



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 29, 2026



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." - Mt 21:9

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 the Pastor

PALM SUNDAY REFLECTION: Palm Sunday, or sometimes it is referred to as Passion Sunday, invites us to reflect on the Passion of Jesus. We read Matthew's version of the Passion today and John's version on Friday. I would urge you to spend some time reading Matthew's Passion before we get to Friday: Chapters 26 & 27 of Matthew's gospel.

One of the unfortunate things is that we read the entire passion on one day and think that is enough. There is so much here for our reflection. In this reading of the passion it always included the gospel writer's version of the Last Supper. We need to remember that Judas, Peter, and all the disciples shared in this last supper and then betrayed, denied, or ran away in the time of Jesus' need. It invites us to reflect on the fact that our celebration of the Eucharist is not just for those who are perfect, but is in fact a meal intended to give us strength in difficult situations, to face our own faults and weaknesses, to realize our sins can only be forgiven by the loving and mysterious power of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus knew full well what these participants in the Last Supper would do in their weakest moments, but invited them to share in it nonetheless. We need to remember that we are all sinners who come to this table and our greatest need is to be forgiven and healed, may we humbly receive the strength it offers in order to seek that healing we need.

In our reading of the Passion of Jesus we might take a closer look at the individuals we encounter in the story: those who struggle with their weakness and those who are strong. Why was Judas willing to betray Jesus? Why were the chief priests eager to capture him? And why did the disciples desert him in his hour of need? The last question is maybe the easiest to answer. The disciples realized that if the authorities were intent on killing Jesus, they might also kill those who were his disciples or followers. In their fear for their own lives they fled and went into hiding. This same fear prompts Peter's denial. And this fear is not unknown to us. We are often overcome by a fear that seeks protection for ourselves, even when those hurt by our actions are our friends.

Judas, according to some scholars, was named "Iscariot" which suggests he was a member of a dagger-wielding group of assassins known as Sicarii. They were part of a Zealot party that was intent on overthrowing the Romans. Some believe that Judas was trying to hasten what he mistakenly thought was Jesus' political revolution by handing him over to the chief priests. Others propose that Judas was attracted to Jesus' messianic ideas but when he found out that they involved peaceful means, Judas felt betrayed by Jesus. Judas then betrayed Jesus for what Judas felt was a betrayal by Jesus.

The chief priests were the respected religious leaders of the day. They were not happy that this upstart preacher, Jesus, was discerning what God's will was. That was their job. The message Jesus proclaimed threatened their authority and the nation's peaceful relationship with the Romans. For the good of the people and to ensure their own power, Jesus needed to be eliminated.

In all this Jesus remains true to himself, not driven by fear, or power, or political gain. The integrity of Jesus in the midst of all the convoluted relationships and situations he encounters is a model of what it means to be fully human. His example in the midst of the passion story invites us to examine our own integrity. Are we willing to follow a messiah who may not fit our expectations? Are we able to be self-emptying rather than self-fulfilling, obedient rather than willful, open to new insights rather than stubborn adherence to outdated concepts? Are we willing to stand up for the truth regardless of the price it might require of us? Are we really willing to take up our cross and follow him?

SACRAMENTS: Last week I began some reflections on the Eucharist. I continue that reflection with some thoughts on communal prayer.

Prayer is very simply our talking to God and God talking to us. A conversation of sorts between us and God – not a monologue, but a conversation. Speaking to God is just as important as listening to God in

**Sunday, March 29—*Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord***

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)

Monday, March 30

8:00a.m. ✠ Lois O'Connor by Steve & Cheryl Mongera
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Tuesday, March 31

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

Wednesday, April 1

8:00a.m. ✠ Pete Sander by Deacon Randy & Anne Kondrlik
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, April 2—*Mass of the Lord's Supper / Holy Thursday*

7:00p.m. ✠ Wascak, Stolar, and Huffman Families by Darrell
& Carol Huffman
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Friday, April 3—*Good Friday / No Mass Today*

3:00p.m. Service of the Lord's Passion
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Saturday, April 4—*The Great Easter Vigil / Holy Saturday*

8:30p.m. ✠ Deceased Parishioners and Loved Ones
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Sunday, April 5—*The Resurrection of the Lord / Easter Sunday*

8:00a.m. ✠ Deceased Parishioners and Loved Ones
(St. Thomas, Corry)

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

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every other name.



order for it to be a conversation.

We are probably familiar with that conversation in our own private prayer when we pray for our needs. But when we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, our prayer is not private, but communal. We do not simply pray on our own, but we pray together as a community or a family. It means that we say the prayers and responses together, we sing the songs together, and we all do the same gestures together. Because we pray as a community, there is a structure to our prayer, a standard form that we follow, so everyone knows when to respond and how to respond. Since we know the standard form, everyone can participate.

Our celebration of the Eucharist is not private prayer or individual prayer – which can take on all kinds of different forms and styles. The difference between private and communal prayer might be that private prayer is something we do alone, maybe in silence, or speaking out loud to God. Communal prayer is when we pray together, sometimes in silence and at other times out loud, to God. Communal prayer is something that follows a common structure so everyone can participate in it.

Continued on joint page (Pg. 5) ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡

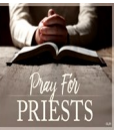
St. Thomas News



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 29th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of deceased parishioners.



Rev. Dennis Martin, Rev. Mark Mastrian,
Rev. Msgr. Joseph Wardanski, Rev. Msgr. Robert
Brugger, Rev. Msgr. Gerald Koos, and also please *Pray*
for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.

Cursillo Retreat for Women

"Cursillo (kur-SEE-yo) literally means "little course" and is an intense three-day spiritual retreat, the purpose of which is a deep personal encounter with Jesus Christ. See www.ericursillo.org for more information. **Women's Cursillo #266 will be on April 17-19, at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Harborcreek.**



DeColores Cursillistas!

In anticipation of the upcoming Women's Cursillo #266 (April 17-19), a Palanca gathering will be held at **St. Thomas in the multipurpose room at 6:00pm on Monday, April 13.** Please join us. *DeColores!*



Food Drive Collection Currently Underway

Knights from Council #425 are currently holding a food drive to benefit the Corry Food Pantry. Parishioners are asked to please donate non-perishable food items for those in need. Place donations in the marked bins at the entrances of St. Thomas Church. Thank you!



Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Flora Catalfu** who passed away from St. Thomas Church.

Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Robert 'RL' McCray** who passed away from St. Thomas Church.

Our prayers & sympathy to the family and friends of **Kathy Brigham** who passed away from St. Thomas Church.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Diocese of Erie
2026 Catholic Services Appeal

**In Christ,
We Are One**

"Look to Christ!...
Listen to his offer of love
and become his one family:
in the one Christ, we are one."

- Pope Leo XIV



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.

"Question of the Week" - Palm Sunday

Question for Children: Share how you sometimes make sacrifices for the good of others.

Question for Youth: Today begins the holiest week of the year. It is a once-a-year opportunity to really reflect on Jesus life, death, and resurrection. How will you enter into this experience? How will you be open to how you might be changed?

Question for Adults: Name one specific way that you live your baptismal call to enter into the death of the Lord by forgiveness, generosity, hospitality, or other ways.

Catholic Daughters Selling Easter Eggs

The Catholic Daughters are selling Chocolate Covered Peanut Butter Eggs again this year. Please look for their table after Mass. Your support of their fundraiser is appreciated. Thank you.

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, 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.



Prayer for Palm Sunday

Blessed be your name, oh Lord my God!
As we enter this week of your Passion and Death,
keep me in lockstep with you.
Help me to be attentive to every word you would have me hear,
every lesson you would have me learn.
I want to journey with you.
Amen.

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LifeCare Ministries Seeking Volunteer Leaders

LifeCares Ministries started a local chapter of American Heritage Girls in Corry. This is similar to scouting. They currently have 41 girls involved and more on a waiting list. They need adults who are able to complete the appropriate clearances and training, and willing to help lead or work with other adults to lead a group. If you are interested contact Kristen Behm, kristen.b.lifecare@gmail.com or call 814-663-9318. More information is on a flyer at the main entrance to the church.

St. Teresa News



HOLY WEEK READINGS—Week of March 29, 2026

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

Mon: Isaiah 42:1-7 ♦ Psalm 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 ♦ John 12:1-11

Tues: Isaiah 49:1-6 ♦ Psalm 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 ♦
John 13:21-33, 36-38

Wed: Isaiah 50:4-9a ♦ Psalm 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 ♦ Matthew 26:14-25

Holy Thursday: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14 ♦ Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18 ♦
1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ♦ John 13:1-15

Good Friday: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 ♦ Psalm 31:2 and 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17 and 25 ♦
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 ♦ John 18:1-19:42

Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil: Genesis 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a ♦ Psalm 104:1-2,
5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 (30) or Psalm 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 (5b) ♦
Genesis 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 ♦ Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)
♦ Exodus 14:15-15:1 ♦ Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b) ♦
Isaiah 54:5-14 ♦ Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a) ♦ Isaiah 55:1-11
♦ Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3) ♦ Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4 ♦
Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (John 6:68c) ♦ Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28 ♦
Psalm 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 (42:2) ♦ Romans 6:3-11 ♦
Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 ♦ Matthew 28:1-10 [Mark 16:1-7]

Easter Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43 ♦ Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24) ♦
Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 ♦ John 20:1-9 or
Matthew 28:1-10 or Luke 24:13-35

Events in our Area

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. 38th 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.

Catholic Charities of Erie Bingo Night

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie will host Bingo Night on Friday, April 10, at the JPTF Events Center, 2319 W. 38th St., Erie. Doors open at 5:30pm, with bingo beginning at 7:00pm. The evening will feature designer purses, electronics and cash prizes, with proceeds benefiting Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie. Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Guests are welcome to bring their own beverages and snacks. For more information, contact Crystal Dunkerton at 814-824-1260 or cdunkerton@ccincerie.org.

St. Mark Seminary Annual Card Party

The St. Mark Seminary Auxiliary will hold its annual Card Party on Thursday, April 30 at 6:00pm in the St. Mark's Gym at 429 East Grandview Blvd, Erie. Doors will open at 5:00pm. Admission is \$15. A light meal will be served. Evening includes grand prizes, a gift auction, money tree and more. This is our only fundraising event to support our seminarians. For reservations, please text or call Erin at 814-440-5885 by Friday, April 17.

PALM SUNDAY

"BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD."

PSALM 118:26



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of March 29th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Scott King by Larry, Kim, and family.

HELP

WANTED

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.

Join Us for Holy Week March 29—April 3



Family Perspective

The cruel death of Jesus shows us that bad things can and do happen to very good people. It also reassures us that God is present during our suffering. While bad things happen, God never abandons us.



St. Teresa Rosary Altar Society Meeting

Ladies are reminded of our Meeting on Monday, April 13 at 4:00pm in St. Teresa Parish Center. *Hope to see you there.*

Say Yes!

to the Eleventh Annual

1:38 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026

PLACE: ST. JUDE PARISH, 2801 West 6th Street, Erie

TIME: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Registration and Refreshments: 8:00 - 8:30 AM

Cost: \$25

College and High School students & Religious - FREE!

Conference includes: Two talks, Adoration, Confession, Mass, Basket Raffle & Book/Media Sales

SPEAKERS: Jeff Joaquin with his message of Mercy and Paula Umana with her message of Hope

ATTENDANCE: Live in-person, Live-streamed to a satellite parish or your home



JEFF JOAQUIN



PAULA UMANA

MORE INFO

www.138women.com or 814-455-7364

ALL FAITHS WELCOME!



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: March 21 & 22, 2026

Total Offertory Income \$5,625.56
 Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage.....\$(-2,074.44)

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!

Blessing of Easter Foods

Our parish will hold the traditional blessing of Easter foods at both St. Thomas and St. Teresa churches on Holy Saturday, April 4, at noon. All are welcome to come with a basket of some of the foods you plan to share at your Easter meal.

**No Public Recitation of The Rosary on Holy Saturday**

We will **NOT** be gathering in St. Thomas Church on Saturday, April 4 to publicly pray The Rosary. Please pray personally at home.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Between Palm Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday, parishioners in the Diocese of Erie are asked to give generously to the Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land.

This collection is a most important source of support for Christians in the Holy Land. Christians continue to be impacted especially hard with the war between Hamas and Israel as well as the instability caused by events in Lebanon and Syria. The money collected helps the Franciscans and others to minister in parishes, provide Catholic education, and aid the Catholic community with housing, food, health care and employment.

Christians in the Holy Land have great need of your prayers and financial help. The wars, unrest, and instability there have been especially hard on them. Please take this opportunity to reach out to those Christians who suffer persecution and hardship in the very land where Jesus lived.

I wish you and yours a blessed and joyful celebration of the Easter Triduum.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Lawrence T. Persico

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

*** You may place your donations in the special envelope with the red boarder marked 'Holy Land' which is dated for Good Friday, April 3 in our offertory packet. Baskets will be available for donations on Good Friday. Thank you.**

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, 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

**Holy Thursday, April 2**

◆ 7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Teresa Church

◆ Adoration/Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00pm

Good Friday, April 3

◆ 3:00pm Service of the Lord's Passion at St. Thomas Church

Holy Saturday, April 4

◆ 12:00pm noon Blessing of the Easter Foods at both churches

◆ 8:30pm The Easter Vigil Mass at St. Teresa Church

Easter Sunday, April 5

◆ 8:00am Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at St. Thomas

◆ 11:00am Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at St. Teresa

**(Pastor's Column / continued from Page 2)**

That means we all sing the songs together and we all say the prayers and responses together, because it is communal prayer and not private prayer. And this communal prayer asks all of us to participate in the prayer.

There are also different types of private or communal prayer:

Intercession: Petitions – Praying for our needs or the needs of others. Asking God for something.

Thanksgiving: We thank God for answering our prayer, or for something God is doing, or has done in the past. After communion, we pray a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the gift of the Eucharist we have just received. The Eucharistic Prayer is in part, a thanksgiving for the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross and a making present of that sacrifice again on the altar for us now.

Adoration (Praise): The Gloria, or the Holy, Holy, Holy are prayers of praise to God

Contrition: We ask God to forgive us for our sins (the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass).

– Fr. Tom