

Church of

Saint Thomas the Apostle



35 Adams Place, Delmar, New York 12054

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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 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 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-Sunday, December 2 - 3, 2017, First Sunday of Advent

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Berberian	Denis Hurley & Amanda Smith	Kelsie Apicelli & Shelby Whitman	1
8:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Anthony Scisci & Mary Richards	Jim Moran & Pat McDermott	1
9:30 a.m.	Father Berberian	Matthew Scheidler & Annemarie Farrell	Kathleen Connelly & Maggie Remmel	2
11:00 a.m.	Father Berberian	Tom Kane & Sara Comi	John Henry Walters & Maggie Walters	2

Pastor's Corner

Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve and Day Mass Schedules ~ Due to the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve occurring on the same day, we've made adjustments to the Mass schedule for that weekend. Fourth Sunday of Advent Masses will be celebrated on Saturday, December 23 at 5 p.m. and Sunday, December 24 at 9:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Masses will be celebrated at 4,6 and 11 p.m. Christmas Day Masses will be celebrated at 9:30 and 11 a.m.

AT HOME WITH THE WORD ~ The new liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent, December 3. The At Home with the Word books, which contain the Sunday readings for the new year, are available this weekend in the Gathering Hall. The donation for the books is \$5.00.

Welcome Carmel Foltan, Our New Trustee ~ Aside from its religious reality, each parish in the Diocese has a separate civil corporation structure. The Bishop serves as President, the Vicar General as Vice-President, and the Pastor as Secretary/Treasurer. Two parishioners serve as Trustees to complete the officers of the parish corporation. The officers of the corporation have a fiduciary responsibility to safeguard the financial stability of the parish and to help ensure that the parish is fulfilling its mission. Trustees are also *ex-officio* members of the Pastoral Council. Trustees are appointed yearly up a term of six years. Pat Gallagher has recently completed his six year term as Trustee. Adele Nucci, the other Trustee is in the second year of her term. Pat and Adele were extremely helpful during the transition to my coming here as Pastor. To replace Pat, Bishop Scharfenberger has appointed Carmel Foltan as our new Trustee. Carmel and her husband Rob and daughters are long time members of the parish. Until recently Carmel was working closely with Tom Kane in our school. Her knowledge of the parish as well as her background and experience make her an excellent choice. Please know that I, the Trustees and members of the Pastoral Council are always ready hear suggestions and/or comments about our parish as we move into our future.

You and your family are invited to celebrate **The Feast of St. Juan Diego & Our Lady of Guadalupe** on Friday December 15! Serenade begins in the Gathering Hall at 6 p.m., Bilingual Mass at 6:30 p.m., followed by food and entertainment in the school gym. All are Welcome!

THE ANNUAL ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE for our "Local Catholic Community" (St. Thomas, St. Matthew's, St. Lucy/St. Bernadette, and Christ the King) will be held at St. Matthews in Voorheesville, at 7:00 p.m. on Tue., Dec. 12. All parishioners are encouraged to participate.

Prayer & Worship

Remember in prayer Pater Salomone whose funeral was held this past week at St. Thomas. May the Lord welcome him into Eternal Life.

ALTAR FLOWERS ~ Envelopes are now available in the office or at the church entrances for those who would like to make a donation for Christmas altar flowers. If you choose to make a donation in memory of a particular person, those memorials will be listed in the bulletin at Christmas time. Please submit memorial donations that are to be listed in the bulletin to the Parish Office by Fri., Dec. 15.

MINISTERS FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS WEEKENDS ~ 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.

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)

"Together we imagine a circle of compassion with no one standing outside of it,"
-Sr. Peggy O'Neill, S.C.

In Pastoral Care we attend to the emotional and spiritual needs of people in our parish community. 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 areas in need of more assistance:

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/month and on your schedule. Contact Maura if you are interested in joining this team.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Hospital Visitation Ministry ~ Our team visits hospitalized members of our parish to provide spiritual support and assist in linking them with services in our parish upon discharge. This is a very meaningful ministry for both the recipient and the minister. Visits can be done days, evenings, or weekends, and are usually once every 5 weeks. Training provided. Let Maura know if you would be interested in assisting in this area on a regular basis, or as a substitute.

Faith Formation

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

We want to congratulate all of our 2nd grade children who have completed their study of the Sacrament of Reconciliation ~ What an amazing sacrament of forgiveness and healing that we are invited to receive whenever needed! Be sure to check out our poster of lambs known by name and cared for so lovingly by the Good Shepherd on display in the Gathering Hall!

The December sessions for our **First Eucharist family prep classes** will be held on, Sunday, December 10 at 8:15 a.m. and Monday, December 11 at 6 p.m. in the school. Babysitting for siblings of our First Communion children will be provided by our Middle School and High School Faith Formation students.

Elementary Faith Formation Classes resume this week and will continue through December 21.

Our annual Christmas Boutique for 3rd-5th graders will be held the week of December 12-14 during regular faith formation classes. Children in these grades will have a chance to do some Christmas shopping for loved ones thanks to Mrs. Hospodar and the middle school faith formation program.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Elizabeth Kerins)

Save the Date ~ The Advent Prayer Service will be held Sunday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Our 7th graders will be the celebrants. All are welcome!

Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

Next **Teen/ Family Mass** is Saturday December 2 at 5 p.m. Please join us as we begin our Season of Advent!

NCYC Team will be hosting Hospitality next weekend to say thank you for your support! Please join us in the Gathering Hall to learn more about our pilgrimage!

We are hosting our annual **Ugly Sweater and Giving Tree Party** tonight Sunday November 26 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the school. Our guests from this year's Giving Tree include

Sr. Peg Sullivan from Sacred Heart Outreach & St. Mary's Outreach and a representative from Mary's Corner! Followed by games, fun and prizes! Don't forget your favorite ugly sweater!

School News

(Contact: Thomas Kane)

It's amazing what happens when you make faith a part of a child's everyday learning experience

~ Please help us grow in our ministry for Catholic education through our Continuing the Vision Campaign. Your gift allows us to keep tuition affordable for all families. A monthly gift, a one-time gift, a celebratory gift during Christmas and Easter or any other gift as you see fit, makes the difference in the lives of our students. Brochures and donation cards are available in the Gathering Hall and in the School Lobby. Thank you for making a difference!

Preschool and Kindergarten spots for the 2018-19 school year are filling up quickly! Now is the time to submit your application. Interested in a tour? Please contact Jennifer Murphy. If you need an application, contact us or visit our website at www.stthomas-school.org under the "Admission" tab. Come and find out why St. Thomas the Apostle School is a wonderful option for your family.

Did you know? Our World Languages Program includes not one, not two, but THREE languages. Students in grades K-4 study French and then move on to Spanish in grades 5-8. Students in grades 6-8 have the opportunity to study Latin through Middlebury College. Having the opportunity for exposure to French, Spanish, and Latin provides our students with a wonderful foundation in World Languages. Many of our students graduate with one high school credit in World Language.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Ladies Night Out – Paint & Socialize event as well as our donors, stewards and everyone who helped attend to all of the details that make this such a wonderful event for all. A special thank you to our own art teacher extraordinaire Denise Chonski and her assistant, Madison Scisci, for sharing their talents.

Creation Care Team

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

This Sunday is the last Sunday of the liturgical year as the Church moves into the season of Advent. And what a fitting reflection and challenge Jesus gives to us and Christians living in any age. Can we, do we see him in the person who is hungry, thirsty, without adequate employment, clothing or shelter? Do we recognize him in the person who may be ill, alone, who does not speak our language or know our culture, who might suffer from addiction or be imprisoned? And if we do, what will be our response as we prepare for Christmas? And if we do not see Jesus in all our brothers and sisters, are we not the most neediest of all?

For all parishioners:

- Don't miss the opportunity to participate in the parish annual Giving Tree.
- If you are able, add a grocery gift card to your weekly shopping and drop it in the collection basket. The parish will see that it is donated to area charities.
- Have a family meeting to determine how you can adjust your gift lists to make a family gift to Catholic Relief Services, Heifer International, Save the Children, the parish Well Project or a favorite charity. We will leave some brochures for your consideration in the Gathering Hall.
- Stay abreast of the news from Pope Francis, our state governors, climate care organizations on ways we can care for our Earth. November 28 is a national **Giving Tuesday** a day to raise awareness and respond to our sisters and brothers and our earth.

manger scene, old fashioned Christmas ornaments, wired ribbon, thin ribbon, old fashioned clothespins, small bag of hay or raffia, any wood Christmas ornaments, stars, old wreaths, pipe cleaners, thin florist wire, seashells and open walnut shells! Together WE will create a beautiful NEW Christmas Gift for that someone special

Senior Luncheon – Faith, Fun, and Food ~ Attention St. Thomas Active Older Adults: Thank you to all those who wrote out Christmas cards for our soldiers overseas and in the VA hospital and to our local parishioners. Our November luncheon was a great success. Thanks to all those who helped to set up, serve and clean up. Also, many thanks to our great parishioners who baked such delicious pies. Make your reservations soon for our next luncheon which is Friday, Dec. 15. We will meet at 12:15 for Mass and then enjoy lunch together. We will be treated to Christmas carols sung by some of the St. Thomas students. If possible, please bring a food item for the Bethlehem Food pantry. For reservations, cancellations or transportation, contact Christine or Steve Corson at [518-439-3286](tel:518-439-3286) by Monday, Dec. 11.

Parishioners: If you like to bake, could you please help out the Senior Spiritual and Social Activities this month with cookies. Please contact Christine or Steve Corson at 518-439-3286 to help with baked goods.

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.

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

The Parish Giving Tree is in the Church, this weekend. We ask parishioners to choose a tag and to fulfill the request on it. Please return the gift (**with tag attached**) to the School Gym on Saturday, December 9 or by **noon sharp** on Sunday, December 10.

Without your kindness, the individuals and organizations represented by the tree tags may go without these basic needs. No gift should cost more than \$30; many are less costly. If you take a tag, please fill the request (**many gifts are for specific people**) and return the gift on or before December 10 at noon sharp. All gifts will be delivered that afternoon.

There will be coffee in the School Gym after all the Masses that weekend, so that everyone can see the wonderful generosity of our whole Parish Community that the Giving Tree gifts represent.

Community

Creation Care Team is hosting a **Christmas Craft Station** on December 10 in the school **during our Parish Giving Tree Return** from 9 a.m.-noon. But we need your assistance! WE are collecting the following **NONBREAKABLE ITEMS, NO GLASS PLEASE** in the Gathering Hall: clementine or small wooden boxes, plastic or child proof nativity scenes or parts, small animals that might be at a

Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE November 18-19, 2017

Offertory contribution information for November 18=19 was not available at time of publication. It will be included in a future bulletin.

Thank you for your continuing support of the parish!

Calendar

Tue	11/28	7 pm	Finance Committee	PO
Thu	11/30	10 am	Bible Study	LCR
Sat	12/2	12 pm	Peace Prayer Vigil	PP
Sat./Sun	12/2-3	After All Masses	NCYC Hospitality	GH
Sun	12/3	9 am	RCIA Weekly Meeting	LCR

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 November 27 - December 1, 2017

Mon.	12:15 pm	Henry Gorman <i>The Gorman Family</i>
		Mary Frances Hoff <i>The Switzer Family</i>
Tues.	7:30 am	Richard and Marcella Gorman <i>The Gorman Family</i>
		Janice Murphy <i>Daile Morrell</i>
Wed.	7:30 am	Jane E. Ricchiuti <i>Michael, Kristen and Audrey</i>
		Mildred Gadomski <i>Alice and Mike</i>
Fri.		Enrollees of St. Thomas Memorial Fund

Next Weekend, December 2-3, 2017

Sat.	5:00 pm	Michael C. Agneta, 20th Anniv. <i>Loving Family</i>
		Theresa Supple <i>Steve and Christine Corson</i>
Sun.	8:00 am	Georgiana Brognane, 1st Anniv. <i>Lisa and Jim</i>
		Gerry DuBois <i>Steve and Christine Corson</i>
	9:30 am	Joseph Ruffino Sr. <i>Angela Pinkel</i>
		Mary J. Szerba <i>Anne Cantalupo</i>
	11:00 am	Albert J. Rodriguez <i>Frank and Regina Frederick Family</i>
		Herbert Fox <i>Bill and Judy</i>

Scripture Readings: Week of November 26, 2017

Sunday	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17 / 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28 / Mt 25:31-46
Monday	Dn 1:1-6, 8-20 / Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday	Dn 2:31-45 / Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday	Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28 / Lk 21:12-19
Thursday	Rom 10:9-18 / Mt 4:18-22
Friday	Dn 7:2-14 / Lk 21:29-33
Saturday	Dn 7:15-27 / Lk 21:34-36
Sunday	Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7 / 1 Cor 1:3-9 / Mk 13:33-37