

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, January 5-January 6, 2018, The Epiphany of the Lord

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Berberian	Sandra Flynn & Hank Steadman	Aidan Ciancio & Ryan Ciancio	3
8:00 a.m.	Father Berberian	Kailee Harrigan & David Rothfuss	Nancy Chiu & Cathy Semenoff	3
9:30 a.m.	Father Berberian	Annemarie Farrell & Herman Reinhold	Carolyn Kolberg & Meagan Kolberg	2
11:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Barbara Kavanagh & Tom Hedderman	Eileen Desharnais & Katie Desharnais	2

Pastor's Corner

Christmas 2018 Thank You ~ As we recall God's gift of the birth of Jesus on that first silent, holy night, we cannot help but be filled with wonder, gratitude and praise. We are once again reminded of the potential and possibilities of our lives. It is also a time to be grateful for the many ways God's presence is made known within our faith community. A perfect example of this was our giving tree project. This year close to 1,000 gifts were collected and distributed to people in need to help make Christmas a little brighter for their families (Thank-you Carol Rhoads, Sandie Flynn and Barbara Leonard for your excellent coordination of the project this year). And there are so many other examples of where the Lord's presence is made known: by a dedicated staff that always go above and beyond their job descriptions; by our musicians and choir who raise their voices to join the choir of angels in heaven; by our faithful liturgical ministers who are always ready to pitch in when needed; by Ginny Acquario and her elves for using their creative gifts to create a prayerful environment; by those who with little fanfare care for the "holy wash" and help keep the church building fit for worship; by our school community for helping make Advent a time of prayer and service to those in need and by lifting our hearts and spirits with their Christmas concert; by our catechists and aides in our Faith Formation programs who so generously share their faith with our children and teach so much more by their example and by all those who in their quiet and unassuming way help to make St. Thomas a place where we can truly enter into the mystery of God's love for us. Through shared faith, common prayer and works of service Jesus is born again and again in our midst.

And while we're expressing gratitude – **THANK YOU to Applebee Funeral Home** for once again this year donating the beautiful 2019 calendars.

NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY ~ The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 31 and Tuesday January 1, in observance of the Diocesan holiday schedule for New Year's Day. There are NO services scheduled in church on Monday. There will be Mass on Tuesday, January 1 for the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God at 10 a.m. in the church.

Prayer & Worship

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)

"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."
-St. Mother Teresa

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 homebound 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).

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 continue the holiday break until the week of January 8-10. We wish all of our families the very best of the Holiday Season as we welcome in 2019.

Our next session of First Eucharist prep classes for families enrolled in that program will be held on Sunday, January 13 at 8:15 am in the school Babysitting for siblings of first Eucharist children will be available for the convenience of parents, provided by our middle and high school students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Rose Ann Garry or Bridget Zigrosser)

Save the date ~ 10th graders we will have an informational Confirmation meeting on **January 16, at 6:30 p.m.** in the church. Parents and students please plan on attending.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Save the date ~ 9th graders the mandatory Safe environment/Relationship seminar will be held on January 22 and again on January 29. Please plan to attend **one** evening. Look for an email with sign-up information after the New Year.

Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

We wish to thank our young church and their families for all of the gifts given to our Newborn King! St. John/St. Ann's toiletries, desserts, and service with a smile, HUGS for Mercy House & Lawanga Shelters, Giving Tree Gifts, leadership and praise at our Advent Prayer Service, Teen/Family Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration (special thanks to our reenactment team: Brady Sears, Michelle Moczulski, Norah & Ellen McCaffrey) Treat Bags and Cards for Pastoral Care, Caroling at Good Samaritan Nursing Home (special appreciation to Liam Raleigh for playing the piano, Norah and Ellen for dancing an Irish Jig playing the violin), leadership at Santa's Workshop, and for preparing a delicious baked ziti dinner with all the fixings for Bethlehem's Community Senior Luncheon. And for all the other acts of kindness you share with others. May the Holy Family watch over you and bless you this Christmas season! Christ is BORN! Glorify HIM!

Upcoming events:

- Saturday, Jan. 5: Tour of the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, 11a.m. to noon, Families welcome.
- Sunday, Jan. 6: Next Youth Ministry CORE Team Meeting in the Gathering Hall. Join us as we celebrate Epiphany.
- Friday: Jan. 11 : MS/HS Movie Night in the school, 7:30-10 p.m., **Princess Bride**.

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

May God bless you and your loved ones with joy, health and faith in the coming New Year!

Did you know? ~ **Scrip Gift Cards** are not just available through the holiday season but are available throughout the year. 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. Many of the retailers we all use year-round (ShopRite, WalMart, Lowe's and Amazon to name just a few) offer rebates to the school. If you have any questions about this simple way to help the school, please contact Erica at 518-439-5573 or efox@stthomas-school.org.

It's amazing what happens when you make faith a part of a child's everyday learning experience! 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.

Creation Care Team

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

Caring for Creation ~ As this year closes, the Church celebrates the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The beautiful readings speak of God's love for us and the care, love, and respect we need to give to those in our own families. This love must expand into love and caring for others in our common home. We encourage you to have a family discussion on how you can care for our earth and our wider family more intentionally as we begin this new year of 2019. We have added the recycling guidelines recently sent out by Robert Wright Disposal to the Creation Care Page in the Documents section on the St. Thomas website to help you. Wishing you a happy and holy New Year, The Creation Care Team.

Community

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. First Night Buttons are \$10 per Adult, \$5 Ages 12-18, and children under 12 are FREE. Buttons can be purchased online at Eventbrite.com, and picked up at Bethlehem Town Hall. Button Sales will raise money to support several local charities. Learn more about the event at the Bethlehem First Night Facebook page and on the church community bulletin board.

Active Older Adults Luncheon and Service Project – Faith, Fun, and Food ~ Thank you to everyone who made our December luncheon such a great success – to those who helped set up and decorate, to those who baked such a variety of delicious cookies, to those who served and cleaned up, and of course, to our guests, who enjoyed such a delicious lunch. Thank you to all those who brought a food item for the food pantry. We appreciated the St. Thomas students who entertained us with singing Christmas songs. Our next luncheon will be on Friday, Jan. 18. We will meet at 11 in the large conference room in the rectory to write out Valentine cards for our local parishioners. Please bring a pen and Valentine cards for our local parishioners. We will attend Mass at 12:15. For reservations, transportation or cancellations, please contact Steve or Christine Corson at 518-439-3286.

Parishioners: If you like to bake, could you please help us out with sliced sheet cakes this month. Please contact Steve or Christine Corson if you would like to help with baked goods,

RCDA March for Life ~ March as a diocese with Bishop Scharfenberger at the [March for Life](http://www.marchforlife.org) on Friday, January 18, 2019. Reserve your bus ticket ASAP and view more info at: www.rcda.org/life and on the community bulletin board.

Christian Service

Grocery Gift Cards for St. John/St. Ann Outreach Center

~ Thanks to all of you who so generously donated grocery gift cards for those in need in Albany's South End. Through your generosity we gave close to \$2,000 in cards to the Center for use by individuals, for the contents of the Christmas gift baskets and other food program necessities during the Christmas season.

Thank you for your generous support of the food pantry throughout this year. We remind you that the food pantry is **OPEN THROUGHOUT THE MONTH**. Anyone in need is welcome to use the food pantry. Call the Parish Office to set up an appointment.

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 15-16, 2018

OFFERTORY RECEIVED FROM WEEKLY COLLECTION **	\$12,554.03
OFFERTORY RECEIVED VIA E-GIVING (VANCO)	\$1,195.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY RECEIVED	\$13,749.03
WEEKLY BUDGET AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET EXPENSES	\$14,500.00
TITHE (5% OF TOTAL OFFERTORY)	\$687.45
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS	339
** INCLUDES LOOSE CASH GIFTS	\$1689.50

Offertory contribution information for December 22-23 and Christmas 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	12/30	9 am	RCIA Weekly Meeting	LCR
Mon	12/31		Diocesan Holiday—Office Closed, No Mass	
Tue	1/1	10 am	Parish Office Closed - Mass will be Celebrated	CH
Thu	1/3	10 am	Bible Study	LCR
Sat	1/5	12 pm	Peace Prayer Vigil	PP
Sun	1/6	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

Thank you to the following, who made donations for our Christmas Altar Flowers:

Donated by **In Memory of**
 The Engelbrides Shirley A. Engelbride and Raymond F. Schoch
 The Jiras Hermanna Jira
 Barbara and Craig Porter Craig and Peggy Porter
 Rose Newell Atanasio, Schepisi and Newell Families
 The Grobeckers Colesio and Grobecker Families
 Joanne Cerneck Dave Cerneck
 Spore and Cronlund Families Patricia Putnam and Barbara Shea
 Nancy and Jerry Toomey Nicole Carey
 Beth Axtell Earl Axtell, Sister Agnes William and Lindsey Legnetto
 Lynne Lenhardt George Lenhardt
 Alice and Mike Cirillo Chris and James Cirillo and Alex, Mildred and Alex Jr. Gadomski

Mass Intentions

For the Week of December 31, 2018 - January 4, 2019

Mon.		Diocesan Holiday - No Mass	
Tue.	10:00 am	Mary, Holy Mother of God Anna Carroll, 3rd Anniv.	Family
		John Wheeler	Jira Family
Wed.	7:30 am	Ellen Ahl (Micki)	Hofaker Family
		Sister Maria Rosario Daley	Rev. Richard Leskovar
Fri.	12:15 pm	Roseanne Bruno	Norman Morand
		Sister Maria Rosario Daley	Joe and Lois Sleurs

Next Weekend, January 5-January 6, 2019

Sat.	5:00 pm	Howard Cooper, 14th Anniv.	The Family
		Millie Ehring	Hospodar Family
Sun.	8:00 am	Joseph Shay	Betty and Collin Bursey
		Adam and Abby Jackson	Becky Schubmehl
	9:30 am	For the People	
	11:00 am	Gina Keith	Al and Maureen Manzella
		Grace Smith	Liz and Steve McCauslin

Scripture Readings: Week of December 30, 2018

Sunday	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 / Col 3:12-21 / Lk 2:41-52
Monday	1 Jn 2:18-21 / Jn 1:1-18
Tuesday	Is 9:1-6 / Ti 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-14
Wednesday	Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59 / Mt 10:17-22
Thursday	1 Jn 1:1-4 / Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Friday	1 Jn 1:5-2:2 / Mt 2:13-18
Saturday	1 Jn 2: 3-11 / Lk 2:22-35
Sunday	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 / Col 3:12-21 / Lk 2:41-52