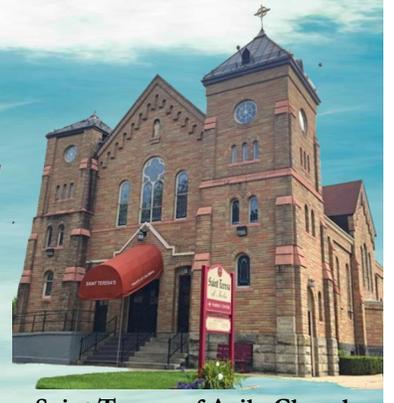




Saint Thomas the Apostle Church  
203 W. Washington Street  
Corry, PA 16407

# 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

## March 22, 2026



### 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life;  
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."

- Jn 11:25

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI

#### 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](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

**Message from the Pastor**

**HOLY WEEK SIGN UPS AND DECORATING:** Sign up sheets are available at both churches for volunteers to have their feet washed on Holy Thursday and for adoration after the Mass of the Lord’s Supper until 10:00pm (Holy Thursday will be at St. Teresa).

We will be decorating both churches on Good Friday. At St. Thomas we will decorate after the Good Friday Service around 4:15pm. We will decorate at St. Teresa at 7:00pm on Good Friday. Everyone is invited to help.

**CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL:** We are in the process of taking pledges for our Catholic Services Appeal. So far, we have received **153 pledges** for **\$100,065**. Pledge envelopes are available in the pews.

In my homily I outlined how we are using the Catholic Services Appeal to also fund some major projects at the two Churches. There are three boilers at St. Thomas – Church, School, and Office that desperately need to be replaced. We have been band-aiding them for the past two years and again just a few weeks ago.

At St. Teresa the roofs on the Parish Center need to be replaced, as we have been patching them for the past two years and years prior to that. We have been cleaning up one leak after another on the inside of the building.

These are projects that need to be done now. The future of our Churches is now. We cannot wait. And these projects, as you can imagine, are quite costly.

The boilers at St. Thomas will cost around \$250,000. The roofs at St. Teresa will cost around \$200,000.

We plan to begin these projects this summer, so we are ready for the next winter.

We plan to pay for these projects by adding them to our Catholic Services Appeal over the next three years. That will mean adding a significant goal to our yearly assessment. At St. Teresa our goal for each of those three years will be \$94,000 - \$27,000 for our CSA assessment and \$67,000 to go towards the roofs. At St. Thomas our goal each of those three years will be \$123,000 - \$38,000 for our CSA assessment and \$85,000 to replace the boilers.

These projects are crucial for our present and our future. I have seen the good work you have done in the past and I trust that you will see how important these projects are to our present and our future, and that you will support these projects with your gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal over the next three years.

**PARISH COUNCIL:** I am still looking for people to be part of Parish Council from both Churches.

The new format for Council is still in the early stages of development. The heart of this new Council will be that they will brainstorm ideas to keep our parish moving forward and building community. They will not only be responsible for the idea phase but will also be responsible for making those ideas become reality. It will be a Council of planning and implementing those plans. Over the next few months, I will be interviewing people who may be interested in being a part of this Council. Depending on the number of interested people, we may have a Council and then a group of people who are interested in helping us implement the ideas Council proposes. If you are interested in interviewing for some part of this Council, please contact me at the parish office (814-663-3041) or by email (TJWhitman@eriercd.org) to schedule an appointment.

**SACRAMENTS:** I have been reflecting on various sacraments, baptism and reconciliation so far, and would like to continue with some reflections on the Eucharist. Allow me to begin with some reflections on the various parts of the Mass.

First of all, we have made a number of changes in our celebration of

*Continued* ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡



**Sunday, March 22**

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)

**Monday, March 23**

8:00a.m. †Linda Dean by the Kowalski Family  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Tuesday, March 24**

8:00a.m †Peggy Kubich by Paul Kubich  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Wednesday, March 25**

8:00a.m. Special Intentions of MaryAnne Gustafson by  
Charlie Buckshaw (St. Thomas, Corry)

**Thursday, March 26**

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

**Friday, March 27**

8:00a.m. †Ed Weaver, Sr. by Tom & Elaine Tinko  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Saturday, March 28**

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

**Sunday, March 1**

8:00a.m. †Ronald Triscuit by Carol & Darrell Huffman  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

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

**And Jesus wept.** John 11:35



the Eucharist (Mass), but no matter what changes we make in words and postures, we never change the essential elements of the Eucharist. The Eucharist we celebrate now, and the Eucharist we celebrate a year from now will still be one in which we memorialize the events of the Last Supper (Jesus changing bread and wine into his own body and blood), Good Friday (Jesus dying on the cross to forgive our sins and save us) and Easter Sunday (Jesus rising from the dead to give us the possibility of eternal life). That will never change! We might change some words or gestures, but the heart of the Eucharist and the heart of our faith will never change.

With that said, what is it that we come here to do in our celebration of the Eucharist? Is it a spectator sport where we simply sit and watch? Is it a social event where we spend an hour conversing with our friends and neighbors? Is it a job where we put in our time in order to get some reward or payment? What is it that we come here to do?

First and foremost, we come here to pray. Prayer is what we gather together to do in our celebration of the Eucharist. And that means we do something very specific and very sacred – it is not entertainment, it is not just social (although there is a communal dimension to it), it is not just an obligation. (Next week I will expand on this notion of communal prayer).

- 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 March 22<sup>nd</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased members of our church.



Rev. Stephen Collins, Rev. John Beal, Rev. Christopher Beran, Rev. Brandon Feikles, Rev. Msgr. Henry Kriegel, Rev. Lawrence Richards, Rev. Jerry Piscaro, and also please *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

### Catholic Daughters Meeting and Fundraiser

Ladies of the Catholic Daughters will meet on Thursday, March 26 in the St. Elizabeth Parish Center at 5:30pm.

Also, the Catholic Daughters will be selling Chocolate Covered Peanut Butter Eggs again this year. Please look for their table after Mass and at our Fish Dinners. Your support of their fundraiser is appreciated. Thank you and God bless.



### News from Knights of Columbus, Council #425

#### Congratulations on Earning Columbian Award

Council #425 was recently presented with the Columbian Award at its meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. This award is given to councils for excellent service to the community through good works and donations as Catholic men. Members of the Knights are pictured below receiving their award.



### Food Drive Collection Currently Underway

The Knights are currently holding a food drive to benefit the Corry Food Pantry. Parishioners are asked to please donate non-perishable food items now until Easter. Place donations in the marked bins at the entrances of St. Thomas Church. Thank you!



## Join Us for Holy Week

March 29—April 3



## PERSEVERE IN PRAYER



### 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.

### "Question of the Week" - Fifth Sunday of Lent

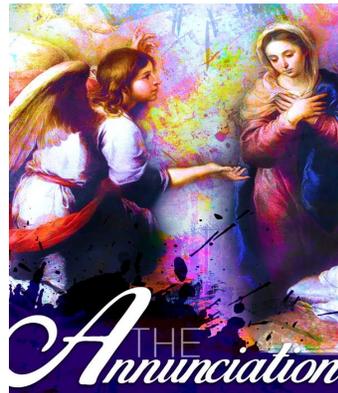
**Question for Children:** How do your actions show that you put your faith and trust in Jesus?

**Question for Youth:** Lazarus received a second chance at life through Jesus. How have you experienced second chances in your own life?

**Question for Adults:** The death from which we are called is healing from those things which bind us and hold us back: memories, fears, rejection, or other such things. What binds you? What keeps you from fully being your own most true self in Christ?

### Choir Rehearsal at St. Thomas Church

Choir Rehearsal for the Lent/Easter season will meet this Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at St. Thomas Church. If you love to sing or just want to give it a try, you are welcome to join us! *We are always looking for new voices. Hope to see you there.*



## WHAT IS THE ANNUNCIATION?

The Annunciation of the Lord refers to the angel Gabriel's visit to young Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of Jesus.

*Feast celebrated March 25<sup>th</sup>*

# St. Thomas Lenten FISH DINNERS

Ash Wednesday, February 18  
 Fridays, February 27,  
 March 13 & 27

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

St. Elizabeth Parish Center  
 33 W. Pleasant St., Corry



Beer Battered or Crumb-Topped Baked Alaskan Cod, Baked Potato or Fresh Cut Fries or Mac & Cheese, Coleslaw or Applesauce, Italian Bread, Dessert & Beverage  
 Kids Meal: Fish Sticks or Beer Battered Fish, choice of sides, dessert & beverage

Adults \$16 Child (6-12) \$7  
**Dine-in, Takeout or Delivery**

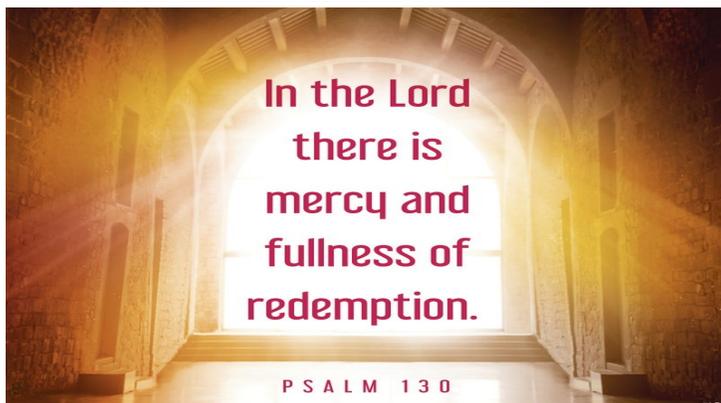
For Delivery Call 814-664-9187

*Food, Fellowship & Basket Raffles!!*

## St. Teresa News

### Readings for the week of March 22, 2026

Sun.: Ezekiel 37:12-14 ♦ Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 ♦ Romans 8:8-11 ♦ John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45  
 Mon.: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62 ♦ Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 ♦ John 8:1-11  
 Tues.: Numbers 21:4-9 ♦ Psalm 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 ♦ John 8:21-30  
 Wed.: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10 ♦ Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 ♦ Hebrews 10:4-10 ♦ Luke 1:26-38  
 Thur.: Genesis 17:3-9 ♦ Psalm 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 ♦ John 8:51-59  
 Fri.: Jeremiah 20:10-13 ♦ Psalm 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 ♦ John 10:31-42  
 Sat.: Ezekiel 37:21-28 ♦ Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 ♦ John 11:45-56  
 Next Sun. (Palm Sunday): Matthew 21:1-11 (37) ♦ Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 ♦ Isaiah 50:4-7 ♦ Philippians 2:6-11 ♦ Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54



In the Lord  
there is  
mercy and  
fullness of  
redemption.

PSALM 130

### Events in our Area

#### Art History Evening Series

The Neighborhood Art House, 201 E. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Erie, will host a series of Art History Evenings beginning Thursday, March 26, from 6:00pm–8:00pm. Jamie Borowicz will open the series with a lecture and discussion on Renaissance artwork. No charge to attend, though donations encouraged. Preregistration is required. Register at: <https://www.neighborhoodarthouse.org/events/details/art-history-evenings>.

#### Community Workshop: Singing Burleigh in Sacred Spaces

Mercyhurst University's Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38<sup>th</sup> St., Erie, will host the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Harry T. Burleigh Spirituals Festival Community Workshop on Thursday, March 26, from 5:00pm–6:45pm. This free workshop is open to members of all local churches.

#### Taize Adoration at St. George Parish

St. George Parish, 5145 Peach St., Erie, will host Taizé Adoration on Sunday, March 29, at 7:00pm in the church. Music will be provided by Daniel & Emily Cabanillas, and the service will be led by Father Brandon Feikles. Taizé Adoration features meditative, short, repetitive chants, Scripture readings, silence and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

#### Father Pete's Maria House Project Bingo Bash

The Maria House Project Bingo Bash is on Sunday, March 29, at the JPTF Events Center, 2319 W. 38<sup>th</sup> St., Erie. Tickets are \$35 at the door or \$30 in advance online and include all regular games and a jackpot. The event will also feature a basket raffle, 50/50, instant games and more. Guests are welcome to bring their own food and beverages. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.mariahouseproject.org](http://www.mariahouseproject.org).

#### 1:38 Women's Conference

Say Yes! To the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on **Saturday, April 18, 2026** from 8:00am—1:00pm at St. Jude Parish, 2801 West 6<sup>th</sup> St., Erie. Cost is \$25 and features two national speakers, Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation. For more info. or to register: visit [www.138women.com](http://www.138women.com) or call 814-455-7364.



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Ronald Tomcho by the Shinko and Fifer families.

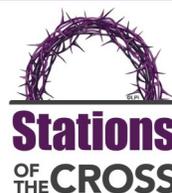


#### Custodian Position Available at St. Teresa

We are seeking a person for the part-time custodial position at St. Teresa. Duties include cleaning the church and parish center. If interested, please contact the parish office (814-663-3041) or email Missy Silka, Business Manager, at [business@stparish.org](mailto:business@stparish.org).

#### Family Perspective

Our families often get caught up in chasing things we believe will bring us happiness. Jesus' words to Lazarus, "Come out," are also meant for us. In this fifth week of Lent, "untie" yourself and break free from unnecessary possessions.



All are welcome to journey the Way of the Cross at our parish this Lenten season. Stations are held on

- Thursdays—7:00pm  
at St. Teresa Church (Union City)
- Fridays—7:30pm  
at St. Thomas Church (Corry)

#### Calling All Bakers!

We are collecting your wonderful homemade desserts for our Friday Fish Dinners. Your baked goods make our dinners extra special, and guests look forward to the desserts just as much as our delicious fish!



Desserts may be dropped off at the Parish Center on **Thursdays from 4:00–7:00 PM**, or **Fridays starting at noon throughout Lent**.

**St. Teresa**  
**Parish Center**  
Third Avenue  
Union City, PA

**LENTEN FISH FRY**  
February 20th & 27th  
March 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th  
4:30 - 7:00pm  
Dine in or take out

**Adults \$15.00**  
**Children's Meal (12 and under) \$6.00**  
Mac & cheese, French fries and applesauce  
\*\* add \$2.00 for fish sticks

Baked or Fried Fish (Haddock)  
Choice of: baked potato, French fries or mac & cheese.  
Homemade coleslaw or applesauce.  
Dinner roll, homemade dessert and beverage!

**For take-outs call**  
**814-438-2000**

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:** March 14 & 15, 2026

Total Offertory Income ..... \$6,943.00  
 Average Budgeted Offertory Income ..... \$7,700.00  
**Offertory Shortage.....\$(-757.00)**

***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](http://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.

**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, 2026, at St. George, Erie—2:00pm and Sunday, August 30, 2026, at St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway—2:00pm. We look forward to celebrating this beautiful celebration with you in August 2026.



**Seeking Volunteers for Holy Week Liturgies**  
 We are asking parishioners to sign up for the liturgies of Holy Week—as ministers at Mass, to have your foot washed, or to commit to an adoration time. Please see sign up sheets in both churches. Thank you.



**Please Support the 2026 Catholic Services Appeal!**  
**Thank you to those who made a pledge.**  
**We need everyone's help to make our CSA goals at each church.**  
**Return pledge envelopes NOW in any collection basket.**

**PRO-LIFE ORATORY CONTEST for High School Students**  
**Erie, Pennsylvania**  
**April 11, 2026**

**Two Divisions: Grades 9-10 and Grades 11-12**  
**\$175 First Place Awards**  
**\$100 Second Place Awards**  
**\$50 Third Place Awards**

- \* All high school students are eligible to enter. Register by April 6.
- \* Contestants will research, write and present an original 5-to-7-minute pro-life speech on a topic related to abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, or embryo-destructive experimentation.
- \* Information and official contest rules: [peopleforlife.org/oratory](http://peopleforlife.org/oratory)
- \* Contact People for Life to register or for more information.



**PEOPLE FOR LIFE**  
 1625 W. 26th St., Erie, PA 16508  
 (814) 882-1333 (voice / text)  
[peopleforlife.org](http://peopleforlife.org) \* [www.facebook.com/peopleforlife](https://www.facebook.com/peopleforlife)



**Religious Education News**

**Religious Education Program**  
 Now that we are in the second half of the Religious Education year (January—May) — ALL Classes will meet at 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**  
 Saturday, Mar. 21—First Communion at St. Thomas Church  
 Sunday, Mar. 22—No Classes / First Communion at St. Teresa  
 Sunday, Mar. 29—Classes for students  
 Sunday, April 5—No Classes / Happy Easter—*Jesus is Risen!*  
 Sunday, April 12—Classes for students  
 Sunday, April 19—Classes for students  
 Sunday, April 26—Classes for students  
 Sunday, May 3—Last Class for 2025/2026 Rel. Ed. Year

**First Holy Communion at Our Parish**  
 We celebrate with our parish third grade students and their families as they receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion this weekend either on Saturday, March 21 at St. Thomas or on Sunday, March 22 at St. Teresa: **Maelyn Moss, Anthony Proy, Emmalyn Sill, Alex Soety, and Phillip Williams.** *Congratulations!*

**The Light is On**  
 Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Blessed Sacrament	St. George
Holy Cross, Fairview	St. John the Baptist
Our Lady of Peace	St. Joseph/Bread of Life
Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro	Community
St. Boniface	St. Jude the Apostle
St. Francis Xavier, McKean	St. Julia
	St. Peter Cathedral



Wednesday, March 25, 2026  
 5:00 7:00 p.m.

**PRO-LIFE ESSAY CONTEST**

**Entries due April 27, 2026**

**Two Divisions: Grades 7-9 and Grades 10-12**  
**\$150 First Place Awards**  
**\$75 Second Place Awards**  
**\$50 Third Place Awards**

- \* Word limits: 500 grades 7-9, 750 grades 10-12
- \* Open to all students in grades 7 to 12 from Erie, Crawford, Forest, Mercer, McKean, Warren, Venango, Ashtabula, and Chautauqua counties.
- \* Contestants will research and write an original pro-life essay on a topic related to abortion, protection for born-alive babies, assisted suicide, euthanasia, or a related topic.
- \* Contact People for Life for more information or visit [peopleforlife.org/essay/](http://peopleforlife.org/essay/)
- \* Entries can be e-mailed to [office@peopleforlife.org](mailto:office@peopleforlife.org); faxed to (814) 459-1333; or mailed to P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512.

**PEOPLE FOR LIFE**  
 1625 W. 26th St., Erie, PA 16508  
 (814) 882-1333  
[hq@peopleforlife.org](mailto:hq@peopleforlife.org) \* [Facebook.com/peopleforlife](https://www.facebook.com/peopleforlife)  
**PeopleforLife.org**