

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 22-December 23, 2018, Fourth Sunday of Advent

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Berberian	Colleen Flynn & Denis Hurley	Sarah Gill & Laiba Gill	1
8:00 a.m.	Father Berberian	Mary Richards & Barbara Kavanagh	Chris Corson & Lois Smith	1
9:30 a.m.	Father Berberian	Martha Snyder & Matt Scheidler	Casey Holstein & Penelope Holstein	3
11:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Sarah Comi & Hank Steadman	John Henry Walters & Maggie Walters	3

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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)

"Since God does so much for me, what could I not do for Him." –St. Emily de Vialar

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 is a growing number of people** in our community living with dementia and related diseases who could use our help. Please contact Maura if you would like to learn more about assisting this dynamic team.

Hospital Visitation Ministry ~ We have an active team that provides support for hospitalized parishioners. They could use a couple of additional helpers. Scheduling is about 1x every 5 weeks. If you would like to learn more about this ministry, please contact Maura. We would love for you to join our team.

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 (Mon., Tue., and Wed. 8:00-3:00).

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 assistance please contact Maura in Pastoral Care for supportive services and referral information for programs available in our area.

Faith Formation

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

Elementary Faith Formation classes will continue as usual through this week, December 18-20. 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!



The next in our series of **First Eucharist preparation classes** is scheduled for **Sunday, January 13 at 8:15 a.m.** Babysitting will be available, provided by our middle and high school faith formation students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

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.

Third Sunday of Advent

Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

We thank our young church for their yummy desserts and for volunteering to serve lunch at St. John/St. Ann's Welcome Table this past weekend! **You all made a difference!** Special thanks to all our adult volunteers and drivers!

CLI Winter Christian Leadership Institute is accepting applications for **Feb. 16-19** at the YMCA Camp Chingachook (East side of Lake George). Workshops include Christian Leadership, Communication, Group Dynamics and Decision Making. The cost is \$265 for the four days. Please let Mary Ann know if you are interested. Flyers and registration forms are in the Gathering Hall.

NCYC National Catholic Youth Conference is set for Nov. 21-23 in Indianapolis IN. Our theme is **Blessed, Broken & Given**. We need to RSVP with a down payment by March 15. We will be hosting an **information table** after all Masses the **weekend of January 12**. Cost is \$685 and does not including meals and travel. Open to all high school students. Please let Mary Ann know if you are interested in joining our NCYC Team. Information is in the Gathering Hall.

Join us for a **Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Tour** on Jan. 5 at 11 to noon. We will meet at the Cathedral. Families are welcome! Please sign up in the Gathering Hall.

Inquiry Into Joining the Catholic Church

(Contact: Paul Edmundson)

RCIA INQUIRIES WELCOME ~ Is God calling you or someone you know to become a Catholic Christian? If so, the RCIA program may be for you.

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is for Baptized Christians and individuals who have never been Baptized who wish to learn more about and explore the possibility of joining our Catholic faith and for Baptized Catholics who wish to be confirmed.

We have a wonderful group of people who would like to accompany you on such a faith journey. The next RCIA Meeting will be Sunday, December 30 in the large conference room in the parish office at 9 a.m. if you think you would like to join the program. **You may always call at any time to inquire about becoming Catholic.**

This year's program runs through Pentecost on June 9. Contact Paul Edmundson at the parish office if you want more information.

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**

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!**

- **LAST CHANCE TO GET YOUR GIFT CARDS BEFORE CHRISTMAS!** 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 are on sale in the Gathering Hall after each Mass.**
- **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!**

Enroll Now for 2018/2019! ~ It's never too early or too late to find the better match for your child. Whether you're looking for a preschool, kindergarten or a middle grade transfer, St. Thomas the Apostle School offers the comforts of home while at school. We want the same things for your children that you want, the best academic preparation for high school and beyond in an environment that is Christ-centered. **At St. Thomas the Apostle School, we are a family.** We know every child by name and work in cooperation with parents to ensure that the needs of every child are met both academically and spiritually. Kindergarten screenings begin in December. Schedule a private tour by contacting Jennifer Murphy at 518-439-5573 or jmurphy@stthomas-school.org.

Creation Care Team

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

Caring for Creation ~This weekend we celebrate with joy, the third Sunday of Advent. The Scriptures tell us not to be fearful and discouraged and to remember that God is in our midst and will renew us with His love. This is very good news in a contemporary world that can easily be overwhelmed with the harsh realities of life for us and for our earth. Today our community embraces those who have special needs in the generosity and abundance of the Giving Tree. As we prepare for Christmas, let us continue to embrace the needs of others and our world in both ordinary and extraordinary times.

Christian Service

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our annual Parish Giving Tree! ~ With your generosity and

caring we provided almost 1,000 gifts to over 20 area agencies that serve our neighbors in need. Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

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!

Community

Decorating your home for Christmas? ~ Need a holiday gift for a friend or co-worker? Following each of the weekend Masses **THIS WEEKEND**, 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.

Bethlehem's 3rd annual First Night celebration will provide a fun-filled, family-friendly event on **Monday, December 31**, kicked off with fireworks at the Four Corners at 6:30 p.m. Entertainment and activities follow at various nearby venues, all within walking distance of Four Corners, including here at St Thomas. The lovely voices of the Mendelssohn Club will be heard in the Sanctuary from 7-10 p.m.. This celebration will raise money for several area charities. Buy your button and enjoy all the activities. See the community bulletin board for more detail.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter ~ "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Light a spiritual fire in your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Jan 18-20, 2019 in South Kingstown, RI and Feb 1-3, 2019 in MANCHESTER, CT. For more information, call Ed & Rhonda Staats at 518-279-3243 or visit them at <https://wwmenyalb.org/>.

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>

CHRISTMAS COUNTERS NEEDED ~ We need counters to help with the Christmas offertory count on Wednesday, December 26. Please sign up on the oval table near the church foyer. We will start at 9 a.m. Even if you have to come in later – whatever hours you can give are really appreciated. And, there will be food!

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE – FOR DECEMBER 8-9, 2018

OFFERTORY RECEIVED FROM WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$13,664.39
OFFERTORY RECEIVED VIA E-GIVING (VANCO)	\$3,990.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY RECEIVED	\$17,654.39
WEEKLY BUDGET AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET EXPENSES	\$14,500.00
TITHE (5% OF TOTAL OFFERTORY)	\$883.22
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS *	403
FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	\$1,248

* Plus a number of "loose" cash gifts totaling \$1,408

THANK S FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE PARISH.

Calendar

Sun	12/16	9 am	RCIA Weekly Meeting	LCR
Thu	12/20	10 am	Bible Study	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 17 - December 21, 2018

Mon.	12:15 pm	Dr. James O'Brien	Luke Mullen
		Pat and Herb Leichman	Mary DeVico
Tues.	7:30 am	Dr. James O'Brien	Michael Dwyer
		Kevin Stockman	Jira Family
Wed.	7:30 am	Marie Miles, 5th Anniv.	Family
		Sr. Maria Rosario Daley	Marcia Wendth
Fri.	12:15 pm	Antonetta and Bruno Bruzzere	Family
		Robert and Elizabeth Keith	Family

Next Weekend, December 22-December 23, 2018

Sat.	5:00 pm	Anna LaPietra	Daughter and Family
		Deceased Members of The Savakinus Family	Hospodar Family
Sun.	8:00 am	Dr. James O'Brien	Linda Peavy
		Michael Sheehan	Marcia Wendth
	9:30 am	For the People	
	11:00 am	Noreen Sherman	Helene Wasson
		Patricia and Anthony Spadero	Bielawa Family

Scripture Readings: Week of December 16, 2018

Sunday	Zep 3:14-18a / Phil 4:4-7 / Lk 3:10-18
Monday	Gn 49:2,8 -10 / Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday	Jer 23:5-8 / Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25 / Lk 1:5-25
Thursday	Is 7:10-14 / Lk 1:26-38
Friday	Sg 2:8-14 / Lk 1:39-45
Saturday	1 Sm 1: 24-28 / Lk 1:46-56
Sunday	Mi 5:1-4a / Heb 10:5-10 / Lk 1:39-45