

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.

ANOIDING 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, February 24 - 25, 2018, Second Sunday of Lent

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Berberian	Dan Coffey & Sandra Flynn	Ali Barron & Matthew Barron	3
8:00 a.m.	Father Berberian	Paul Edmundson & Cathy Semenoff	Nancy Chiu & Mary Richards	3
9:30 a.m.	Father Berberian	Herman Reinhold & Marianne Conophy	Penelope Holstein & Donja Tripp	3
11:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Bob Conway & Maureen Roberts	To Be Determined & Eileen Desharnais	3

Pastor's Corner

PRESIDENTS' DAY ~ The Parish Office will be closed on Monday in observance of the Diocesan holiday for Presidents' Day. There are no services scheduled in church on Monday.

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 Good Friday and the other Fridays of Lent. All Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 are obliged to fast.

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. They are expressions of our desire to be converted in our hearts, to be reconciled with each other, and to love our neighbor. It is helpful to remember that the ability to decide how much or little one will eat is in itself a gift.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held with the children of St. Thomas the Apostle School on the Fridays of Lent, at 2 p.m. (in the church); there will also be Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. (also in the church). All are welcome.

There will be no Stations of the Cross this Friday, Feb. 23 as the school is on break.

LENTEN DONATIONS - RICE BOWL ~ Rice bowls will be available at church entrances during Lent for your contributions to our sister parish and Catholic Relief Services. We appreciate your generosity to all those in need.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONER ~ Barbara Othote.

Prayer & Worship

Prayer Chain ~ Members respond to urgent prayer intentions. Contact Pam Seward at: 518-439-7845 for your intention to be added.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER Tricia Holden whose funeral was held last week at St. Thomas. May the Lord welcome her into Eternal Life.

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 Thursday, March 22.

Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

"The value of life does not depend upon the place we occupy. It depends upon the way we occupy that place." – St. Therese of Lisieux

Please see the website or contact Maura to become involved in one (or more!) of the many active Pastoral Care Ministries we have going at St. Thomas.

Do you like to cook? ~ We could use more helpers on our **Meal Ministry Team!** This is an easy way to assist parishioners when they are under stress – assist when you can! **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, personal crisis, birth or adoption of a new baby, etc. **If you are in need, or know of a parishioner who could use this support, or are interested in assisting with this team,** please contact Maura by phone or email. Calls will be returned during Pastoral Care hours (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays 8:00-3:00).

The Bereavement Support Group, for those who have lost a spouse within the last 2 years, will meet on **Wednesday, February 21 at 6:00-7:30** 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 by phone or email.

The Knitting, Quilting & Crocheting with Love Ministry is growing! ~ We welcomed **Penny Cronin, Marcia Bassotti, Mary Flanigan, Pat Kottage, and Marymel Hart** to our group. You can become involved too! Christina Ryan will continue to collect 6"x6" "squares" made of medium weight, or 4"x4" of baby weight, washable yarn in a basket on the Pastoral Care table in the church foyer from anyone who would like to make them. Our team provides beautifully crafted baby items, winter items, blankets and quilts for people in our own community. What a bounty we collected at our last meeting! If you would like to learn more about this group please contact Christina Ryan at 439-8517, group facilitator, or Maura.

First 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.

Faith Formation

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

Our annual retreat to culminate our First Eucharist Prep Program, Jesus Day, will be held on Saturday, March 17. Mark your calendars!!! Families celebrating First Communion during one of our regular Sunday liturgies (Saturday at 5 p.m. or any Sunday Mass) are to attend the morning session from 10 a.m. (arrive at 9:45 a.m. to register). Families celebrating First Communion at one of the Saturday morning masses (11 a.m.) are to attend the afternoon session beginning at 12:30 p.m. (arrive at 12:20 p.m. to register).

As a reminder, there will be no faith formation classes this week, February 20-22, when children are on winter recess from school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Elizabeth Kerins)

Reminder that classes resume next week, February 27-March 1, following winter break. If you need to request a class change for your son/daughter, please contact Elizabeth at the Parish Office or by email.

Inclement Weather ~ Please remember Faith Formation classes are canceled if Bethlehem Central Schools are closed and/or after school activities are canceled.

Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

Adoration with Fr. Berberian Sunday Feb. 25 at 6:30 -7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. ~ Come and learn about this beautiful tradition in our faith. Bring your family and spend some quiet time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, refreshments to follow.

Teen/Family Mass ~ We thank all of our students who stepped up this past weekend to serve as Greeters: Dan Silverman, Christopher Taranto, Joey Mocerine, Macey Bryant, Ushers: Michael Kurdziolek, Erich Fischer, Liam Gregory, Jack Gregory, Thomas Buffaline, Alice Murphy, Gift Bearers, Grace & Evan Pastino, Joseph Monserrat, our reader Katherine Bernasconi, and our singers: Kira Duffy, GiGi Sitzer, Emma Leonard, Carli Hennessey, Emily Meier, Lily Tobin, Sarah, Anna & Katherine Bernasconi. Special thanks to Paul Supple for joining us on his bass guitar and trumpet, and Theresa McMahon for encouraging and leading our teen singers! Thanks also to our Mardi Gas Bakers for your festive desserts: Daniel Silvernail, Grace Spath & Owen Herbert! Thank you for sharing your faith with all of us! Save the date: Next teen Mass is March 17!

Scout Mass ~ Celebrating Boy and Girl Scouts of all age/grade levels and their leaders, **Saturday, March 3 at 5 p.m.** Please sign up in the Gathering Hall.

All are welcome to **Tour our Church and Chapel with Fr. Berberian as our host!, Sunday, March 4, 2 -3 p.m.** Bring your family and get an up close look at our church and the life of a priest! Please sign up in the Gathering Hall. Refreshments to follow!

Lenten challenges during winter break: Sort & prepare to donate gently new and used books infant to 11years for age to our **"Christ Child" Book Drive Feb. 26-March 5.** Open up a new world to a child in need!

Photograph/Art Display Due the week of March 1 ~ Take a photograph, sketch or paint something in our community that illustrates to YOU why it is important to care for God's Creation and write a brief reflection. Or Illustrate the mistreatment of God's Creation in our community and reflect on how we can avoid this mistreatment! Entries will be displayed in the Gathering Hall the week of March 17-23!

Join us for Prayer and Adoration on Sunday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m.

School News

(Contact: Thomas Kane)

You are invited to join us at St. Thomas the Apostle School for a wonderful evening of music featuring Get Up Jack on Saturday, March 3 ~ Doors open 6:00 p.m. and performance begins at 7:00 p.m. Special performance by Bethlehem Traditional Irish Dance. Cost is \$15 per person. Cash dessert and beverage bar, must be 21 and over to attend. Make your reservation today with checks made payable to St. Thomas the Apostle School and RSVP by February 26, 2018, to Jennifer Murphy at jmurphy@stthomas-school.org. RSVP forms are located in the Gathering Hall or at the school. *All proceeds benefit St. Thomas the Apostle School. Thank you for supporting our school and students!*

Did you know? ~ Twelve of our 5th and 6th grade students recently spent their day off socializing and visiting with residents of Atria Delmar Place.

It all starts at St. Thomas the Apostle School: Accepting Applications for Preschool through 8th grade for the 2018-2019 school year ~ Come and learn how we prepare our students to learn, succeed and lead. We believe in the importance of establishing a solid foundation in which students explore and live their faith, love to learn, know how to find the answers, and think critically. Our students are prepared and supported through the challenges of middle school, so that they are as prepared as they can be for high school, college and life beyond. To schedule a tour or for more information please contact **Jennifer Murphy**.

Creation Care Team

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

Our parish entered the season of Lent this week ~

The days from Ash Wednesday to this first Sunday of Lent are a transition into the 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving that are an invitation to each of us to put aside those everyday things that stand in the way of becoming who God calls us to be. It is a wonderful opportunity – that left to ourselves – we probably would not embrace. So, let's take on one thing this week - **Prayer**.

For Parishioners:

- Could we start our day, when we first arise offering this day to God, when our feet first hit the floor. Begin by being thankful for this new day and all the gifts we take for granted. Try to name them as you get ready to leave for school, work, appointments – whatever makes your day begin.
- Take notice of the school bus driver, the people in cars commuting to work, the morning newscaster, the people in your office or school – and thank God for these people who expand your family and your life.
- Select a person you may know or not know and pray for that person this week. At the end of the week you will have prayed for a minimum of 7 people. Add to this a great need – caring for the homeless, food for a family that may not have enough, respect and care for our earth, an end to prejudice, employment for those looking for work, a breakthrough in medical research that will cure disease.
- Before you fall asleep, take an inventory of who and what you prayed for – and wake up tomorrow with a new resolve to make it part of your week and this Lent.
- There is still time to pick up a Rice Bowl to help us embrace the 3 aspects of Lent – Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. Take one for yourself or your family.

Christian Service

ST. THOMAS FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION is set for **NEXT WEEKEND**, February 24-25. 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. Just a reminder -- the food pantry is open the entire month. Anyone in need is welcome to use the food pantry. Call the parish office to set up an appointment.

Community

Public Policy Ministry ~ Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the cry of the poor." - Pope Francis, *Address to the Archbishop of Canterbury*, 6/14/13.

Do you want to help with political or policy issues facing our country, state, local area or church but were not sure how to go about it? The Public Policy committee is starting up a new part of their ministry called Armchair Advocacy. You do not even have to leave your home to be a part of this great action team. All it takes is a visit to the website www.nyscatholic.org and sign up for the Catholic Action Network. This website is the NY State Catholic Conference of Bishops and the official voice of

the Catholic Church in the Empire State. After signing up for Catholic Action Network, you can click on take action, then click latest action alerts. Choose an alert you are interested in and then click the take action button. This pulls up an email to your elected official. Click send and that is it! You just advocated for the oppressed. Any questions please email Debbie at debbie.agney@gmail.com

Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

2018 Combined Diocesan Collection for the Black and Native American and Latin American Missions
~ We ask your support in the Diocesan Collection **THIS WEEKEND**, for Black, Native American and Latin American Missions. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

February 10-11, 2018

Offertory	\$11,651.10
Offertory from E-Giving (Vanco)	<u>\$1,513.00</u>
Total Offertory Received	\$13,164.10
Tithe from this Offertory	\$658.21

Our annual parish budget is based on weekly offertory collections of \$14,500, which we need to cover our operating expenses. For the weekend of February 10-11 our collection was \$13,164.10. This was donated by approximately 348 families, which we are able to identify through envelope, check or electronic giving use. This total also included about \$1,316 in loose cash from other donors.

Thank you for your generous support of the parish.

Calendar

Sun	2/18	9 am	RCIA Weekly Meeting	LCR
Mon	2/19		Diocesan Holiday/ Office Closed/ No Mass	
Wed	2/21	6 pm	Bereavement Support Group	LCR
Wed	2/21	7 pm	Public Policy Group	GH
Thu	2/22	10 am	Bible Study	LCR
Fri	2/23	7pm	Stations of the Cross	CH
Sun	2/25	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 February 19 - February 23, 2018

Mon.		Diocesan Holiday - No Mass	
Tues.	7:30 am	Germaine Becker	<i>Her Family</i>
Wed.	7:30 am	Intention of Celebrant	
Fri.	12:15 pm	Frances Coccozza	<i>Her Family</i>
		Bernadette McCabe	<i>Patrick O'Connell</i>

Next Weekend, February 24-25, 2018

Sat.	5:00 pm	Joan Costello	<i>Walter and Barbara Gould</i>
		Marie Hayes	<i>Karen Sullivan</i>
Sun.	8:00 am	For the People	
	9:30 am	Mario and Marie Grassucci	<i>Their Children</i>
	11:00 am	Herman Schubmehl	<i>His Family</i>
		Beverly Morgan	<i>Helen Gray</i>

Scripture Readings: Week of February 18, 2018

Sunday	Gn 9: 8-15 / 1 Pt 3:18-22 / Mk 1:12-15
Monday	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 / Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday	Is 55:10-11 / Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday	Jon 3:1-10 / Lk 11:29-32
Thursday	1 Pt 5:1-4 / Mt 16:13-19
Friday	Ez 18:21-28 / Mt 5:20-26
Saturday	Dt 26:16-19 / Mt 5:43-48
Sunday	Gn 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 / Rom 8:31b-34 / Mk 9:2-10