

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

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

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

ragarry@stthomas-church.org

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

bzigrosser@stthomas-church.org

Mary Ann Hospodar, Coordinator, Youth Ministry Program

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 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 2-December 9, 2018, Second Sunday of Advent

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Berberian	Sandra Flynn & Dan Ehring	Lizzy Kloss & Meerab Gill	3
8:00 a.m.	Father Berberian	Alba Giordano & David Rothfuss	Tyler Harrigan & Shayla Harrigan	3
9:30 a.m.	Father Berberian	Annemarie Farrell & Tom Kane	Maya Richter & Donja Tripp	1
11:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Maureen Cahill & Paulot Truchard	Eileen Desharnais & Katie Desharnais	1

Pastor's Corner

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ~ Saturday, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. All are encouraged to join us for the Eucharist on this holyday of obligation.

AT HOME WITH THE WORD ~ The new liturgical year begins this weekend, 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

CONGRATULATIONS to the families of Ava Marie Digeser, Hannah Sofia Yaiser and Ellie Grace Raylinsky, who were baptized recently at St. Thomas.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS ~ Kyle and Bridget Osborn and Devon and McKenzie Barrett and their daughter, Aoife.

Prayer & Worship

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. 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. Thank you for serving.

Thank You - Altar of the Day of the Dead ~ We thank those who contributed to our stunning altar of the "Day of the Dead," which inspired our loved ones during the month of November. We especially thank those who created the altar: Belinda Max Moreno, Ledia Engel, Sandra Gomez, Magdalena Slone and Patricia Sosa-Suarez for their time and ministry to this lovely tradition.

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)

"The future starts today, not tomorrow." – St. John Paul the Great

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.

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.

The Bereavement Support Group, for those who have lost a spouse within the last 2 years, will meet on **Monday December 10 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, at 439-4951 ext. 104 or mbarrett@stthomas-church.org.

Holiday Support ~ The Christmas season is a time of hope and love. It can also be a time of emotional difficulty for some. If you or your loved one is in need of supportive services please contact Maura in Pastoral Care for more information.

Faith Formation

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

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.

Elementary Faith Formation classes will continue as usual through Thursday, December 20. We will then take a 2 week break for the holidays, and will return the 2nd week of January, 8-10, to begin our 2nd half of the year. We wish all of our families the very best of the Holiday Season as we prepare our homes and hearts to welcome Baby Jesus this Christmas!

First Sunday of Advent

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Rose Ann Garry or Bridget Zigrosser)

Tonight, please join us for our **Family Advent Prayer Service** at 6:00 p.m. in the church and stay afterwards for community service and socializing.

We are on break until the week of February 26. Please continue your service to our parish and community. Please remember to take time for prayer in this Season of Advent.

REMINDERS ~ 9th graders **Safe Environment training** will take place in January, more information to follow. 10th graders **Confirmation meeting** in January, more information to follow. **10th grade Catholic School Students** wanting to be Confirmed this Spring, please contact our faith formation office if you have not previously registered.

Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

HUGS! God Bless you! WE thank everyone for supporting our HUGS event for the homeless! We appreciate our Middle School and High School students who showed leadership as greeters, ushers, gift bears, singers with instruction of Theresa McMahon and Paul Supple and our reader Oliva Skuza at Mass. It was wonderful to have so many families join us for our pot luck to welcome guests Anthony Cavaleri, of HUGS USA, Dawn Martin of Uncle Shawn's Hugs who donated 50 blankets to CC Mercy House and Stephanie Abuzaid, Case Manager of Mercy House. WE thank you for your HUGS that we gift bagged for St. Charles Lwanga House and Mercy House Shelters. Special shout out to Bruce McShane and Debbie for supervising our potluck dinner and Fr. Berberian for all his support! Thank you all for a wonderful night of prayer, yummy dishes, friendship and service! **YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!**

Did you know Equinox Thanksgiving will have served 10,000 turkey dinners this past thanksgiving! WE thank our students who assisted this year : Bryce Swiader, Zachary Isenberg, Andrew Gower, Andrew Stein, Andrew Voelker, Madeline Ferreira, Ryan Metcalf, John Lauricella, Joey Mocerine, Cristina Grigas and adults Maria Swiader and Eileen Gower who assisted by deboning and slicing turkey meat! Great team work!

YM CORE Christmas Party, Sunday, Dec. 10, 6 p.m. in the Gathering Hall. Please bring a \$1.00 bagged gift for gift exchange.

School News

(Contact: Thomas Kane, Principal)



St. Thomas School

Visit us at www.stthomas-school.org or on Facebook at St. Thomas the Apostle School - Delmar

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.

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.

Did you know? ~ Technology plays a key role in enriching students' learning experiences and in preparing them for high school studies and beyond. In order to support this, St. Thomas the Apostle School offers a 1:1 Chromebook environment for students in grades 2-8 and we begin technology instruction in Preschool.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Ladies' Night Out – Paint & Socialize event as well as our donors, stewards and everyone who helped attend to all of the details that make this such a wonderful event for all!

Creation Care Team

At this beginning of our new Church Year, the **Creation Care Team would like to thank** the parish community for the many initiatives taken personally, as families, and parish community to care for creation – our earth, our human family, its animal and plant life, its waters and land. We invite you to journey with us as we embrace our 2019 environmental theme

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.

Community

Senior Luncheon – Faith, Fun, and Food ~ Attention St. Thomas Active Older Adults: Thank you to all those who wrote out Christmas cards for our soldiers overseas and in the VA hospital and to our local parishioners. Our November luncheon was a great success. Thanks to all those who helped to set up, serve and clean up. Also, thanks to the Friends in Harmony group for their excellent musical performance. Many thanks to our great parishioners who baked cupcakes. Make your reservations soon for our next luncheon which is Friday, Dec. 14. We will meet at 12:15 for Mass and then enjoy lunch together. We will be treated to Christmas carols sung by some of the St. Thomas students. If possible, please bring a food item for the Bethlehem Food pantry. For reservations, cancellations or transportation, contact Christine or Steve Corson at 518-439-3286 by Monday, Dec. 10.

Parishioners: If you like to bake, could you please help out the Senior Luncheon this month with cookies or cookie bars. Please contact Christine or Steve Corson at 518- 439-3286 to help with baked goods.

The Evangelist is Seeking a New Editor ~ The Evangelist, the newspaper of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, is seeking a new Editor. If you are interested, please go to: www.rcda.org/Evangelist-Editor for information.

Decorating your home for Christmas? ~ Need a holiday gift for a friend or co-worker? Following each of the weekend Masses through December 16, Boy Scouts and adult leaders from Troop 71 will be in the Gathering Hall selling coupons exchangeable for a 30" Fraser Fir Wreath (\$36.99), a 24" Decorated Wreath (\$26.99) or an 8" Poinsettia (\$18.99). The coupon may be exchanged for your selected item at any Hewitt's Garden Center. The difference between the retail price and Hewitt's cost will be used to support Troop 71's programs and activities. Purchases may be made by cash or check.

Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

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, 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. Please contact Pat Holm in the parish office for help..

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, you may pick up a copy on the oval table opposite the community bulletin board or on the front table in the parish office. Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE – FOR NOVEMBER 17-18, 2018

OFFERTORY RECEIVED FROM WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$13,260.82
OFFERTORY RECEIVED VIA E-GIVING (VANCO)	\$1,195.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY RECEIVED	\$14,455.82
WEEKLY BUDGET AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET EXPENSES	\$14,500.00
TITHE (5% OF TOTAL OFFERTORY)	\$722.79
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS *	385
CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	\$2,428.50

* Plus a number of "loose" cash gifts totaling \$1,540

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE – FOR NOVEMBER 24-25, 2018

OFFERTORY RECEIVED FROM WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$13,018.46
OFFERTORY RECEIVED VIA E-GIVING (VANCO)	\$1,903.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY RECEIVED	\$14,921.46
WEEKLY BUDGET AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET EXPENSES	\$14,500.00
TITHE (5% OF TOTAL OFFERTORY)	\$747.07
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS *	371
FISCAL YTD (7/1/2018-10/31/2018) OFFERTORY BUDGETED	\$251,333
FISCAL YTD (7/1/2018-10/31/2018) OFFERTORY BUDGETED	\$245,561

* Plus a number of "loose" cash gifts totaling \$1,683

THANK S FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE PARISH.

Calendar

Sun	12/2	9 am	RCIA Weekly Meeting	LCR
Thu	12/6	10 am	Bible Study	LCR
Sat	12/8	9 am	Immaculate Conception Mass	CH
Sun	12/9	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 December 3 - December 7, 2018

Mon.	12:15 pm	Douglas DeLucco <i>Jim and Ronnie Blendell</i>
		Michael Sheehan <i>Jim and Ronnie Blendell</i>
Tues.	7:30 am	Dr. James O'Brien <i>Cathy and Dave Semenoff</i>
		Jay Woolford <i>McGinty Family</i>
Wed.	7:30 am	Dr. James O'Brien <i>Terry and Mary Ann Mitchell</i>
		Mary Domenica Russo <i>Maria Giordano</i>
Fri.	12:15 pm	James Manning <i>St. James Family</i>
		Michael Sheehan <i>Carl and Karen Winters</i>

Next Weekend, December 8-December 9, 2018

Sat.	9:00 am	Sister Maria Rosario Daley <i>Paul and Joan Strait</i>
		For the People
	5:00 pm	Alfred Schaffhauser, 25th Anniv. <i>Bob and Johanna Shogun</i>
		Alphonse DeLucia Sr., 28th Anniv. <i>His Family</i>
Sun.	8:00 am	For the People
	9:30 am	Jerry DuBois <i>His Wife</i>
		Dr. James O'Brien <i>Hilda Stubits</i>
	11:00 am	Tim Fitzpatrick <i>Tom and Fran Kauffman</i>
		Jack Sinisgalli <i>Barone Family</i>

Scripture Readings: Week of December 2, 2018

Sunday	Jer 33:14-16 / 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 / Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday	Is 2:1-5 / Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday	Is 11:1-10 / Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday	Is 25:6-10a / Mt 15:29-37
Thursday	Is 26:1-6 / Mt 7:21,24-27
Friday	Is 29:17-24 / Mt 9:27-31
Saturday	Gn 3: 9-15, 20 / Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 / Lk 1:26-38
Sunday	Bar 5:1-9 / 1 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 / Lk 3:1-6