

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

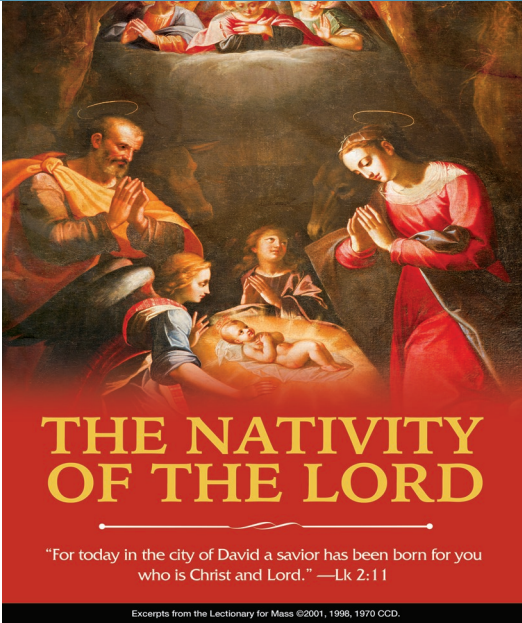
St. Matthew's Church: 765-2805, Sat: 5:00 pm / Sun: 8:30 & 10:30 am

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-Monday, December 23 - 25, 2017, Christmas Weekend



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASSES

Saturday, December 23: 5 p.m. (Father Berberian)

Sunday, December 24: 9:30 a.m. (Father Leskovar)

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES

Sunday, December 24:

4 p.m. (Father Berberian) and 6 p.m. (Father Leskovar)

Choir Sings at 10:30 p.m.,

Mass to follow at 11 p.m. (Father Berberian)

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Monday, December 25:

9:30 a.m. (Father Leskovar) and 11 a.m. (Father Berberian)

Pastor's Corner

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ~ The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, December 22, Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26 in observance of the Diocesan holiday schedule for Christmas. There will be Mass celebrated on Friday, December 22 and Monday, December 25. There will be no services on Tuesday, December 26.

Offertory Collection for the Weekend of December 23-24 ~ As we have been noting in the last few bulletins, next weekend, December 23-24, is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Normally we would benefit from four regularly scheduled Masses to meet our parish financial goal of \$14,500 per week in offertory collection. However, this year, as Christmas Eve falls on Sunday, the 24th, we have only scheduled two Advent Masses, 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, which could significantly reduce our income for that weekend. So, we ask you to please consider making your regular contribution for that weekend, even if the Mass you regularly attend is not being held. And, of course we hope that your Christmas contribution will be as generous as it has always been. We know and appreciate that this is an expensive time of year for many families, but hope you will find a way to continue to support your parish as part of this season of giving. We sincerely thank you for your generosity for whatever you are able to do.

Prayer & Worship

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS LITURGIES

~ 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)

"Faith becomes tangible when it finds its expression in love and, especially, in the service of our brothers and sisters in difficulty," Pope Francis

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 per month and on

Third Sunday of Advent

your schedule. Contact Maura if you are interested in joining this team.

Hospital Visitation Team ~ Our ministers provide friendly visits and spiritual support to our hospitalized parishioners as well as linkages to other ministries in our parish upon discharge. Visits are once a week on a 5-6 week rotation with flexible scheduling. Training provided. Let Maura know if you would be interested in assisting in this ministry on a regular basis, or as a substitute.

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!

Holiday Support ~ The Christmas season is a time of hope and love. It can also be a time of emotional difficulty for some. If you or your loved one is in need of supportive services please contact Maura in Pastoral Care for assistance and referral information for programs available in our area.

Faith Formation

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

This will be **our final week of classes** before taking our annual Christmas recess from elementary faith formation classes. We will have 3 weeks off, December 22--January 15, to rejuvenate ourselves before returning to Elementary Faith Formation classes mid-January. 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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Elizabeth Kerins)

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

Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

Pueblo to People and Faith Formation Students will serving hospitality after all Masses ~ Join us in the Gathering Hall to purchase a last minute stocking stuffer at our annual basket and bracelet sale. All proceeds benefit our Sister Parish's Evangelization Center in Yucatan Mexico. **Feliz Navidad!**

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

WE thank you for all that you and your children do for our parish and for our neighbors in need not only during the Christmas Season but throughout the year! Thank you for making a difference! "God Bless us Everyone!"

School News

(Contact: Thomas Kane)

Looking for Some Last-Minute Stocking Stuffers?

~ We have cards in stock for many popular retailers. Contact Erica Fox at [518-439-5573](tel:518-439-5573) or efox@stthomas-school.org to find out what's available.

Did you know? ~ Every year, St. Thomas students celebrate **Las Posadas & The Greatest Story Ever Told**. Las Posadas, a nine-day celebration with origins in Spain beginning December 16th and ending December 24 is a yearly tradition for many Catholic Mexicans and some other Latin Americans and symbolizes the trials which Mary and Joseph endured before finding a place to stay. St. Thomas the Apostle School students will reenact Mary and Joseph's cold and difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their search for shelter. The students from each of the classrooms join the journey and process behind Mary and Joseph until they finally reach the school gym where Rev. James Daley will tell the story of Jesus' birth while students reenact the story and sing a variety carols. **Please join us on Thursday, December 21 at 1:15 p.m. in the St. Thomas the Apostle School auditorium.** All are welcome!

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.

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.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our annual Parish Giving Tree! ~ With your generosity and

caring we provided 1,000 gifts to 22 area agencies that serve our neighbors in need. Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Sacrificial Giving Committee ~ The Sacrificial Giving Committee, on behalf of the parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, recently approved a donation to the Bethlehem Community Christmas Day Dinner. This is the thirtieth year for this free event for Bethlehem residents. Our donation will help defray the cost of the meal. Our weekly tithe, 5% of our offertory collection, allows us to make these donations to worthwhile programs. Thank you for your continued financial support which makes this possible.

Creation Care Team

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

Caring For Creation With "Creativity" ~ With a little "creative" planning, we can celebrate the holidays while sustaining our commitment to Caring for Creation.

1. When shopping for gifts, bring your own re-useable bags.
2. Send your holiday greetings electronically.
3. Remove your name from the mailing list of catalogs you don't want.
4. Eliminate unwanted credit offers by calling 1-888-5OptOut (1-888-567-8688) or visiting www.optoutprescreen.com.
5. With so many items needing batteries, consider giving rechargeable batteries and a battery charger.
6. Make gifts: cookies, a homemade casserole that can be frozen for future use.
7. Donate to a charity in the name of a friend or loved one.
8. Avoid wrapping gifts in materials that cannot be reused or recycled.
9. Wrap your gift in a gift – a baker's present in a kitchen towel or oven mitt; a sewing enthusiast's in material and ribbon, a DIY'er in a tool box. Reference: <http://ross-campbell.com/holiday/>

Community

Worldwide Marriage Encounter ~ "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me." Let your spirits be augmented by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Jan. 19-21, 2018 in South Kingstown, RI and Feb. 2-4, 2018 in Manchester, CT. For more information, call Ed and Rhonda Staats at 518-279-3243 or visit them at <https://www.wwmenyalb.org>.

Bethlehem's 2nd annual First Night celebration will provide a fun-filled, family-friendly event on **Sunday, December 31**, kicked off with fireworks at the Four Corners at 6:30 p.m. Entertainment and activities follow at various nearby venues, all within walking distance of Four Corners, including here at St Thomas. The lovely voices of the Mendelssohn Club will be heard in the Sanctuary. More details in next week's bulletin.

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.

CHRISTMAS COUNTERS NEEDED ~ Team 4 is scheduled, but we need additional counters to help with the Christmas offertory count on Wednesday, December 27 (The office is closed on Tuesday, December 26), please sign up on the oval table near the church foyer. We will start at 9 a.m. Even if you have to come in later – whatever hours you can give are really appreciated. And, there will be food!

Annual Financial Report to Parishioners ~ Our annual report was recently mailed to the homes of all families registered in the parish. If you did not receive your copy, please call Pat in the parish office. Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE December 9-10, 2017

Offertory	\$12,766.66
Offertory from E-Giving (Vanco)	\$2,575.00
Total Offertory Received	\$15,341.66
Tithe from this Offertory	\$767.08
 Feast of the Immaculate Conception	 \$2,645.37

Thank you for your continuing support of the parish!

Calendar

Sat./Sun	12/16-17	After All Masses	Pueblo to People Hospitality	GH
Thu	12/21	10 am	Bible Study	LCR
Fri	12/22		Parish Office Closed, Mass will be celebrated	CH
Sun	12/24	4, 6, pm	Christmas Eve Vigil Masses	CH
Sun	12/24	11 pm	Christmas Night Mass (10:30 pm Choir Sings)	CH
Mon	12/25	9:30 , 11 am	Christmas Day Masses	CH
Tue	12/25-26		Diocesan Holiday - Office Closed	

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 18 - December 22, 2017

Mon.	12:15 pm	Living Intentions-Kelsey Family Living Intentions-Setlur Family
Tues.	7:30 am	Jerry Pomakoy <i>His Wife, Marge</i> Living Intentions-LaMonica Family
Wed.	7:30 am	Marie Miles <i>The Family</i> Nate Spano <i>The Foltan Family</i>
Fri.	12:15 pm	Robert and Elizabeth Keith <i>The Family</i> Bruno and Antionetta Bruzzese <i>The Family</i>

Next Weekend, December 23-24, 2017

Sat.	5:00 pm	Frank Daley <i>Peter and Rose DePuccio</i> Marilyn Soucy <i>Daile Morrell</i>
Sun.	9:30 am	Carmelo Papa <i>Severena Papa and Family</i> Edmond Habich <i>The Whitman Family</i>
	4:00 pm	For The People
	6:00 pm	For The People
	11:00 pm	For The People

Scripture Readings: Week of December 17, 2017

Sunday	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 / 1 Thes 5:16-24 / Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday	Jer 23:5-8 / Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a / Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday	Is 7:10-14 / Lk 1:26-38
Thursday	Sg 2:8-14 / Lk 1:39-45
Friday	1 Sm 1: 24-28 / Lk 1:46-56
Saturday	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 / Lk 1:57-66
Sunday	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 / Rom 16:25-27 / Lk 1:26-38
Christmas Vigil	Is 62:1-5 / Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 / Mt 1:1-25
Christmas Night	Is 9:1-6 / Ti 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-14
Christmas Day	Is 52:7-10 / Heb 1:1-6 / Jn 1:1-18