

Church of

# Saint Thomas the Apostle



35 Adams Place, Delmar, New York 12054

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Website: [www.stthomas-church.org](http://www.stthomas-church.org)

**Rev. Thomas J. Hayes, D. Min., Pastor**  
[thayes@stthomas-church.org](mailto: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](mailto:pholm@stthomas-church.org)

**Barbara Ruggirello, Bookkeeper**

**Paul Edmundson, Office Assistant**  
[pedmundson@stthomas-church.org](mailto:pedmundson@stthomas-church.org)

**Peter Bukowski, Facilities Manager**  
[pbukowski@stthomas-church.org](mailto:pbukowski@stthomas-church.org)

**Maura Barrett, LMSW, Pastoral Care Associate**  
[mbarrett@stthomas-church.org](mailto:mbarrett@stthomas-church.org)

**Avery Tunningley, Parish Music Director**  
[tunnac@aol.com](mailto:tunnac@aol.com)

**Nelly Brown Bunk, Choir Director**  
[nellybrownbunk@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:pstaerker@stthomas-church.org)

**Elizabeth Kerins, MS and HS Coordinator**  
[ekerins@stthomas-church.org](mailto:ekerins@stthomas-church.org)

**Mary Ann Hospodar, Assistant MS and HS Coordinator**  
[mhospodar@stthomas-church.org](mailto:mhospodar@stthomas-church.org)

**Colleen Harrigan, Secretary**  
[charrigan@stthomas-church.org](mailto:charrigan@stthomas-church.org)

**PARISH TRUSTEES: Patrick Gallagher and Adele Nucci**

**ST. THOMAS SCHOOL: 439-5573 Fax: 478-9773**

[www.stthomas-school.org](http://www.stthomas-school.org)

[info@stthomas-school.org](mailto:info@stthomas-school.org)

**Thomas Kane, School Principal**

**Carmel Foltan, Dir. Community Relations & Enrollment Mgmt.**  
[cfoltan@stthomas-school.org](mailto: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, April 8-9, 2017, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

|            | <u>CELEBRANT</u> | <u>LECTORS</u>                 | <u>SERVERS</u>                      | <u>EM TEAM</u> |
|------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 5:00 p.m.  | Father Hayes     | Tricia Buhr & Hank Steadman    | Shelby Whitman & Kelsie Apicelli    | 4              |
| 8:00 a.m.  | Father Hayes     | Mary Richards & Anthony Scisci | Tyler Harrigan & Shayla Harrigan    | 4              |
| 9:30 a.m.  | Father Hayes     | Martha Snyder & Doug Erickson  | Olivia Poust & Maggie Remmel        | 2              |
| 11:00 a.m. | Father Leskovar  | Vera Frangella & Bob Conway    | John Henry Walters & Maggie Walters | 2              |

## Father Tom's Corner

**EMERGENCY DEFIBRILLATOR** ~ Upon the recommendation of Adele Nucci, one of our parish Trustees, we have installed an emergency defibrillator. It is located near the bulletin boards in the Gathering Hall close to the main church entrance. Please note the location of this device in case we need to use it during an emergency.

**LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE** ~ This year the Lenten Reconciliation Service for the local parishes will be held on Monday evening, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Christ the King Church. All are welcome.

**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 NOT be held this Friday, but will resume next Friday at 2:00 p.m.

**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.

## 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.

**Ministers Needed for the Triduum and Easter Sunday Liturgies** ~ Sign-up sheets are now available on the oval table near the church foyer if you are able to serve as an Acolyte, Eucharistic Minister or Lector. A rehearsal is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. for lectors and acolytes serving on Holy Thursday and 7:30 p.m. for those serving on Good Friday. A rehearsal is scheduled on Saturday, April 15 at 11 a.m. for lectors and acolytes serving at the Easter Vigil Mass. Please do not sign up to serve as an acolyte on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or for the Easter Vigil Mass unless you are able to attend the rehearsal. Thank you for serving!

**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](mailto:mbarrett@stthomas-church.org) or by phone for more information. I am sure we can find a place for you!

**Hospital Visitation Ministry** ~ Would you like to join us? Our team of ministers visits hospitalized members of our parish to provide spiritual support and assist in linking them with services in our parish upon discharge. This is a very meaningful ministry for both the recipient and the minister. Visits can be done days, evenings, or weekends, and are usually once every 5 weeks. Training provided. Let Maura know if you would be interested in assisting in this area on a regular basis, or as a substitute.

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

**Is a family member hospitalized?** Please let the Pastoral Care office at the **hospital** know that you are from St. Thomas Parish so you can be put on the HIPPA list and can receive parish visits. Due to privacy policies, we may not know that you have admitted.

**Pyx needed** ~ Thank you to our Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound. If you are no longer providing Communion to the homebound and have borrowed one of our pyx, kindly return to the office or chapel sacristy so we can use it for others. Thank you!

**Save The Date!** Our Annual Pastoral Care Ministry Mini-Retreat Day for all **St. Thomas Pastoral Care** volunteers will be held on **Wednesday, May 3 at 11:30 a.m. in the Gathering Hall.** More details to come!

### Faith Formation

#### ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

**5th grade moving up ceremony** will be Monday, April 10 at 6 p.m. in the chapel. 5th graders and their families are invited for an hour of prayer, information for next year, song, and refreshments as we celebrate your 5th graders moving up to our middle school program!

**It's time to register for next year's classes!** Updated registration forms are now available on our church website, [www.stthomas-church.org](http://www.stthomas-church.org), by clicking on the "Forms and Downloads" link. You can also get and/or leave forms in the school lobby when you come for classes next week, or by stopping by the faith formation offices during office hours. Once again, we are offering an 'Early Bird Special' for those submitting their completed forms by May 31, 2017!

**We are seeking new and returning catechists and assistants to staff our classes for the 2017-18 faith formation year.** Please contact our office to learn more about how you can help spread the Good News to our youngest parishioners!

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

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Elizabeth Kerins)

**Stations of the Cross (teen version)** will be presented on Wednesday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Our 8th and 9th grade Faith Formation students will be the celebrants. All are welcome!

**Confirmation retreat is this afternoon!** ~ Students should bring their Confirmation essay and service forms (if completed) to the school after the 11:00 Mass. Also, if you haven't submitted your son/daughter's picture, please drop it off in the box on the table between the church and the Gathering Hall marked "Confirmation Paperwork and Pictures".

### Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

**Thank you for your awesome support this past weekend at our NCYC Spring Fling Bake Sale & Pancake Breakfast!** ~ Your **generosity** assisted us in raising **\$2104.96!** We could not have done it without the support of **Fr. Tom** and our **Faith Formation students** who provided yummy treats for the bake sale, assisted as waiters and our cleanup crew! **Excellent team work!** We thank our ever **faithful kitchen crew** who prepared our delicious breakfast: Bruce McShane, Tom Baker, Colleen Harrigan, Steven Hummel, Jeff Bates, Michele Moloney, Paul Bernasconi, Cat Alderman, Lisa Rupinski and Jennifer DeFranco! Winners of our "guessing game" are: Liz-zie Krege, Chuck Agnew and John Trossett. We thank our community supports: Shop Rite, Hannaford and Glenmont Price Chopper. **Lastly we thank you for your fellowship and continued support of our young people! You are AMAZING!**

**Crosses out of Palms** ~ You are invited to join us on Saturday April 8 from 10-11am in the Gathering Hall to make crosses out of palms for parishioners who are homebound or in a nursing facility and are unable to come to church. As we create, we will share with one another our own family's Easter Traditions. Please sign up in Gathering Hall. Morning refreshments will be served.

### School News

(Contact: Carmel Foltan)

**Limited Space in Preschool for the 2017/2018 School Year** ~ Utilizing a variety of activities and materials, children are encouraged to utilize creativity, imagination and a willingness to try in new experiences. Children participate in physical education activities which promote health and well-being in addition to instruction in art and music which encourages the development of creative self-expression. Applications are being accepted for September, 2017. Limited openings are available in the 4 Year Old Program. We invite you to learn more about St. Thomas the Apostle School. To schedule a tour, contact Carmel Foltan or visit [www.stthomas-school.org](http://www.stthomas-school.org).

**Thank you!** ~ Thank you to everyone who supported the eighth grade in their journey to Washington, DC by making a donation to and shopping at this year's Garage Sale!

**Summer Camp Registration** ~ From the circus to the kitchen and a lot in between, our summer camp has a little something for everyone! Open to children (need not be a St. Thomas School student to attend) entering Preschool 4 – Grade 6. \$200 Per Week for full-time attendance; \$110 per week for part-time attendance. Reduced rates for the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>. Campers will participate in theme based activities, arts and crafts, indoor and outdoor play daily. Full day campers will also have daily reading time, water play and field trips! For more information, call (518) 439-5573 or visit [www.stthomas-school.org](http://www.stthomas-school.org). Register today! Limited space available. Week 1 – June 26 – 30, Week 2 – July 3 - 7 (Closed on July 4), Week 3 – July 10 – 14, Week 4 – July 17 – 21, Week 5 – July 24 – 28.

**Community**

**Fr. Tom's Retirement Festivities** ~ As many of you know, Fr. Tom will be retiring at the end of April after over 40 years in ministry. To honor his dedication and service, there are several parish events planned. On Saturday, April 22, we will gather for a celebration in the school auditorium from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Light fare will be served. Additionally, following all masses on the weekend of April 29/30, we will hold hospitality in the Gathering Hall so that everyone has an opportunity to personally thank Fr. Tom for his many years of sacrifice and many gifts to the parish!

**Fifth Grade Cub Scouts (Webelos & Arrow of Light)** can crossover to a Boy Scout Troop. We invite them to consider joining Troop 71 here at St. Thomas. Many boys prefer participating in our smaller boy-led Troop that enjoys camping and other fun activities, emphasizes advancement and develops skills and confidence. Over the 40 years that the Parish has sponsored the Troop, 36 young men have earned the rank of Eagle Scout and many have earned the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII religious emblems. Cubs and their parents are invited to attend an Open House on Thursday, April 6 at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas School. For information, please contact the Scoutmaster, Rob Donnelly, at 767-0458 or the Committee Chair, Kevin Murray, at 439-7806.

**Senior Luncheon – Faith, Fun, and Food ~ Attention St. Thomas Active Older Adults:** Mark your calendar for our next luncheon which will be our Spring Fling on **Friday, April 21**. Spring is here! Top it off by wearing a hat to the luncheon. We will attend Mass at 12:15 and then enjoy lunch together. Please encourage a friend to come along with you. This is a great chance to meet some of your fellow parishioners. If possible, please bring a nonperishable food item for the food pantry. Reservations, cancellations or transportation arrangements can be made with Steve or Christine Corson at 439-3286 by **Monday, April 17**.

**Parishioners:** If you like to bake, could you please help out the seniors' luncheon this month with brownies. Contact Steve or Christine Corson at 439-3286 to help with baked goods

**Caring for Our Common Home**

(Contact: Jeanne Schrempf: [jdschrempf@verizon.net](mailto:jdschrempf@verizon.net))

**Caring for Our Common Home** ~ Our bulletin insert for the fourth week of Lent focuses on **Energy** and our need to use more clean energy and consume energy more efficiently. Conserving energy translates into cleaner air, cleaner water, and protection of our land. Perhaps we can embrace the words of Helen Keller – **“I am only one, but I am still one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something.”** If you did not receive this insert, request one at the Parish Office.

**Some action steps for households:**

- Take a virtual energy savings tour of your home. Unplug electronics when not in use. Lower the thermostat by 2 degrees in winter and raise them 2 degrees in summer. Use the shortest wash cycles on appliances and laundry in cold cycles when possible.
- Buy and use our parish reusable grocery bags and use them as a conversation starter with family and friends. Consider a donation to our new goal – building a community well in a third world country. We need a minimum of \$1300.00 and have \$1100 to go.
- Mark your calendar for the Town of Bethlehem hazardous waste and electronic collection on May 7.

**Administration**

(Contact: Pat Holm)

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE  
March 25-26, 2017**

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Offertory                       | \$12,403.59 |
| Offertory from E-Giving (Vanco) | \$1,130.00  |
| Total Offertory Received        | \$13,533.59 |
| Tithe from this Offertory       | \$676.58    |
| Catholic Relief Services        | \$2,390.00  |

**Thank you for your continuing support of the parish!**

**Calendar**

|     |     |                  |   |      |
|-----|-----|------------------|---|------|
| Mon | 4/3 | 7pm              | Lenten Reconciliation Service-Christ the King |      |
| Thu | 4/6 | 10 am            | Bible Study                                   | LCR1 |
| Sun | 4/9 | 9 am             | Weekly RCIA Class                             | LCR1 |
| Sun | 4/9 | After All Masses | Hospitality                                   | GH   |

**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 April 3 - April 7, 2017*

|              |          |  |
|--------------|----------|--|
| <b>Mon.</b>  | 12:15 pm | Diana M. Barry<br><br>Kathleen Buck<br><i>Helen Schaffhauser</i>                                 |
| <b>Tues.</b> | 7:30 am  | Marie Grassucci<br><i>Ed and Judy Gilligan</i><br><br>John and Helen Wilson<br><i>The Family</i> |
| <b>Wed.</b>  | 7:30 am  | Thomas McSweeney<br><i>His Wife Betty McSweeney</i><br><br>Samuel Bozzella<br><i>A Friend</i>    |
| <b>Fri.</b>  | 12:15 pm | Enrollees of the St. Thomas<br>Memorial Fund   |

**Next Weekend, April 8-9, 2017**

|             |          |   |
|-------------|----------|---|
| <b>Sat.</b> | 5:00 pm  | Lonnie Tomlin<br><i>Adele Nucci</i><br><br>Lonnie Tomlin<br><i>Jim and Ronnie Blendell</i>      |
| <b>Sun.</b> | 8:00 am  | George Bohl<br><i>The Family</i><br><br>Emerson Jason Rose<br><i>The Family</i>                 |
|             | 9:30 am  | For The People  |
|             | 11:00 am | Evelyn Deckert<br><i>Adele Nucci</i><br><br>Danial B. Giddens, 58th Anniv.<br><i>The Family</i> |

**Scripture Readings: Week of April 2, 2017**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Sunday</b>      | Ez 37: 12-14 / Rom 8:8-11 / Jn 11:1-45                   |
| <b>Monday</b>      | Dn 13:41c-62 / Jn 8:1-11                                 |
| <b>Tuesday</b>     | Nm 21:4-9 / Jn 8:21-30                                   |
| <b>Wednesday</b>   | Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 / Jn 8:31-42                       |
| <b>Thursday</b>    | Gn 17:3-9 / Jn 8:51-59                                   |
| <b>Friday</b>      | Jer 20:10-13 / Jn 10:31-42                               |
| <b>Saturday</b>    | Ez 37:21-28 / Jn 11:45-56                                |
| <b>Palm Sunday</b> | Mt 21:1-11 / Is 50:4-7 / Phil 2:6-11 /<br>Mt 26:14-27:66 |