

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, March 4-5, 2017, First Sunday of Lent

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Hayes	Maureen Roberts & Denis Hurley	Ali Barron & Anna Barron	3
8:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Maureen Nyilis & Anthony Scisci	Tyler Harrigan & Isabel Scisci	3
9:30 a.m.	Father Hayes	Annemarie Farrell & Michael Connolly	Anna-Jeanne Staerker & Maya Richter	3
11:00 a.m.	Father Hayes	Maureen Cahill & Jack Canning	Daniel Desharnais & Eileen Desharnais	3

Father Tom's Corner

ASH WEDNESDAY ~ We will celebrate the Eucharist in the church at 7:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Ashes are blessed and distributed during the Mass after the homily. Throughout the day, the blessed ashes will be available in front of the altar for distribution to the homebound. If you wish to take some, simply bring a small envelope with you to church to secure some blessed ashes. When you distribute them to the sick or homebound use the formula "Repent and believe the Good News of Jesus" as you place the ashes on the forehead.

FAST AND ABSTINENCE ~ Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting (limiting the consumption of food) and abstinence (refraining from eating meat).

As a sign of our penance, the Diocese of Albany also preserves the custom of not eating meat on the Fridays of Lent. Therefore, all Catholics, 14 years of age and older are obliged to refrain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and the other Fridays of Lent. All Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 are obliged to fast.

Fasting refers to the quantity of food eaten. Traditionally, fasting allows for eating only one full meal per day. Two additional, smaller meals may be eaten and there is no eating in between meals.

By retaining these traditions for our Diocese, we do not intend that they be interpreted as laws binding under pain of sin, but as customs from which we will not hold ourselves lightly excused. They are expressions of our desire to be converted in our hearts, to be reconciled with each other, and to love our neighbor. It is helpful to remember that the ability to decide how much or little one will eat is in itself a gift.

LENTEN ALMS envelopes are available for use during Lent. Whatever money you might save through the Lenten tradition of "Giving something up for Lent" can be placed in the Lenten Alms envelope to be collected at the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper. Funds raised in this way will be given to our Sister Parish communities in Yucatan, Mexico.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will again be held with the children of St. Thomas the Apostle School on the Fridays of Lent at 2:00 p.m. in the church. All are welcome.

Congratulations to the family of Conor Francis Stewart who celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism last Sunday at St. Thomas.

LENTEN READING FOR MINISTERS ~ Fr. Tom has procured copies of the book by Pope Francis **CARE FOR CREATION – A CALL FOR ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION** to be distributed as a gift to all those who offer their time and talent in some form of ministry in the parish (lectors, faith formation volunteers, pastoral care volunteers, etc.). If you would like to have a copy for your personal use during Lent, contact the coordinator of your ministry or the chair of your committee to obtain your copy.

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 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. with a repeat session on Monday evenings from 7:00 p.m. 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.

Bishop's Appeal 2016 ~ We are nearing the end of the Appeal which started last Spring. We still need to collect approximately \$4,523 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.

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.**

Lectors, Acolytes, and Eucharistic Ministers for Ash Wednesday ~ Please sign up at the oval table near the Gathering hall if you are able to serve at the 7:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. or 6 p.m. Mass.

Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

Thank you to all of our ministers and volunteers who spread so much kindness, love, and spiritual support throughout our community! Our Pastoral Care Ministries

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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.

Faith Formation

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

Classes resume this week following our winter break, and will continue straight through the end of our program year, the week of April 4-6.

Reconciliation services for our 4th grade families will be held on Monday, March 13 and Tuesday, March 14 at 4:30 p.m. in the chapel. All 4th graders have been studying the sacrament of reconciliation over the last several weeks, and along with their families, are invited to attend one of these services set up just for them! What a wonderful chance to, yet again, experience God's great love for each of us!

Jesus Day!, our mini-retreat which culminates our Family First Eucharist preparation program, will be on Saturday, March 25. Teen volunteers are needed to help run the various stations throughout the retreat. Check the youth ministry sign up sheets in the Gathering Hall, or contact Mrs. Hospodar or Mrs. Staerker for more information.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Elizabeth Kerins)

Reminder classes resume this week! ~ If you need to request a class change for your son/daughter, please contact Elizabeth at the Parish Office or by email.

Confirmation at St. Thomas will be held on Friday, May 12 at 5:00 p.m. Please keep the candidates in your prayers as they prepare for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit!

Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

Used Clothing/Towels/ Linen Drive ~ Feb. 28 to March 7, for the Capital City Rescue Mission of Albany, who allows the community to shop for FREE! They also accept unusable cloth items that are torn and stained. These items are RECYCLED to make industrial rags. Nothing goes to a landfill! **Take your bagged items directly to the Mission** or place in bin in the Gathering Hall. Check out the bulletin board for more information or contact Mary Ann at mhospodar@stthomas-church.org.

SAVE THE DATE March. 5 ~ Join us as we pray the Sorrowful Rosary and reflect on Jesus's Passion. 7 p.m. in the chapel.

Our last Family/Teen mass for this semester will be celebrated on March 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel followed by the **Dodgeball for Water** event. More details to follow in next week's bulletin Sign up in binder in Gathering Hall. Thanks for making a difference!

Middle School and High School Students are invited to make a splash for WATER at our **Dodgeball for WATER EVENT** on **March 11** following our **Teen/Family Mass**, 7:45-9:30 p.m. \$5.00 a player, good will offering for fans, pizza will be sold. All proceeds to benefit our parish's **WATER** initiative with Catholic Relief Services! Sign up in binder in Gathering Hall. Thanks for making a difference!

School News

(Contact: Carmel Foltan)

It all starts at St. Thomas the Apostle School: Accepting Applications for 2017/2018 ~ Whether it's a career in engineering, education, law, science, or the arts, St. Thomas the Apostle School offers what it takes to achieve success. We believe in the importance of establishing a solid foundation in which students explore and live their faith, love to learn, and know how to find the answers. Our students are prepared for the challenges of high school, college & life. 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

Annual St. Patrick's Day Party is Next Week! ~ All are welcome to 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, email info@stthomas-school.org, stop by the School between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday-Friday or visit Blue Sky Music on Adams Street.

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)

Caring for Our Common Home ~To those of us living in times of great anxiety and concern, today's Gospel has a heartening message. Jesus asks us to stop and look at the signs of God's love all around us – the birds of the air and the flowers that will bloom again in the spring. He challenges us to let worry over the things of tomorrow go and to not miss today. Not a quick fix for those of us living in this century but perhaps a goal to work toward as we approach the season of Lent – to live today as fully and as holy as we can.

For all parishioners:

- We encourage you to choose one environmental concern as a Lenten action and make one step "to go make a difference" as we often sing at Mass.
- If you missed the Mardi Gras celebration, you can contact a member of our St. Thomas Creation Care Team to purchase a new St. Thomas "Caring for Creation" recyclable grocery bag or obtain a prayer card or a Family Lenten commitment pledge. Contact Barbara Leonard glengang17@verizon.net, MaryAnn Hospodar mhospodor@stthomas-church.org or Jeanne Schrempf jdschrempf@verizon.net

Christian Service

ST. THOMAS FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION is set for **THIS WEEKEND**, February 25-26. Donations of non-perishable food and personal care items will be collected. Please check expiration dates when donating. Thank you, and as always, your generosity is appreciated. Just a reminder -- the food pantry is open the first full week of every month. Anyone in need is welcome to use the food pantry. Call the rectory to set up an appointment.

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.

Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

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.

2016 Combined Diocesan Collection for the Black and Native American and Latin American Missions ~ We ask your support in the Diocesan Collection on March 4/5, for Black, Native American and Latin American Missions. Funds support catechesis and evangelization programs throughout the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean. Your gifts will fund catechesis, pastoral programs, marriage and family life projects, seminarian education, and many other necessary programs. The Black and Native American Mission Office provides grants for projects throughout the Missions in North America including programs in the Diocese of Albany. By contributing to next week's collection you will provide seeds to grow the faith for years to come. Please support the Black and Native American Missions of the United States and the Church in Latin America.

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE
February 18 - 19, 2017**

Offertory	\$13,428.62
Offertory from E-Giving (Vanco)	\$1485.00
Total Offertory Received	\$14,913.62
Tithe from this Offertory	\$745.68

Thank you for your continuing support of the parish!

Calendar

Wed	3/1	7:30am, 12:15 & 6pm	Ash Wednesday Masses	CH
Thu	3/2	10 am	Bible Study	LCR1
Sat	3/4	12 pm	Peace Pole Vigil	PP
Sun	3/5	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 27 - March 3, 2017

Mon.	12:15 pm	Joseph Villa <i>Mary Ann and Terry Mitchell</i>
		Father Gerard Arella <i>John Appel</i>
Tues.	7:30 am	John Barrett <i>Rev. Richard Leskovar</i>
		John McFarland <i>The O'Brien Family</i>
Wed.	7:30 am 12:15 pm 6:00 pm	Ash Wednesday
Fri.	12:15 pm	Enrollees of St. Thomas Memorial Fund

Next Weekend, March 4-5, 2017

Sat.	5:00 pm	Thomas Magliocca <i>The Family</i>
		Lonnie Tomlin <i>Richard and Marcia Bassotti</i>
	8:00 am	For The People
Sun.	9:30 am	Margaret Kolber, 26th Anniv. <i>Her Family</i>
		John Moloney <i>Steve and Christine Corson</i>
	11:00 am	Joseph Russo, 25th Anniv. <i>The Family</i>
		Elvira Ponteri <i>Mike and Peg Dorgan</i>

Scripture Readings: Week of February 26, 2017

Sunday	Is:49:14-15 / 1 Cor 4:1-5 / Mt 6:24-34
Monday	Sir 17:20-24 / Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday	Sir 35:1-12 / Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday	Jl 2:12-18 / 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 / Lk 9:22-25
Thursday	Dt 30:15-20 / Lk 9:22-25
Friday	Is 58:1-9a / Mt 9:14-15
Saturday	Is 58:9b-14 / Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday	Gn:2:7-9; 3:1-7 / Rom 5:12-19 / Mt 4:1-11