

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 18-19, 2017, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Hayes	Maureen Roberts & Denis Hurley	Juliana Jira & Philip Ruggirello	1
8:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Mary Richards & Michael Braunlin	James Gallagher & Isabel Scisci	1
9:30 a.m.	Father Hayes	Marianne Conophy & Herman Reinhold	Liam Witting & To Be Assigned	1
11:00 a.m.	Father Hates	Vera Frangella & Anthony Scisci	Ellen Desharnais & Sean Desharnais	1

Father Tom's Corner

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.

"Mardi Gras" Mass ~ To kick off the Lenten season, 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 Environment Committee will also make available reusable shopping bags to raise funds to support a fresh water project in a mission parish.

BLESSED PALMS ~ As we prepare for Ash Wednesday on March 1, we are now collecting blessed palms from last year's Palm Sunday. The palms will be burned to provide the ashes that will be distributed on Ash Wednesday. Containers are near the church entrances.

Prayer & Worship

Prayer Chain ~ Members respond to urgent prayer intentions. Contact Pam Seward at: 439-7845 for your intention to be added. **If you are interested in providing support as a member of one of our two prayer chains, please contact Maura.**

Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

HAPPY FEBRUARY! ~ With Valentine's Day approaching you might want to think about how you can demonstrate love and care to those who could use some added support.

The Pastoral Care Ministries provide a variety of supportive services to the aged, infirm, bereaved, and needy in our parish. If you are interested in joining **any** of our ministries please contact Maura by email or phone, or sign up in the church foyer. Give as little or as much time as you are

able. **Thank you** to all of our volunteers who spread so much kindness, love, and spiritual support throughout our community!

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.

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.**

Our Meal Ministry Team provides **short-term, home delivered meals** to parishioners who have experienced issues such as: acute illness, recent hospitalization, death of a loved one, birth or adoption of a new baby, etc. **If you are in need, or know of a parishioner who could use this support**, please contact Maura Barrett by phone or email. Calls will be returned during Pastoral Care hours (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.).

Faith Formation

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

Our next sessions of First Eucharist prep classes are Sunday, February 12 at 8:15 a.m. and Monday, February 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the school. Attend whichever session is more convenient for your family.

Winter Break ~ There will be no classes during the week of February 21-23 as the schools are on winter break

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus Day!, our mini-retreat which culminates our Family First Eucharist preparation program, will be on Saturday, March 25. More information will be coming in the next weeks, but for now, we **need a few more volunteers** to come forth to help us run this wonderful experience for our families. Please contact my office by email or phone for more information on how you can help!

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Elizabeth Kerins)

Reminder that classes resume the week following winter break, February 28-March 2nd. If you need to request a class change for your son/daughter, please contact Elizabeth at the Parish Office or by email.

Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

“Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father!” ~ And our students and families did just that last Saturday at our Teen/Family Mass! Special thanks to Fr. Tom and Nelly Bunk and students who volunteered to be acolytes, greeters, ushers, gift bearers, and sang in the choir! WE offer special thanks to our student cantors Abigail Taylor and Grant Napierski, lectors Katherine Bernasconi and Michael Ortale and piano solo Michael McManus. Special shout out to our students and families who joined us following mass to prepare a Super Bowl Lunch for our homeless neighbors at The Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless. Your team work made a difference!

Our next Teen/Family mass is set for March 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. Please consider getting involved!

Haz la Diferencia! Just in time for Valentine’s Day! The Pueblo to People Committee and Faith Formation students are selling beautiful handwoven palm baskets, memory/keep sake purses, iPad covers and festive colorful bracelets today! Please join us for refreshments and pick out a beautiful handmade gift for yourself or a friend! All proceeds benefit the mission of our Pueblo to People Committee “to show love & care of the Church beyond frontiers.”

Siena College Teen Lenten Experience ~ Sunday, March 19, 2017, 3 p.m.-8 p.m. at Siena College. High School Students are invited to join Siena students for an evening of faith, fun and Mass (7 p.m.)! Cost is \$12 for dinner in dining hall. Please sign up in the Gathering Hall or contact Mary Ann know by March 1 if you are interested in joining us!

School News

(Contact: Carmel Foltan)

St. Thomas the Apostle School Annual Giving

Campaign ~ It costs \$6,600 to educate one student at St. Thomas the Apostle School. The difference between that cost and the per pupil tuition of \$4,990 is made up through parish support, school benefit events and our annual giving campaign. When you share your gifts, you help us make Catholic school education accessible for all families. To learn more about the Campaign or to make a contribution, please take a 2016-2017 campaign brochure, available at the back of the church, or call St. Thomas the Apostle School at 439-5573 or visit www.stthomas-school.org/giving/annual/.

Accepting Applications for 2017/2018 ~ “I do not believe you can put a price tag on what St. Thomas the Apostle School has to offer. What children learn at St. Thomas is so much more than just academics. The children learn about love, honesty, kindness, trust in God and their faith. What St. Thomas has to offer is not tangible; it is seen in the hearts of the students and will last a lifetime. Yes, it’s an investment, but I believe you will receive a lifetime of dividends.” ~Jewelie Koutelis, Parent. To learn more about St. Thomas the Apostle School and to schedule a tour or shadow day for your child, contact Carmel Foltan at 439-5573, cfoltan@stthomas-school.org, or visit www.stthomas-school.org

Luck of the Irish! ~ 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, featuring former members of Hair of The Dog, 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 2 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Accepting Donations for the Annual Garage Sale to Benefit the 8th Grade Trip to Washington, DC ~ We will accept gently used items. TV’s, large appliances or computer monitors will NOT be accepted. Donations may be dropped off on Thursday, March 30 between 3 and 6 p.m. (Your car will be unloaded for you). If you need your donation picked up at your home, please call Mrs. Theresa Heilsberg at the school 439-5573 and leave a message during the school day. Someone will contact you to arrange for a pick up. Your support is greatly appreciated. Presale – Friday, March 30. 4-7 p.m. Sale – Saturday, April 1, 8 a.m.-1 p.m..

Caring for Our Common Home

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

In his encyclical *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis encourages us to develop a knowledge and awareness of today’s ecological crisis and to be aware of the impact of our own

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actions and personal decisions. He sees hope in the ecological sensitivity and generous spirit of young people but acknowledges that they have grown up in a milieu of extreme consumerism. He calls out to parents, teachers, and catechists to help our youth grow in solidarity, responsibility, and compassionate care. (206-2012)

For families and all parishioners:

- We have become dependent on bottled water when we live in a community that has access to clean drinking water. Last year Americans went through 50 billion plastic water bottles. Much of this is bottled filtered tap water. Encourage your children to help your family break the cycle and bring water for lunches, car trips and sporting events in water bottles filled at home.
- Mark your calendars for the first St. Thomas Environmental Fair the weekend of February 25-26 in honor of Mardi Gras and our parish commitment to live the vision of Pope Francis of care for all creation.

Community

Fr. Tom's Retirement ~ Anyone interested in assisting with the plans for Fr. Tom's retirement festivities is asked to sign up in the Gathering Hall.

HOSPITALITY to be offered after Sunday Masses **this weekend. All are welcome** to join us in the Gathering Hall for coffee and treats.

Grassroot Givers ~ Volunteers are needed at Grassroot Givers, a remarkable charitable organization whose chief goal is providing books for impoverished citizens in the Capital District. Convinced that literacy is a key route out of poverty and despair, founders Mary Partridge-Brown and Roberta Sandler transformed the closed YMCA's enormous swimming pool at 274 Washington Avenue in downtown Albany into a magnificent free library, with top quality donated books for all ages, free for residents to keep. The organization has distributed thousands of books to the needy, recently reaching an amazing milestone: the donation of the 100,000th book. Other projects include stocking a free community store with donated new or nearly new clothing and household items, building "Little Free Libraries" outside public schools, and assisting homeless citizens transitioning to their own apartments. A wide variety of volunteer opportunities are available. Bathing suits not required: compassion is! To volunteer, donate, or contribute, first contact info@grassrootgivers.org, www.grassrootgivers.org or call 542-1276 or 817-5921 for hours and information.

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)

Bishop's Appeal 2016 ~ We are nearing the end of the Appeal which started last Spring. We still need to collect approximately \$4900 in outstanding pledge payments. For those of you who made pledges please do what you can to honor that commitment. Final payments need to be at the Diocesan office by March 15 to count for the 2016 Appeal. Thanks to all of you who are helping us meet our responsibility to the Diocese.

Counters Needed ~ Volunteers are needed to spend several hours every month or so on Sunday morning to help count the weekend collection. Please let me know if you are interested. Thanks for considering this opportunity to support the parish.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE February 4 - 5, 2017

Offertory	\$13,279.32
Offertory from E-Giving (Vanco)	\$2,225.00
Total Offertory Received	\$15,504.32
Tithe from this Offertory	\$775.22

Thank you for your continuing support of the parish!

Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat/Sun	2/11-2/12	After All Masses	Hospitality/ Pueblo to People "Sweetheart" Basket and Bracelet Sale	GH
Wed	2/15	6 pm	Bereavement Support Group	LCR1
Wed	2/15	7 pm	Public Policy Group Meeting	GH
Thu	2/16	10 am	Bible Study	LCR1
Fri	2/17	12:15 pm	Senior Luncheon	LCR1
Sun	2/19	9 am	RCIA Weekly Meeting	LCR1

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 February 13 - 17, 2017

Mon.	12:15 pm	Michael Dwyer <i>The Family</i>
		Paul R. Hayes Barry
Tues.	7:30 am	Violet MacMillan Barry Donal O'Callaghan <i>Vera Peek</i>
Wed.	7:30 am	Maurice J. Collins Jr. (T-boy) <i>Louis Benedict and Family</i>
		Lidia Belokopitsky <i>Helene Wasson</i>
Fri.	12:15 pm	Kathryn Anderson. sister of Margaret Farrell <i>Sally and Henry Peyrebrune</i>
		James P. Cowan, 1st Anniv. <i>Lisa Rooks</i>

Next Weekend, February 18-19, 2017

Sat.	5:00 pm	Mary Shogan, 13th Anniv. <i>Bob and Johanna Shogan and Family</i>
		Lonnie Tomlin <i>Norman and Ann Drapeau</i>
Sun.	8:00 am	James O'Neill <i>The Fitzpatrick Family</i>
		Dar Mitchell <i>The Armbruster Family</i>
	9:30 am	Patricia Hogan <i>Her Family</i>
		Roseann Fitzpatrick <i>The Fitzpatrick Family</i>
	11:00 am	For The People

Scripture Readings: Week of February 12, 2017

Sunday	Sir:15:15-20 / 1 Cor 2:6-10 / Mt 5:17-37
Monday	Gn 4:1-15, 25 / Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday	Gn 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10 / Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday	Gn 8:6-13, 20-22 / Mk 8:22-26
Thursday	Gn 9:1-13 / Mk 8:27-33
Friday	Gn 11:1-9 / Mk 8:34-9:1
Saturday	Heb 11:1-7 / Mk 9:2-13
Next Sunday	Lv:19:1-2, 17-18 / 1 Cor 3:16-23 / Mt 5:38-48