

Church of

# Saint Thomas the Apostle



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Website: [www.stthomas-church.org](http://www.stthomas-church.org)

**Rev. Thomas J. Hayes, D. Min., Pastor**  
[thayes@stthomas-church.org](mailto: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](mailto:pholm@stthomas-church.org)

**Barbara Ruggirello, Bookkeeper**

**Paul Edmundson, Office Assistant**  
[pedmundson@stthomas-church.org](mailto:pedmundson@stthomas-church.org)

**Peter Bukowski, Facilities Manager**  
[pbukowski@stthomas-church.org](mailto:pbukowski@stthomas-church.org)

**Maura Barrett, LMSW, Pastoral Care Associate**  
[mbarrett@stthomas-church.org](mailto:mbarrett@stthomas-church.org)

**Avery Tunningley, Parish Music Director**  
[tunnac@aol.com](mailto:tunnac@aol.com)

**Nelly Brown Bunk, Choir Director**  
[nellybrownbunk@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:pstaerker@stthomas-church.org)

**Elizabeth Kerins, MS and HS Coordinator**  
[ekerins@stthomas-church.org](mailto:ekerins@stthomas-church.org)

**Mary Ann Hospodar, Assistant MS and HS Coordinator**  
[mhospodar@stthomas-church.org](mailto:mhospodar@stthomas-church.org)

**Colleen Harrigan, Secretary**  
[charrigan@stthomas-church.org](mailto:charrigan@stthomas-church.org)

**PARISH TRUSTEES: Patrick Gallagher and Adele Nucci**

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

[www.stthomas-school.org](http://www.stthomas-school.org)

[info@stthomas-school.org](mailto:info@stthomas-school.org)

**Thomas Kane, School Principal**

**Carmel Foltan, Dir. Community Relations & Enrollment Mgmt.**  
[cfoltan@stthomas-school.org](mailto: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, April 1-2, 2017, Fifth Sunday of Lent

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Hayes	Maureen Roberts & Dan Coffey	Julia Kloss & Lizzy Kloss	3
8:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Alba Giordano & Michael Braunlin	Isabel Scisci & Tyler Harrigan	3
9:30 a.m.	Father Hayes	Marianne Conophy & Paul Connolly	Carolyn Kohlberg & Meagan Kohlberg	1
11:00 a.m.	Father Hayes	Karen Jones & Tom Hedderman	Sean Desharnais & Mikolaj Wloszczynski	1

## Father Tom's Corner

**EMERGENCY DEFIBRILLATOR** ~ Upon the recommendation of Adele Nucci, one of our parish Trustees, we have installed an emergency defibrillator. It is located near the bulletin boards in the Gathering Hall close to the main church entrance. Please note the location of this device in case we need to use it during an emergency.

**LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE** ~ This year the Lenten Reconciliation Service for the local parishes will be held on Monday evening, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Christ the King Church. All are welcome.

**FAST AND ABSTINENCE** ~ Good Friday is a day 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 the Fridays of Lent. All Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 are obliged to fast on Good Friday.

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.

**LENTEN ALMS** ~ 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. 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.

**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** ~ We will meet on Monday from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. with a repeat session on Monday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. We will review Chapters 8 and 9 (pages 142 to 188).

## Prayer & Worship

**ENVELOPES FOR EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS** are now available in the office or at the Church entrances for those who would like to make a donation. If you choose to make a donation in memory of a particular person, those memorials will be listed in the bulletin at Easter time. Please submit memorial donations that are to be listed in the bulletin to the parish office no later than Friday, April 7.

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

## Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

**Looking for ways to give of yourself this Lent?** There are many ways to become involved with those who are aged, ill, and needy in our parish. Working full-time? No problem! We have a number of ministries that offer flexible scheduling, with opportunities for as little or as much time as you are able to give. Visit the Pastoral Care link on the parish website or contact Maura at [mbarrett@stthomas-church.org](mailto:mbarrett@stthomas-church.org) or by phone for more information. I am sure we can find a place for you!

**Eucharistic Minister to the Homebound** ~ Some of our parishioners are no longer able to get to church for Mass so we provide Communion at their homes. This is a very meaningful ministry for both the recipient and the minister. Scheduling is between you and the person you serve. Training provided. Let Maura know if you would be interested in assisting in this area on a regular basis, or as a substitute

**End of Life Decisions: When Is It Moral to 'Let Go'?** ~ The Respect Life Committee at Mater Christi Parish is presenting a program that addresses Catholic Teachings on end-of-life care as well as The Application of Catholic Principles (NYS laws & policies, Health Care Proxies, Living Wills, etc.). Presented by: Kathleen Gallagher, Director of Pro-Life Activities & Director of Catholic Action Network, NYS Catholic Conference. This presentation is based on the NYS Catholic bishops' statement "**Now and at the Hour of Our Death.**" Date: Tues., April 4, 2017 at 7 p.m. Location: Mater Christi Parish Center, 35 Hurst Ave., Albany. No charge. For more info. contact: Betty Higgins at 459-3642.

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

### Faith Formation

#### ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

**5th grade Reconciliation Service** is this Tuesday, March 28, at 4:30 p.m. in the chapel. This is the reschedule of the previous service that was canceled due to the blizzard. 4th graders **only** will not have faith formation class this Tuesday so they and their families can attend this service.

**5th grade moving up ceremony** is in 2 weeks on Monday April 10 at 6 p.m. in the chapel. 5th graders and their families are invited for an hour of prayer, information for next year, song and refreshments as we celebrate your 5th graders moving up to our middle school program!

**It's time to register for next year's classes!** ~ Updated registration forms are available on our church website, [www.stthomas-church.org](http://www.stthomas-church.org), by clicking on the "Forms and Downloads" link. You can also get and/or leave forms in the school lobby when you come for classes over the next 2 weeks, or stop by the Faith Formation offices during office hours. Once again, we are offering an 'Early Bird Special' for those submitting their completed forms by May 31, 2017!

**We will be seeking new and returning catechists and assistants to staff our classes for the 2017-18 Faith Formation year** ~ Please contact our office to learn more about how you can help spread the Good News to our youngest parishioners!

**Reminder to all families** ~ Our last week of classes for 1st -5th grade this year will be April 4-6! Our Sunday Children's Liturgy of the Word for 3, 4 and 5 year olds will NOT be held on Palm Sunday, April 9 and Easter Sunday, April 16 due to the larger congregation expected on these Sundays. That program will resume on April 23.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Elizabeth Kerins)

**Confirmation paperwork** must be turned in no later than March 31. If you haven't submitted your child's picture, registration and/or sponsor forms, there is a box on the table between the church and the Gathering Hall marked "Confirmation Paperwork and Pictures".

**Confirmation service projects are due this week!** ~ Don't forget to bring the item (s) you were designated to donate to class this week.

**Classes end this week!** ~ This is the final week of regularly scheduled classes for this semester.

**Stations of the Cross (teen version)** will be presented on Wednesday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Our 8th and 9th grade Faith Formation students will be the celebrants. All are welcome!

### Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

**Let's hear it for our Faith Formation students who participated in Super Dodgeball** for our Parish's Lenten WATER initiative! YOU raised **\$370.00** to be donated to CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES for their WATER projects! Special thanks to our coaches Jeff Bates, Ed Gilligan, and snack stand volunteers, Cat Alderman, Jeanine Vargas, and Amy Scharf.

**A lesson for all of us ~ A 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student** who donated \$85.00 all his birthday money to our WATER PROJECT! The SPIRIT IS ON THE MOVE!

**Thank you for your donations to the Capital City Rescue Mission!** ~ You made a difference by being a responsible consumer and recycling out grown or damaged material items

**GOLD NUGGET Toiletry Drive** ~ We are accepting travel size toiletry items for the homeless this week.

**Spring Fling Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale is today** ~ All proceeds to benefit our NCYC Team! Thank you for your support! Tickets \$6.00 or 4 tickets \$20.

**Adoration Sunday April 2 at 7pm** in the Chapel. All are welcome! **Come spend some time with Jesus.** Lauren Numrich, Youth Minister from St. Pius X, will provide a meditative accompaniment.

### 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. Limited openings available in Pk-8. Contact us today to learn more about St. Thomas the Apostle School and to schedule a tour or shadow day for your child. Contact Carmel Foltan or visit [www.stthomas-school.org](http://www.stthomas-school.org).

**Summer Camp Registration** ~ From the circus to the kitchen and a lot in between, our summer camp has a little something for everyone! Open to children (need not be a St. Thomas School student to attend) entering Preschool 4 – Grade 6. \$200 Per Week for full-time attendance; \$110 per week for part-time attendance. Reduced rates for the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>. Full day campers will also have daily reading time, water play and field trips! For more information, call (518) 439-5573 or visit [www.stthomas-school.org](http://www.stthomas-school.org). Register today! Limited space available. Week 1 – June 26 – 30, Week 2 – July 3 – 7 (Closed on July 4), Week 3 – July 10 – 14, Week 4 – July 17 – 21, Week 5 – July 24 – 28.

## Community

**Fr. Tom's Retirement Festivities** ~ As many of you know, Fr. Tom will be retiring at the end of April after over 40 years in ministry. To honor his dedication and service, there are several parish events planned. On Saturday, April 22, we will gather for a celebration in the school auditorium from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Light fare will be served. Additionally, following all masses on the weekend of April 29/30, we will hold hospitality in the Gathering Hall so that everyone has an opportunity to personally thank Fr. Tom for his many years of sacrifice and many gifts to the parish!

**Fifth Grade Cub Scouts (Webelos & Arrow of Light)** can crossover to a Boy Scout Troop. We invite them to consider joining Troop 71 here at St. Thomas. Many boys prefer participating in our smaller boy-led Troop that enjoys camping and other fun activities, emphasizes advancement and develops skills and confidence. Over the 40 years that the Parish has sponsored the Troop, 36 young men have earned the rank of Eagle Scout and many have earned the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII religious emblems. Cubs and their parents are invited to attend an Open House on Thursday, April 6 at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas School. For information, please contact the Scoutmaster, Rob Donnelly, at 767-0458 or the Committee Chair, Kevin Murray, at 439-7806.

**Senior Luncheon – Faith, Fun, and Food ~ Attention St. Thomas Active Older Adults:** Thank you to everyone who made our March luncheon such a success. Thank you to the Friends of Harmony for the delightful Irish songs they sang. Thank you to our parishioners who baked delicious cupcakes. Thanks you to all our volunteers who helped to set up serve and clean up after the meal. Mark your calendar for our next luncheon which will be our Spring Fling on **Friday, April 21**. Details to follow in next week's bulletin.

## Caring for Our Common Home

(Contact: Jeanne Schrempf: [jdschrempf@verizon.net](mailto:jdschrempf@verizon.net))

**Caring for Our Common Home** ~ Our bulletin insert for the Third Week of Lent centers on **Water** because it is essential for life. Our Church tradition names this a **right to life** issue and calls upon us to be stewards of this precious gift. Internationally the world water crisis is one of the largest public health issues of our times. Although we have access to clean and available water, 11% of the world's population does not and 1.6 million people, mostly babies and children, die annually from thirst or consuming polluted water. Our Lenten bulletin insert challenges us to live a more just and sustainable lifestyle by being aware of our own **"water footprint"** – the water we use in our households and the water that produces the food, clothing, and materials we consume or use and often take for granted. This week's Lenten action challenge is to **"kick the bottled water habit"** by using a reusable bottle and filling it with tap water. If we begin to more intentionally use the water we have access to, we can make a

large contribution towards reducing the billions of plastic bottles that trash our planet and take up to 700 years to decompose.

Our parish Creation Care Team will resume selling reusable St. Thomas grocery bags for \$5.00 after Masses and at parish events. Our goal is to raise \$1300 to build a community water station in a Third World country.

## Christian Service

**ST. THOMAS FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION** is set for **THIS WEEKEND**, March 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.

## Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION** ~ This weekend our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Thank you for your support.

**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 ministry opportunity.

### STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE March 18-19, 2017

Offertory	\$11,360.83
Offertory from E-Giving (Vanco)	\$1,610.00
<b>Total Offertory Received</b>	<b>\$12,970.83</b>
Tithe from this Offertory	\$648.54

**Thank you for your continuing support of the parish!**

## Calendar

Mon	3/27	1pm / 7pm	Lenten Book Study	GH
Mon	3/27	5 pm	Alzheimer's Care Team Meeting	GH
Mon	3/27	6 pm	Sacrificial Giving Committee	PO
Thu	3/30	10 am	Bible Study	LCR1
Fri	3/31	2 pm	Stations of the Cross	CH
Sat	4/1	12 pm	Peace Prayer Vigil	PP
Sun	4/2	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 March 27 - March 31, 2017**

<b>Mon.</b>	<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Patricia Putnam, 9th Anniv.</b> <i>Luke Mullen</i>
		<b>Alexa Parker</b> <i>Fran Royo</i>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>7:30 am</b>	<b>Harold Hauck Jr.</b> <i>His Family</i>
		<b>Diana M. Barry</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>7:30 am</b>	<b>Sr. Ursula Birnley FMSJ</b> <i>Sr. Judith FMSJ</i>
		<b>Dianne Allen - Healing Intentions</b> <i>Robert and Eileen Davis</i>
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Sam Bozzella</b> <i>The Gorman Family</i>
		<b>Rev. Donald Doyle</b>

## **Next Weekend, April 1-2, 2017**

<b>Sat.</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Thomas Magliocca</b> <i>The Family</i>
		<b>William Bassotti</b> <i>Steve and Christine Corson</i>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>For The People</b>
	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Capt. Timothy Moshier, 11th Anniv.</b> <i>Mom and Dad</i>
		<b>Susan Hamm</b> <i>Susan Pauerowski</i>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Gerald Pomakoy</b> <i>Marge Pomakoy</i>
		<b>John Barrett</b> <i>Marge Pomakoy</i>

## **Scripture Readings: Week of March 26, 2017**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1 Sm:16:1b, 6-7,10-13a / Eph 5:8-14 / Jn 9:1-41</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Is 65:17-21 / Jn 4:43-54</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Ez 47:1-9, 12 / Jn 5:1-16</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Is 49:8-15 / Jn 5:17-30</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Ex 32:7-14 / Jn 5:31-47</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Wis 2:1a, 12-22 / Jn 7:1-2,10, 25-30</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Jer 11:18-20 / Jn 7:40-53</b>
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<b>Ez 37: 12-14 / Rom 8:8-11 / Jn 11:1-45</b>