

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](mailto:office@stthomas-church.org)

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**

## **FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY**

Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Closed Friday.

**Patti Staerker, Coordinator, Elementary School Program**

[pstaerker@stthomas-church.org](mailto:pstaerker@stthomas-church.org)

**Rose Ann Garry, Co-Coordinator, Middle/High School Program**

[ragarry@stthomas-church.org](mailto:ragarry@stthomas-church.org)

**Bridget Zigrosser, Co-Coordinator, Middle/High School Program**

[bzigrosser@stthomas-church.org](mailto:bzigrosser@stthomas-church.org)

**Mary Ann Hospodar, Coordinator, Youth Ministry Program**

[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 appt.

**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.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF 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.

**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.

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, December 1-December 2, 2018, First Sunday of Advent

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Berberian	Tricia Buhr & Hank Steadman	Aidan Ciancio & Ryan Ciancio	2
8:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Cathy Semenovoff & Anthony Scisci	Nancy Chiu & Brian Gallagher	2
9:30 a.m.	Father Berberian	Marianne Conophy & Paul Connolly	Kayleigh Bigwarfe & Kathleen Connolly	3
11:00 a.m.	Father Berberian	Sarah Comi & Tom Hedderman	Cecilia Creamer & Lucy Creamer	3

## Pastor's Corner

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS LITURGY SCHEDULES** ~ Immaculate Conception, December 8, Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. Christmas Eve Masses will be celebrated at 4,6 and 11 p.m. Christmas Day Masses will be celebrated at 9:30 and 11 a.m. New Years Day Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m.

**MEMORIAL CROSSES** ~ On November 5 we had a memorial Mass for all those whose funerals were held here at St. Thomas during the year. The crosses that had hung on the walls in the church since the funeral were given to the families. If you were unable to be here on November 5 and would like to have the cross with your deceased family member's name, it will be available in the rectory office.

**AT HOME WITH THE WORD** ~ The new liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent, December 2. The At Home with the Word books, which contain the Sunday readings for the new year, are available this weekend in the Gathering Hall. The donation for the books is \$5.00.

You and your family are invited to celebrate **THE FEAST OF ST. JUAN DIEGO AND OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE** on Friday December 14! Serenade begins in the Gathering Hall at 6 p.m., Bilingual Mass at 6:30 p.m., followed by food and entertainment in the school gym. All are Welcome!

**WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS** ~ Kerry McCafferty and Alexander Quackenbush and their children, Austin and Aubrey.

## Prayer & Worship

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** Peter Wildzunas and Thomas W. Jeram whose services were held recently. May the Lord welcome them into Eternal Life.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** ~ Envelopes are now available in the office or at the church entrances for those who would like to make a donation for Christmas altar flowers. If you choose to make a donation in memory of a particular person, those memorials will be listed in the bulletin at Christmas time. Please submit memorial donations that are to be listed in the bulletin to the Parish Office by Fri., Dec. 14.

**MINISTERS FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS LITURGIES** ~ Sign-up sheets are on the oval table across from the community bulletin board for these liturgies. Refer to the above announcement. If you are a Eucharistic Minister (EM), acolyte, or lector who is able to minister at one or more of these Masses, please sign up. If you

are an EM team leader, please indicate that as well. Thank you for serving.

**PRAYER CHAIN** ~ Members respond to urgent prayer intentions. **Calls are confidential.** Contact Pam Seward at: 518-439-7845 for your intention to be added.

## Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

**"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his kindness endures forever."**  
**1 Chronicles 16:34**

**Welcome to Judi Doody**, who has recently joined our Pastoral Care Ministry Team. You can join us too! There are a number of great opportunities to become involved. Give as much or as little time as you can. Contact Maura if interested.

**The Alzheimer's Care Team**, from St. Thomas parish, is a team of caring individuals who provide non-medical support and friendship to individuals and families living with dementia. Training is provided and time commitment is about 2-4 hours a month. The team meets together about 1x/month to review cases and schedules. There are a growing number of people in our community living with dementia and related diseases and more volunteers are needed. Please contact Maura for more information.

**Adult Funeral Acolytes** are an important part of our Pastoral Care Ministry Team. These volunteers assist at the funeral Mass and are a supportive presence to grieving families. We have two people assist at each funeral, and time commitment is about an hour or so when your schedule permits. Training is provided. Contact Maura if you would like to be a part of this special ministry.

**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 (Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 8:00-3:00).

# Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

## Faith Formation

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

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

The next **First Eucharist Preparation Session** will be held **next Sunday, December 2, at 8:15 a.m. in the school.** Please remember to complete chapter 1 in the books with your children prior to this session so children are prepared to review this material with their catechist. Babysitting for siblings of those in class will be available, provided by our middle and high school faith formation youth.

**Santa's Workshop** is scheduled for **Sunday, December 16, from 1- 4:30 p.m.** Children in grades 1-5 are invited to come and spend the afternoon enjoying a variety of activities including watching the movie, *The Star* (2017, rated PG), decorating Christmas cookies, singing Christmas carols, doing a craft, and shopping at our Christmas Boutique. Registration is required as space is limited to the first 75 children who sign up. Contact Patti Staerker or Mary Ann Hospodar in the faith formation office for more information.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION**

(Contact: Rose Ann Garry or Bridget Zigrosser)

- This is the last week of MS/HS Faith Formation classes for the Fall session.
- Save the Date for Sunday, December 2, and join us for a Family Advent Prayer Service at 6 p.m. in the Church.
- Please see Youth Ministry notices for opportunities of service to our Parish and Community -if you are not receiving this information via email please contact our faith formation office. We want to stay connected with our families.
- \*\*MS/HS students if you have not already submitted 2017-2018 service hours please do so ASAP\*

## Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

**Annual Ugly Sweater / Giving Tree Party**, this Sunday, Nov. 25., 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the School Gym. Come and learn about the good works performed at the Sr. Maureen Joyce Center and Mary's Corner. Both are charitable organizations on our Giving Tree. Fun! Prizes! Games! Refreshments! Parish Hour for joining us. Community Service Hour for taking a tag.

**Teen/Family Mass**, Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. All are welcome! WE are looking to our young church to share their musical talent. Please sign up in the Gathering Hall.

## Inquiry Into Joining the Catholic Church

(Contact: Paul Edmundson)

**RCIA MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES** ~ One of the best ways to grow in your own faith is to accompany someone who

is coming into faith through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Please consider exploring the possibility of becoming an RCIA team member. There are many roles on the team, such as people to do dismissal with catechumens, catechists, hospitality folks, and sponsors. We have a special need for catechists. Check to see which ones match your talents! Contact Paul Edmundson if you are interested.

## School News

(Contact: Thomas Kane, Principal)



St. Thomas School

Visit us at [www.stthomas-school.org](http://www.stthomas-school.org) or on Facebook at St. Thomas the Apostle School - Delmar

**Just in time for Christmas shopping!** ~ St. Thomas the Apostle School has joined the Great Lakes Scrip fundraising program. **What is Scrip?** It's simple! You purchase gift cards from the school at face value, and we order those cards at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for the school. Visit <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop> to see the 700+ retailers, restaurants, etc. that offer rebates. **There's no easier way to help raise funds for the school.** Just plan ahead, order your cards, pick them up at school and shop! We hope that you'll take advantage of this opportunity. Order forms are available in the Gathering Hall and can be dropped off or mailed in with cash or check payment to St. Thomas the Apostle School. For more information, contact Erica Fox at 518-439-5573 or [efox@stthomas-school.org](mailto:efox@stthomas-school.org).

**Did you know?** ~ Our Middle School students are offered opportunities to participate in advanced math and science, completing the 9th grade Integrated Algebra course and the New York State Regents level Living Environment (Biology) course. Students may elect to take Spanish and/or Latin. Students who successfully complete the Spanish and/or Latin proficiency exam(s) graduate with high school credit in a Foreign Language. Nearly 60 percent of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students graduate with high school credit in 3 or more subject areas.

**Have you considered a Catholic School Education for your child?** ~ Pre-K through 8th Grade including a Full-Day 4-Year-Old Program. 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, creative 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).

## Creation Care Team

(Contact: Jeanne Schrempf: [jdschremp6@gmail.com](mailto:jdschremp6@gmail.com) or Marie Myer: [myermarie@yahoo.com](mailto:myermarie@yahoo.com).)

**Companies Commit** ~ Not only can we effect change by recycling in our homes, we can also make a difference by purchasing goods from companies that are committed to caring for creation. Which companies are leading the way to protecting the environment? Go to the St. Thomas website <https://stthomas-church.org/bulletins> for a list ... **Hint:** one is a company whose products have colored your world since childhood.

**Christian Service**

**Grocery Gift Cards for ST. JOHN'S/ST. ANN'S OUTREACH CENTER** are being requested for assistance in providing Christmas baskets to the poor of Albany's South End. You can help by donating Price Chopper, Hannaford or Shop Rite gift cards that will be used to purchase food items for the baskets. Please place them (labeled "St. John's/St. Ann's") in the collection basket or bring them to the Parish Office. Thank you!

**The Parish Giving Tree** is in the Church, this weekend. We ask parishioners to choose a tag and to fulfill the request on it. Please return the gift (**with tag attached**) to the School Gym on Saturday, December 8 or by **noon sharp** on Sunday, December 9.

Without your kindness, the individuals and organizations represented by the tree tags may go without these basic needs. No gift should cost more than \$30; many are less costly. If you take a tag, please fill the request (**many gifts are for specific people**) and return the gift on or before December 9 at noon sharp. All gifts will be delivered that afternoon.

There will be coffee in the School Gym after all the Masses that weekend, so that everyone can see the wonderful generosity of our whole Parish Community that the Giving Tree gifts represent.

**ST. THOMAS FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION** is set for **THIS WEEKEND**, November 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.

**DO YOU LIKE TO POUR COFFEE?** ~ Our Parish needs more friendly faces to help with **Sunday Hospitality**. This fun job provides great satisfaction and asks for just a few minutes of your time at a Mass you already attend. Easy orientation, no meetings, no on-going commitment. Please join the e-mail list to be notified when there is a need by sending your name to Bob and Nancy Bielawa at [nsbielawa@nycap.rr.com](mailto:nsbielawa@nycap.rr.com)

**Community**

**Job Opportunity** ~ Catholic Charities is hiring a courier to work part-time (9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri) out of the Albany office. Most travel will be within the Capital District and a vehicle is provided for business use. Must have a valid NY driver's license, a clean driving record, and the ability to lift and carry 30+ pounds. Please call and ask to speak with Carmel Foltan during business hours at 518-453-6650 if interested.

**Administration**

(Contact: Pat Holm)

**Annual Financial Report to Parishioners** ~ Our annual report was recently mailed to the homes of all families registered in the parish. If you did not receive your copy, please call Pat in the parish office. Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING --A CONVENIENT METHOD FOR FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING THE PARISH** ~ As many parishioners know, our electronic giving program, through Vanco, is a convenient and secure method for making contributions to the parish, whether it's offertory contributions, donations for other holy days, or even the Bishop's Appeal. You can set it up to make contributions weekly, monthly or annually and it ensures that your support to the parish is on an ongoing basis. It is a simple process, and you can make changes directly as needed. We encourage you to take advantage of this program, and there are several options to get you started. You can now *go to our website, [www.stthomas-church.org](http://www.stthomas-church.org), click on electronic giving* on the home page which sends you to the *electronic giving* page that has a link to the Vanco site. Also, *myParishapp now provides that same option*, so you can contribute any time, from any where using your smartphone! And, there is still an option to complete the Vanco application form, found on the oval table near the Community bulletin board. Questions about Vanco or need help? Please contact Pat Holm in the parish office.

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE – FOR NOVEMBER 10-11, 2018**

OFFERTORY RECEIVED FROM WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$12,102.74
OFFERTORY RECEIVED VIA E-GIVING (VANCO)	\$1,820.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY RECEIVED	\$13,922.74
WEEKLY BUDGET AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET EXPENSES	\$14,500.00
TITHE (5% OF TOTAL OFFERTORY)	\$696.14
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS *	353

\* Plus a number of "loose" cash gifts totaling \$1,334

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

**THANK S FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE PARISH.**

**Calendar**

Sun	11/25	9 am	RCIA Weekly Meeting	LCR
Thu	11/29	10 am	Bible Study	LCR
Sat	12/1	12 pm	Peace Prayer Vigil	PP
Sun	12/2	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 November 26 - November 30, 2018***

<b>Mon.</b>	<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Henry Gorman</b> <i>Family</i>
		<b>Jerry DuBois</b> <i>His Wife</i>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>7:30 am</b>	<b>Dr. James O'Brien</b> <i>Linda Peavy</i>
		<b>Bernard Williams</b> <i>Vincent Williams</i>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>7:30 am</b>	<b>Richard and Marcella Gorman</b> <i>Family</i>
		<b>Arline Hemp</b> <i>Rita Cleary, Her Sister</i>
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Mary and John Koenig</b> <i>Carl and Karen Winters</i>
		<b>Mary Berg</b> <i>Carl and Karen Winters</i>

### ***Next Weekend, December 1-December 2, 2018***

<b>Sat.</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Millie Ehring</b> <i>Mark and Teresa Kaplan</i>
		<b>Mary Frances Hoff</b> <i>Donna Quinn</i>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Barbara "Bobbi" Shea</b> <i>Marymel and Ed Hart</i>
		<b>Gina Keith</b> <i>Her Husband, John</i>
	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>For the People</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>George Bragle</b> <i>Kathleen Bragle</i>
		<b>Ghassan Bader</b> <i>Erin and Lara Bader</i>

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dn 7:13-14 / Rv 1:5-8 / Jn 18:33b-37</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5 / Lk 21:1-4</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Rv 14:14-19 / Lk 21:5-11</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Rv 15:1-4 / Lk 21:12-19</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Rv 18:18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a / Lk 21:20-28</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Rom 10:9-18 / Mt 4:18-22</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Rv 22: 1-7 / Lk 21:34-36</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Jer 33:14-16 / 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 / Lk 21:25-28, 34-36</b>