



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

# THE PARISHES OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE AND ST. TERESA OF AVILA



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

## April 27, 2025



### 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." - Jn 20:28-29

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  
Director of Faith Formation*  
business@stparish.org

**Susan Johnston**  
*Secretary*  
secretary@stparish.org

**Carol Huffman**  
*Bookkeeper*  
finance@stparish.org

**Rhonda Pierce**  
*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**

**POPE FRANCIS:** The death of Pope Francis is a moment of great sadness for us, for the church, and for our world. There are few leaders in our world whose death creates such mourning and speculation. May this be a time when we pray for Pope Francis, his family and friends in the time of their mourning. May we also pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the cardinals who will gather in the Conclave to elect a successor to Pope Francis. The challenge of being Pope is one that can only be met with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Francis has certainly been a Pope who has revealed the human side of the Church and invited us to be more open and welcoming. He has been a strong advocate for the poor and the immigrant, the marginalized and the neglected. Francis has brought some important reform to the government of the Vatican and an openness to dialogue with other faiths and traditions, particularly those of the Muslim faith. Francis has helped us understand how the church needs to be synodal - how we need to dialogue with one another in order to solve our problems and to achieve the peace we long for.

If you are looking for more information on Pope Francis and the events of the next few weeks, the diocese has a very helpful website at <https://www.eriecd.org/popefrancis.html>.

**HOLY WEEK SERVICES:** A huge thank you goes out to our liturgy committee for planning such a prayerful holy week. Their efforts were supported by the tremendous work of our musicians and choir members, our liturgical ministers (lectors, ushers, eucharistic ministers, altar servers, confirmation students, deacons), those who volunteered to set up and take down after each service, and our parish staff who helped to coordinate the various aspects of this week. As with everything we do here, there is a lot of behind the scenes work that most people do not know about. I offer my sincere thanks to everyone who played a part in making this week such a great one!

**SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER:** We will be using a sprinkling rite at the beginning of Mass during the Easter season. The proper response to being blessed with holy water is to make the sign of the cross. When I sprinkled the palms on Palm Sunday, I noticed people doing a variety of things. I was somewhat surprised that many people didn't know what to do when they were sprinkled with holy water. The proper response to being blessed with holy water is to make the sign of the cross. The only time we genuflect is to the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle or the monstrance.

**MISSIONARY APPEAL:** This year our Missionary Appeal will be conducted by Sr. Christine Kosin, OSB, from AIM USA – Alliance for International Monasticism on the weekend of May 17-18. The Alliance for International Monasticism promotes cooperation and solidarity among monasteries throughout the world. AIM responds to the needs of monasteries in the developing world by supporting mission communities in their birth, growth, development, trials, and difficulties.

**ANointing OF THE SICK:** The Anointing of the Sick was started 50 years ago as a way to better minister to those who were seriously ill and dying. Some of you may remember what the church called last rites. Last Rites was a sacrament that could be received only once in a lifetime and thus people waited until their last breath to receive it. Sometimes the priest arrived in time and sometimes he didn't. Priests even anointed dead bodies. The Catholic Church no longer has what is called "last rites." It has been replaced with the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. It is surprising that people 50 years later are still using the term "last rites" and even talking about the sacrament in terms that we stopped using 50 years ago.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a healthy revision of

*Continued* ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡

**Sunday, April 27—*Divine Mercy Sunday / 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter***

8:00a.m. ✠Cragg & Sullivan Families by the Craggs  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. ✠Steve & Dorothy Mongera by Cheryl & Steve  
Mongera (St. Teresa, Union City)

**Monday, April 28**

8:00a.m. ✠Priscilla Kozik by Eric & Barb Jacobs  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Tuesday, April 29**

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

**Wednesday, April 30**

8:00a.m. ✠Dorothy & Albert Wotus by John & Debbie  
Wotus (St. Thomas, Corry)

**Thursday, May 1**

8:00a.m. Communion Service at St. Thomas & Adoration

**Friday, May 2—*First Friday***

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

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

**Saturday, May 3**

4:30p.m. ✠Clyde Ross by Dave & Marie Mitchell  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Sunday, May 4**

8:00a.m. ✠Nick & Betty Jo Waltier by Denny & Chris  
Anderson (St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas & Teresa  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

what was called Last Rites. The Anointing of the Sick can be received as many times as a person needs it, where last rites were given only once. The Anointing of the Sick still carries with it forgiveness of sins, a prayer for physical healing, and a prayer for strength in the midst of one's suffering. The Anointing of the Sick is intended to strengthen people in faith and hope in the midst of their struggle with illness and even death. We try to minister to people in their illness and suffering rather than just waiting until they are at the moment of their last breath.

**Today, a priest is not allowed to anoint someone who has died – sacraments are for the living, not the dead.** Anyone who has a serious or chronic illness, is preparing for major surgery, or who is struggling with a serious mental illness can, and should, be anointed. Even children who have sufficient use of reason to understand the effects of the sacrament can be anointed in case of serious or chronic illness. If you are not sure if the illness is serious or not, the person should be anointed. The sacrament can be received as many times as needed.

One of the things I started when I arrived here was what we call "First Friday Calls." Catholics who are sick or homebound are visited on the First Friday of each month to receive Communion and the Anointing of the Sick. Some people have taken advantage of this, and others have not. I have altered this so that one Friday I will visit those in Corry and the next month those in Union City. This gives people support in their illness and at times isolation. This is what the Anointing of the Sick is intended for. It prevents the cases where we try to find a priest at the last minute to anoint someone who is dying, because they have already been anointed.

If you, or some member of your family, is homebound, please have them call the parish office to be put on the First Friday List.

*- Fr. Tom*

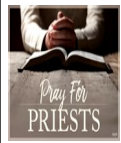


## St. Thomas News



**Deacon Randy will hold the Divine Mercy Chaplet  
Today (Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>) at 3:00pm  
at St. Thomas Church**

All are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!



Rev. T. Shane Mathew, Rev. Edward Walk, Rev. Cory Pius, Pray for Consecrated Life, Rev. Casimir Wozniak, Very Rev. Andrew Boyd, V.F., Rev. William Laska, and also *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*



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

### 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.



### Erie March for Life on Saturday, May 3

March begins at 11:00am from Perry Square (please arrive by 10:45am) and goes over to West 6<sup>th</sup> St., Sassafras St., West 10<sup>th</sup> St. and State St. The march will be followed by a program of speakers at the stage in Perry Square. The program includes Clare Caulfield, President of Gannon Students for Life; JD Longo, Mayor of Slippery Rock, PA; and Sheila Sterrett, NW Pennsylvania Director for U.S. Senator Dave McCormick. A prayer will be offered by Fr. Steve Schreiber, Pastor of St. Joseph, Sacred Heart, and St. Paul parishes and a Graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Event concludes at 12:30pm. For information, please go to [peopleforlife.org/eriemarchforlife/](http://peopleforlife.org/eriemarchforlife/).



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Thomas Church for the week of April 27<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Peggy Kubich by a friend.



**PRAYER LINE... call:** Gerrie (814-665-6944), Pam (814-664-7459), or Diane (814-663-3753).  
*Since prayer is an important ministry of trust, know that all requests are kept confidential.*

## PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

### Cleanup at St. Thomas & St. Elizabeth Cemeteries

We will be cleaning up the winter debris at both of our cemeteries on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 10:00am. Please bring rakes and work gloves, if possible. All are welcome to join us to help prepare our cemeteries for the spring and summer season. Thank you in advance for your help—we appreciate it!

### "Question of the Week" - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter/ Divine Mercy

**Question for Children:** Jesus appeared to the disciples even though they were afraid and locked in the closed room. How can you show Jesus to another person this week by how you act?

**Question for Youth:** Thomas didn't believe because he hadn't seen Jesus with his own eyes. How hard is it for you to believe in God without being able to see God? How do you see God in the words and actions of others?

**Question for Adults:** Jesus said: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Give one example of how you will show your belief in Jesus this week - how you are being sent forth.



### ST. ELIZABETH AND ST. THOMAS CEMETERIES FUNDRAISER

*Come paint with Debbie Bird*

May 8, 2025, 6pm – 9pm at St. Elizabeth Center

Cost \$40.00 (in advance payment is encouraged but not required) call parish office at 814-663-3041 or send email to [cemetery@stparish.org](mailto:cemetery@stparish.org) to reserve your spot. The class has limited seating.

There will be raffle baskets, Light food, refreshments and drinks. Grab a friend and support a great cause while creating a beautiful art piece.



## St. Teresa News

### Readings for the week of April 27, 2025

Sun.: Acts 5:12-16 ♦ Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1) ♦  
 Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 ♦ John 20:19-31  
 Mon.: Acts 4:23-31 ♦ Psalm 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 ♦ John 3:1-8  
 Tues.: Acts 4:32-37 ♦ Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 ♦ John 3:7b-15  
 Wed.: Acts 5:17-26 ♦ Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 ♦ John 3:16-21  
 Thur.: Acts 5:27-33 ♦ Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 ♦ John 3:31-36  
 Fri.: Acts 5:34-42 ♦ Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14 ♦ John 6:1-15  
 Sat.: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 ♦ Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5 ♦ John 14:6-14  
 Next Sun.: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 ♦ Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a) ♦  
 Revelation 5:11-14 ♦ John 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

### Pope Francis Resource Page on the Diocese of Erie Website



On this solemn occasion, the Diocese of Erie joins the global Catholic community in mourning the passing of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis. His unwavering faith, profound humility and steadfast commitment to the Gospel have left an indelible mark on the Catholic Church and the world. As we reflect on his life, we offer prayers of thanksgiving for his leadership and service. Please visit <https://www.eriecd.org/popefrancis.html> for resources and information.

*Eternal rest grant on to him, O Lord*

Bishop Lawrence Persico will celebrate a *Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Pope Francis* on Friday, May 2, at 5:15pm at St. Peter Cathedral. All are invited to attend and join in prayerful remembrance.

### 2025 Wedding Anniversary Celebration with Bishop Persico

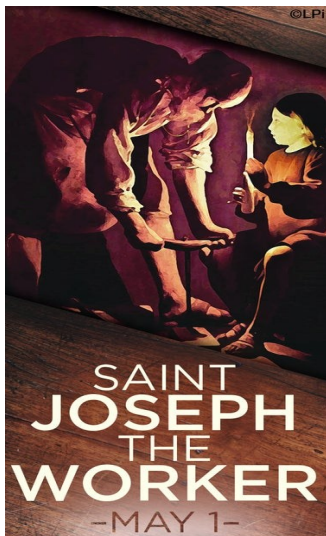
Diocesan Anniversary Celebrations for couples celebrating 25, 40, 50, 60 or more years of marriage in 2025 will be held at two locations in the Diocese of Erie this summer:

- Sunday, August 3 at Our Lady of Peace, Erie at 2:00pm
- Sunday, August 24 at St. Tobias, Brockway at 3:00pm



Couples may complete registration online at <https://www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html>, call their parish office, or contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at 814-824-1210. Registrations are being accepted until July 24 for the Erie celebration and until August 14 for the Brockway celebration. You may also register until Sept. 11 to have a scrolled mailed to you.

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.



The first Thursday of May is the **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.**

This is a great reminder to pray for our nation, our leaders, our media, and each other!



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Teresa Church for the week of April 27<sup>h</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Ray Rhodes by Dorothy Rhodes and family.

*Marriage & Banns*

Meghan Mongera and Craig Blouvet

### Family Perspective

Jesus connects PEACE and FORGIVENESS in today's gospel. In our families, we will only experience peace to the extent that we forgive one another. Peace is purchased with the currency of forgiveness. When we allow our anger and pride to lock others out, we also lock out peace and harmony.



### Staying Safe Online

Social media can expose personal information, so it's crucial to review privacy settings and control who sees your posts. Be cautious with friend requests from strangers and avoid sharing sensitive data publicly. Regularly update passwords and enable multi-factor authentication. Stay alert for suspicious links or offers. Promote responsible sharing and report any suspicious activities to maintain a safe online community. Educating ourselves about social media safety aligns with our values and fosters trust. Keep safe on social media with this guide from the NSA guide:

[https://media.defense.gov/2021/Sep/16/2002855950/-1/-1/0/CSI\\_KEEPING\\_SAFE\\_ON\\_SOCIAL\\_MEDIA\\_20210806.PDF](https://media.defense.gov/2021/Sep/16/2002855950/-1/-1/0/CSI_KEEPING_SAFE_ON_SOCIAL_MEDIA_20210806.PDF)

### Help Wanted at St. Teresa Cemetery

We are seeking a **Cemetery Manager** for St Teresa Cemetery to oversee the daily operations and 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.

We are also seeking **seasonal summer help** at St. Teresa Cemetery to help maintain the grounds such as lawn mowing, weed eating, laying mulch, trim bushes and shrubs, etc.

If interested, please contact the Parish Office (814-663-3041) or email Missy Silka, Business Manager at [business@stparish.org](mailto:business@stparish.org).

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:** April 19 & 20, 2025

Total Offertory Income ..... \$8,921.00  
Average Budgeted Offertory Income ..... \$7,700.00  
Offertory Overage.....\$1,221.00

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](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!

Holy Thursday Collection for Rice Bowl .....\$739.00  
Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land.....\$796.00

**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 = \$62,035

Paid to date = \$40,495

Amount Pledged at **St. Teresa** to date = \$32,563

Paid to date = \$25,733

Total Number of Families who made a pledge = 199

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.

**Honoring the Life and Legacy of: POPE FRANCIS**

DECEMBER 17, 1936 - APRIL 21, 2025

MARCH 13, 2013 ELECTED POPE

Francis

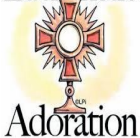
"BY HAVING MERCY, BY CHOOSING HIM"

**Eucharistic**

**Eucharistic Adoration THIS WEEK**

**'Christ is Risen....He is Risen Indeed!'**

Our parishes will hold their monthly Eucharistic Adoration this week. It will be held on **Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> (8:00am) through Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> (8:00am)** at Saint Thomas Church. It will also be held on **Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> (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.



**Faith Formation & Religious Ed. News**

**Calendar Reminders for Religious Education**

April 27—Classes for all students at St. Thomas  
May 4—Final Class for all students at St. Thomas



**First Holy Communion at Our Parish**

Please keep the following students from our parishes in prayer as they receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion either on Sunday, April 27 at St. Teresa Church or Saturday, May 3 at St. Thomas Church:

Ellie Halfast, Caroline Moon, Connor Swank and Henry Weis

**Pray for Our Confirmation Candidates**

Please keep the following students from our parish in prayer as they continue to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation scheduled for Tuesday, May 6 at St. Francis Xavier Church in McKean:



Eric Adams, Jacob Bridgam, Cole Halfast, Joe Kondrlik,

Lucas Silka, Dallas Triscuit, Mark VanCise, and Sydney Weis.

May they grow in their faith and be strengthened by the Spirit as they continue their journey towards reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Child Abuse Prevention Month:** Throughout the Gospel, Christ calls upon His followers to care for the most vulnerable among us, especially children. **Mandated Reporters** in the Diocese of Erie are people who hold positions of trust in our schools, parishes, agencies, and institutions and are mandated by Pennsylvania law and the diocesan Policy for the Protection of Children to report suspected abuse of a minor. All employees and volunteers working/serving for the Diocese of Erie, in our parishes, schools or agencies are mandated reporters both legally and morally obligated to report any reasonable suspected or known child abuse to ChildLine, the local police, or other appropriate agency. Visit [www.eriecd.org/childprotection/](http://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/) to learn the specific reporting procedures required by the diocese.

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

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

**AVAILABLE NOW!**  
**PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES**

**The Support of Your Business is Greatly Appreciated**

**Tim Weir** from LPI, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the upcoming weeks. It is the support of the business community that helps to make our church thrive. Please consider purchasing a print and/or digital ad as your participation makes our bulletin successful, and you attract customers!

**Church bulletin advertising** is a cost-effective way to advertise 52 times per year and show support for your local community; in turn, parishioners will support you!  
**Digital advertising** allows your business to be front and center to anyone who visits a church profile page on [ParishesOnline.com](http://ParishesOnline.com) — that's approximately 500,000 page views per month!



Tim Weir, LPI Sales Account Exec.  
(716) 602-4588  
[TWeir@4lpi.com](mailto:TWeir@4lpi.com)