

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, December 9 - 10, 2017, Second Sunday of Advent

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Berberian	Dan Coffey & Tricia Buhr	Sarah Gill & Meerab Gill	2
8:00 a.m.	Father Berberian	Jeff Conklin & Colleen Flynn	Isabel Scisci & Shayla Harrigan	2
9:30 a.m.	Father Berberian	Michael Connolly & Marianne Conophy	Olivia Poust & Jack Keating	3
11:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Jack Canning & Maureen Cahill	John Henry Walters & Maggie Walters	3

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.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ~ Friday, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Masses will be celebrated at 12:15 and 5:30 p.m.. All are encouraged to join us for the Eucharist on this holyday.

AT HOME WITH THE WORD ~ The At Home with the Word books, which contain the Sunday readings, will be available for the next couple of weekends in the Gathering Hall. The donation for the books is \$5.00.

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.

CONTRATULATIONS to the families of Lyla Grace Decker, Sanna Isabella Syed, Sarah Elizabeth Frey, Anna Elizabeth Granville, Nicholas Patrick Greeley and Maddox James Greeley who were baptized recently at St. Thomas.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS: Joseph and Tanny Quigley; Corey Sgarlata, Lyndsey Gaff and their son, Hunter; Christopher and Alesia Spina and their daughter, Emilia and Galeb Bader.

Prayer & Worship

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER Elizabeth Taiman whose funeral was held last week at St. Thomas. May the Lord welcome her 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)

"Love has no meaning if it isn't shared. Love has to be put into action,"
-Mother Teresa

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 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.

The Bereavement Support Group, for those who have lost a spouse within the last 2 years, will meet on **Wednesday, December 6 at 6:00-7:30 p.m.** in the Large Conference Room in the parish office. **You must register** with Maura if you are interested in joining this group. For more information, please contact Maura Barrett, at 439-4951 ext. 104 or mbarrett@stthomas-church.org.

First Sunday of Advent

Faith Formation

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

The December sessions for our **First Eucharist family prep classes** will be held next week 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.

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)

Advent Prayer Service ~ The Advent Prayer Service will be this Sunday evening, 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)

NCYC: THANK YOU ST. THOMAS! ~ Our NCYC experience was one of inspiration, faith and hope in our young Church! Our delegation of nine joined voices in prayer, celebration and fun with 25,000 other Catholics from all over the United States and the world. I think Archbishop Gomez said it best: "Our young people are our present and future church and I believe we are in good hands!" Our team is committed to becoming more involved in our parish and spread HIS message!

During the Pilgrimage, clothes pins with uplifting messages and contact information were passed and spread throughout the weekend! Pilgrims attached them to unsuspecting backpacks and coats. WE made some of our own for you to share with your family and to **spread HIS message** perhaps on your child's backpack, neighbor's mail box, in packed lunches, or on a dinner napkin. And perhaps you as a family would like to make some of your own to share this Christmas!

Reflections from our pilgrimage!

- "God is LOVE! It's not WHO you are, its WHOSE you are!" - Sheila Moloney
- "God is always calling us, we just have to pick up the phone and answer HIM! What we think of ourselves is merely just an everyday perspective, but in God's eyes we are the UNIVERSE to HIM." - Josh Bates

Please join us in the Gathering Hall to learn more about our pilgrimage and check us out on our parish Webpage under Youth Ministry.

School News

(Contact: Thomas Kane)

Help St. Thomas the Apostle School to sustain and expand the programs that have served our families for over 60 years ~ 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!

Have you considered a Catholic School Education for your child? 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 .

Did you know? ~ St. Thomas the Apostle School offers a Before Care Program beginning at 7:00 a.m. as well as an After Care Program that runs until 6:00 p.m. each school day. Both programs are held on-site and staffed by school faculty.

Just in time for Christmas shopping! ~ St. Thomas the Apostle School has joined the Great Lakes Scrip fundraising program. **What is Scrip?** It's simple! You purchase gift cards from the school at face value, and we order those cards at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for the school. Visit <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop> to see the 700+ retailers, restaurants, etc. that offer rebates. **There's no easier way to help raise funds for the school.** Just plan ahead, order your cards, pick them up at school and shop! We hope that you'll take advantage of this opportunity. 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. For more information, contact Erica Fox at [518-439-5573](tel:518-439-5573) or efox@stthomas-school.org.

Creation Care Team

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

Enjoy And Protect The Wonder Of Creation

Recycle Creation ~ All children are invited to create Christmas crafts to treasure from recycled items, Sunday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m. to noon during the Giving Tree Gift Return in St. Thomas the Apostle School.

Stop Idling ~ With the chill of winter upon us, it is tempting to leave the car idling as we wait to pick up a friend or family member. Emissions from an idling car though contribute to a reduction in air quality. Idling also wastes fuel. The City of Albany Sustainability Advisory Committee states:

“For every 10 minutes your engine is off, you’ll prevent one pound of carbon dioxide from being released into the environment.”

Explore Creation ~ Explore Creation with environmental experts at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center each Saturday in December. The programs are free, designed for families and include short hikes, crafts and learning about what animals do in the winter. Click on the following link in your browser for dates and times of each program: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1980.html>

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.

The Parish Giving Tree is in the Church, this weekend. There are **still** tags left on the tree. Please add one more items to your Christmas shopping list for someone who really needs it. Please return the gift (**with tag attached**) to the School Gym next weekend on Saturday, December 9 or no later than **noon sharp** on Sunday, December 10.

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. All gifts will be delivered that afternoon. (If you are not able to be here next weekend, you may leave your gift in the Parish Office during the week.)

There will be coffee in the School Gym after all the Masses next weekend, so that everyone can experience the love and generosity 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 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 the seniors who wrote out Christmas cards. We sent 252 cards to veterans/service members and 204 to parishioners in nursing homes, hospitals and at home. 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 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.

Administration

Stopping Envelopes While You Are Away ~ If you receive offertory envelopes and plan to be away during the coming months, please let us know and we can temporarily stop your envelopes. The February/March envelopes will be ordered the last week in December, so please let us know by that week. Thanks.

(Contact: Pat Holm)

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE	
November 18-19, 2016	
Offertory	\$13,869.24
Offertory from E-Giving (Vanco)	\$1,570.00
Total Offertory Received	\$15,439.24
Tithe from this Offertory	\$771.96
Campaign for Human Development	\$2,035.00
November 25-26, 2016	
Offertory	\$11,575.93
Offertory from E-Giving (Vanco)	\$1,115.00
Total Offertory Received	\$12,690.73
Tithe from this Offertory	\$634.55
Thank you for your continuing support of the parish!	

Calendar

Sat./Sun	Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat./Sun	12/2-3	After All Masses	NCYC Hospitality	GH
Mon	12/4	5 pm	Alzheimers Care Team	GH
Wed	12/6	6 pm	Bereavement Support Group	LCR
Thu	12/7	10 am	Bible Study	LCR
Fri	12/8	12:15, 5:30 pm	Immaculate Conception Masses	CH
Sat./Sun	12/10-11	After All Masses	Hospitality at Giving Tree	GYM
Sun	12/10	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 December 4 - December 8, 2017

Mon.	12:15 pm	Mary Frances Hoff <i>Kevin and Kathy Murray</i>
		Henry Christie <i>John Appel</i>
Tues.	7:30 am	Fran Cimino <i>John Appel</i>
Wed.	7:30 am	Michael and Gail Dwyer <i>The Family</i>
		Deceased Members of the Spano Family <i>The Foltan Family</i>
Fri.	12:15 pm	Immaculate Conception Mass Mary Frances Hoff <i>Adele Nucci</i>
		Kevin Reilly <i>Gerry and Kathy Schmanski</i>
	5:30 pm	Immaculate Conception Mass For The People

Next Weekend, December 9-10, 2017

Sat.	5:00 pm	Alfred Schaffhauser, 24th Anniv. <i>Bob and Johanna Shogun</i>
		Alphonse DeLucia Sr., 27th Anniv. <i>His Family</i>
Sun.	8:00 am	For The People
	9:30 am	Rev. Richard J. Broderick, 2nd Anniv. <i>Jim and Gloria Moak</i>
	11:00 am	Viola C. Magee <i>Maureen Cahill</i>
		Theresa Supple <i>St. Thomas Choir</i>

Scripture Readings: Week of December 3, 2017

Sunday	Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7 / 1 Cor 1:3-9 / Mk 13:33-37
Monday	Is 2:1-5 / Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday	Is 11:1-10 / Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday	Is 25:6-10a / Mt 15:29-37
Thursday	Is 26:1-6 / Mt 7:21,24-27
Immaculate Conception	Gn 3:9-15, 20 / Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 / Lk 1:26-38
Saturday	Is 30:19-21, 23-26 / Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday	Is 40:1-5, 9-11 / 2 Pt 3:8-14 / Mk 1:1-8