

Church of

Saint Thomas the Apostle



35 Adams Place, Delmar, New York 12054

Phone: 439-4951 • Fax: 439-0108

E-mail: office@stthomas-church.org

Website: www.stthomas-church.org

Rev. David V. Berberian J.C.L., Pastor
dberberian@stthomas-church.org

Rev. Richard Leskovar, Weekend Assistant

Rev. James D. Daley, Pastor Emeritus

PARISH OFFICE: 439-4951 Fax: 439-0108

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Patricia Holm, Pastoral Associate, Administration
pholm@stthomas-church.org

Barbara Ruggirello, Bookkeeper

Paul Edmundson, Office Assistant
pedmundson@stthomas-church.org

Peter Bukowski, Facilities Manager
pbukowski@stthomas-church.org

Maura Barrett, LMSW, Pastoral Care Associate
mbarrett@stthomas-church.org

Avery Tunningley, Parish Music Director
tunnac@aol.com

Nelly Brown Bunk, Choir Director
nellybrownbunk@gmail.com

Konstantin Tsykun, Contemporary Music Director

Dianne McMullen, Organist

FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Closed Friday.

Patti Staerker, Elementary Coordinator
pstaerker@stthomas-church.org

Elizabeth Kerins, MS and HS Coordinator
ekerins@stthomas-church.org

Mary Ann Hospodar, Assistant MS and HS Coordinator
mhospodar@stthomas-church.org

Colleen Harrigan, Secretary
charrigan@stthomas-church.org

PARISH TRUSTEES: Carmel Foltan and Adele Nucci

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL: 439-5573 Fax: 478-9773

www.stthomas-school.org
info@stthomas-school.org

Thomas Kane, School Principal
tkane@stthomas-school.org

Jennifer Murphy, Associate for Enrollment and Development
jmurphy@stthomas-school.org

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m., Sunday Mass: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Weekdays: Mon. and Fri. at 12:15 p.m., Tues. and Wed. at 7:30 a.m.
Eucharistic Adoration: First Friday, following 12:15 p.m. Mass, until
Benediction at 2:45 p.m.

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 4:00 p.m. in the Daily Mass Chapel or anytime by
appointment.

BAPTISM: Baptism of infants is usually celebrated on the 3rd and
4th Sundays of the month. Contact the Parish Office for
arrangements. Preparation sessions for parents presenting infants
for Baptism are held monthly.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS: Contact the Parish Office
for information.

MATRIMONY: Arrangements for marriage should be made at least 6
to 8 months in advance and before scheduling a reception. Contact
the Parish Office for information.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Celebrated on the first Monday of the
month after the 12:15 p.m. Mass or by request.

CARE OF THE SICK: The Pastoral Care Team responds to the
needs of homebound or hospitalized parishioners. Please call to
make us aware of persons who would like a visit or home
Communion. Contact: Maura Barrett.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please register in the parish by calling the
office weekdays to set up an appointment .

Please remember our parish in your will. We are:
"St. Thomas' Church of Delmar, N.Y."

PARISHES OF OUR LOCAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Altamont

St. Lucy/St. Bernadette Church: 861-8770, Sat: 5:00 pm / Sun: 9:30 am

Voorheesville

St. Matthew's Church: 765-2805, Sat: 5:00 pm / Sun: 8:30 & 10:30 am

Westmere

Christ the King Church: 456-1644, Sat: 4:00 pm / Sun: 8:00 & 10:00 am,
12:00 noon

CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE, DELMAR, NY

Saturday-Sunday, December 16 - 17, 2017, Third Sunday of Advent

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Berberian	Dan Ehring & To Be Determined	Raegan Ehring & Morgan Leonard	3
8:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Paul Edmundson & Alba Giordano	Christine Corson & Brian Gallagher	3
9:30 a.m.	Father Berberian	Herman Reinhold & Martha Snyder	Caleb Ells & Emily Sagendorph	1
11:00 a.m.	Father Berberian	Bob Conway & Vera Frangella	Liam Witting & Ryan McCarroll	1

Pastor's Corner

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE AND DAY MASS SCHEDULES ~ Due to the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve occurring on the same day, we've made adjustments to the Mass schedule for that weekend. Fourth Sunday of Advent Masses will be celebrated on Saturday, December 23 at 5 p.m. and Sunday, December 24 at 9:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Masses will be celebrated at 4, 6 and 11 p.m. Christmas Day Masses will be celebrated at 9:30 and 11 a.m.

AT HOME WITH THE WORD ~ The At Home with the Word books, which contain the Sunday readings for the new liturgical year, are still available in the Gathering Hall. The donation for the books is \$5.00.

You and your family are invited to celebrate **The Feast of St. Juan Diego & Our Lady of Guadalupe** on Friday December 15! Serenade begins in the Gathering Hall at 6 p.m., Bilingual Mass at 6:30 p.m., followed by food and entertainment in the school gym. All are Welcome!

THE ANNUAL ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE for our "Local Catholic Community" (St. Thomas, St. Matthew's, St. Lucy/St. Bernadette, and Christ the King) will be held at St. Matthews in Voorheesville, at 7:00 p.m. on Tue., Dec. 12. All parishioners are encouraged to participate.

Prayer & Worship

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER Donald F. Parsons whose funeral was held last week at St. Thomas. May the Lord welcome him into Eternal Life.

ALTAR FLOWERS ~ Envelopes are now available in the office or at the church entrances for those who would like to make a donation for Christmas altar flowers. If you choose to make a donation in memory of a particular person, those memorials will be listed in the bulletin at Christmas time. Please submit memorial donations that are to be listed in the bulletin to the Parish Office by Fri., Dec. 15.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS WEEKENDS ~ Sign-up sheets are on the oval table near the church foyer for these liturgies. If you are a Eucharistic Minister (EM), acolyte, or lector who is able to minister at one or more of these Masses, please sign up. If you are an EM team leader, please indicate that as well. Please note that the Christmas weekend includes the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Thank you for serving.

Christmas Church Setup ~ Once again it is the season for change and there is a need for help on Friday, Dec. 22, 9 a.m. and Saturday, Dec. 23, 10 a.m., to assemble our Nativity scene and Christmas environment. Please show up or sign up in the Gathering Hall.

Prayer Chain ~ Members respond to urgent prayer intentions. Contact Pam Seward at: 518-439-7845 for your intention to be added.

Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

"As each one has received a gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of God's varied grace," 1 Peter 4:10

In this season of Advent, we look to inspire hope, especially for those going through difficult times. In our Pastoral Care Ministries, we provide such services as: Eucharistic ministry to the homebound, Rosary and Communion services at local agencies, hospital visitation, meal ministry, bereavement and funeral support, to name a few. Please visit our website to see more details about how **YOU** can become involved. Give as much or as little time as you are able. Here are a couple of examples of how you can become involved:

Nursing Home Visitor ~ We have parishioners who have been placed in various nursing facilities in our area (Our Lady of Mercy, St. Peter's Nursing, Teresian House, Hawthorne Ridge, and others). Our volunteers provide friendly visits to help them to continue to feel connected to our parish community. Visits are once/month and on your schedule. Contact Maura if you are interested in joining this team.

Knitting, Quilting, & Crocheting with Love ~ This team is expanding and evolving! And you are welcome to join! The team will meet again next month on January 17 at 2:00 in the Gathering Hall. Prior to that, Christina Ryan will continue to collect 6"x6" "squares" made of medium weight, or 4"x4" of baby weight, washable yarn in a basket in the church foyer. This group is putting together beautiful blankets, quilts and baby items for persons in our own community. After the business portion of the meeting, the group will have a more social time and will stay, teach and learn from one another. We have a quilter willing to assist the novices in addition seasoned knitters and crocheters. Please contact Chris Ryan with questions at 518-439-8517. All are welcome!

Second Sunday of Advent

Faith Formation

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

The December sessions for our **First Eucharist family prep classes** will be held **this week** on, Sunday, December 10 at 8:15 a.m. and Monday, December 11 at 6 p.m. in the school. Babysitting for siblings of our First Communion children will be provided by our Middle School and High School Faith Formation students.

Our annual **Christmas Boutique for 3rd-5th graders** will be held **this week, December 12-14**, during regular Faith Formation classes. Children in these grades will have a chance to do some Christmas shopping for loved ones thanks to Mrs. Hospodar and the Middle School Faith Formation program.

Christmas Recess for Elementary Faith Formation classes will begin on Friday, December 22 and continue until Monday, January 15. Classes for the new year will resume on January 16-18. We wish you and all of our families a peace-filled Christmas, blessed New Year and a well-deserved rest as we take a 3 week break to rejuvenate ourselves before returning to Elementary Faith Formation classes mid-January.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Elizabeth Kerins)

Thank you to our celebrants at Sunday evening's Advent Prayer Service: Steven Liebold, Kayleigh Bigwarfe, Norah McCaffrey, Matthew Collins, Adam McGowan, Hannah Fronheiser, James Gerdeman, Kevin Mattis, Kara Leonard, Michael Iovieno, Charlie Nittinger, Brian McCaffrey and Meredith Gerdeman. Special thanks to Jean Leonard and Paul Murray for their musical accompaniment.

Wishing all of our Faith Formation families a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!!

Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

Special shout out to all who participated in our Teen/Family Mass last week! ~ Your leadership is much appreciated by your parish! Our musicians: Josh Bates Trumpet, Steven Sitzer Guitar, Paul Supple Bass Guitar, choir: GiGi Sitzer, Emma Leonard, Gillian Roeder, Collen Ells, Maggie Walters, Emily Meier, Caroline Hennessy, Lily Tobin, Reader: Kate Davenport, Greeters: Madeline Duffy, Nathi Clarke, Griffin Roeder, Eric & Ryan Metcalf, Ushers: Ryan Metcalf, Darius Palange, Molly McGraw, Cameron & Anna Nichols, Emma Greenblatt, Gift Bearers: Sue & Nathi Clarke, Joe & Christiana Schrempf, and Hospitality: Aidan & Liam Polacinski & Grace Spath! Special thanks to Fr. Berberian, Theresa McMahon and Konstantin Tsykun for supporting our young church! God Bless you all!

Santa's Workshop! Ho! Ho! Ho! We thank all of our elves who made fleece blankets and ornaments for our Pastoral Care Program, and ornaments to be used as favors for the Bethlehem Holiday Senior Luncheon! Thank you for making someone's holidays a little brighter.

Please check out our **Make A Difference Binder** in the Gathering Hall for parish and service opportunities for next year.

School News

(Contact: Thomas Kane)

Grab your gift cards today! Gift cards will be on sale in the Gathering Hall after all of this weekend's masses, just in time for Christmas shopping!

St. Thomas the Apostle School has joined the Great Lakes Scrip fundraising program. What is Scrip? ~ It's simple! You purchase gift cards from the school at face value, and we order those cards at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for the school. Visit <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop> to see the 700+ retailers, restaurants, etc. that offer rebates. **There's no easier way to help raise funds for the school.** Just plan ahead, order your cards, pick them up at school and shop! We hope that you'll take advantage of this opportunity. Order forms are available in the Gathering Hall and can be dropped off or mailed in with cash or check payment to St. Thomas the Apostle School. For more information, contact Erica Fox at [518-439-5573](tel:518-439-5573) or efox@stthomas-school.org.

Did you know? ~ St. Thomas the Apostle School preschool students attend classes in Music, Technology, Physical Education, Art Instruction as well as participating in STEM activities.

Have you considered a Catholic School Education for your child? ~ PreK-8th Grade Open Enrollment. Please contact us today for a tour. From our youngest students in PreK 3 to our 8th Grade students who are preparing for High School, it is always our goal to empower each and every student to achieve academic and spiritual excellence in an environment which is rich in Catholic tradition. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Jennifer Murphy at [\(518\) 439-5573](tel:518-439-5573) or jmurphy@stthomas-school.org.

Christian Service

Grocery Gift Cards for St. JOHN'S/ST. ANN'S OUT-REACH CENTER are being requested for assistance in providing Christmas baskets to the poor of Albany's South End. You can help by donating Price Chopper, Hannaford or Shop Rite gift cards that will be used to purchase food items for the baskets. Please place them (labeled "St. John's/St. Ann's") in the collection basket or bring them to the Parish Office.

THE PARISH GIVING TREE ~ Our thanks to all who have taken tags to provide holiday gifts for the individuals represented by the Giving Tree tags. Please bring your gifts (with tags attached) - to the **School Gym by NOON SHARP TODAY!** (Gifts are being delivered to the agencies this afternoon.) There will be coffee and delicious baked goods in the School Gym after all Masses. Merry Christmas!

Mercy House Meal Ministry ~ Do you like to cook and bake and know that your creation is not only greatly appreciated but makes a difference in someone's life? Then the Mercy House Meal Ministry may be for you. For over 25 years St. Thomas parishioners have reached out to the residents of Mercy House, a transitional residence for women in Albany, through this ministry. Organized into teams of 6-7 people each, each team prepares a meal 4 times a year. Please give Pat Clement a call at 518 439-4636 or e-mail at ptclement116@gmail.com with questions or to volunteer.

Creation Care Team

(Contact: Jeanne Schrempf: jdschrempf@verizon.net
or Marie Myer: myermarie@yahoo.com.)

Creation Care Team ~ This is such a busy time for families that it is often hard to slow down to enter into this beautiful season of Advent. It is not too late to begin to center on Advent with an Advent wreath – or just lighting one candle to begin the family meal. Today's Gospel tells the story of John the Baptist who urges his people to "Prepare the Way of the Lord". That is still our mission today and one so needed in a world that seems to have lost its way. Perhaps the best way is to step aside from the overload of holiday preparation and find some small oasis in your day to offer your day back to God and to give thanks for the blessings that are all around us.

For all Families:

- You can still donate grocery and gift cards through the weekend collection at Mass.
- Feel invited to the celebration of St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe on Friday December 15. Information is in this bulletin. It is a wonderful way to strengthen your families understanding of our Hispanic culture. A special holiday film to enjoy is **Coco** which centers on the Mexican celebration of the Day of the Dead which we celebrated in our parish all during the month of November.
- Continue to save bottles and cans from holiday gatherings and pack them up in the Clynk bags available in the Gathering Hall and take them to Hannaford. Proceeds will fund our 2nd water project in Africa.

Community

Senior Luncheon – Faith, Fun, and Food ~ Attention St. Thomas Active Older Adults: Make your reservations soon for our next luncheon which is Friday, Dec. 15. We will meet at 12:15 for Mass and then enjoy lunch together. We will be treated to Christmas carols sung by some of the St. Thomas students. If possible, please bring a food item for the Bethlehem Food pantry.

For reservations, cancellations or transportation, contact Christine or Steve Corson at 518-439-3286 by Monday, Dec. 11.

Parishioners: If you like to bake, could you please help out the Senior Spiritual and Social Activities this month with cookies. Please contact Christine or Steve Corson at 518-439-3286 to help with baked goods.

Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

Stopping Envelopes While You Are Away ~ If you receive offertory envelopes and plan to be away during the coming months, please let us know and we can temporarily stop your envelopes. The February/March envelopes will be ordered the last week in December, so please let us know by that week. Thanks.

Bishop's Appeal 2017-18 ~ We thank all of those who have been so generous in helping us meet our parish obligation to the Diocese. However, **we still need to collect approximately \$16,162 of those pledged dollars.** If you haven't given yet to this year's Appeal, we ask that you consider making a donation to provide a needed "cushion" for those not able to meet their pledge commitment. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE December 2-3, 2017

Offertory	\$14,687.19
Offertory from E-Giving (Vanco)	\$2,080.00
Total Offertory Received	\$16,767.19
Tithe from this Offertory	\$838.36

Thank you for your continuing support of the parish!

Calendar

Sat./Sun	12/9-10	After All Masses	Hospitality at Giving Tree	GYM
Tue	12/12	7 pm	Pastoral Council	LCR
Tue	12/12	7 pm	Advent Reconciliation Service	St. Matthews
Thu	12/14	10 am	Bible Study	LCR
Fri	12/15	12:15 pm	Senior Luncheon	GH
Sat./Sun	12/16-17	After All Masses	Pueblo to People Hospitality	GH
Sun	12/17	9 am	RCIA Weekly Meeting	LCR

PLACE: CH – Church; GH – Gathering Hall; LC – Lady Chapel; MC – Media Center; PO – Parish Offices, PP – Peace Pole, Café-Cafeteria, LCR1 or LCR2-Large Conference Rooms Rec Dining room, CHP-Chapel SCH-School

Mass Intentions

For the Week of December 11 - December 15, 2017

Mon.	12:15 pm	Paul Rogan <i>His Wife, Sandra</i>
		Donald Parsons <i>Judy Meuwissen</i>
Tues.	7:30 am	Patricia Maloney <i>Helen and Paul Hoole</i>
Wed.	7:30 am	George Moglia <i>Bill & Virginia Acquario</i>
		Craig Jones <i>Bill & Virginia Acquario</i>
Fri.	12:15 pm	Margaret Melanson
	6:30 pm	Our Lady of Guadalupe

Next Weekend, December 16-17, 2017

Sat.	5:00 pm	Patricia Neubert <i>Deirdre, Dahl and Kieran Taylor</i>
		Marilyn Soucy <i>Marge and Mike Kanuk</i>
Sun.	8:00 am	Lester Betor <i>Son and Family</i>
	9:30 am	For The People
	11:00 am	Anna LaPietra <i>Her Daughter and Family</i>
		Helen Mayer <i>Her Family</i>

Scripture Readings: Week of December 10, 2017

Sunday	Is 40:1-5, 9-11 / 2 Pt 3:8-14 / Mk 1:1-8
Monday	Is 35:1-10 / Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday	Zec 2:14-17 / Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday	Is 40:25-31 / Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	Is 41:13-20 / Mt 11:11-15
Friday	Is 48:17-19 / Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 / Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 / 1 Thes 5:16-24 / Jn 1:6-8, 19-28