

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

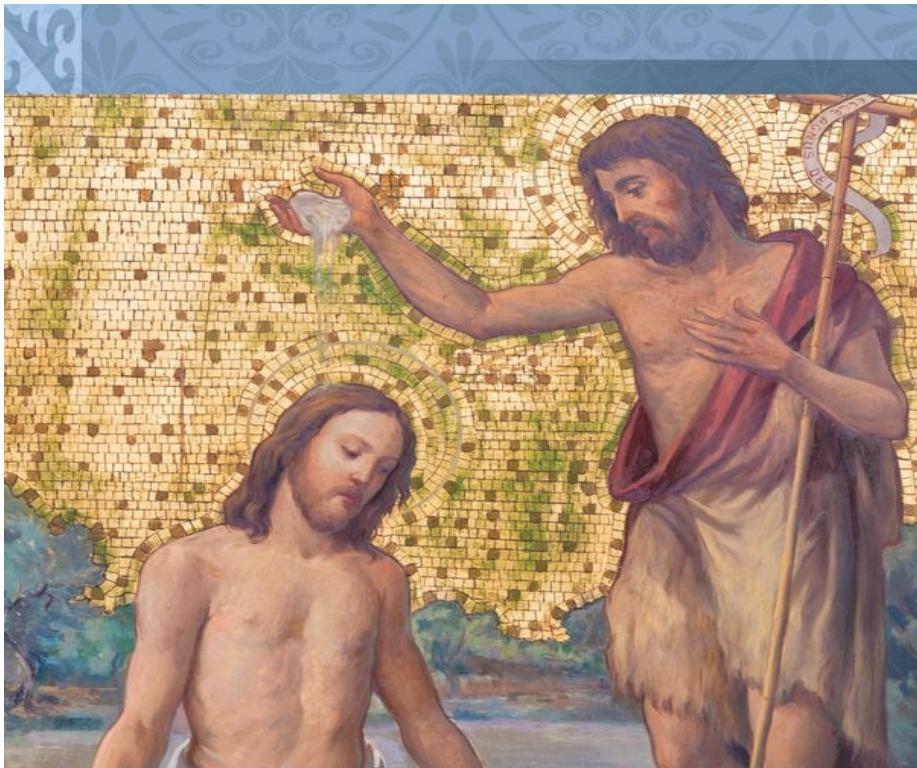


Saint Thomas the Apostle Church  
203 W. Washington Street  
Corry, PA 16407



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

## January 11, 2026



## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

"Behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him." Mt 3:16

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

### 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**

**UN - DECORATING FROM CHRISTMAS AT BOTH CHURCHES:** We will be taking down the decorations from Christmas on the following dates: All are welcome to help!

- St. Teresa: Sunday, January 11 at Noon
- St. Thomas: Monday, January 12 at 9:00am

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS THANK YOU LETTER:** Many of you were so generous as to participate in our giving tree at St. Teresa to support families connected to Safe Journey in Union City. We received a very nice thank you letter from them and I have posted it in the back of the church. Part of the letter reads: "Many of the individuals and families we support have experienced fear, isolation, and hardship. Because of you, parents were able to watch their children open gifts with joy, and families felt a sense of warmth and dignity during a season that can be especially difficult. Several shared how grateful they were and how hard it was to believe that people they may never meet cared enough to think of them and support them during this time."

The full letter is posted in the back of the church and is worth reading to know how much your kindness and generosity was appreciated.

**HEALTH UPDATE:** Two years ago, I announced that I would be greeting people at the doors before and after Mass, but that I would NOT be shaking people's hands. I did this because I am immune suppressed and didn't want to take unnecessary risks and not pass those on to others. Most people have been very gracious in cooperating with my request to NOT shake hands (fist bump or anything else). I ask for your continued diligence with that as cold and flu season is in full swing.

As some of you may know, I have been experiencing some health issues since August. After months of tests and doctor appointments, I am having surgery to resolve my issues. My surgery will be early in February and will entail some "down time" on my part including not being able to drive for two weeks. I will be able to walk to Mass at St. Teresa but will not be able to drive to St. Thomas for those two weeks. Father Leo Gallina and Fr. Tom Suppa will cover the weekend Masses for me on those two weekends.

**LITTLE BLACK BOOKS:** I have placed a few copies of what are called "little black books" for Lent in the back of both Churches. Please feel free to take these and use them for Lent. Please let me know if you think these are worth investing in for the future. We are giving the Religious Education Students a little purple book for Lent and have given our First Eucharist Students little books on the Eucharist.

Where do these come from? Many years ago, Bishop Ken Untener, from Saginaw, Michigan started these "little books" in his diocese. Bishop Untener was an amazing individual in many ways before his death in 2004. He gave a retreat to some of the priests of the diocese of Erie that I was privileged to be a part of. Some people from the Saginaw Diocese have continued his work with these "little books."

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** When a parishioner is in the hospital, please call the parish office (814-663-3041) to let us know so someone can visit them and provide them with communion and/or the anointing of the sick. The same is true if someone is in the nursing home – particularly the Corry Manor. I visit the Manor each month to anoint the Catholic residents and one of our Eucharistic Ministers takes communion there each month as well.

**Sunday, January 11—*Baptism of the Lord***

8:00a.m. †Peggy Kubich by Aggie Volk  
(St. Thomas, Corry)  
11:00a.m. †Ed Weaver by Irene Weaver & family  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Monday, January 12**

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

**Tuesday, January 13**

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

**Wednesday, January 14**

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

**Thursday, January 15**

No Mass or Services at either Sts. Thomas or Teresa today.

**Friday, January 16**

8:00a.m. †Diana Hanlin Strefeler by her daughter,  
Becky Boleratz  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Saturday, January 17**

4:30p.m. Special intentions of Tracy Blair by Barbar & Gil Wascak (St. Thomas, Corry)

**Sunday, January 18**

8:00a.m. For the People of the Parish  
(St. Thomas, Corry)  
11:00a.m. †Ronald Tomcho by Shinko and Fifer Families  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**"A Prayer of Hope"**

"Heavenly Father, in the sacrament of Baptism,

you have given us the gift of new life.  
Through your son our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you have made us your own.

Help us to recognize the gift of human life  
as a sign of hope in our world.  
Reveal to us the places where your precious gift of life

is most in need of protection  
and strengthen us to defend life  
in all stages and circumstances,  
from the child in the womb to the elderly and dying.

Guided by your Holy Spirit,  
guard us from discouragement and give us the grace  
to be messengers of hope, filled with confidence that  
nothing can separate us from your love."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities



In case of someone needing to be anointed you can call the parish office (814-663-3041) or the number at the rectory at St. Teresa is 814-438-6048. Remember that I live at St. Teresa but am in the office at St. Thomas part of the week. Don't be afraid to leave messages at both places for me. It is hard to be in two places at one time.

- Fr. Tom

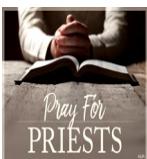
# St. Thomas News



**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 January 11<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Nancy Brigham.



Rev. Michael Kesicki, Rev. Matthew Kujawinski, Rev. Nicholas Fratus, Rev. G. William Fischer, O.S.F.S., Rev. Paul Siebert, Rev. Howard King, Rev. Walter Packard, and also please *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

## ***Snowman Raffle Tickets for Sale***

If interested, tickets are for sale at the parish office (see Sue) or contact a Corry Knight. Drawing will be at the Knight's February meeting on Tuesday, February 10. Need not be present to win. Proceeds help benefit Knights Council #425 and the good works they do for our parish and community.



**SNOWMAN RAFFLE**  
1st PRIZE - \$100.00 CASH  
2nd PRIZE - \$50.00 CASH  
3rd PRIZE - \$25.00 CASH  
Drawing at Knights of Columbus "February Meeting"  
Donation: \$1.00



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

## ***St. Stan's Goulash Lunch TODAY***

On Sunday, Jan. 11, St. Stanislaus Parish, 516 E. 13<sup>th</sup> St., Erie, will be hosting a Polish goulash lunch. This will be held in the parish hall, from noon-3:00pm. The cost is \$10 and includes goulash, salad and bread. Eat in or dine out. All are welcome to join us!

## **SAVE-THE-DATES**

Men's Conference on Saturday, March 7, 2026  
Women's Conference on Saturday, April 18, 2026



**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.



## ***Knights of Columbus Meeting***

Members of Knights of Columbus, Council #425 will meet on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> in the St. Elizabeth Parish Center at 6:30pm. *We hope to see you there.*



## ***Basketball Free-Throw Competition for Youth***

Four Knights of Columbus Councils from Corry, North East, Harborcreek and St. George's in Erie are sponsoring a Free-Throw Competition for youth ages 9-14, both boys and girls, on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at St. Gregory School, 140 W. Main St., North East, PA. Registration is at 9:00am and the competition begins at 10:00am on January 17. All are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please call David Spacht at 814-464-4477.



## ***"Question of the Week" - The Baptism of the Lord***

**Question for Children:** What does God want you to do? To forgive? Be generous? To love?

**Question for Youth:** As you grow, how do you know what God wants you to do? How do you hear the voice of God saying, "you are one of mine, of my chosen?"

**Question for Adults:** Today's readings lead to a core question: As you follow God and do what he wants, how do you experience his loving words: "You are my own. My favor is upon you."

## ***Coffee and Donuts NEXT SUNDAY—January 18<sup>th</sup>***

Coffee and Donuts will be served in the multipurpose room at St. Thomas following Sunday's 8:00am Mass on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of the donuts. All are welcome to join us for a time of fellowship.



## ***Cemetery Gravestone Cleaning Project***

Gravestone cleaning is offered on a limited scale for ST. THOMAS & ST. ELIZABETH CEMETERIES ONLY. Rates range from \$50-\$150, but because each stone is unique, pricing may vary. We are taking orders for those who are interested. Cleaning will begin again in the spring.



## St. Teresa News

### Rosary Altar Society—Epiphany Lunch & Meeting TODAY

Members of the Rosary Altar Society are reminded that we will meet for our Epiphany tureen lunch and meeting on Sunday, January 11 at 1:00pm in the St. Teresa Parish Center. All members are encouraged to attend. We also wish to extend the invitation to the ladies of the St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society. You are asked to bring a dish to share with the group, an exchange gift, and a donation for the food bank. We hope you will join us.

### Readings for the week of January 11, 2026

Sun.: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 ♦ Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 ♦ Acts 10:34-38 ♦  
Matthew 3:13-17  
Mon.: 1 Samuel 1:1-8 ♦ Psalm 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19 ♦ Mark 1:14-20  
Tues.: 1 Samuel 1:9-20 ♦ 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd ♦ Mark 1:21-28  
Wed.: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20 ♦ Psalm 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 ♦  
Mark 1:29-39  
Thur.: 1 Samuel 4:1-11 ♦ Psalm 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 ♦ Mark 1:40-45  
Fri.: 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a ♦ Psalm 89:16-17, 18-19 ♦ Mark 2:1-12  
Sat.: 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a ♦ Psalm 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 ♦ Mark 2:13-17  
Next Sun.: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 ♦ Psalm 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 ♦  
1 Corinthians 1:1-3 ♦ John 1:29-34

### HELP SPREAD THE FAITH COMMUNICATIONS COLLECTION JANUARY 25, 2026



#### STRENGTHENING FAITH THROUGH THOUGHTFUL CATHOLIC MEDIA

Supporting *Faith* magazine & Catholic Communications in sharing the Gospel, uplifting voices and engaging the faithful.

#### Our Mission

##### Evangelization Tools

Across 13 counties, we share meaningful stories, clear teaching and welcoming outreach.

**Faith magazine:** Mailed to every parishioner sharing stories of hope and Catholic life in our region.

##### Catholic Communications:

All diocesan news, online content, videos and digital evangelization.

##### Two Ways to Give

Use your offertory envelope or your parish's online giving platform **OR** make a gift online using the website or QR code below.

Together, we can ensure the Good News continues to reach every corner of our diocese.

**MORE INFO** [ErieRCD.org/News/Communications.html](http://ErieRCD.org/News/Communications.html)

#### My Story

"Having the opportunity to share my story, with the support of the Diocese of Erie's Communications Office, has enabled me to help spread the Gospel and guide others toward Christ."



SADIE PITUCH

National Catholic Youth Conference  
Indianapolis, IN - November 2025

**192K**  
Diocesan Catholics  
8,500+ Social media  
followers

**40K**  
Magazines mailed  
quarterly



**It's true that we don't know what this new year will hold.**

**But it's equally true that we know the One  
who holds the new year in His hands.**

**PRAY: "Jesus—I trust you completely."**

The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of January 11<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Sandy King by Larry, Kim, and family.

### Family Perspective

The words in today's gospel, "This is my beloved, with whom I am well pleased," are words every child needs to hear often. Affirmation is crucial for raising happy and confident children.

EXPLORE THE  
INTERNATIONAL THOMAS  
MERTON SOCIETY



# THOMAS MERTON BIOPICT

#### WHAT TO EXPECT

- WATCH THE BIO-PIC
- HAPPY HOUR
- DISCUSS THE WORK OF INTERNATIONAL THOMAS MERTON SOCIETY

OUR LADY OF MERCY  
837 BARTLETT RD.  
HARBORCREEK

3:00 PM  
24 JANUARY

RSVP TO AARON AT [AKERR@ERIERCD.ORG](mailto:AKERR@ERIERCD.ORG)

MORE INFORMATION AT [WWW.REALLYGREATSITE.COM](http://WWW.REALLYGREATSITE.COM) [HELLO@REALLYGREATSITE.COM](mailto:HELLO@REALLYGREATSITE.COM)

### 48TH ANNUAL PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST

January 17, 2026 ♦ 9 A.M.

Bayfront Convention Center  
Erie, Pennsylvania



**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER  
LYDIA TAYLOR DAVIS**

**National Spokesperson  
and Social Media Producer,  
Students for Life of America**

**See you at the Breakfast!**

**Regular Reservations...\$30**

**Ages 3-12...\$22 ♦ Under 3...Free**

**Reservations due by January 11.**

**Early reservations appreciated.**

Reservations are required. Mail name(s), address, and phone number with a check payable to "People for Life." Call or visit our website to use a credit or debit card.

**FREE CHILDCARE WITH FUN ACTIVITIES**

#### PEOPLE FOR LIFE

1625 W. 26th Street  
Erie, PA 16508

(814) 882-1333 ♦ (814) 459-1333  
office@peopleforlife.org

[PeopleforLife.org/january2026](http://PeopleforLife.org/january2026)

[Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast](http://Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast)

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:** December 24 & 25, 2025

**Christmas Offertory Income** ..... \$7,428.00

This is the total collection from ALL Christmas Masses held this year at St. Thomas and St. Teresa. Thank you for your generosity to our parish.

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!*

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:** December 27 & 28, 2025

**Total Offertory Income** ..... \$5,345.00

**Average Budgeted Offertory Income** ..... \$7,700.00

**Offertory Shortage** ..... \$(-2,355.00)

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:** January 3 & 4, 2026

**Total Offertory Income** ..... \$7,825.00

**Average Budgeted Offertory Income** ..... \$7,700.00

**Offertory Overage** ..... \$125.00

Holy Day - Solemnity of Mary (Dec. 31/Jan. 1) ..... \$1,177.00

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

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

## MARCH FOR LIFE WASHINGTON, DC JANUARY 23, 2026 “LIFE IS A GIFT”

### ANNUAL BUS TRIP

Leave Erie on Thursday evening, January 22, 11 p.m.  
March in Washington, DC on Friday, January 23  
Return Saturday morning, January 24 about 1:30 a.m.

- ✓ \$70 / seat
- ✓ Sign up while seats are still available!
- ✓ Inquire about sponsorship.
- ✓ [peopleforlife.org/january2026](http://peopleforlife.org/january2026)
- ✓ [facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip](http://facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip)
- ✓ Call or e-mail with questions.
- ✓ Sponsorship donations welcome

**PEOPLE FOR LIFE**

1625 W. 26th St., Erie, PA 16508  
(814) 882-1333 • (814) 459-1333  
hq@peopleforlife.org

[www.PeopleforLife.org](http://www.PeopleforLife.org)

### Religious Education News

\*Classes resumed on Sunday, January 4, 2026.

Please note that ALL classes will meet in Corry at St. Thomas (in the former school building) meeting at 9:00am for the rest of this year.



We are grateful for the opportunity to teach our faith to future generations.

#### Calendar Reminders for Religious Education

Sunday, Jan. 11—Classes for ALL students at St. Thomas

Sunday, Jan. 18—No Classes

Sunday, Jan. 25—Classes for ALL students at St. Thomas

Sunday, Feb. 1—Classes for ALL students at St. Thomas

#### Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month. In 2024, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children received over 27,800 reports of possible child sex trafficking. The average age of child sex trafficking victims is 15 years old. Child sex trafficking is child abuse. It occurs when a minor is advertised, solicited, or exploited through a commercial sex act—where sex is exchanged for money, food, shelter, drugs, or anything of value. Traffickers can be family members (even parents), friends, gangs, foster parents, trusted adults or boyfriends. Talk openly with your child about this reality and build resiliency. Address myths that glamorize the commercial sex industry. Warn about online risks: social media and gaming platforms are used by traffickers to target, groom, and recruit victims. Prepare your child: at some point they will likely encounter inappropriate messages or harmful content online. Teach them how to respond safely. Report suspected child sex trafficking by calling 1-800-843-5678 or visit CyberTipLine.org. For additional resources visit [www.enercd.org/childprotection/](http://www.enercd.org/childprotection/)

**Have you paid in full your pledge to the 2025 CSA?**

If not, please try to do so by the end of January.  
Thanks to all who supported our parish with a CSA pledge.

#### 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.*