gospel for the first time. Thank you.

Parish Office Closed on Tuesday, November 11—Veteran's Day

Sorry for any inconvenience. The Parish Office will be open this week on Monday (Nov. 10), Wednesday and Thursday (Nov. 12 & 13).



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

October 13, 2025

On the weekend of **November 15-16**, a second collection will be taken up in our parishes for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD).

Your support for this collection, **which going forward in the Diocese of Erie will be known as the Local Needs Collection**, brings change to communities across the country and empowers those living in poverty to transform their communities into reflections of the Kingdom of God. For more than 50 years, CCHD has helped people with low income address the root causes of poverty and injustice, not by giving “one-size-fits-all” handouts, but by funding local organizations that empower people to make positive impacts in their own communities. This grassroots model allows people to use their experiences and knowledge of their communities to build coalitions of faith leaders, local businesses, and other neighbors who work together to find solutions that benefit everyone.

This record of success shows how your support makes a positive impact in vulnerable, under-resourced communities across the country. **When you give to this collection, you make an impact nationally and at home, because this year 75% of your contribution stays within our own diocese and 25% goes to the national office of CCHD to assist across the nation.** This way you help our own community build on this legacy of success while also helping communities across the country.

This work is not possible without the support of dedicated Catholics like you. Your contributions are helping to build more merciful and just communities in the Diocese of Erie and throughout the country. Please consider helping us to uphold human dignity and eradicate poverty by giving generously to the second collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development/Local Needs.

Scan to give



Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Lawrence T. Persico

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

Donate using the special envelope in our offertory packets.

Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News

Calendar Dates for Religious Education:

- November 9 – Class & Youth Mass
- November 16 – Class
- November 23 – Class/Safe Environment
- November 30 – NO Class/ Thanksgiving break

Students to Help Provide Thanksgiving Meals

We are working with St. Teresa Church who are collecting food donations for those in need this Thanksgiving. We are asking our Religious Education students to help provide items for the Thanksgiving Day meal. A list of needed items was recently sent home with students. Donations should be brought into class by November 23. Thank you.

[Message from the Pastor—continued]

person and life of Jesus; we believe these realities are then found in the Body of Christ, the Church, in our world today. We believe that in celebrating these moments as sacraments allows us to come into contact with the mysteries embodied in these rituals.

These seven sacraments are God's sacraments and ours. As members of the Church, the Body of Christ, we experience in the sacraments what we are called to be as followers of Jesus. In these sacraments God speaks to us and empowers us in ways that we can become more like Christ, as his Body, the Church.

2026 CALENDARS: The 2026 Calendars are available at all the entrances/exits this weekend. We are grateful to our local funeral homes for sponsoring these calendars. PLEASE TAKE ONE CALENDAR for your home. If there are extras after a few weeks, then you will be welcome to take extra ones.

THANK YOU: Thanks to Mary Jo and Nick Brunecz for the beautiful ferns that are adorning the altars at both Churches.

THANK YOU: Thanks to our ushers and music ministers who have been counting the number of people at Mass, as we do every October. It was interesting that the numbers at each Mass averaged out differently than last year, but the total number of people at Mass each week was exactly the same as last year, 299. It is interesting to note that we have 543 registered families and 1065 members but only 299 attend mass on a weekend.

#IGIVECATHOLIC: #iGiveCatholic is on GivingTuesday, Dec. 2, 2025. You can support your local Catholic parish, school, or ministry on that day or you can make an #iGiveCatholic donation at any time during the **advanced giving period from November 17 through December 1, 2025**. Gifts made by check or cash can be made directly to qualifying organizations during this same time frame.

What is GivingTuesday? GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season when many people focus on holiday and end-of-year giving.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thanksgiving Day Mass will be at 9:00am at St. Thomas Church in Corry.

Our Advent Penance Service will be **Sunday, December 7**, at 1:30pm at St. Thomas Church.

Christmas Eve Masses will be at 4:30pm at St. Thomas and at 7:00pm at St. Teresa. **Mass on Christmas Day** will be at 10:00am at St. Thomas Church.

– Fr. Tom