



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 8, 2026



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." - Jn 4:10

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

PENANCE SERVICE ON SUNDAY MARCH 8: Just a reminder that our Lenten Penance Service is (today) Sunday, March 8, at 1:30pm at St. Teresa. There will be several priests to hear confessions after our brief Communal Penance Celebration.

HOLY WEEK SIGN UPS AND DECORATING: Sign up sheets are available at both churches for volunteers to have their feet washed on Holy Thursday and for adoration after the Mass of the Lord's Supper until 10pm (Holy Thursday will be at St. Teresa).

We will be decorating both churches on Good Friday. At St. Thomas we will decorate after the Good Friday Service around 4:15pm. We will decorate at St. Teresa at 7:00pm on Good Friday. Everyone is invited to help.

SUGGESTION: I know there are people who have difficulty walking and that makes it difficult to come up for communion in the communion procession lines. In other parishes where I have been we kept the very front rows open for people who had difficulty coming forward for communion and the priest, deacon, or eucharistic minister would go there first to give them communion (and those with them) and then proceed to the regular communion stations. It might be a safer way to make sure everyone gets communion who would like to receive it.

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL: We are in the process of taking pledges for our Catholic Services Appeal. So far, we have received **114** pledges for **\$74,410**. Pledge envelopes are available in the pews.

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 CHURCH? Someone asked a very good question last weekend about the CSA and how do we know which Church it goes to? We keep track of all contributions to the Church 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

**Sunday, March 8**

8:00a.m. †Steven Mennen by Pamela Mennen and family
(St. Thomas, Corry)

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

Monday, March 9

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

Tuesday, March 10

8:00a.m. Special Intentions of Jake Eberhardt by
Charlie Buckshaw
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Wednesday, March 11

8:00a.m. †Ronald Triscuit by David & Marie Mitchell
(St. Thomas, Corry)

Thursday, March 12

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

Friday, March 13

8:00a.m. †Shirley & Paul Flynn by Judy Flynn
(St. Teresa, Union City)

Saturday, March 14

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

Sunday, March 15

8:00a.m. †Janet Mitchell by Don Mitchell
(St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. †Steven Paul Mongera by Steve & Cheryl
Mongera (St. Teresa, Union City)

THANK YOU to all of our bulletin sponsors!

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

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.

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.

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 would like to reflect this week on the "Value of Confession (Reconciliation) by quoting some passages from Msgr. Joseph Champlin's booklet, "Meeting the Merciful Christ: How to Go to Confession." Msgr. Champlin says, "A Contemporary

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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 8th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Carol Groner by Pam Mennen.



Very Rev. Scott Jabo, VF, Rev. Michael DeMartinis, Rev. Joseph Petrone, Rev. James McCormick, Rev. Kevin Holland, Pray for Vocations, Rev. William O'Brien, and also please Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.



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.

Knights of Columbus Meeting THIS WEEK

Members of Knights Council #425 will meet on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30pm in the St. Elizabeth Parish Center, Corry. We hope you will join us.



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!!

"Question of the Week" - Third Sunday of Lent

Question for Children: How do you experience Jesus helping and loving you?

Question for Youth: Jesus revealed himself to an outcast of society. How can you be "living water" to the outcasts of your school? Society? The world?

Question for Adults: When you are tempted to try to satisfy your "thirst for meaning" through some other means, what keeps you coming back to the living water of intimacy with Christ? Through what means do you experience Christ's power in your life: Sacraments? Scripture? Prayer? Others?

St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society Meeting

Ladies of the Altar Rosary will meet on Wed., March 18 at 6:00pm in the multipurpose room at St. Thomas. All members are encouraged to attend our first meeting of 2026. We hope to see you there.



Father Brandon Feikles
 FEBRUARY 24



Father Luke Daghir
 MARCH 3



Father Michael Seanga
 MARCH 10



Father Joe Petrone
 MARCH 17



Father Ben Daghir
 MARCH 24



Holy Thursday
 6:00PM SOUP, BREAD, & DESSERT
 7:30PM HOLY THURSDAY MASS
 APRIL 2

OUR SPEAKERS WILL BE SHARING THEIR VOCATION STORIES, REFLECTING ON HOW THEY SERVE & SUPPORT THE LAY FAITHFUL, ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH TODAY, & SHARING THEIR VISIONS OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE!

Cursillo Retreats for Men & 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. Those who experience the Cursillo Movement know it is more than just three days of religious instruction. It's an effort to change the spiritual environment, to bring Jesus Christ into the world." See www.ericursillo.org for more info or ask a friend, you'd be surprised how many people are part of the Cursillo community. Register online at <https://ericursillo.org> or contact Mike & Sue Gluvna. The upcoming retreats are both in Harborcreek:

- Men's Cursillo #257, March 20-22, at Our Lady of Mercy Church
- Women's Cursillo #266, April 17-19, at Our Lady of Mercy Church



St. Teresa News

Readings for the week of March 8, 2026

Sun.: Exodus 17:3-7 ♦ Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 ♦ Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 ♦ John 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
 Mon.: 2 Kings 5:1-15ab ♦ Psalm 42:2, 3; 42:3, 4 ♦ Luke 4:24-30
 Tues.: Daniel 3:25, 34-43 ♦ Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 ♦ Matthew 18:21-35
 Wed.: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9 ♦ Psalm 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 ♦ Matthew 5:17-19
 Thur.: Jeremiah 7:23-28 ♦ Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 ♦ Luke 11:14-23
 Fri.: Hosea 14:2-10 ♦ Psalm 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 ♦ Mark 12:28-34
 Sat.: Hosea 6:1-6 ♦ Psalm 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab ♦ Luke 18:9-14
 Next Sun.: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a ♦ Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 ♦ Ephesians 5:8-14 ♦ John 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of March 8th burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Larry King by Kim and family.

Family Perspective

Our children are like the Samaritan woman in today's gospel. They need more than just material things; they need the 'living water' that only good role models can provide. This "living water" will teach them how to make decisions, take responsibility, respect themselves and others, and honor their commitments. With this, they will "never thirst."

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.



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.



'I really only love God as much as I love the person I love the least.' - Dorothy Day

Pray for them! —ask God to help you love them, or at least to help you understand them a little better. Love God by showing love to His people.

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

Catholic Sisters Week — March 8-14, 2026

The Diocese of Erie invites the faithful to celebrate Catholic Sisters Week, honoring the women religious whose lives of prayer, service and ministry have shaped our church and communities for generations.

Join us in giving thanks for the Sisters who continue to serve across Northwestern Pennsylvania — in education, healthcare, parish life and outreach to those most in need.

Learn more and celebrate with us online:
www.ErieRCD.org/CSW.html



PRAYER FOR CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of Catholic Sisters who have dedicated their lives to prayer, service and love.

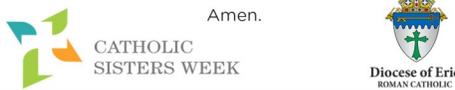
Bless the women religious who serve our Diocese today. Strengthen them in their vocation, renew them in hope and sustain them in your peace.

We remember with gratitude those who have gone before us, whose faith and sacrifice continue to shape our church.

May their witness inspire new generations to follow you with generous hearts.

Through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, and all women saints who have gone before us, we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



PRAYER for a NEW BISHOP

O Almighty God,
 Pour forth the Holy Spirit upon the Holy Father and those who assist him in the discernment of our new bishop. May the one chosen have the strength to be a compassionate leader, who models humility and joy. Grant him the wisdom of Solomon, the courage of the apostles, and the tenderness of your Son, the Good Shepherd.

We also pray for the Diocese of Erie that he is called to serve. may we welcome him with open hearts and work with him in a spirit of synodality, called to listen, collaborate, and build unity.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, St. Joseph, the protector of the Church, and St. Patrick, the patron of our diocese, may we journey the path of life with an unwavering focus on the hope we have in Christ.

For he lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: February 28 & March 1, 2026

Total Offertory Income \$7,428.00
 Average Budgeted Offertory Income \$7,700.00
Offertory Shortage.....\$(-272.00)

Please write checks to St. Thomas Church.

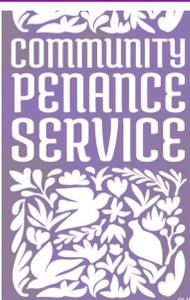
If checks are to go to our parish cemeteries—please make them to either St. Thomas Cemetery, St. Elizabeth Cemetery, or St. Teresa Cemetery. Thank you.



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!



Date: Sunday, March 8, 2026

Time: 1:30pm (until all are finished)

Location: St. Teresa Church

Several priest will be available to hear individual confessions.

Come to experience God's forgiveness, mercy, and healing.



**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.**

Diocese of Erie
2026 CSA Prayer
Theme: "In Christ, We Are One"

God of unity and peace,
Through Christ your Son,
you call us to encounter your mercy in the sacraments,
to live your compassion in our lives,
and to share your Good News as one family.

Through the power of your Spirit,
help us to live as Christ each day—
to see as he sees,
to love as he loves,
to serve as he serves—
That our witness will proclaim:
"In Christ, we are one."

For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever.

Amen



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

Sunday, Mar. 8—Classes for students / Confession

Sunday, Mar. 15—No Classes

Saturday, Mar. 21—First Communion at St. Thomas Church

Sunday, Mar. 22—No Classes / First Communion at St. Teresa

Sunday, Mar. 29—Classes for students

Sunday, April 5—No Classes / Happy Easter—*Jesus is Risen!*

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Cyberbullying—The widespread use of mobile devices causes more children to be susceptible to cyberbullying. Cyberbullying can take many forms, including cruel messages via text or social media, the distribution of photoshopped pictures designed to mock an individual, forwarding "private" photos or videos, and pretending to be someone else on a social media site. Victims of cyber bullying often suffer from depression, isolation, and can even become suicidal. Parents can educate themselves on the signs that a child is being cyberbullied or is a bully by visiting: www.StopBullying.gov/cyberbullying/ For more resources visit www.eriecd.org/childprotection/

(Pastor's Column / continued from Page 2)

psychoanalyst, although not a member of the Catholic Church, maintains that the Catholic Church has more adequate means for dealing with a sense of guilt than other religions and institutions. Here are some additional reasons why confessing our sins to a priest even lesser or venial ones, has such great spiritual and healing value.

- We can unburden ourselves to another person. An interested listener always lifts us up in troublesome situations. Many people today do not hesitate to pay a significant amount of money for a professional therapist to hear their stories. In confession, however, the priest charges no fee, has, through wide experience, deep insights into human guilt, and is bound to the strictest confidentiality by the absolute "**seal of confession**."

- We hear the priest promise with authority and in an audible voice God's forgiveness of sins. We walk away knowing with certitude that our sins have been removed and often even feeling the guilt dissolved.

- We receive the special graces of the sacrament of reconciliation, graces which heal wounds caused by our sins, guide our future steps and strengthen our efforts to improve. Moreover, the presence of the risen Christ within us grows through the reception of the sacrament."

The Seal of Confession, also known as the Sacramental Seal, is the obligation of priests to keep secret all sins disclosed to them during confession. This principle is rooted in the belief that the confessional is a sacred space where penitents can seek forgiveness without fear of judgment or exposure. The seal is considered inviolable, meaning that priests cannot disclose any information learned during confession, regardless of the circumstances.

There have been some countries, and even some of our States, which have tried to do away with this seal of confession. The Church has long held its importance to allow people a safe, non-judgmental place to have their sins forgiven.

- Fr. Tom