

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 25-26, 2017, Fourth Sunday of Lent

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Hayes	Sandra Flynn & Denis Hurley	Sarah Gill & Philip Ruggirello	2
8:00 a.m.	Father Hayes	Barbara Kavanagh & Mickey Kavanagh	Shayla Harrigan & Tyler Harrigan	2
9:30 a.m.	Father Hayes	Annemarie Farrell & Michael Connolly	Colleen Ells & Samantha Gomez	3
11:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Sarah Comi & Jack Canning	Daniel Desharnais & Ryan McCarroll	3

Father Tom's Corner

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS ~ Myrna Jantson of Provoost Place, Delmar.

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 ~ 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. 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 6 and 7 (pages 96 to 141).

Remember in Prayer Marcia Cummings and Samuel Bozzella whose funerals were held last week at St. Thomas. May the Lord welcome them into Eternal Life.

Prayer & Worship

ENVELOPES FOR EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS are now available in the office or at the Church entrances for those who would like to make a donation. If you choose to make a donation in memory of a particular person, those memorials will be listed in the bulletin at Easter time. Please submit memorial donations that are to be listed in the bulletin to the parish office no later than Friday, April 7.

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!

Eucharistic Minister to the Homebound ~ Some of our parishioners are no longer able to get to church for Mass so we provide Communion at their homes. This is a very meaningful ministry for both the recipient and the minister. Scheduling is between you and the person you serve. Training provided. Let Maura know if you would be interested in assisting in this area on a regular basis, or as a substitute

"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.

Third 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 by phone or email. Calls will be returned during Pastoral Care hours (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.).

Faith Formation

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

Jesus Day!, our mini-retreat which culminates our Family First Eucharist preparation program, will be next Saturday, March 25. We ask all of you to pray for our young children and their families as they conclude their preparation to receive our Lord through the Eucharist for the first time.

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. Go to www.stthomas-church.org and click on the "Forms and Downloads" link.

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 to which you are called, please contact my office to speak with me and make arrangements before our program is completed for this year.

Reminder to all families ~ Our last week of classes for 1st-5th grade this year will be April 4-6! Our Sunday Children's Liturgy of the Word for 3, 4 and 5 year olds will NOT be held on Palm Sunday, April 9 and Easter Sunday, April 16 due to the larger congregation expected on these Sundays. That program will resume on April 23.

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)

Water Prayer Service ~ You are invited to celebrate **National Water Day! March 22** at our Water Prayer Service at 7 p.m. in the church. Everyone is invited!

GOLD NUGGET Toiletry Drive will be held the next two weeks until March 31. WE are accepting all travel size toiletry items: mouth wash, soap, deodorant, sun screen, hand sanitizer, toothpaste, and shampoo. Bins are located in the Gathering Hall. All "nuggets" will be given to the Sr. Maureen Joyce Center and St. Joseph Coffee Shop for the homeless.

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 this weekend after all Masses and in our Faith Formation Office. Tickets \$6.00 or 4 tickets \$20. Your support is appreciated!

School News

(Contact: Carmel Foltan)

Thank You! ~ Thank you for helping to make our St Patrick's Day Party a success. We are so appreciative of all who help support and/or attended this celebration which has become an annual tradition. The event realized a net profit of \$6,000. The proceeds from events, like the St. Patrick's Day Party, along with Parish support help us to close the gap between the cost to educate the students and the actual amount of tuition that we ask each family to pay. Your support of this event affords the opportunity to provide many needs-based scholarships. Thank You!

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 or visit www.stthomas-school.org.

Christian Service

ST. THOMAS FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION is set for **NEXTWEEKEND**, March 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.

Caring for Our Common Home

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

Caring for Our Common Home ~ Our parish Environmental weekend on March 4-5 raised over **\$500.00** to support water projects sponsored by Catholic Relief Services. This money was raised through the sale of our St. Thomas **“Caring For Our Earth”** recyclable grocery bags and generous donations to our **“The change in your pocket can change the world”** buckets symbolizing the many miles children, mostly girls, have to walk daily to retrieve water for basic family needs. The money we raised will fund 2 water pump tools and training to dig wells for accessible safe water and hand washing stations.

Our new goal is to raise **\$1,300** to build a community water station to provide clean and accessible water in an area designated by Catholic Relief Services. We sold all our initial bags, disappointing many people who hoped to purchase one. We have re-ordered these bags and will sell them after Masses and parish gatherings such as the St. Thomas School garage sale. They are \$5.00 and all donations are welcome to help us meet our parish goal. If you are unable to come to the parish to purchase one, please call Jeanne Schrempf at 439-1552 to arrange a purchase.

Our parish Creation Care Team recommends using the weekly Lenten handout included in the bulletin to educate you and your family on how we can both individually and collectively care for our common home. We suggest that parents first read and discuss each bulletin insert and then share this with their families – even those away from home – to begin to make positive steps to care for our earth and its people.

Community

Labeling for Lent Campaign ~ The Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking (CCOAH)T urges us to educate ourselves and use our power as ethical consumers to help stamp out trafficking. The United States imports 80-90% of its seafood, and tens of thousands of people are exploited at every link in the seafood harvesting and production chain. This exploitation occurs through abusive recruitment practices, as well as slavery at sea and in seafood processing plants. We are not always given the information we need to make moral purchasing decisions. CCOAH)T wants to ask seafood companies that are engaged in cleaning up their supply chains to label their packaged products. Through labeling we as consumer can make educated purchasing choices that

help eradicate human trafficking. Go to the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, usccb.org to find the information on CCOAH)T and take the brief survey. CCOAH)T will use the data from this survey when it reaches out to seafood companies to request that they include a label on their packaged products. Thank you for your assistance to help stamp out trafficking.

Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION ~ Next weekend our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. This collection supports six Catholic Agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world. The funds from the Collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ’s love and respect to all people. Next week, please give generously to The Catholic Relief Services Collection and help **Jesus in disguise**.

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 11-12, 2017**

Offertory	\$12,984.24
Offertory from E-Giving (Vanco)	\$770.00
Total Offertory Received	\$13,754.24
Tithe from this Offertory	\$687.71

Thank you for your continuing support of the parish!

Calendar

Mon	3/20	1pm / 7pm	Lenten Book Study	GH
Wed	3/22	7 pm	Water Prayer Service	CH
Thu	3/23	10 am	Bible Study	LCR1
Fri	3/24	2 pm	Stations of the Cross	CH
Sun	3/26	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 20 - March 24, 2017

Mon.	12:15 pm	Patricia Putnam, 9th Anniv. <i>Barbara Shea</i>
		John Burns <i>Rita Gavin</i>
Tues.	7:30 am	John McGrath <i>Lawrence Keating</i>
		Diana M. Barry <i>Duncan Barry</i>
Wed.	7:30 am	John Quatraro <i>The Family</i>
		For Our Sister Parish
Fri.	12:15 pm	Joseph D'Annibal <i>Al & Jeanne Schrempf</i>
		John F. Spath <i>Edward and Anne Spath</i>

Next Weekend, March 25-26, 2017

Sat.	5:00 pm	For The People
Sun.	8:00 am	Rosalie A. Riccio <i>Sandy and Rick Riccio</i>
		Carmelo Papa <i>Severina Papa and Family</i>
	9:30 am	Frank Strasser <i>His Wife</i>
		Michael Bintz <i>The Family</i>
	11:00 am	Estelle Wall <i>Donna Spellman</i>
		Clifford H. Rice <i>Mary Jane Rice</i>

Scripture Readings: Week of March 19, 2017

Sunday	Ex:17:3-7 / Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 / Jn 4:5-42
Monday	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 / Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 / Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Tuesday	Dn 3:25, 34-43 / Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday	Dt 4:1, 5-9 / Mt 5:17-19
Thursday	Jer 7:23-28 / Lk 11:14-23
Friday	Hos 14:2-10 / Mk 12:28-34
Saturday	Is 7:10-14; 8:10 / Heb 10:4-10 / Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday	1 Sm:16:1b, 6-7,10-13a / Eph 5:8-14 / Jn 9:1-41