

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 15-December 16, 2018, Third Sunday of Advent

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Berberian	Maureen Roberts & Dan Coffey	Ali Barron & Matthew Barron	4
8:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Maureen Nyilis & Paul Edmundson	Jim Moran & Mary Richards	4
9:30 a.m.	Father Berberian	Amanda Smith & Herman Reinhold	Samantha Gomez & Steven Gomez	2
11:00 a.m.	Father Berberian	Vera Frangella & Bob Conway	Ryan McCarroll & Mikolaj Wloszczynski	2

Pastor's Corner

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS LITURGY SCHEDULES

~ Christmas Eve Masses will be celebrated at 4,6 and 11 p.m. (The choir will sing Christmas anthems and carols starting at 10:30). Christmas Day Masses will be celebrated at 9:30 and 11. New Years Day Mass will be celebrated at 10.

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 ~ Thomas and Jillian Kahil and their children Lillian and Francesca.

Prayer & Worship

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER Donald J. McCarthy, Jr. and Adam Pfiz 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 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.

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

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 us to remember our loved ones during the month of November. We especially thank those who created the altar: Belinda Mex Moreno, Ledia Engel, Sandra Gomez, Magdalena Slone, and Patricia Sosa-Suarez for their time and ministry to this lovely tradition.

At Home with the Word ~ Copies of **At Home with the Word** for the new liturgical year are still available on the cart opposite the Community bulletin board.

Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

"The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being." –Pope John Paul II

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 once/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.

Unable to get to Mass due to illness? ~ Our Pastoral Care Team can provide Communion visitation to the home-bound on a short or long term basis. 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. Calls will be returned during Pastoral Care hours (Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 8:00-3:00).

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.

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

Second Sunday of Advent

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!

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Rose Ann Garry or Bridget Zigrosser)

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)

YM CORE Christmas Party, THIS SUNDAY, Dec. 9, 6 p.m. in the Gathering Hall. Please bring a \$1 bagged gift for gift exchange.

Special thanks to our young church for their leadership this past weekend at our Teen/Family Mass and Advent Prayer Service/ Night of Service! ~ We thank Ellen and Norah McCaffrey for playing their violins for our Communion Meditation. At our Advent Prayer Service we appreciated Fr. Berberian leading us in prayer and for explaining the Jesse Tree to us. Special shout out to Matt Brockley for accompanying us on the piano, Anna and Sarah Bernasconi for their gift of song, Theresa McMahon for her support of our young church and our readers Aidan and Ryan Ciancio, Emma Brown, Kate Ferreira, Abby Proper, Anna Walston and all of **YOU as we prepare for the birth of our Lord!**

Please check out in the Gathering Hall ~ Our tree of Advent ideas to "**prepare the way**" on prayer, forgiveness and random acts of kindness. Also on our table we have yellow Prayer Cards to pray for our College Students, Exam prayers for students and Parish and Community Service opportunities posted in our binder.

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?~ 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.

Did you know? ~ There are **TWO SIMPLE WAYS** to make a difference at St. Thomas the Apostle School while you do your Christmas shopping, and **neither of them will cost you an extra cent!**

1. Gift cards make great gifts, but they also put microscopes in the science lab, playground equipment outside, and books and media in the library. **So... if you buy gift cards, please buy them from us! Gift cards will be on sale in the Gathering Hall after Saturday's 5 p.m. Mass and in the school lobby after each of Sunday's Masses.**

Don't have time to grab cards today? Grab an order form, visit <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop> to see the 700+ retailers, restaurants, etc. that offer our school rebates and mail or drop off your order form with payment to St. Thomas the Apostle School, 42 Adams Place, Delmar, NY 12054, attn. Erica Fox. (Payments must be cash or check made out to St. Thomas the Apostle School). **Orders received with payment by Tuesday, December 11 will be available for pick-up at the school office on Monday, December 17.** For more information, contact Erica at 518-439-5573 or efox@stthomas-school.org.

2. **Are you an Amazon shopper?** If you shop on AmazonSmile (go to: <https://smile.amazon.com> and use the same login info you normally use for Amazon) and choose St. Thomas the Apostle School as your charity, **our school will receive .5% of the purchase price of all eligible products!**

Creation Care Team

(Contact: Jeanne Schrempf: jdschremp6@gmail.com or Marie Myer: mymyermarie@yahoo.com.)

"Make a serious commitment to respect and protect creation, to be attentive to every person, to counter the culture of waste" ... Pope Francis

In 2019 the Creation Care Team will focus Caring for Creation efforts on the environmental task of: **Recycle, Reduce, Reuse.** As part of that work, we want to **share your "Caring for Creation" stories** with the parish, **publishing them on the St. Thomas website.** Email us what you've been doing ... your story (and pictures) may inspire others. All parishioners are invited to join the Team. Next meeting is: Jan. 9, 7 p.m..

Christian Service

Grocery Gift Cards for St. John/St. Ann Outreach Center ~ Grocery gift cards are still needed to provide food for those in need served by St. John/St. Ann Outreach Center in Albany's South End. Please place the cards, available at Price Chopper, Hannaford and ShopRite in the offertory basket or drop at the parish office. Thank you for your generosity!

THE PARISH GIVING TREE ~ Our thanks to all who have taken tags to provide holiday gifts for the individuals represented by the Giving Tree tags. Please bring your gifts **(with tags attached)** - to the **School Gym by NOON SHARP SUNDAY!** (Gifts are being delivered to the agencies this afternoon.) There will be coffee and delicious baked goods in the School Gym after all Masses. Merry Christmas!

Community

Senior Luncheon – Faith, Fun, and Food ~ Attention St. Thomas Active Older Adults: 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.

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. The scouts are grateful to Hewitt's for generously offering this fundraising opportunity.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CYO NEWS! ~ We have 78 registered players for the upcoming CYO season and 57 registered participants for the CYO clinic. "Tiger Fest" was held on November 28 kicking off a fun-filled season. *GO TIGERS!* All parishioners, families and friends are encouraged to join us for our upcoming home games on Sunday, December 9 and Saturday, December 15. Please see the CYO website, <https://stthomas-church.org/cyo-basketball>, for the teams and times!

Volunteers Needed ~ The Bethlehem Community Christmas Dinner, held on December , is in need of some willing hands to carve turkeys on Dec. 24 at 10:30 am. Carving takes about one hour and all you will need to bring is a carving knife and fork. Those interested in volunteering please call Arthur Copeland at 518-439-4050 ASAP.

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.

AmazonSmile – Making Donations to St. Thomas the Apostle ~ You can now make donations to St. Thomas Parish and School using Amazon Smile! What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, pricing and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Please consider supporting our parish or school by registering with AmazonSmile. To register, enter one of the following addresses in your web browser and follow the instructions for creating an account, registering for AmazonSmile or changing your existing charitable organization:

For the parish: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/14-1364682>
 For the school: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/90-0635100>

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE – FOR DECEMBER 1-2, 2018

OFFERTORY RECEIVED FROM WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$14,318.04
OFFERTORY RECEIVED VIA E-GIVING (VANCO)	\$1,000.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY RECEIVED	\$15,318.04
WEEKLY BUDGET AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET EXPENSES	\$14,500.00
TITHE (5% OF TOTAL OFFERTORY)	\$765.90
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS *	368

* Plus a number of "loose" cash gifts totaling \$1,689

THANK S FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE PARISH.

Special Collection for Storm Relief ~ Thanks to all of you who donated to our recent special collection to benefit the victims of this season's storms and flooding. Through your generosity we were able to send a check for **\$3990.50 (which includes \$300 from the school)** to Catholic Relief Services.

Calendar

Sat./Sun	12/8-9	After All Masses	Hospitality for Giving Tree	GYM
Mon	12/10	5 pm	Alzheimers Care Team	GH
Mon	12/10	6 pm	Bereavement Support Group	LCR
Thu	12/13	10 am	Bible Study	LCR
Fri	12/14	12:15 pm	Senior Luncheon	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 December 10 - December 14, 2018

Mon.	12:15 pm	Rev. James Broderick, 3rd. Anniv. <i>Jim and Gloria Moak</i>
		Karen Ballou <i>Norm and Ann Drapeau</i>
Tues.	7:30 am	Dr. James O'Brien <i>Rocco and Nancy Losavio</i>
		Mary Femia <i>Vera Peek</i>
Wed.	7:30 am	Dr. James O'Brien <i>Jira Family</i>
		Joan Tschinkel <i>Her Husband</i>
Fri.	12:15 pm	Marie Hayes <i>Patricia Switzer</i>
		Anna Carroll <i>Candice and Anita</i>

Next Weekend, December 15-December 16, 2018

Sat.	5:00 pm	Lester Betor <i>Son and Family</i>
		Deceased Members of The Laicha Family <i>Hospodar Family</i>
Sun.	8:00 am	George Bragle <i>Family</i>
		Josie Vitillo, 16th Anniv. <i>Mom and Dad</i>
	9:30 am	For the People
	11:00 am	Helen Mayer <i>Family</i>
		David Lynch <i>Rita Cleary</i>

Scripture Readings: Week of December 9, 2018

Sunday	Bar 5:1-9 / Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 / Lk 3:1-6
Monday	Is 35:1-10 / Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday	Is 40:1-11 / Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday	Zec 2:14-17 / Lk 1:26-38
Thursday	Is 41:13-20 / Mt 11:11-15
Friday	Is 48:17-19 / Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Sir 48: 1-4, 9-11 / Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday	Zep 3:14-18a / Phil 4:4-7 / Lk 3:10-18