

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. David V. Berberian J.C.L., Pastor**  
[dberberian@stthomas-church.org](mailto: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](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: Carmel Foltan 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**

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

**Jennifer Murphy, Associate for Enrollment and Development**

[jmurphy@stthomas-school.org](mailto: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, March 3-4, 2018, Third Sunday of Lent

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Berberian	Tim Mahar & Martha Snyder	Kathleen Connolly & Liam Witting	4
8:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Paul Edmundson & Mary Richards	Kailee Harrigan & Shayla Harrigan	4
9:30 a.m.	Father Berberian	Tom Kane & Barbara Kavanagh	Casey Holstein & Caleb Ells	1
11:00 a.m.	Father Berberian	To Be Determined & Maureen Cahill	Lucy Creamer & Mikolaj Wloszczynski	1

## Pastor's Corner

**ABSTINENCE** ~ As a sign of our penance, the Diocese of Albany 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.

By retaining this tradition for our Diocese, we do not intend that it be interpreted as a law binding under pain of sin, but as a custom from which we will not hold ourselves lightly excused. It is an expression of our desire to be converted in our hearts, to be reconciled with each other, and to love our neighbor.

**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.

**LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE** ~ This year the Lenten Reconciliation Service for the local parishes will be held on Tuesday evening, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthews Church, Voorheesville. All are welcome.

**Bishop's Appeal 2017** ~ The Bishop's Appeal for 2017 formally ends on March 14, 2018. Our current outstanding pledge balance is approximately \$3500. We thank you in advance for meeting your commitment to the Diocese.

**Please Remember in Prayer** Graham P. Nieminski, Peggy E. Reagan and Anthony J. Giordano whose funerals were held last week at St. Thomas. May the Lord welcome them into Eternal Life.

## Prayer & Worship

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

**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.

**Peace Pole Prayer** ~ Remember to include the Peace Pole in Lenten giving. Visit anytime, but to join with others come at noon on March 3 and pray with us.

## Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

**"Love ought to consist of deeds more than of works." – St. Ignatius of Loyola**

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 Knitting, Quilting & Crocheting with Love Ministry is growing!** ~ 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.

**Pastoral Care Support** ~ Our Pastoral Care Department can provide support to you in your time of need. We provide consultation, referral and educational materials on a variety of topics and issues in a confidential manner. Contact Maura in the office for more assistance.

## 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

## Second Sunday of Lent

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).

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION** (Contact: Elizabeth Kerins)

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

### **Youth Ministry**

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

**Adoration with Fr. Berberian is tonight! ~ Sunday Feb. 25 at 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. All are welcome!** 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.

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

All are welcome to **Tour our Church & 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!

**Photograph/Art Display Due the week of March 12**  
~ 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!

**New and Gently Used Book Drive for Christ Child runs till March 5!** ~ Bins in Gathering Hall and by the Faith Formation Closet in the school. Thank you for opening up a whole new world to children in need.

### **School News**

(Contact: Thomas Kane)

**Have you considered a Catholic School Education for your child?** ~ PreK-8th Grade Open Enrollment. Please contact us today for a tour. From our youngest students in PreK 3 to our 8th Grade students who are preparing for High School, it is always our goal to empower each and every student to achieve academic and spiritual excellence in an environment which is rich in Catholic tradition. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Jennifer Murphy at (518) 439-5573 or [jmurphy@stthomas-school.org](mailto:jmurphy@stthomas-school.org)

**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 the band 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](mailto: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?** ~ Every May, our 8th grade class takes a 4-day trip to Washington D.C. Students work to raise funds during the school year through events like our Annual Garage Sale, Applebee's Pancake Breakfast and Craft Fair.

**St. Thomas the Apostle School Annual Garage Sale** ~ We are now accepting donations for the school's annual garage sale! All proceeds help our eighth graders go to Washington, D.C. in May. The pre-sale will take place April 13 and the sale on April 14. If you would like to donate your gently used articles (no TVs, computer monitors, large appliances or broken/non-working items PLEASE), call [518-439-5573](tel:518-439-5573) and leave a message for Mrs. Heilsberg for details. Pick-up of your donation can be arranged. Thank you!

### **Creation Care Team**

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

**Have you picked up your Rice Bowl at the entrance to the Church?** ~ Inside is information that can help you connect more fully to the meaning of Lent in our lives. The fold-out offers Lenten recipes, links to inspiring messages on the Rice Bowl website, a calendar of daily reflections. It's a simple to use guide for our journey to Easter through the days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

**Last week** the Creation Care Team suggested opportunities for prayer that will help us become the people God is calling us to be. **This week the focus is fasting.** Consider choosing one action to make habit during Lent and the years to come. I'm not saying it's easy, because it is not. But few things worth doing start out easy.

#### **Pick An Act, Make It Habit**

- Fast from food waste. Plan menus for a week of meals including leftovers.
- Save water, fast from long showers. Even a minute less each day saves gallons.
- Bring re-useable bags to all stores when you shop. Fast from using plastic bags.
- Walk...fast from driving the car whenever walking to a destination is possible.

- Turn the television off. Fast from tv watching...maybe start with one program, one night...read, talk with family and friends instead.
- Put the electronic devices down. Fast from texting while you walk. Make eye contact and acknowledge others with a smile.
- Fast from buying bottled water. Take a re-useable thermos with you.
- Stop complaining. Fast from griping. Do something positive to change the situation.
- Pack a "litterless" lunch. Fast from creating paper waste. Use cloth napkins and re-useable containers, and utensils.

## Christian Service

**ST. THOMAS FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION** is set for **THIS 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

**The Public Policy Ministry and the NYS Catholic Conference**, ask that we contact our Senator and oppose **abortion expansion** in the State Budget (S.7511) which would expand late-term abortions (third trimester) in NY. NY already has the highest abortion rate of any state in the country. Also, we are asked to let our legislators know that we want to **maintain the ban on surrogacy**. Legislation which would undo NY's longstanding ban on surrogate motherhood for profit has gotten a boost with a new government report recommending the practice. This would enable the buying and selling of children, exploit women and undermine their dignity, etc. The present ban strikes the right balance and protects the best interests of women and children. Please visit [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org) and **TAKE ACTION**.

**Her Potential is our Passion!** ~ Learn more about Academy of the Holy Names at our Gr. 9-12, Open House, Tuesday March 6 at 6:00 p.m. Register online at [ahns.org](http://ahns.org) or contact Ann Rento at [arento@ahns.org](mailto:arento@ahns.org), 438-7895 x202. [1075 New Scotland Road, Albany](http://1075NewScotlandRoadAlbany.com).

**Annual Divine Mercy Consecration – 33 Days to Merciful Love** ~ Bishop Scharfenberger is inviting Catholics throughout the Diocese to join him in a 33-day preparation period starting **Tuesday, March 6**, with the book: *33 Days to Merciful Love*, by Father Michael Gaitley, MIC. The preparation will lead to the annual diocesan Divine Mercy Consecration at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on **Divine Mercy Sunday, April 8, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.** Please find more information on the dedicated webpage: [www.rcda.org/DivineMercyConsecration](http://www.rcda.org/DivineMercyConsecration)

**Senior Luncheon – Faith, Fun, and Food ~ Attention St. Thomas Active Older Adults:** Thank you to all who helped out with the February luncheon. We appreciated the delicious sheet cakes donated by parishioners. Thank you to Bishop Scharfenberger for attending the luncheon and saying mass for us. We thank our volunteers who helped set up, serve and clean up after the luncheon. Get your reservations in soon for our St. Patrick's Day luncheon which will be on **Friday, March 16**. We will attend mass at 12:15 followed by our luncheon. This is a great opportunity to meet some of your fellow parishioners. Please encourage a friend to attend with you. If possible, please bring a personal care item to be donated to Bethlehem Senior Services. Reservations, cancellations or transportation arrangements can be made with Steve or Christine Corson at 439-3286 by Monday, March 12.

**Parishioners:** We are very grateful for donated baked goods for our luncheons. If you can help out in March, we would appreciate brownies. Contact Steve or Christine Corson at 439-3286 to help with baked goods.

## Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

### STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE February 17-18, 2018

*Offertory contribution information for February 17-18 was not available at time of publication. It will be included in a future bulletin.*

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

## Calendar

Sun	2/25	9 am	RCIA Weekly Meeting	LCR
Mon	2/26	5 pm	Alzheimers Care Team	GH
Mon	2/26	6:30 pm	Scouts for Religious Emblem Awards	GH
Thu	3/1	10 am	Bible Study	LCR
Fri	3/2	2, 7pm	Stations of the Cross	CH
Sat	3/3	12 pm	Peace Prayer Vigil	PP
Sun	3/4	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 26 - March 2-, 2018*

Mon.	12:15 pm	Roger J. Moak, 7th Anniv. <i>His Family</i>
		Theresa Bolton <i>Schermerhorn Family</i>
Tues.	7:30 am	Marian Dreis <i>Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ricchiuti</i>
Wed.	7:30 am	Joan Hermann <i>Her Family</i>
Fri.	12:15 pm	Inez O'Connell <i>Patrick O'Connell</i>

### *Next Weekend, March 3-4, 2018*

Sat.	5:00 pm	John Flanigan <i>Alice and Mike Cirillo</i>
		Lillian Squadere <i>Dahl and Deirdre Taylor</i>
Sun.	8:00 am	Margaret Kolber, 27th Anniv. <i>Her Family</i>
		Sr. Carol Anne Porter, CSJ and James Porter <i>Edward and Mary Mel Hart</i>
	9:30 am	For the People
	11:00 am	Graham Nieminski <i>Hazzard Family</i>
		Kevin Reilly <i>Michael Dwyer</i>

### *Scripture Readings: Week of February 25, 2018*

Sunday	Gn 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 / Rom 8:31b-34 / Mk 9:2-10
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-28a / Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 / Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday	EX 20: 1-7 / Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 / Jn 4:5-42