

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, March 18-19, 2017, Third Sunday of Lent

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Hayes	Colleen Flynn & Dan Ehring	Juliana Jira & Raegan Ehring	1
8:00 a.m.	Father Hayes	Cathy Semenov & David Rothfuss	Shayla Harrigan & Isabel Scisci	1
9:30 a.m.	Father Hayes	Martha Snyder & Matt Scheidler	Michael Connolly & Caleb Ells	2
11:00 a.m.	Father Hayes	Maureen Cahill & Bob Conway	Mikolaj Wloszczynski & Eileen Desharnais	2

Father Tom's Corner

UPDATE ON SISTER PARISH VISIT ~ Fr. Raul Cardoz, the pastor of our Sister Parish of San Antonio de Padua, Granjas, Merida in Yucatan, Mexico, was planning to visit us the first week of April. He had planned to be accompanied by Sister Leonila Francisco who works in the parish. Unfortunately, since Sister had experienced problems with immigration, it was decided that she not now attempt to enter our country at this time.

In addition, Fr. Cardoz was having difficulty in scheduling a flight which would not include an overnight in Chicago. His English is limited and Sister, who once worked as a missionary in the Bronx, was going to serve as interpreter during the trip here.

It seems best now that we postpone the trip to a later date when perhaps the immigration issues can be resolved and the two of them might be able to spend time over a weekend to be introduced to the parish as a whole as well as meet the new Pastor who will be replacing Fr. Tom after his retirement at the end of April.

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 envelopes are available for use during Lent. 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 of the Lord's Supper. 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 4 & 5 (pages 52 to 95).

Prayer & Worship

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 or by phone for more information. I am sure we can find a place for you!

"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 (treatments, euthanasia/assisted suicide, nutrition & hydration) 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: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 7 p.m. Location: Mater Christi Parish Center, 35 Hurst Ave., Albany. No charge. Refreshments provided. For more information contact: Betty Higgins at 459-3642.

Second Sunday of Lent

Moving to a senior living community or nursing home? Please let Maura know so that we can continue to provide support to you in your new home. Many times we do not know when and where people have moved after a hospitalization or illness.

Our Meal Ministry Team provides **short-term, home delivered meals** to parishioners who have experienced issues such as: acute illness, recent hospitalization, death of a loved one, birth or adoption of a new baby, etc. **If you are in need, or know of a parishioner who could use this support**, please contact Maura Barrett.

Faith Formation

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

Reconciliation services for our 4th grade families are this week on Monday, March 13 and Tuesday, March 14 at 4:30 p.m. in the Chapel. 4th grade class on **Tuesday only** will be canceled so families can attend this service.

5th grade class this Thursday, March 16 only will be canceled due to the Bethlehem school district choral festival being held that evening. Other grades will have class as usual.

Jesus Day!, our mini-retreat which culminates our Family First Eucharist preparation program, will be on Saturday, March 25. Teen volunteers are needed to help run the various stations throughout the retreat. Check the youth ministry sign-up sheets in the Gathering Hall, or contact Mrs. Hospodar or Mrs. Staerker for more information.

5th grade families, mark your calendars! ~ We will be having a moving up ceremony on Monday, April 10 at 6 p.m. in the Chapel to celebrate graduating from our elementary program and moving on to our middle school faith formation program. It will be an evening of prayer, LOTS of information for next year, song, and refreshments.

Can you believe it's almost time to start planning for next year? ~ Updated registration forms will be available on our church website beginning March 20. Families can bring completed forms with them to the school when bringing their children for class, mail them, or bring them in during our Parish Office hours.

We will be seeking new and returning catechists and assistants to staff our classes for the 2017-18 faith formation year. If you would like to observe a class while deciding if this is a ministry you are called to, please contact my office to speak with me and make arrangements before our program is completed for this year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Elizabeth Kerins)

Confirmation at St. Thomas will be held on Friday, May 12 at 5:00 p.m. Please keep the candidates in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Classes continue this week ~ Please make sure there is an alternate class available if your son/daughter cannot attend their regular class. Not all grades have early and late classes available.

Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

Spring Fling Pancake Breakfast to benefit our NCYC Team will be held on **March 26 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.** in the school café. Breakfast includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, juice, coffee, tea! Bring your family! Bring your friends! Tickets on sale today, and next weekend after all Masses and in our Faith Formation Office. Tickets \$6.00 or 4 tickets \$20. Your support is appreciated!

Lenten WATER Poster Extravaganza ~ All ages! Show your creativity and educate others on ways to conserve and protect **God's gift of WATER!** Posters will be displayed in the Gathering Hall on World Water Day March 22, for one week. **Posters are due in the Faith Formation Office or School Art Dept. Monday March 20!** All designers will have a chance to be a winner in our Creation Care Team Raffle!

WATER BINGO! It's not too late to start! Please pick up your WATER BINGO Card in the Gathering Hall under the Creation Care bulletin board. Learn creative ways to conserve, pray and serve this Lent! Make the Pledge! All BINGO Family winners will have a chance to be a winner in our Creation Care Team Raffle! Start conserving today!

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. Our students are prepared for the challenges of high school, college & life. 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 439-5573, cfol-tan@stthomas-school.org, or visit www.stthomas-

Accepting Donations for the Annual Garage Sale to Benefit the 8th Grade Trip to Washington, DC ~

We will accept gently used items. TV's, large appliances or computer monitors will NOT be accepted. Donations may be dropped off on Thursday, March 30 between 3 and 6 p.m. (Your car will be unloaded for you). If you need your donation picked up at your home, please call Mrs. Theresa Heilsberg at the school 439-5573 and leave a message during the school day. Someone will contact you to arrange for a pick up. Your support is greatly appreciated. Presale – Friday, March 30. 4-7 p.m. Sale – Saturday, April 1, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Caring for Our Common Home

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

Caring for Our Common Home ~ Our parish has initiated a Lenten program called **Lent 4.2 Caring for Our Common Home**. The theme comes from the reality that if the earth and its resources were evenly divided among every person on the earth, each person would have 4.2 acres for food, housing, clothing, energy and all ones needs. However, it takes 17.2 acres per person to maintain the average American lifestyle. Embracing the teachings of Jesus and Pope Francis, we are encouraged to simplify our lives, exercise more intentional care for the earth and its resources, and focus on prayers, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent. Each week the bulletin will include an insert to emphasize positive ways we can care for our common home and all people who share “this address”.

The 1st week centers on **Food** and the choices that we make – to share what we have, to not waste food, to show gratitude, to eat less meat and more grains and vegetables, to be aware of how food is produced, and when possible to buy foods from local farmers and products made close to home. We suggest that you share the bulletin insert at family meals and determine some steps you can take this week and throughout Lent to care for our common home and its people.

For all parishioners:

Please consider taking the Lenten Water Challenge this Lent. It incorporates prayer, almsgiving and fasting. Prayer cards, pledges and the Challenge can all be found on the bulletin board in the Gathering Hall.

Community

Senior Luncheon – Faith, Fun, and Food ~ Attention St. Thomas Active Older Adults: Get your reservations in soon for our St. Patrick's Day luncheon which will be on **Friday, March 17**. We will attend mass at 12:15 p.m. followed by our luncheon. After our luncheon, we will be entertained with some Irish songs and music. Reservations, cancellations or transportation arrangements can be made with Steve or Christine Corson at 439-3286 by **Monday, March 13**. **Parishioners:** We are very grateful for donated baked goods for our luncheons. If you can help out in March, we would appreciate St. Patrick's Day cupcakes. Contact Steve or Christine Corson at 439-3286 to help with baked goods.

Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

Car damaged in church parking lot last Saturday evening ~

Last Saturday evening (March 4), during the 5 p.m. Mass, a parishioner's car was severely damaged, possibly by a car parked next to him. The front bumper on the passenger's side was ripped off, with other significant damage, resulting in the car needing to be towed. The parishioner's car is a black sedan, and it was parked on the left side of the church lot, near the handicapped parking spaces across from the dental office. Unfortunately the person who caused this did not leave any information. We are asking that anyone who may have witnessed the incident, or knows anything about it to come forward. Please contact Pat Holm in the parish office. Thank you.

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 opportunity to support the parish.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE March 4-5, 2017

Offertory	\$14,164.85
Offertory from E-Giving (Vanco)	\$2,515.00
Total Offertory Received	\$16,679.85
Tithe from this Offertory	\$833.99
Black, Native American and Latin American Missions	\$1,555.00

Thank you for your continuing support of the parish!

Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun	3/12	After All Masses	Hospitality	GH
Mon	3/13	1pm / 7pm	Lenten Book Study	GH
Wed	3/15	7 pm	Public Policy	GH
Thu	3/16	10 am	Bible Study	LCR1
Fri	3/17	12:15 pm	Senior Luncheon	GH
Fri	3/17	2 pm	Stations of the Cross	CH
Sun	3/19	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 13 - March 17, 2017

Mon.	12:15 pm	Deacon Gene McNamara <i>Al and Jeanne Schrempf</i>
		J. Kenneth Ray <i>David Roos</i>
Tues.	7:30 am	Sr. Ursula Bimley, FMSJ <i>Sr. Judith, FMSJ</i>
		Marie Grassucci <i>Ed and Judy Gilligan</i>
Wed.	7:30 am	Gail Dwyer <i>Dwyer Family</i>
		Julia Dzuba <i>Patrick Mulkerrin and Diane Woodward</i>
Fri.	12:15 pm	J. Robert Sheehan <i>The Switzer Family</i>
		Martin J. McDonagh <i>Paul and Ginny Connelly</i>

Next Weekend, March 18-19, 2017

Sat.	5:00 pm	Emilio LaPietra <i>Daughter and Family</i>
		David Siegenthaler <i>Katie and Luke</i>
Sun.	8:00 am	Ann Davison <i>Pam Seward</i>
		Michael Dwyer <i>The Dwyer Family</i>
	9:30 am	Brent Shook <i>Dennis Hallenbeck</i>
		Robert Mattis <i>Ernie and Pam Seward</i>
	11:00 am	For The People

Scripture Readings: Week of March 12, 2017

Sunday	Gn:12:1-4a / 2 Tm 1:8b-10 / Mt 17:1-9
Monday	Dn 9:4b-10 / Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday	Is 1:10, 16-20 / Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday	Jer 18:18-20 / Mt 20:17-28
Thursday	Jer 17:5-10 / Lk 16:19-31
Friday	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-27a / Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 / Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday	Ex:17:3-7 / Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 / Jn 4:5-42