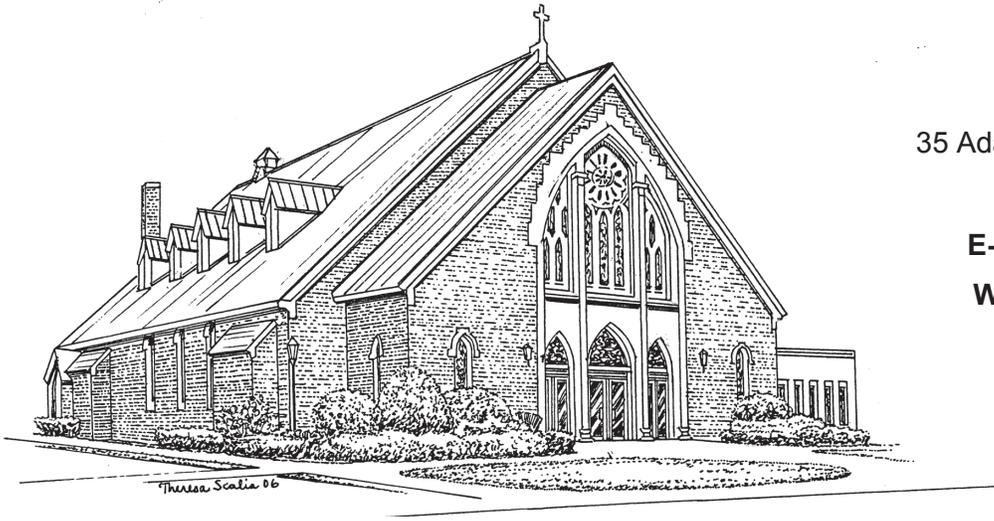


Church of

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, January 28-29, 2017, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Leskovar	Maureen Roberts & Jack Canning	Mathew Barron & Anna Barron	2
8:00 a.m.	Father Hayes	Cathy Semenoff & Paul Edmundson	Kailee Harrigan & Tyler Harrigan	2
9:30 a.m.	Father Hayes	Annemarie Farrell & Herman Reinhold	Emily Sagendorph & Morgan Sears	1
11:00 a.m.	Father Hayes	Marianne Conophy & Michael Braunlin	John Henty Walters & Maggie Walters	1

Father Tom's Corner

Concert for Christian Unity, January 26 at 7:45 pm

~ Our St. Thomas Choir will host a joint concert of Sacred Music with the Choir of First Reformed Church of Schenectady here in our church on Thursday, January 26 at 7:45 p.m. Both our Choir Director, Nelly Brown Bunk, and Julie Panke, Director of the First Reformed Choir, will conduct, and accompanists will be our own Dianne McMullen and Avery Tunngley. Refreshments will follow, and a free will offering will be taken up for the Food Pantries of the Capitol District. Please join us for an evening of music and fellowship!

THE SEVENTH YEAR IN REVIEW ~ This week I will be completing my seventh year as Pastor of St. Thomas. I present here a few highlights of the past year.

Beginning with finances, for the third year in a row, (after many years of deficit spending), the ordinary operations of the Church resulted in a surplus at the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2016. In assessing the viability of parishes, our Diocese looks at the ability of the parish to pay its ordinary expenses with its ordinary income, and save some resources to invest in the future. This year's surplus was \$54,600, a slight decrease from the previous year when it was \$60,358. This surplus was in spite of a 2.65% decline in all of our offertory collections. The operating surpluses are added to our savings for future needs. My goal has been to curb expenses wherever possible in order to continue to operate the parish with a surplus each year.

With regard to parish school finances, we have also turned the corner away from the previous years of continuous deficit spending. Last year, we had a small surplus of \$5,227 and this year we had a significant surplus of \$77,887. This will help to compensate for the many years of deficit spending in the past. Our principal, Tom Kane and our bookkeeper, Barbara Ruggirello have been working hard to have a better handle on monitoring expenses and consequently this financial improvement is due to the reduction of expenses as well as to an admirable increase in fundraising by the school community. We will continue to focus on helping our school operate without a deficit in order to guarantee its future viability.

The major change in parish staff was in the role of Office Assistant, when Patricia Agneta moved out of state and Paul Edmundson filled the position. He is doing a great job in handling the front desk in the parish office and preparing the weekly bulletin for publication. The other change took place when two other staff members had an increase

in their work hours in order to expand their ministries: Mary Ann Hospodar (Youth Ministry) and Maura Barrett (Pastoral Care). Mary Ann's work continues to grow as she works as an assistant to Elizabeth Kerins, offering Christian Service and prayer and retreat experiences to the Middle and High School youth. Maura has taken on additional responsibilities in the area of Sacramental Preparation for those preparing for Matrimony, work formerly done by Deacon Al before he moved the previous year to be Parish Life Director at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Watervliet.

As for Adult Faith Formation, during Lent we offered a study of Pope Francis' encyclical "On the Care of our Common Home" (Laudato Si'). Following the study, a group of participants began meeting to discern ways to help implement this papal teaching into the life of the parish. Regular information was added to the weekly bulletin and also an assessment was done on our parish plant with regard to environmental issues. We are currently addressing the recommendations offered by the study. We will again engage the parish in exploring the insights of Pope Francis on Care for our Common Home during this upcoming Lent. Meanwhile, the Fall book study explored the life and heritage of Thomas Merton. In addition, the annual "Food for Thought" evening sponsored by the parish Public Policy committee dealt with the issues surrounding the role of "Caregivers".

With regard to capital expenses, the only item was the replacement of the piano in the church. We were able to find a quality second-hand instrument and its purchase was covered by donations to the Memorial Fund.

With the new fiscal year in July, we welcomed new members to our Finance Committee to work with our bookkeeper, Barbara Ruggirello to monitor our finances. We also welcomed Adalgisa (Adele) Nucci as our new parish Trustee to replace Regina Bryde Kalet who successfully completed her six year term.

In July, I traveled to our Sister Parish of San Antonio de Padua outside the city of Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. Margarita Harman accompanied me on the trip as we sought to determine the future of our relationship with the parish under the auspices of their new pastor, Father Raul Cardoz. The Sister Parish relationship was established many years ago between Father Provost, pastor of St. Thomas and Father Castro, pastor of San Antonio. After Fr. Castro's retirement, (and subsequent death,) the parish was under the auspices of the Augustinian Friars, during which time our communication began to fail. When we heard that a diocesan priest was again in charge of the parish we decided to meet with him to see if he wished to continue a Sister Parish relationship. He was indeed most

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

gracious and welcomed us to re-establish the relationship. Father Cardoz hopes to visit us here in Delmar later this Spring.

Last September, I was relieved of my responsibilities as Diocesan Director for the Spanish Apostolate. I had been able to secure the services of Father Jorge Reyes, OSA, to work with me in the Apostolate the previous year and he has now assumed the role of Diocesan Director. I continue to serve on his Executive Board and will fill in with Spanish liturgies from time to time in the future.

As I complete this seventh year at St. Thomas, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all the parish staff and volunteers who do so much to make the pastoral ministry here vibrant and healthy. Thanks to our music staff and the many volunteers who work with Virginia Acquario to enhance the beautiful environment of the church, our liturgies and parish celebrations truly support and strengthen our faith.

Back in 1973 there were sixteen of us ordained for service to the Albany Diocese. Currently, Father John Provost at St. Mary's in Albany and myself are the only ones still left in active parish ministry. I will reach the diocesan retirement age of 70 toward the end of April and the Bishop informed me in November that my retirement will be effective on May 1, 2017. As I anticipate my retirement, I plan to follow the example of Fr. Leskovar, and, when available, serve as a weekend helper where needed in the diocese. I have also informed Fr. Jorge Reyes that I would be willing to help out with Spanish liturgies as well. The past seven years have been very challenging but thanks to the support of so many here at St. Thomas, I believe I have been able to make a positive contribution to the parish and I ask the Lord to continue to bless the people and the ministry in this faith community.

Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

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.

Knitting and Quilting with Love ~ Our next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 25 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Gathering Hall. New participants are welcome. Christina Ryan will continue to collect 6"x6" "squares" made of medium weight, or 4"x4" of baby weight, washable yarn. You may drop off your squares in the basket in the church vestibule. This group is putting together beautiful blankets, quilts and baby items for person in our own community. If you are interested in being a part of this group please contact Christina Ryan at 439-8517, group facilitator, or Maura.

Faith Formation

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

Our current session of First Eucharist Family Preparation Classes will be on Sunday, January 22 at 8:15 a.m. and Monday, January 23 at 6:00 p.m. in the school. Sessions will be identical, so attend whichever fits best with your family schedule. Children will meet in the media center with a catechist while parents attend their session in the cafeteria. Families are expected to have completed chapter 3 in the text by arrival at these classes. Babysitting for siblings of our First Communion children will be provided by our middle and high school faith formation students.

An informational parent meeting regarding our upcoming unit on the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be held on Tuesday, January 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the school media center. All 4th grade faith formation children will be learning about this sacrament regardless of whether they have received the sacrament before or not. **All parents with a 4th grader, or a 3rd or 5th grader preparing for sacraments this year, are strongly encouraged to attend!**

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Elizabeth Kerins)

Informational meetings for all Confirmation candidates and their parents will be held on Sunday, January 29 at 12:15 p.m. **or** Monday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m. The details of the Confirmation preparation program and required paperwork will be discussed. **Attendance is mandatory** as registration and sponsorship forms will only be distributed at these meetings. All meetings will be held in the church and should last approximately one hour.

Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

Prayer for Life ~ Please join us tonight Sunday Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. in the chapel as we gather to celebrate life and pray the rosary. WE are collecting pacifiers, sippy cups, bottles, wipes and diapers for CC Community Maternity Services. All are welcome!

School News

(Contact: Carmel Foltan)

Congratulations, Mrs. Aleta Lyons! ~ St. Thomas the Apostle School has been informed by the Catholic Schools Office that Aleta Lyons will receive the Mother Francis Cabrini Distinguished School Support Award at the annual Catholic Schools Weed Diocesan Mass on

Sunday, January 29 at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Mother Francis Cabrini Distinguished School Support Award honors a member of the school community who challenges the entire community to make a stronger commitment to the school's Catholic mission through the personal giving of time and talents. This stewardship is an affirmation that the education of our youth involves the entire community. Mrs. Lyons has been a volunteer at St. Thomas the Apostle School for well over a decade and despite the fact that her children have graduated and are well into adulthood, continues to volunteer multiple days each week. Over the years, Mrs. Lyons has made a difference for hundreds of children! Thank you and congratulations, Mrs. Lyons!

Preschool – Grade 8 Open House and Learning Expo Sunday, February 5, 10 a.m. – Noon ~ The annual observance of Catholic Schools Week: *Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service* begins on January 29. For St. Thomas the Apostle School, Catholic Schools Week is extra special this year as we celebrate our 60th year. This year's Catholic Schools Week theme centers on community, "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service." The theme highlights the fact that schools are not only communities themselves; they are also part of many other communities, including families, parishes, towns/cities, and our country. All parishioners, existing families, and families interested in learning more about St. Thomas the Apostle School are welcome to join us for our annual Preschool-Grade 8 Open House and Learning Expo on Sunday, February 5 at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact Carmel Foltan.

Find Your Pot of Gold at the Annual St. Patrick's Day Party! We hope you'll 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 6 p.m. \$25 per person, **includes dinner**. Cash dessert & beverage bar. Must be 21 and over. For tickets, call 439-5573, info@stthomas-school.org or stop by the School

Caring for Our Common Home

(Contact: Jeanne Schrempf: jdschrempf@verizon.net)

As our nation prepares for the transition to new leadership, we are reminded of the words of Pope Francis. ~ "What is involved in the creation of 'a better world'? The word does not allude naively to abstract notions or unattainable ideals; rather it aims at an authentic and integral development, at efforts to provide dignified living conditions for everyone, at finding responses to the needs of individuals and families, and at ensuring that God's gift of creation is respected, safeguarded, and cultivated."

For our parish family:

- Continue the good work of our new recycling initiative that can provide clean water for our sisters and brothers in third world countries. There is a box in the Gathering Area for the collection of wrappers from protein, granola, and energy bars. 1 wrapper equals 1 point. 6 points equals clean water for 1 person for 1 day. Save those wrappers. Encourage your children to bring them home from their lunches. We have already filled one box and have started a new one.

Christian Service

ST. THOMAS FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION is set for **THIS WEEKEND**, January 21-22. 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.

Community

Senior Luncheon – Faith, Fun and Food ~ Thank you to everyone who helped write Valentine cards for homebound members of our parish community. Thank you to all our volunteers and attendees who made our January luncheon such a success. We really appreciated all the delicious sheet cakes that were generously donated. Please watch the bulletin for information about our next luncheon on February 17.

Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

THE PARISH OFFICE will send statements of 2016 contributions to all contributing parishioners by the end of January.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

January 14 - 15, 2017

Offertory	\$13,589.83
Offertory from E-Giving (Vanco)	\$930.00
Total Offertory Received	\$14,519.83
Tithe from this Offertory	\$725.99

Thank you for your continuing support of the parish!

Calendar

Thu	1/26	10 am	Bible Study	LCR1
Thu	1/26	7:45 pm	Concert for Christian Unity	CH

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 January 23 - 27, 2017

Mon.	12:15 pm	Walter McCarroll <i>His Grandchildren</i>
		Benny Siino <i>Florence Santiago</i>
Tues.	7:30 am	Rev. Eugene R. Hamilton, 19th Anniv. <i>Kathleen and George Bragle</i>
		Rev. Janes M. Cribbs <i>Kathleen and George Bragle</i>
Wed.	7:30 am	Vincent Flanigan <i>Robert and Janice Miller</i>
		James P. McHale <i>The Hermann Family</i>
Fri.	12:15 pm	George Rutnik <i>Joe and Peggy Zimmerman</i>
		Thomas Haggerty <i>His Son and Daughter-in-law</i>

Next Weekend, January 28-29, 2017

Sat.	5:00 pm	For The People
Sun.	8:00 am	Edwin and Eleanor Lawson <i>The Family</i>
		James McKee, 3rd Anniv. <i>Chase and Erin Chaskey</i>
	9:30 am	John Moloney <i>The Walsh Family</i>
		Thomas Dobert <i>Steve and Christine Corson</i>
	11:00 am	Rosalind Lombardo <i>St. Thomas Auditing Team 5</i>
		Lonnie Tomlin <i>Maureen Roberts</i>

Scripture Readings: Week of January 22, 2017

Sunday	Is 8:23-9:3 / 1 Cor 1:10-13,17 / Mt 4:12-23
Monday	Heb 9:15, 24-28 / Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday	Heb 10:1-10 / Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday	Acts 22:3-16 / Mk 16:15-18
Thursday	2 Tm 1: 1-8 / Mk 4:21-25
Friday	Heb 10:32-39 / Mk 4:26-34
Saturday	Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 / Mk 4:35-41
Next Sunday	Zep 2:3, 3:12-13 / 1 Cor 1:26-31 / Mt 5:1-12a