

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 30-March 31, 2019, The Fourth Sunday of Lent

	<u>CELEBRANT</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>EM TEAM</u>
5:00 p.m.	Father Berberian	TBD & Denis Hurley	Meerab Gill & Lizzy Kloss	3
8:00 a.m.	Father Leskovar	Colleen Flynn & David Rothfuss	Brian Gallagher & Doug Maeder	3
9:30 a.m.	Father Berberian	Maureen Nyillis & Matt Scheidler	Marjorie Ostroff & Maggie Rempel	2
11:00 a.m.	Father Berberian	Maureen Cahill & Tom Hedderman	Susan O'Connor & Barbara Veldran	2

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.

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 did last year, we have also chosen to financially support Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the wonderful work they do throughout the world. Your contributions will be split between the two programs. Annually, the "Rice Bowl" Collection has supported CRS with 75% of donations supporting global programs and 25% helping those living in poverty. This year we ask you to use the "Rice Bowls" which 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.

2018 Bishop's Appeal ~ We are pleased to announce that once again we have met our goal for the annual Bishop's Appeal, which closed on March 15. We especially thank the **553 families** who helped us meet this obligation to the Diocese. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

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.

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.

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.

Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

"Do not cast one aside in my old age as my strength fails, do not forsake me." – Psalm 71:9

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)

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

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

The Third Sunday of Lent

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!!

Almsgiving Opportunities for youth! ~ Please remember to bring in your "Loose Change for Seniors", your "Gold Nuggets" (travel-sized toiletry items), and your leftover birthday party favors to brighten up bagged meals for deserving children. Collection bins will be available in the school lobby throughout the month of March to collect all these items. Thank you all for your generosity to these very worthy endeavors!!

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

Reminders ~ 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)

Stop by our NCYC Spring Fling Bake Sale TODAY in Gathering Hall. Take home some yummy homemade treats.

NCYC Spring Fling Breakfast is today, Sunday, March 24, 8:30 a.m.-noon in the school café. All are welcome to join us for breakfast: pancakes, eggs and sausage. Tickets sold at the door. Thanks you for your support!

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

Lenten Opportunities ~ Grade 1 -10 Collecting TRAVEL SIZE Toiletries or "Gold Nuggets" for the homeless: soap, mouthwash, shampoo, hand sanitizer, sunscreen, lotion, Chap Stick, toothpaste and toothbrushes for the homeless. Along with Leftover Party Favors: rings, tops, yoyos, cars, and so on) to be used in bag lunches for children at the mission. Thanks for turning a brown bag lunch into a "Happy Meal". Bin located in the Gathering Hall!

Earth Hour BLACKOUT Celebration! ~ ALL ARE WELCOME! Next Saturday March 30 at 8:15 to 9:30 p.m. in the School Gym Everyone is invited to join us as we turn off all electrical power to praise God for HIS Creation, play games, dance and Celebrate LIFE! If you are unable to join us consider turning off all power at home and join us in solidarity for one hour 8:30-9:30p.m.!(Parish hour)

Sunday, March 31 6 -7 p.m., Adoration: An evening of prayer and silence for 45 minutes with our Lord in the presence 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).

Last call to take advantage of Early Bird Savings **for Diocesan Camp Opportunities**, June 26-30, at Pyramid Life Center. Check out our summer binder!

Consider doing a random act of kindness: write a note, pray for a friend ... empty the dishwasher, thank 10 people in your life. This Lent "Love life! Live Lent! Transform the World!"

School News

(Contact: Thomas Kane, Principal)

St. Thomas the Apostle School's Annual Garage Sale is Right Around the Corner! ~ All proceeds help our eighth graders go to Washington, D.C. in May! The pre-sale will take place on Friday, April 5, 4-7:30 p.m. (\$5 Admission) and the sale on Saturday, April 6, 8a.m.-2 p.m. (Free Admission) If you would like to donate your gently used items (no TVs, computer monitors, mattresses, large appliances or broken/non-working items please), our Drop-Off Day is Thursday, April 4 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Students will be available to unload your car. Pick-up of your donation can also be arranged. Call 518-439-5573 and leave a message for Mrs. Heilsberg for details. Thank you!

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 our 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.

Community

"FISH FRY DINNER" proudly presented by the Elsmere Firehouse, Fridays; 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.

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/>.

Attention Catholic Nurses ~ You are invited to attend the Albany Council of Catholic Nurses' Annual Spring Banquet, on Saturday, April 27, 2019 It will take place at the Knights of Columbus, 328 Troy Schenectady Rd | Latham, from 1200- 3:30 p.m. The Council Mass is at 12 p.m. celebrated by Fr. Michael Farano, Chaplin. Admission Fee for the Luncheon is \$22.00 per person. Please RSVP by April 23 to: Joan at 518-810-9401.

Attention St. Thomas Active Older Adults ~ Our March luncheon was a huge success. Many thanks for our parishioners who baked delicious cupcakes and to our wonderful volunteers who helped decorate, set up, serve and clean up after the meal. Mark your calendar for our next luncheon which will be on Friday, April 12. We will attend mass at 12:15 and then enjoy lunch together. Please encourage a friend to come along with you. This is a great chance to meet some of your fellow parishioners. If possible, please bring a nonperishable food item for the food pantry. Reservations, cancellations or transportation arrangements can be made with Steve or Christine Corson at 518-439-3286 by Monday, April 8.

Parishioners ~ If you like to bake, could you please help out the seniors' luncheon this month with cream pies. Contact Steve or Christine Corson at 518-439-3286 to help with baked goods.

Creation Care Team

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

Earth Hour ... A Global Environmental Event at St. Thomas ~ 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 p.m.** 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.

Earth Hour is an annual event during which people around the globe turn off their electric devices and **take 60 minutes to reconnect with creation through prayer, community celebrations and conversations about protecting and respecting the environment.** Earth Hour is reported to be the largest grassroots environmental movement in the world.

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.

All of us, as Christians, are called to watch over and protect the fragile world in which we live, and all its peoples.
(Pope Francis 11/24/13)

Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

Catholic Relief Services Collection ~ Next week, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here and abroad. **Next week**, please give generously.

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 16-17, 2018

OFFERTORY RECEIVED FROM WEEKLY COLLECTION **	\$15,762.75
OFFERTORY RECEIVED VIA E-GIVING (VANCO)	\$1,345.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY RECEIVED	\$17,107.75
WEEKLY BUDGET AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET EXPENSES	\$14,500.00
TITHE (5% OF TOTAL OFFERTORY)	\$855.39
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS	409
** INCLUDES LOOSE CASH GIFTS	\$1,788.25

THANK S FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE PARISH.

Calendar

Thu	3/28	10 am	Bible Study	LCR
Fri	3/29	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 25, 2019 - March 29, 2019

Mon.	12:15 pm	James Clyne <i>Jack and Joanne Whipple</i> Mary T. Barber <i>Marion Giordano</i>
Tue.	7:30 am	Jose Adan Aguila, 2nd Anniv <i>Family</i> Kenneth Anderson <i>Jira Family</i>
Wed.	7:30 am	Millie Ehring <i>Whitman Family</i> Mabel Carll <i>Todd Yutzler</i>
Fri.	12:15 pm	Harold Houck <i>Family</i> Herbert J. Leisenfelder <i>Family</i>

Next Weekend, March 30-March 31, 2019

Sat.	5:00 pm	Reche and Harper Families <i>Harper Family</i> James Loder <i>Kathleen Schmitt</i>
Sun.	8:00 am	Capt. Timothy Moshier, 13th Anniv. <i>Mom and Dad</i> Anna May Barclay <i>Richard and Marcia Bassotti</i>
	9:30 am	For the People
	11:00 am	Matthew Crudo <i>Adele Nucci</i> George W. Bragle <i>Family</i>

Scripture Readings: Week of March 24, 2019

Sunday	Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 / 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 / Lk 13:1-9
Monday	Is 7:10-14, 8:10 / Heb 10:4-10 / Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday	Dn 3: 25, 34-43 / Mt 18: 21-35
Wednesday	Dt 4:1, 5-9 / Mt 5:17-19
Thursday	Jer 7:23-28 / Lk 11:14-23
Friday	Hos 14:2-10 / Mk 12:28-34
Saturday	Hos 6:1-6 / Lk 18:9-14
Sunday	Jos 5:9a, 10-12 / 2 Cor 5:17-21 / Lk 15:1-3, 11-32