



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 26, 2026



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." - Jn 10:2-3

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

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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

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 BISHOP PERSICO

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I recognize that leaders of nations have the responsibility of making difficult decisions that impact many lives. At the same time, as Catholics, we hold that Pope Leo XIV, as Vicar of Christ on Earth, has the sacred responsibility of teaching and guiding all of us according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Catholics, and all people of good will, look to him for clear guidance through complex moral situations, including those that arouse tension.

The Gospel must shape every aspect of our lives, including our civic responsibilities. As the successor of Saint Peter, the Holy Father has both the authority and the responsibility to address the moral and ethical consequences of political decisions for the good of all humanity.

The Holy Father's call to peace at this moment is not rooted in partisan politics or loyalties, but in the teaching of Christ: "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9). As Pope Leo has affirmed, we are called to recognize one another as brothers and sisters, sharing responsibility for our common home.

Let us pray for Pope Leo XIV, shepherd of the Universal Church, that he may continue to lead with courage and wisdom. We also pray for our nation and for all world leaders, that they exercise sound judgment in their decisions, especially involving war and peace.

Above all, we pray for peace. In Christ, we are one.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

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 few weeks. 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: Last week, I began to reflect on the first half of our celebration of the Eucharist: the introductory rites and the Liturgy of the Word by reflecting on the sign of the cross. This week allow me to continue with the rest of the Introductory Rite.

After the opening song and the sign of the cross, we pause for the Penitential Rite where we call to mind our sins. This is not meant to be a time to think about how bad we are, but rather to think about how good God is. In particular, we remember how the God

**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)

Monday, April 27

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

Tuesday, April 28

8:00a.m. †Michael Butchko by Patricia Stolz
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, April 29

8:00a.m. †Jane Farver by Richard & Jean Farver
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, April 30—Adoration

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

Friday, May 1—First Friday

8:00a.m. †Mary Ryba by Judy Flynn (St. Teresa, Union City)

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

Saturday, May 2

4:30p.m. For the People of the Parish
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Sunday, May 3

8:00a.m. †Wascak and Stolar Families by Darrell & Carol
Huffman (St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. †Ronald Tomcho by Shinko and Fifer Families
(St. Teresa, Union City)

we gather to worship is a God of mercy, not a God of punishment. It is a moment when we humble ourselves in God's presence by acknowledging our sin and prepare ourselves to be healed and strengthened by the mercy of God.

Remembering that our God is a God of mercy, we then sing the Gloria, a song of praise and thanks to God for having brought us the gift of mercy in the person of Jesus. We are grateful that we gather here in the presence of a God who is merciful.

Then we pause in silence to pray – there is a pause here for all of us to offer our personal prayers that we bring to this celebration of the Eucharist (for the sick, the dying, help with a problem, thanksgiving for something we received,...). Then the priest says a prayer called, "the collect" which collects all these silent prayers into one and offers them to God in this one spoken prayer.

This prayer ends the Introductory Rite which helps us to settle ourselves from our fast paced lives and focus on the presence of God. Having settled our hearts and realizing we are in God's presence. We are ready to hear God speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word – the readings from Sacred Scripture.

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

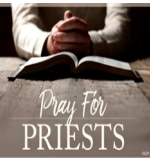
St. Thomas News



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 26th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased members of the parish.



Rev. James Power, Rev. James Staszewski, Rev. T. Shane Mathew, Rev. Edward Walk, Very Rev. Nicholas Rouch, V.G., Very Rev. Andrew Boyd, VF, and also please *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

Today is World Day of Prayer for Vocations

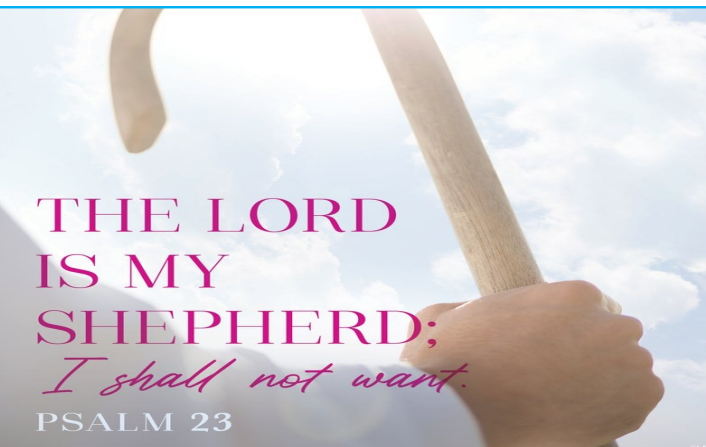
On April 26, 2026, the Church celebrates the 63rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday—a day dedicated to praying that men and women will hear and respond generously to God’s call. Rooted in Christ’s invitation to “ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest” (Mt 9:38), this day highlights the essential role of prayer, faith and grace in fostering vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, consecrated life and missionary service.

Prayer for Vocations

Lord God, creator of all things and source of all gifts and talents, your Son came to this world to fulfill His vocation as the Redeemer of all humanity.
 Grant the sons and daughters of the parishes of the Diocese of Erie a profound awareness of their own vocations.
 Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, may they come to realize their distinct place in your divine plan.
 Give them the grace to recognize and the courage to pursue vocations as devoted priests, deacons and consecrated women and men to assist the Diocese of Erie in fulfilling her mission.
 With the intercession of Saint Patrick, our patron, who preached the Gospel in word and deed, we pray that they may find happiness and fulfillment in a life of service to others.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Imprimatur, July 29, 2013
 The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
 Bishop of the Diocese of Erie



“Question of the Week” - 4th Sunday of Easter

Question for Children: How is Jesus your example when others don’t like you?

Question for Youth: Sheep know their shepherd and follow his voice. How hard is it for you to recognize the voice of God in your own life? Who has helped you hear God’s voice?

Question for Adults: In what specific ways is Christ an example which you follow when dealing with others, especially with the ones against whom you hold a grudge or those who dislike 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 soon. Annuals and perennials will be purchased for around the church grounds. Thank you.



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Patsy Nichols** who was buried from St. Thomas Church. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down His life for His sheep and willing died for His flock, Alleluia.



St. Thomas Fish Dinner Wrap Up Meeting

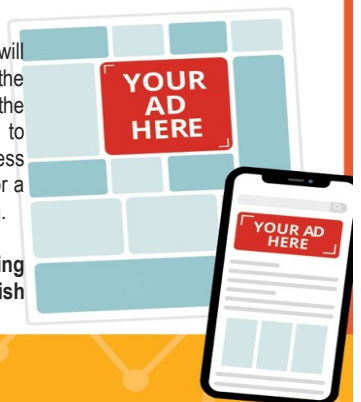
Attention Fish Dinner Volunteers: We will have a volunteer meeting/get together on Thursday, April 30th, at 6:30pm in the Saint Elizabeth Parish Center. Please come to socialize, have a few snacks and discuss this year’s dinners and plan for next year’s. Thank you all for all your hard work in preparing for and at the dinners. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

AVAILABLE NOW! PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Tim Weir from LPI, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com.

Please call me. I look forward to making your business visible to this parish community!



LPI Tim Weir
 Cell Phone :716-602-4588
 TWeir@4lpi.com

St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of April 26, 2026

Readings for the week of April 26, 2026

Sun.: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 ♦ Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 ♦ 1 Peter 2:20b-25 ♦ John 10:1-10

Mon.: Acts 11:1-18 ♦ Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 ♦ John 10:11-18

Tues.: Acts 11:19-26 ♦ Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 ♦ John 10:22-30

Wed.: Acts 12:24-13:5a ♦ Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 ♦ John 12:44-50

Thur.: Acts 13:13-25 ♦ Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 ♦ John 13:16-20

Fri.: Acts 13:26-33 ♦ Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab ♦ John 14:1-6

Sat.: Acts 13:44-52 ♦ Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 ♦ John 14:7-14

Next Sun.: Acts 6:1-7 ♦ Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 ♦ 1 Peter 2:4-9 ♦ John 14:1-12



'Jesus, stay with us!' - Pray without Ceasing.

Erie March for Life—May 2nd

The Erie March for Life will be on Saturday, May 2. Participants should arrive at Perry Square in downtown Erie by 10:45am. The theme will be "Big or Small, Respect for All." The March will be approximately one mile long. There will be a series of speakers including Congressman Mike Kelly when the marchers return to Perry Square. The entire event will conclude by 12:30pm. Learn more at PeopleforLife.org/eriemarchforlife or call 814-882-1333.



Upcoming Spiritual Retreat

Villa Maria Education & Spirituality Center in Villa Maria, PA will host **Need a Spiritual "Lift"? Finding Joy, Celebrating Gratitude and Engaging Hope in Challenging Times** with Bill Miller on May 2.

As a nation and as a world, we live in an era that seems to have more than its share of chaos, confusion and consternation. However, all is not lost! God is with us, constantly loving us completely and unconditionally. Join us as we explore some of the many ways that God's love is working within each of us to help us find joy, feel gratitude and experience the gift of a hope so profound it can only come from the Lord.

For more information, go to the VMESC website at <https://vmesc.org/programs-retreats/all-events?id=1072>



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of April 26th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Ed Weaver, Sr. by Irene Weaver and family.

Family Perspective

In today's gospel, Jesus declares, "I am the way," and warns that anyone offering "another way" to happiness is "a thief and a bandit." These are strong words! Don't be swayed by society's sales pitch for happiness. Instead, look to your loved ones, where God is present, calling you by name and leading you to abundant life.

First Friday Calls

If you, or a loved one, is shut-in to your home or in a nursing home and wishes to have a visit from the priest, deacon, or Eucharistic Minister, please call the parish office.

Hospital Visits

Please let us know if a family member is in the hospital. A visit from the priest may be arranged. Please know that Hamot and Saint Vincent hospitals have priests on call in cases of emergency. Be sure to ask your nurse.



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!

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

Seeking Raffle Items for Our Cash Bingo Fundraiser

We are in need of new Chinese auction gifts and/or gift cards, or cash donations (to purchase items) for our raffle at the Cash Bingo on May 9th. Donations can be dropped off at St. Teresa Church or placed in the locked mailbox between the church and rectory. For other arrangements, please contact Elaine Hasbrouck. Thank you.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: April 18 & 19, 2026

Total Offertory Income \$5,806.25
 Average Budgeted Offertory Income.....\$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage\$(-1,893.75)

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!

THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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

In Christ, We Are One

Help support our parish through the 2026 Catholic Services Appeal! Every dollar raised over our CSA goal stays in our parish.



Please Support the 2026 Catholic Services Appeal!

Thank you to those who made a pledge.

We need everyone's help in order to meet our goals for our two churches' projects.



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

Scan to give



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.**

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 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: Be Vigilant: Keeping kids safe starts with all of us. Pay attention to how people interact with children – and speak up if something feels off. Notice the signs of abuse, take them seriously and report concerns right away. If you see behavior that seems inappropriate or just doesn't feel right, don't ignore it. Reporting could prevent harm. Have questions about warning signs or what's considered inappropriate? Call the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth at 814-824-1195.

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 (enrollment code: **JWFHT6MPCX7L**) , or download the app and see how easy it is to give back!

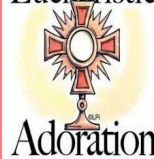
We'll be sharing more information (and a quick demo!) soon — so stay tuned! In the meantime, questions? No problem! Give Missy a call at the parish office. We hope you will help support us!



Eucharistic Adoration THIS WEEK

The Good Shepherd as Risen. Alleluia.

Our churches will hold their monthly Eucharistic Adoration this week. It will be held on **Thursday, April 30th (8:00am) through Friday, May 1st (8:00am) at Saint Thomas Church.** It will also be held on **Friday, May 1st (8:00am –12:00pm) at St. Teresa Church.** All are welcome any time to spend a prayerful, quiet moment with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.



Mark Your Calendars | 2026 Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Couples celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th 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

Celebrations include Mass with Bishop Persico followed by a light reception. To register for either event or to receive a certificate by mail, complete the online registration at <https://www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html>, contact the parish office, or contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at 814-824-1210. Registrations are being accepted until August 13 for the Erie celebration and August 20 for Ridgway celebration or until September 13 to be mailed.

