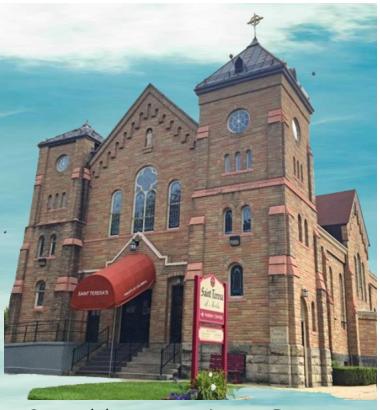


# THE PARISH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE AND ITS MISSION ST. TERESA OF AVILA

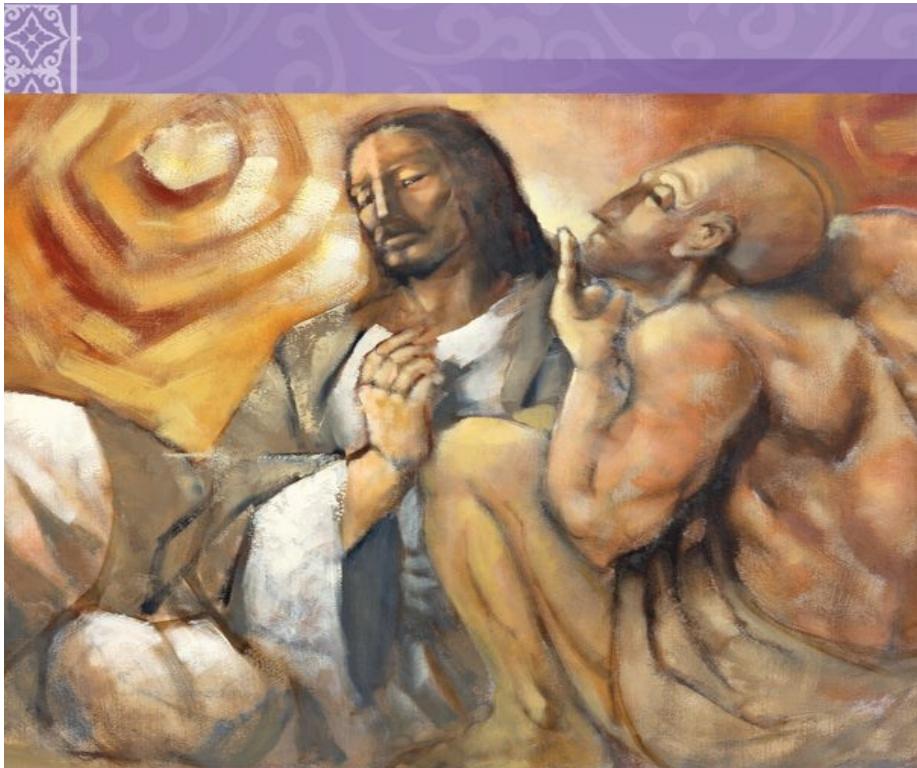


Saint Thomas the Apostle Church  
203 W. Washington Street  
Corry, PA 16407



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

## February 22, 2026



### 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

"The tempter approached and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.' He said in reply, 'It is written: One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'"  
Mt 4: 1-4

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

©DLP

#### 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](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**

**CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL:** Last Sunday was Commitment Sunday for our Catholic Services Appeal. Hopefully, you have received a letter from Bishop Persico inviting you to be a part of this Appeal and a pledge envelope. More pledge envelopes are available in the pews. Be on the lookout for the Faith Magazine that will have more information about this year's Appeal.

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.

**CSA WHICH PARISH?** Someone asked a very good question last weekend about the CSA: How do we know which parish it goes to? We keep track of all contributions to the parish by your name and envelope number. So, all CSA from St. Teresa people goes to St. Teresa and all CSA from St. Thomas people goes to St. Thomas. We have been tracking this since we partnered and have continued it now that we have merged. We keep track of contributions and expenses at each Church so that we can see how much each building costs us and how much each church is contributing to those expenses. The year end report we published in the bulletin a few months ago detailed that for each Church. So, it doesn't matter if you put your CSA envelope in the basket at St. Thomas or St. Teresa, we keep track of where it should go.

**THE WORD AMONG US BOOKLETS:** People seem to like these booklets, and we are continuing to purchase them for people from our parish. These booklets are intended for individual people of our parish. We hope that you continue to find them as a source of prayer and growth in your relationship with God.

**ISSUE:** We usually purchase enough booklets for those who want to use them. Recently, we seem to have someone taking large numbers of these booklets from St. Thomas to use at another location. Hence there are not enough for our parishioners who want them. This person needs to purchase the books for their purpose and not take ours. I might remind this person what you are doing is stealing. If the issue persists, we will find other ways to distribute the booklets to our parishioners.

**PARISH COUNCIL:** So far, I have a few people from St. Thomas who are interviewing for positions on Parish Council and no one from St. Teresa.

*Continued ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡*

**MASS INTENTIONS****Sunday, February 22**

8:00a.m. Special Intentions of the John Wilson Family by Charlie Buckshaw (St. Thomas, Corry)  
11:00a.m. †Bill Flynn by Judy Flynn and family (St. Teresa, Union City)

**Monday, February 23**

8:00a.m. †Priscilla Kozik by John & Marlene Dempsey (St. Teresa, Union City)

**Tuesday, February 24**

8:00a.m. †James Burkhart by Corry Knights of Columbus (St. Thomas, Corry)

**Wednesday, February 25**

8:00a.m. †Lutz and Amoroso Families by Family (St. Thomas, Corry)

**Thursday, February 26**

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

**Friday, February 27**

8:00a.m. †Barb Krol by Pat Krol (St. Teresa, Union City)

**Saturday, February 28**

4:30p.m. †Ronald Tomcho by Shinko and Fifer Families (St. Teresa, Union City)

**Sunday, March 1**

8:00a.m. For the People of the Parish (St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. †Laura Hanlin Chew by Irene Weaver (St. Teresa, Union City)

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.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** I started some reflections on Baptism before Christmas and would like to pick up with a few on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament has undergone some changes over the years. The Sacrament was called **Confession**, then it was called **Penance**, and now it is called **Reconciliation**. Each of those names represents a certain aspect of the sacrament. Confession was about confessing our sins to God and the priest. Penance was focused on the penance we were given by the priest – a prayer, an action, a scripture reading, etc.... We were to do this penance to in a sense, "make up for our sins." Now the sacrament is called Reconciliation. The whole intent of the sacrament is to reconcile us with God and one another. It still involves confessing our sins and doing a penance, but all of that is done in order to reconcile us with God and with one another. The sacrament is about reconciling us to God and to one another, not just about confessing our sins or doing a penance. This was all part of the Second Vatican Council's attempt to take us back to the original intent of the sacrament, to the mindset of Jesus, in order that we might come to experience the sacrament in a more meaningful way.

- 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 February 22<sup>nd</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Carol Groner by George Groner.



Rev. Philip Pinczewski, Rev. Thomas Brooks, Rev. Matias Quinno, Rev. David Renne, *Pray for Consecrated Life*, Rev. Richard Allen, Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, and also please *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese*.

### Knights Snowman Raffle Ticket Winners

The Corry Knight of Columbus held a drawing at their meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> of their annual Snowman Raffle. Winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize of \$100—Seth Moss, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize of \$50—George Groner, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize of \$25—Jim Stec. Proceeds help benefit Knights Council #425 and the good works they do for our parish and community.



BE  
MERCIFUL,  
LORD,  
FOR  
WE HAVE  
SINNED.  
PSALM 51



### 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.



**COAL Tickets (Chance of a Lifetime)** are on sale now from the local 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Council of the Knights of Columbus. You may contact Mike Gluvna (814-664-4416) or stop into the parish office to get your tickets. Donation of \$5 per ticket will

give you a chance to win a prize. Winners will be drawn in May. Proceeds benefit the Knights State Council Charities. Thank you.

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

**Question for Children:** What do you plan to do during Lent this year as a way of showing you want to grow closer to Jesus?

**Question for Youth:** Jesus was tempted by the devil. How are you tempted? What helps you resist these temptations?

**Question for Adults:** When you yourself pause to be alone with God, what distracts and prevents you from dwelling in that? Busyness? The demands of life? TV? The internet?

### Choir Rehearsals at St. Thomas Church

Choir rehearsals for the Lent/Easter season will begin on **Thursday, March 12** and continue to meet weekly on **Thursdays evenings from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at St. Thomas Church until March 26**. 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. If you have any questions, please see Joan Allen or Gary Johnston. Thank you.

### Reminders from the Catholic Daughters

Ladies of the Catholic Daughters will meet on Thursday, Feb. 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.

## 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!!**

### Dessert Donations Needed for Fish Dinners

We are asking parishioners to please support our Fish Dinners by donating desserts. Drop off desserts from noon until 4:00pm at the parish center on the day of our next dinner, Friday, Feb. 27. Thank you.



### 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. Teresa News

Readings for the week of February 22, 2026

Sun.: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 ♦ Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 ♦ Romans 5:12-19 or  
Romans 5:12, 17-19 ♦ Matthew 4:1-11

Mon.: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18 ♦ Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15 ♦ Matthew 25:31-46

Tues.: Isaiah 55:10-11 ♦ Psalm 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 ♦ Matthew 6:7-15

Wed.: Jonah 3:1-10 ♦ Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 ♦ Luke 11:29-32

Thur.: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 ♦ Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 ♦  
Matthew 7:7-12

Fri.: Ezekiel 18:21-28 ♦ Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 ♦ Matthew 5:20-26

Sat.: Deuteronomy 26:16-19 ♦ Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 ♦ Matthew 5:43-48

Next Sun.: Genesis 12:1-4a ♦ Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 ♦ 2 Timothy 1:8b-10  
♦ Matthew 17:1-9

The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Bill Flynn by Judy Flynn.

**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**

In today's gospel, Jesus reminds us that it is not enough to provide only physical nourishment for our children; "one does not live on bread alone." As we approach Lent 2026, let us be "led by the Spirit" to discover new ways to be moral guides for our children.

**Stations  
OF THE CROSS**

All are welcome to journey the Way of the Cross at our parish this Lenten season (Feb. 29-Mar. 27). 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.**

**22:32 MEN** *Strengthen Your Brothers!*

## 2026 CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 7th

8:30 AM - 1:00 PM Event

At St. Jude Parish, Erie, PA and at

local parishes in NW PA and NE Ohio

*All Faiths are Welcome!*

Inspiring NATIONAL SPEAKERS including:

FATHER  
LARRY RICHARDSBE RENEWED  
IN CHRIST!**22:32  
MEN**

"BUT I HAVE PRAYED FOR YOU  
THAT YOUR FAITH MAY NOT FAIL.  
AND WHEN YOU HAVE TURNED BACK,  
STRENGTHEN YOUR BROTHERS."  
LUKE 22:32

FATHER  
MATHIAS THELEN

MATTHEW LEONARD

Our conference will be held live  
at St. Jude Parish in Erie and will  
also be live-streamed out to  
parishes in the Erie Diocese and  
others in surrounding areas.  
Our website has a list of those  
parishes.

[www.2232Men.com](http://www.2232Men.com)  
[info@2232Men.com](mailto:info@2232Men.com)

for more details and to register.

**Can't Join Us for the Men's Conference in Erie?**

We will offer attendance right in Union City via satellite at the Hope House Retreat Center, 61 E. High Street. Father Tom Suppa will join us in Union City to offer Mass and confession during the conference. Please register to strengthen your Catholic faith. Visit [www.2232men.com](http://www.2232men.com) or call 814-455-7364.

**Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Psalm 51

**Behold! A Mother/Daughter Program**

The Office of Virtue & Integrity Education is excited to offer *Behold!* a one-night, Christ-centered program for high school girls and their mothers focused on body literacy, cycle awareness and embracing God-given dignity. It will be held in Erie on Sunday, Feb. 22 at St. Jude the Apostle Parish, 2801 W. 6<sup>th</sup>, Erie from 5:00pm-7:00pm.

The cost is \$10 per student. This program is open to all high school girls and is designed to be attended together with their mother or female guardian. Registration: <https://www.vancoevents.com/us/DOCH>

**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**

2026

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: February 14 &amp; 15, 2026

Total Offertory Income ..... \$7,191.12  
 Average Budgeted Offertory Income.....\$7,700.00  
 Offertory Shortage.....\$(-508.88)

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.



**PRAY FAST GIVE**

## OPERATION RICE BOWL COLLECTION FEBRUARY 18-APRIL 2

**CRS RICE BOWL**



By taking part in this collection, Catholics unite prayer and sacrifice with concrete action—helping neighbors locally and globally.

Live out the call to love and serve those most in need during the Lenten season.

**GIVE TODAY AT YOUR PARISH OR**

[ErieRCD.org/RiceBowl.html](http://ErieRCD.org/RiceBowl.html)

Gifts to the Rice Bowl collection may be made using the special envelope in your offertory packet dated April 2, 2026.



# BREAD

"One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."

MATTHEW 4:4

## 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, Feb. 21—Retreat for First Communion at St. Thomas  
 Sunday, Feb. 22—Classes for students

Saturday, Feb. 28—Retreat for First Reconciliation at St. Thomas  
 Sunday, Mar. 1—Classes for students & Youth Mass at St. Thomas

Sunday, Mar. 8—Classes for students / Youth Confessions

Sunday, Mar. 15—No Classes



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!

### 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.



### **WELCOME**

If you are new to our parish, we extend a warm welcome and hope you will find here a place where your faith will be nourished.

### **PARISH MEMBERSHIP**

New Parishioners are welcome to register by completing the form on the front of the bulletin and returning it to the Offertory Collection or the Parish Office.

### **BAPTISM**

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule a Baptism. We require all first-time parents to attend a Baptism Class prior to having their child baptized. The best time to take this class is before the child is born and before godparents are chosen.

### **MARRIAGE**

Please contact the Parish Office at least ten (10) months in advance to schedule a Wedding.

### **SACRAMENT OF THE SICK**

Please let the Parish Office know of anyone in need of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, or anyone who is unable to get to Mass and would desire weekly Holy Communion to be brought to them.

### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Confessions are offered at the following times/locations: 3:30pm—4:00pm on Saturdays at the church where the anticipatory Mass is celebrated that evening—at St. Thomas Church, Corry or at St. Teresa Church, Union City (depending on the month); and other times by request made to the Parish Office.

*Please be sure to notify the Parish Office of any changes to your address, phone numbers, or email address. Thank you.*