

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. 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 4:00 p.m. in the Daily Mass Chapel or anytime by
appointment.

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, January 6 - 7, 2018, The Epiphany of the Lord

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Berberian	Tim Mahar & Lynne Lenhardt	Ali Barron & Matthew Barron	4
8:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	David Rothfuss & Maureen Nyilis	Tyler Harrigan & Shayla Harrigan	4
9:30 a.m.	Father Berberian	Paul Connolly & Amanda Smith	Carolyn Kohlberg & Meagan Kohlberg	2
11:00 a.m.	Father Berberian	Tom Henderson & Maureen Roberts	Lucy Creamer & Mikolaj Wloszczynski	2

Pastor's Corner

Christmas 2017 Thank You ~ As we recall God's gift of the birth of Jesus on that first silent, holy night, we cannot help but be filled with wonder, gratitude and praise. We are once again reminded of the potential and possibilities of our lives. It is also a time to be grateful for the many ways God's presence is made known within our faith community. A perfect example of this was our giving tree project. This year more than 1,000 gifts were collected and distributed to people in need to help make Christmas a little brighter for their families (Thank-you Kelly D'Andrea for your excellent coordination once again). And there are so many other examples of where the Lord's presence is made known: by a dedicated staff that always go above and beyond their job descriptions; by our musicians and choir who raise their voices to join the choir of angels in heaven; by our faithful liturgical ministers who are always ready to pitch in when needed; by Ginny Acquario and her elves for using their creative gifts to create a prayerful environment; by those who with little fanfare care for the "holy wash" and help keep the church building fit for worship; by our school community for helping make Advent a time of prayer and service to those in need and by lifting our hearts and spirits with their Christmas concert; by our catechists and aides in our Faith Formation programs who so generously share their faith with our children and teach so much more by their example and by all those who in their quiet and unassuming way help to make St. Thomas a place where we can truly enter into the mystery of God's love for us. Through shared faith, common prayer and works of service Jesus is born again and again in our midst.

NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY ~ The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 1 and Tuesday January 2, in observance of the Diocesan holiday schedule for New Year's Day. There will be Mass on Monday, January 1 for the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God at 12:15 p.m. in the church. There are NO services scheduled in church on Tuesday..

Prayer & Worship

Prayer Chain ~ Members respond to urgent prayer intentions. Contact Pam Seward at: 518-439-7845 for your intention to be added.

PRAYER FOR PEACE ~ The monthly Prayer for Peace will be on Saturday, January 6, at noon at the Peace Pole near the entrance to the parking lot near the front of the church. All are welcome.

Cantors Needed ~ St. Thomas has a **CRITICAL** need for cantors to sing at the weekend and holy day Masses. If you would like to volunteer for this valuable liturgical ministry and have been confirmed, please contact Avery Tunngley, Parish Music Director, at 518-357-0718 as soon as possible.

Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

May this be a year of finding, of fulfillment, of joy, peace, and purpose," - Unknown

Happy New Year! ~ We can help you to find all of those things by joining in our Pastoral Care Ministries. 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 a couple of examples of how you can become involved:

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.

Hospital Visitation Team ~ Our ministers provide friendly visits and spiritual support to our hospitalized parishioners as well as linkages to other ministries in our parish upon discharge. Visits are once a week on a 5-6 week rotation with flexible scheduling. Training provided. Let Maura know if you would be interested in assisting in this very meaningful ministry on a regular basis, or as a substitute.

Knitting, Quilting, & Crocheting with Love ~ This team is expanding and evolving! And you are welcome to join! The team will meet again next month on January 17 at 2:00 in the Gathering Hall. Prior to that, Christina Ryan will continue to collect 6"x6" "squares" made of medium weight, or 4"x 4" of baby weight, washable yarn in a basket in the church foyer. This group is putting together beautiful blankets, quilts and baby items for persons in our own community. After the business portion of the meeting, the group will have a more social time and will stay, teach and learn from one another. We have a quilter willing to assist the novices in addition to seasoned knitters and crocheters. Please contact Chris Ryan with questions at 518-439-8517. All are welcome!

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Holiday Support ~ The holiday season is a time of hope and love. It can also be a time of emotional difficulty for some. If you or your loved one is in need of supportive services please contact Maura in Pastoral Care for assistance and referral information for programs available in our area.

Faith Formation

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

Faith formation families continue to enjoy our annual extended Christmas recess this coming week and next week. Classes will resume the week of January 16-18 for the start of our 2nd half of the year. We wish all of our faith formation families a wonderful New Year!!!

Our next session of First Eucharist prep classes for families enrolled in that program will be held on Sunday, January 21 at 8:15 am and Monday, January 22 at 6:00 pm in the school Babysitting for siblings of first Eucharist children will be available during these sessions for the convenience of parents. For those families enrolled in our First Eucharist preparation program, please note that the **retreat in March has been changed to Saturday, March 17** {from March 10}.

As a reminder to all families attending the 9:30 am Mass on Sundays, **Children's Liturgy of the Word** resumes this week. **This program is open to all 3, 4 and 5 year olds in attendance at the 9:30 Mass; no registration is required!!** Children are invited up to the altar for a blessing by Father, and are then dismissed with our catechists to the chapel where they receive a lesson on that week's gospel reading at their own level doing crafts, singing songs, playing games and hearing stories. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful program, we could really use another catechist or two to lead the lessons on a rotational basis. Please contact the elementary faith formation office for information.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Elizabeth Kerins)

"Boundaries" Training for all 9th graders will be offered on **Tuesday, January 16 and Thursday, January 18 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the St. Thomas Media Center.** Your son/daughter is only required to attend one of the sessions. An email was sent home last week.

Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

Wishing you and your family a healthy and Blessed New Year!

Parish and Service Opportunities for 2018 are posted in our **Make a Difference binder** in the Gathering Hall! Thank you for your service in our parish and community.

School News

(Contact: Thomas Kane)

May God bless you and your loved ones with joy, health and faith in the coming New Year!

Did you know? St. Thomas students are celebrated and honored each week on our Student Feature Board located in the school lobby. Every week, four different students are interviewed and photographed. This is an opportunity for our students to build community with each other and support one another. It is so wonderful to see the excitement from our students, faculty and staff each Monday morning when a new set of students are featured!

Scrip Gift Cards are not just available through the holiday season but are available throughout the year. Order forms are available in the Gathering Hall and can be dropped off or mailed in with cash or check payment to St. Thomas the Apostle School. Many of the retailers we all use year-round (ShopRite, WalMart, Lowe's and Amazon to name just a few) offer rebates to the school. If you have any questions about this simple way to help the school, please contact Erica at [518-439-5573](tel:518-439-5573) or efox@stthomas-school.org.

It's amazing what happens when you make faith a part of a child's everyday learning experience! PreK-8th Grade Open Enrollment. Please contact us today for a tour ~ From our youngest students in PreK 3 to our 8th Grade students who are preparing for High School, it is always our goal to empower each and every student to achieve academic and spiritual excellence in an environment which is rich in Catholic tradition. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Jennifer Murphy at [\(518\) 439-5573](tel:518-439-5573).

Creation Care Team

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

Commit to Care

Welcome 2018 with a commitment to take a first step or a new step, large or small, alone or with your family, to **active-care for creation.**

A "step" can be as private as a commitment to daily **prayer** for peace and respect for the environment or as communal as **volunteering** with a group such as Habitat For Humanity.

Make recycling easy in your home. **Place dedicated recycling receptacles** everywhere there is waste; in the bathroom, home office, bedrooms and kitchen.

Educate yourself about environmental issues locally and worldwide.

As Pope Francis reminds us: **creation is God's gift to us.** It is a gift given to us to appreciate, enjoy, share, respect and pass on to future generations – intact, healthy, undamaged by wasteful practices and neglect.

In 2018 St. Thomas's Creation Care Team will continue to seek opportunities to care for this gift and **we invite all parishioners to join us.** Check the bulletin and parish website for Team meetings, environmental activities and Creation Care Team news.

Community

The Outreach Community Meals Committee would like to thank the following Faith Formation students and their families for providing the luncheon at the Lutheran Church on December 18:

Nathi Clarke, Thomas Buffaline, Maggie and Maeve Byrnes, Katie and Ruth Hotaling, Celia DeCancio, Steven Sitzer, Ryan Teplitz, Howie Vargas, Emma Radzysinski, Grace Santella, Nancy Ruth, Will Lanzoni, Patty Ells and Liz Vincelette. Everything was delicious and well received. We would also like to thank Mary Ann Hospodar for coordinating all the details of the meal including having special favors made for those attending. Thank you all for caring and sharing with the frail elderly of our Town of Bethlehem. Marie Vitillo and Marie Copeland, Co-Chairs

St. Thomas CYO basketball is off to a great start. We have 86 boys and girls playing on 7 different travel teams. We also have over 65 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade children participating in our Saturday morning clinic. Games are played on Saturday's and Sunday's in the school gym.

The 22nd Annual Kathleen Pallante Memorial Tournament will be held January 10 - 14. Game times will be post on our website: <https://stthomas-church.org/cyo-basketball>

Senior Luncheon and Service Project – Faith, Fun and Food ~ St Thomas Active Older Adults: Please join us on **Friday, January 12** in the Conference Room at 11:15 am for coffee and donuts and writing Valentine cards for shut-in members of our parish community. Please bring a box of Valentine cards to share. We will attend Mass

at 12:15 and then enjoy lunch together. This is a great opportunity to meet some of your fellow parishioners. Encourage a friend to come along with you. For reservations, cancellations or transportation, contact Steve or Christine Corson at 439-3286 by **Monday, January 8.**

Parishioners: If you like to bake, could you please help out the Seniors Spiritual and Social activities ministry this month with bundt cakes. Please contact Steve or Christine Corson at 439-3286 to help with baked goods.

Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

2018 Calendars ~ Please be sure to take a 2018 wall calendar, found at each church entrance. These lovely calendars are an annual gift to parishioners from Peter Applebee. Thank you, Peter!

2017 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS ~ The parish office will send statements of 2017 contributions to all contributing parishioners by the end of January.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE December 16-17, 2017

Offertory	\$15,480.02
Offertory from E-Giving (Vanco)	\$1,090.00
Total Offertory Received	\$16,570.02
Tithe from this Offertory	\$828.50

Thank you for your continuing support of the parish!

Calendar

Mon	1/1	12:15 pm	Parish Office Closed, Mass will be celebrated	CH
Tue	1/2		Diocesan Holiday - Office Closed, No Mass	
Thu	1/4	10 am	Bible Study	LCR
Sat	1/6	12 pm	Peace Prayer Vigil	PP
Sun	1/7	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

Thank you to the following, who made donations for our Christmas Altar Flowers:

Donated by	In Memory of
Jerome and Nancy Toomey.....	Marion Bleau and Barb Anzalone
Judy Gentile	Mom and Dad Gentile
Mom And Dad and Family.....	Leonard Jr. and Kevin fox
Mary Jo Cronin	Kenneth and Joseph Kellog
Bidell Family	Jack Bidell
Fran Underwood.....	Montesano and Dottino Families
Roseann and Frank.....	The Souls of our Family passed away and yet to be
Robert and Robin Jira.....	Margaret Terteckray
Marymel Hart	Hart and DiBello Families

Mass Intentions

For the Week of January 1 - January 5, 2017

Mon.	12:15 pm	Mary, Holy Mother of God Ryan Reigelsperger <i>Betsy Riccio</i>
Tues.		Diocesan Holiday - No Mass
Wed.	7:30 am	Roseann Bruno <i>Norman Morand</i>
Fri.	12:15 pm	Enrollees of the St. Thomas Memorial Fund

Next Weekend, January 6-7, 2017

Sat.	5:00 pm	Howard Cooper, 13th Anniv. <i>The Family</i>
		Marilyn Soucy <i>Jim and Ronnie Blendell</i>
Sun.	8:00 am	For The People
	9:30 am	Elizabeth Taiman <i>Kim and Linda Balfour</i>
		Michael Coakley <i>Howell and Mary Morris</i>
	11:00 am	Kevin Reilly <i>Jane and Jim O'Neill</i>
		Theresa Supple <i>The Supple Family</i>

Scripture Readings: Week of December 31, 2017

Sunday	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 / Col 3:12-21 / Lk 2:22-40
	Mary, Holy Mother of God Nm 6: 22-27 / Gal 4:4-7/ Lk 2: 16-21
Tuesday	I Jn 2:22-28 / Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday	I Jn 2:29-3:6 / Jn 1:29-34
Thursday	I Jn 3:7-10 / Jn 1:35-42
Friday	I Jn 3:11-21 / Jn 1:43-51
Saturday	I Jn 5:5-13 / Mk 1:7-11
Sunday	Is 60:1-6 / Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Mt 2:1-12