

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. Thomas J. Hayes, D. Min., Pastor
thayes@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: Patrick Gallagher and Adele Nucci

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

www.stthomas-school.org

info@stthomas-school.org

Thomas Kane, School Principal

Carmel Foltan, Dir. Community Relations & Enrollment Mgmt.
cfoltan@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 from 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. in the Daily Mass Chapel.

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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS: Contact Father Tom for information.

MATRIMONY: Arrangements for marriage should be made at least 6 to 8 months in advance and before scheduling a reception. Contact Father Tom 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 to meet with Father Tom.

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, February 4-5, 2017, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Hayes	Tricia Buhr & Dan Coffey	Ali Barron & Sarah Gill	3
8:00 a.m.	Father Hayes	Alba Giordano & David Rothfuss	Kailee Harrigan & Shayla Harrigan	3
9:30 a.m.	Father Hayes	Elizabeth Kerins & Matt Scheidler	Anna-Jeanne Staerker & Andrew Thorp	2
11:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Karen Jones & Tom Hedderman	Ryan McCarroll & Mikolaj Wloszczynski	2

Father Tom's Corner

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS ~ Gregory, Georgianna and Brian Hebert of Elsmere Ave. and Christina Hollinde of Meadowland St., Delmar.

"CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME" ~ Last year our Lenten Book study focused on Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home*. The Pope draws all Christians into a dialogue with every person on the planet about our common home. As human beings we are called to be united by the concern for our planet and every living thing that dwells on it, especially the poorest and most vulnerable.

Following the book study of the encyclical last spring, a group of participants formed a special committee to address how as a parish we might best respond to the call for "Care for our Common Home." Over the past year the committee (co-chaired by Jeanne Schrempp and Barbara Leonard) orchestrated a study of our parish facilities with regard to environmental issues, placed information from the encyclical into the bulletin on a weekly basis, and explored other ways of raising consciousness among our parishioners. This Lent we will continue to use the teachings of Pope Francis as a focus for our Lenten journey.

During Lent we will use a new seven-week bulletin insert program for Catholic parishes inspired by Pope Francis's call to care for our common home. These Lenten inserts are rooted in a spirituality of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Each week focuses on the significant issues facing our human family, what the church is saying about them, and how we can take practical steps to make a difference in the world.

In addition, Fr. Tom is offering to all our parish volunteers copies of a book from Maryknoll's Orbis publishing house, *Pope Francis Care for Creation – A Call for Ecological Conversion*. Distribution of the books is being handled by various staff members who will make copies available to those who assist in their parish ministries.

Furthermore, Fr. Tom's regular Lenten Book Study will run for the four Mondays in March and will focus on another Orbis book: *Just Water – Theology, Ethics, and the Global Water Crisis*.

To kick off this Lenten program, one of our parishioners, Skip Parsons, has offered his musical talents to have a special "Mardi Gras" Mass at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 26, the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday (March 1). There will be a social following the Mass in which the committee will also make available reusable shopping bags to raise funds to support a fresh water project in a mission parish.

Through these various activities, hopefully we will all undergo an "ecological conversion" as we journey through the days of Lent leading to Easter.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY ~ In conjunction with our Parish Lenten theme of "Caring for Our Common Home," Fr. Tom will conduct a four week book study in March on the Orbis book, *Just Water – Theology, Ethics, and the Global Water Crisis*. We will again meet on Mondays from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. with a repeat session on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The study will begin on Monday March 6 and end on March 27. There are sign-up sheets in the Gathering Hall. The books will be available at the discounted cost of \$15.00.

PASTORAL COUNCIL ~ The Pastoral Council meeting that was originally scheduled for January 17 was postponed due to an ice storm and is rescheduled for this Tuesday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Offices.

Congratulations to Daniel McKay and Nicole Phillips who celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony last weekend at St. Thomas.

Congratulations to the family of Charles Michael Matrose who was baptized last Sunday.

Your Opinion Matters! ~ The Diocese is redeveloping its website to be more responsive to the needs of Catholics across our 14 counties. Focus groups will be held on the following dates: Wednesday, Feb. 1 – Mater Christi, Albany; Thursday, Feb. 2 – St. Mary's, Oneonta; Wednesday, Feb. 8 – St. Joseph's, Greenfield Center. All sessions will be 6:30 to 8 p.m. Please contact our facilitator, Bill Richmond, at 792-3856, if you would like to participate. If you cannot attend a focus group but would like your voice to be heard, please fill out the online survey at this link: <http://bit.ly/diocesewebsurvey>.

Prayer & Worship

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

Thank You ~ It is said "Ask and you shall receive" and that is exactly what happened. On January 10, 2017 a group of strong men and women arrived in our church to lift carry and place all the Christmas items below for safe keepings. In friendship and harmony the work was done. Many thanks to all who continue to share their time energy.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

Please visit our updated webpage at www.stthomas-church.org under the Pastoral Care link. You will find information on all of the pastoral care ministries in which you can become involved!

Prayer Chain ~ Pam Seward and Maura are reorganizing the prayer chain for the new year. Participating in this ministry is a wonderful opportunity to provide spiritual support on your own time. We currently have 2 prayer chains that are active. You may want to consider being a part of this important ministry. Contact Maura or Pam Seward at 439-7845 for more information.

Moving to a senior living community or nursing home? ~ Please let Maura know so that we can continue to provide support to you in your new home. Many times we do not know when and where people have moved after a hospitalization or illness.

Detours on the Journey ~ The diocese will once again be offering a support ministry for Catholic men and women who have experienced or are experiencing divorce. Facilitated by an LCSW experienced in family counseling and a family law attorney, the program's objective is to help gain insight into and heal from the emotional challenges of loss, anger, guilt, fear, and loneliness. The group will meet for ten Tuesday evenings starting February 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 40 North Main Ave., Albany. For more information and registration contact Mary Fay at 453-6630 or mary.fay@rcda.org.

The Bereavement Support Group, for those who have lost a spouse within the last two years, is currently full. Please contact Maura Barrett if you would like to be placed on the waiting list and/or would like more information about the program or other bereavement resources. Current attendees please note the next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 15 from 6:00-7:30 pm.**

Faith Formation

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

Children's Liturgy of the Word for 3, 4, and 5 year olds is in need of additional catechists to lead the 20 minute lessons during the 9:30 a.m. Mass on a rotating schedule. Along with welcoming adults wishing to help us out, this is a wonderful opportunity for high schoolers to 'get their experience in teaching under the guidance of a terrific, experienced catechist! Please contact my office or come sit in on a class or two in the chapel on Sunday mornings and speak with us if interested.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Elizabeth Kerins)

Informational meetings for all Confirmation candidates and their parents will be held on Sunday, January 29 at 12:15 p.m. **or** Monday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m. The details of the Confirmation preparation program and required paperwork will be discussed. **Attendance is mandatory** as registration and sponsorship forms will only be distributed at these meetings. All meetings will be held in the church and should last approximately one hour.

Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

Next Teen/Family Mass is Saturday February 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. All are welcome! Following the teen mass students are invited to learn about services offered by the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless. Students will prepare a Super Bowl Lunch for the homeless served at the Partnership. Please sign up in the Gathering Hall.

Haz la Diferencia! Just in time for Valentine's Day! The Pueblo to People Committee and Faith Formation students will be selling beautiful handwoven palm baskets, memory/keep sake purses; iPad covers and festive colorful bracelets after masses the weekend of February 11 and 12. Pick out a beautiful handmade gift for your sweetheart! All proceeds benefit the mission of our Pueblo to People Committee "to show love & care of the Church beyond frontiers." Show your Solidarity! Make a difference in the lives & hearts of our friends in Mexico while bringing a smile to your sweethearts' face!

Please check out the many service and parish opportunities available to our students Grade 6-12 in the Gathering Hall, "Make a Difference Binder" and the many opportunities offered by our diocese this spring and summer! **YOU** can make a difference, meet other young people and have some fun!

School News

(Contact: Carmel Foltan)

Preschool – Grade 8 Open House Sunday, February 5, 10 a.m. – Noon ~ Please join us for our annual Open House and Learning Expo on Sunday, February 5 at 10:00 a.m. Each classroom, including the art room, gym, and music room, will offer exhibits which exemplify the amazing work that is in progress or has been mastered at school. Meet our faculty, students and parents and learn what makes St. Thomas the Apostle School stand apart. All are welcome! For more information, please contact Carmel Foltan at 439-5573 or info@stthomas-school.org.

Find Your Pot of Gold at the Annual St. Patrick's Day Party! ~ We hope you'll join us for our annual St. Patrick's Day Party on Saturday, March 4. In addition to music by Get Up Jack, you will be treated to an Irish Step Dance performance, 50/50 raffle & fun with friends all night! Doors Open at 6pm. \$25 per person, **includes dinner.** Cash dessert & beverage bar. Must be 21 & over. For tickets, call 439-5573, info@stthomas-school.org or stop by the School between 9 a.m. and 2p.m., Monday-Friday.

Caring for Our Common Home

(Contact: Jeanne Schrempf: jdschrempf@verizon.net)

Care for Creation ~ In his homily at the Island of Lampedusa where many immigrants lost their lives at sea, Pope Francis calls us to reflect on God's question to Adam after his sin. **"Adam, where are you?"** Adam lost his bearings, his place in creation because he thought he could be all powerful, able to control everything, to be God. The question God asks at the dawn of human history, he also asks of us in our own day. Pope Francis asks if we have wept for the indifference and suffering our brothers and sisters continue to bear. He asks that with him, we ask to weep over indifference, cruelty and misuse of power with the resolve to find a way to make a difference in the life of someone. (Pope Francis. **Care for Creation**, pp. 7-8)

For each of us:

- It is easy to become so overwhelmed by the stories of indifference and suffering that we seek to turn them off and out. We need to resist this and to be grateful that we live in a nation that safeguards our right to be informed and know the truth.
- Our federal and state elected officials want to serve us and respond to our concerns. In this new year, let us resolve to contact our representatives to affirm their actions, question decisions, and offer our ideas and concerns. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand – www.gillibrand.senate.gov (202) 224-4451, Senator Charles Schumer – www.schumer.senate.gov (202) 224-6542, Congressman Paul Tonko – www.tonko.house.gov (518) 465-0700.

Christian Service

Thank you for your generous support of the food pantry throughout the year. We remind you that the food pantry is open the first full week of each month. Anyone in need is welcome to use the food pantry. Call the parish office to set up an appointment.

Peggy Hogan-Rao's mission trip to the Holy Land ~ Peggy has been a parishioner of St. Thomas the Apostle since 2007. Her time in college has transformed her heart and she's ready to share the Gospel with others. Thus, Peggy is going on mission to the Holy Land this

March with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students)! On this trip, she will be visiting the sites we hear about in the Gospel every Sunday such as the village where Mary lived, the Grotto where Jesus was born, the Sea of Galilee, and much more. If you would like to generously give financial and prayerful support, you may either donate online at Peggy's fundraising page (<http://www.focusonline.org/goto/mmhoganrao>), or write a check to FOCUS and mail it to PO Box 00113 3690 East Ave. Rochester NY 14618. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Community

Attention St. Thomas Active Older Adults ~ Our next luncheon will be on **Friday, February 17**. We will attend mass at 12:15 p.m. and then enjoy lunch. This is a great opportunity to meet some of your fellow parishioners. Please encourage a friend to come along with you. Diane Cameron will be speaking to us about Gratitude and Grace. For reservations, cancellations or transportation, contact Art or Marie Copeland at 439-4050 by **Monday Feb. 13**. This is a change just for the month of February.

Parishioners ~ If you like to bake, could you please help out the seniors' spiritual and social activities ministry this month with bundt cakes. Contact Art or Marie Copeland at 439-4050 to help with baked goods.

Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

THE PARISH OFFICE will send statements of 2016 contributions to all contributing parishioners by the end of January.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

January 21 - 22, 2017

Offertory	\$12,869.74
Offertory from E-Giving (Vanco)	1,840.00
Total Offertory Received	\$14,709.74
Tithe from this Offertory	735.49

Thank you for your continuing support of the parish!

Calendar

Tue	1/31	7 pm	Pastoral Council Meeting	PO
Thu	2/2	10 am	Bible Study	LCR1
Thu	2/4	12 pm	Peace Prayer Vigil	PP

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 January 30 - February 3, 2017

Mon.	12:15 pm	Mackenzie Kate Malone <i>Rev. Richard Leskovar</i>
		Peter J. Wallace, Sr. <i>Ike and Jean Berben</i>
Tues.	7:30 am	George Cochran, 3rd Anniv. <i>His Family</i>
		Dr. Karl Floser <i>Wayne Schermerham</i>
Wed.	7:30 am	Darlene Mitchell <i>Whitman Family</i>
		Doris Surzyn <i>Michelle and Marge Kanuk</i>
Fri.	12:15 pm	Enrollees of St. Thomas Memorial Fund

Next Weekend, February 4-5, 2017

Sat.	5:00 pm	Howard Cooper, 12th Anniv. <i>The Family</i>
		Thomas Magliocca <i>The Family</i>
Sun.	8:00 am	For The People
	9:30 am	John Moloney <i>St. Thomas Staff</i>
		Thomas Dobert <i>St. Thomas Faith Formation</i>
	11:00 am	Elvira Ponteri <i>St. Thomas Choir</i>
		Elvira Ponteri <i>Candace and Patrick Stellato</i>

Scripture Readings: Week of January 29, 2017

Sunday	Zep 2:3, 3:12-13 / 1 Cor 1:26-31 / Mt 5:1-12a
Monday	Heb 11:32-40 / Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday	Heb 12:1-4 / Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15 / Mk 6:1-6
Thursday	Mal 3:1-4 / Heb 2: 14-18 / Lk 2:22-40
Friday	Heb 13:1-8 / Mk 6:14-29
Saturday	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21 / Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday	Is:58:7-10 / 1 Cor 2:1-5 / Mt 5:13-16