

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, March 23-March 24, 2019, The Third Sunday of Lent

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Berberian	Sandra Flynn & Tim Mahar	Laiba Gill & Sarah Gill	2
8:00 a.m.	Father Berberian	Kailee Harrigan & Jeff Conklin	Paul Edmundson & Nancy Chiu	2
9:30 a.m.	Father Berberian	Martha Snyder & Paul Connolly	Kayleigh Bigwarfe & Matthew Connolly	1
11:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Sarah Comi & Paulot Truchard	John Henry Walters & Maggie Walters	1

Pastor's Corner

ABSTINENCE ~ As a sign of our penance, the Diocese of Albany preserves the custom of not eating meat on the Fridays of Lent. Therefore, all Catholics, 14 years of age and older are obliged to refrain from eating meat on the Fridays of Lent.

By retaining this tradition for our Diocese, we do not intend that it be interpreted as a law binding under pain of sin, but as a custom from which we will not hold ourselves lightly excused. It is an expression of our desire to be converted in our hearts, to be reconciled with each other, and to love our neighbor.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held with the children of St. Thomas the Apostle School on the Fridays of Lent at 2 p.m. (in the church); there will also be Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. (also in the church). All are welcome.

"RICE BOWL" For Our Sister Parish and Catholic Relief Services ~ We are happy to continue to support the needs of our sister parish in Mexico through your generous donations during this Lenten season. And, as we recognize that need and continue to support their mission, there is also a tremendous need to financially support Catholic Relief Services and the wonderful work they do throughout the world. Annually, the Rice Bowl Collection has supported that need, with 75% of donations supporting global programs and 25% helping those living in poverty in our Diocese. So, this Lent we will again split your generous Lenten donations between the two programs as we did last year. Rather than print up separate envelopes for your donations, we have decided to use only the "Rice Bowls". They will be available at church entrances during Lent for your contributions to this shared program. We appreciate your generosity to all those in need. Thank you!!!!

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS ~ Paul and Laura Borthwick and their son, Justin.

Prayer & Worship

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER Anna May Barclay whose funeral was held last week at St. Thomas. May the Lord welcome her into Eternal Life.

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

ENVELOPES FOR EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS are now available in the office or at the Church entrances for those who would like to make a donation. If you choose to make a donation in memory of a particular person, those memorials will be listed in the bulletin at Easter time. Please submit memorial donations that are to be listed in the bulletin to the parish office no later than Friday, April 12.

Holy Hour with Benediction ~ Please join us on Tuesday, March 19, (Feast day of St. Joseph) from 8-9 p.m. at Christ the King Church, 20 Sumter Ave, Albany for a Holy Hour with Adoration and Benediction.

Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

"It was in the strength of God that I went – God who turned the direction of my life to good." St. Patrick (Confessio, 17)

Potential New Ministry ~ In an effort to reach out to those who feel socially isolated or lonely in our parish, we are looking to start a new ministry ~ **St. Thomas Parish Pals Telephone Ministry!** This ministry will pair adult volunteers with others in the parish through a weekly call that consists of friendly conversation and prayerful support. No travel, no expense - except for a little time (15 min/week min.). Only the desire and ability to converse on the phone is needed. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from this ministry OR if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Maura.

Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound provide a valuable spiritual connection for those who are unable to get to Mass. We need extra helpers from time to time. If you are interested in becoming involved in this ministry, please contact Maura.

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.

Please note: Due to privacy regulations we may not know if you or your loved one is in the hospital. Be sure to inform the hospital staff that you are from our parish to be included on our visitation list. Upon discharge, let us know if you or your loved one is moving to a facility so we can provide support to you there. Contact Maura in the office.

Faith Formation

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

A Reconciliation Service for 4th graders and their families will be held tomorrow, March 18 at 4:30 p.m. in the chapel. All are encouraged to come and celebrate the wonderful gift of God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Second Sunday of Lent

Jesus Day!, our mini-retreat for families preparing a child for First Communion, will be held on Saturday, April 13 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.! This event is the culmination of our preparation program for First Eucharist. We look forward to seeing you there!

Our Annual **5th grade Moving Up Ceremony** will be held on **Monday, April 8 at 6:00 p.m.** in the chapel. All 5th graders and their families are encouraged to attend to celebrate ending your elementary level faith formation lessons, and will receive lots of information on moving up to our middle school program!

It is time to start thinking about next year's program already ~ Registration forms have been updated and are available online through the parish website. Submit your family's registration before May 15 to take advantage of our Early Bird Special! And PLEASE consider how you can volunteer in our program by being a catechist, class assistant or gatekeeper. These roles are incredibly important to the success of our program!!

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Rose Ann Garry or Bridget Zigrosser)

Faith Formation service hours and the season Lent are a special time for us to renew our Baptismal commitment and follow the Lord's commandment to "Love one Another".

Save the date, April 16, Stations of the Cross led by our faith formation students.

Confirmation Candidates ~ Makeup for Wednesday's snow closure will be April 10. Confirmation packets should be turned in as soon as possible. Remember to talk with your sponsor about "A Little Less for Lent".

Reminder: When BCSO closes or cancels after school activities, Faith Formation programs are also cancelled.

If it is necessary to attend an alternate class please refer to the Class Schedule chart posted on the Faith Formation website for class availability.

Youth Ministry

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)

NCYC Spring Fling Breakfast is set for Sunday, March 24, 8:30 a.m.-noon in the school café. Breakfast includes: pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice, coffee and tea. Donations are \$7.00 for one ticket or \$25 for four tickets. All proceeds benefit our 2019 NCYC Team! Tickets go on sale next Sunday after all Masses or in our Faith Formation Office! Thank you for your support!

Next Weekend, March 23 and 24 after all Masses stop by the Gathering Hall for some yummy homemade treats and bake goods at our **NCYC Spring Fling Bake Sale**.

Creative Expressions of Creation Due in FF Office week of March 25. (Parish Hour)

Lenten Opportunity Gr. 1-10 ~ Sacrifice a treat, gather loose change in your room, car or pockets and bring it to your

FF Class this week or next. All change will be used to purchase \$10 gift cards for our neighbors served at our Bethlehem Food Pantry and Cathedral Social Services. This Lent "Love life! Live Lent! Transform the World!"

Earth Hour BLACKOUT Celebration! ~ Saturday, March 30 at 8:15 p.m. in the School Gym. See Creation Care announcement for details. (Parish hour)

Sunday March 31 6-7 p.m., Adoration: An evening of prayer and silence for 45 minutes with our Lord in the presences of the Blessed Sacrament. Don't miss this Lenten Opportunity to tune out the outside world, to put all earthly cares aside and just be with Jesus. Fr. Berberian will lead us. Refreshments to follow. (Parish Hour).

Summer Camp Opportunities ~ Look in **Applications in summer binder in the Gathering Hall**. Find out about the three camp breakaways.

School News

(Contact: Thomas Kane, Principal)

St. Thomas the Apostle School Annual Garage Sale ~ We are now accepting donations for the school's annual garage sale! All proceeds help our eighth graders go to Washington, D.C. in May. The pre-sale will take place on Friday, April 5 and the sale on Saturday, April 6. If you would like to donate your gently used articles (no TVs, computer monitors, large appliances or broken/non-working items please), call 518-439-5573 and leave a message for Mrs. Heilsberg for details. Pick-up of your donation can be arranged. Thank you!

Did you know? ~ Every month, St. Thomas the Apostle School holds a "Dress Down Day" and collects monetary donations, the proceeds of which benefit a different organization each month. So far this school year, we have donated to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Hope for Ariang, Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless, American Cancer Society, Hurricane Relief through Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, and Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Help St. Thomas the Apostle School to advance the programs that have served our families for over 60 years ~ Please help us grow in our ministry for Catholic education through your Continuing the Vision Campaign. Your gift allows us to keep tuition affordable for all families. A monthly gift, a one-time gift, a celebratory gift during Easter or any other gift as you see fit, makes the difference in the lives of our students. Brochures and donation cards are available in the Gathering Hall and in the School Lobby. Gifts may be made via cash, check, or by credit card online at <https://www.stthomas-school.org/giving/annual/>. Thank you for making a difference!

Now is the time to enroll for the 2019-2020 school year! Preschool – 8th Grade Open Enrollment - NEW for 2019-2020 – Pre-K 3 Part-Time Afternoon Class on Mondays and Wednesdays! If you are considering a Catholic school education for your child and would like to learn more about what St. Thomas has to offer your family, please contact Jennifer Murphy at 518-439-5573 or jmurphy@stthomas-school.org. Jennifer will be happy to answer any of your questions and schedule a private tour.

Creation Care Team

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

Earth Hour ... A Global Environmental Event at St. Thomas ~ Earth Hour is an annual event during which people around the globe turn off their electric devices and **take 60 minutes(8:30-9:30 p.m.) to reconnect with creation through prayer, community celebrations and conversations** with family and friends about nature's need for protection. Earth Hour is reported to be the largest grassroots environmental movement in the world.

In St. Thomas parish, Youth Ministry and Creation Care Team are sponsoring an Earth Hour event **a Blackout Celebration ... March 30 from 8:15 to 9:30 pm** in the **St. Thomas School gym. All parishioners are invited to join in Prayer ... Games ... Music ... Dancing ...** at the St. Thomas Blackout Celebration. Those who cannot attend are invited to **turn off their lights at home as an act of solidarity** with people around the world who are committed to protecting Creation.

Also, after each Mass, March 30 and 31, parishioners are invited to **share hospitality** in the Gathering Hall and view **art work inspired by the theme: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, created by the students of St. Thomas School and the Faith Formation Program.**

Nurturing and cherishing creation is a command God gives not only at the beginning of history, but to each of us.
(Pope Francis - 6/5/13)

Community

"FISH FRY DINNER" proudly presented by the Elsmere Firehouse Fridays; March 22, April 5 and April 19 at the Elsmere Firehouse 15 West Poplar Drive, Delmar 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Come and enjoy a pleasant Lenten supper with many other St. Thomas parishioners.

The Public Policy Ministry meets this Wednesday, Mar. 20 at 6 p.m. in the Gathering Hall. Please contact Co-Chairs: Marie Copeland, 518-439-4050, or Debbie Agney, 518-756-6049; if you have any questions.

Annual Divine Mercy Consecration – 33 Days to Merciful Love ~ Bishop Scharfenberger is inviting Catholics throughout the Diocese to join him in a 33-day preparation period starting **Tuesday, March 26**, with the book: *33 Days to Merciful Love*, by Father Michael Gaitley, MIC. The preparation **will lead to the annual diocesan Divine Mercy Consecration at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 28, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.** Please find more information on the dedicated webpage: www.rcda.org/DivineMercyConsecration.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter ~ Be transformed by Jesus' love in your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Oct 18-20, 2019 in ALBANY, NY and Apr 6-7, 2019 in BROOKLYN, NY. For more information, call Ed & Rhonda Staats at 518-279-3243 or visit them at <https://www.menyalb.org/>.

Lenten Evening of Reflection, March 26, 2019, 6:20-9:15 p.m., "It's all about the Mercy of God " Presenter: Fr. Joe Busch. \$25.00. Info/reservations, call DR and CC, 518-393-4169 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

Electronic Giving _ A Convenient Method to Financially Support the Parish ~ Our electronic giving program, through **Vanco**, is a convenient and secure method for making contributions to the parish, and it ensures that your support to the parish is on an ongoing basis. We encourage you to take advantage of this program. There are several options to get you started. You can now **go to our website, www.stthomas-church.org, and 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! 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.

COUNTERS NEEDED ~ Can you volunteer for several hours on a Sunday morning every five weeks or so? Or be available as a substitute to fill in once in a while? We need volunteers to help count our weekend offertory collection. No experience is needed and we will train you. If you have basic computer skills that's a plus, but definitely not required. If interested, please contact Pat Holm in the parish office.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE – FOR MARCH 9-10, 2018

OFFERTORY RECEIVED FROM WEEKLY COLLECTION **	\$10,390.71
OFFERTORY RECEIVED VIA E-GIVING (VANCO)	\$3,185.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY RECEIVED	\$13,575.71
WEEKLY BUDGET AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET EXPENSES	\$14,500.00
TITHE (5% OF TOTAL OFFERTORY)	\$678.79
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS	396
** INCLUDES LOOSE CASH GIFTS	\$806.00

THANK S FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE PARISH.

Calendar

Wed	3/20	6 pm	Public Policy Meeting	GH
Thu	3/21	10 am	Bible Study	LCR
Fri	3/22	2 & 7 pm	Stations of the Cross	CH

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 March 18, 2019 - March 22, 2019

Mon.	12:15 pm	Michael K. Sheehan <i>Switzer Family</i> Magdalena Josefina Braun <i>Patricia Pinchback & Ralph Rahm</i>
Tue.	7:30 am	Intentions of Crudo/Bukowski Families <i>Boy Scout Troop 71</i> John M. Tobin <i>Terry and Mary Ann Mitchell</i>
Wed.	7:30 am	John Quatraro <i>Family</i> James Clyne <i>Paul and Joan Strait</i>
Fri.	12:15 pm	Intentions of Mary Hepworth <i>Mary Dolan</i> James Clyne <i>Sheila and Dick</i>

Next Weekend, March 23-March 24, 2019

Sat.	5:00 pm	For the People
	8:00 am	Bernard TeRiele <i>Family</i> George W. Bragle <i>Kathleen Bragle</i>
Sun.	9:30 am	Mary Hudacs <i>John and Susanne Hudacs</i> Jennie Blanchard <i>Giacone Family</i>
	11:00 am	James Fitzgerald <i>Helene Wasson and James Fuller</i> Gerald Pomakoy <i>His Wife</i>

Scripture Readings: Week of March 17, 2019

Sunday	Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 / Phil 3:17-4:1 / Lk 9:28b-36
Monday	Dn 9:4b-10 / Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday	2 Sm 7: 4-5a, 12-14a, 16 / Rom:4:13, 16-18, 22 / Mt 1:16, 18- 21, 24a
Wednesday	Jer 18:18-2 / Mt 20:17-28
Thursday	Jer 17:5-10 / Lk 16:19-31
Friday	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a / Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday	Mi 17: 14-15, 18-20 / Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday	Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 / 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 / Lk 13:1-9