

Church of Saint Thomas the Apostle



JULY 4 - JULY 5, 2020

PARISH STAFF

Rev. David V. Berberian J.C.L., Pastor

dberberian@stthomas-church.org

Rev. Richard Leskovar, Weekend Assistant

Rev. James D. Daley, Pastor Emeritus

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

35 Adams Place, Delmar, New York 12054

Office Phone: 439-4951 • Fax: 439-0108

Office E-mail: office@stthomas-church.org

Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 2 pm

Website: www.stthomas-church.org

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m., Sunday Mass: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Holy Days As Announced

WEEKDAY MASS

Mon. and Fri. at 12:15 p.m., Tues. and Wed. at 7:30 a.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday, following 12:15 p.m. Mass, until Benediction at 2:45 p.m.

No Eucharistic Adoration in July and August

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 Paul Edmundson in 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.

ANOIDING 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 PARISHIONER

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."



Download Our Parish App! Myparishapp.com

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

To proclaim and celebrate the presence of Jesus Christ our Lord in a community of faith, to respond to the Spirit by recognizing the gifts of each individual and by encouraging their use in Christian service to others and to spread the Word to others by the witness of our lives in order to encourage growth in our relationships with God and with one another.

Pastor's Corner



As We Plan to Reopen Our Church ~

We are diligently working to meet all state, federal and diocesan guidelines in preparation for our church to open for Masses. Once we are open, we will temporarily be able to seat 150 people per Mass. How that will be done is currently being reviewed. Our Mass schedule will also temporarily change to two Masses: Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 10 a.m. The Sunday changes will allow for the required disinfecting of the church between Masses and required changes to how parishioners will enter and exit Church, in addition to the new safety tasks that are required of parishioners.

Please continue to check our website, www.stthomas-church.org for updates.

And, please pray for all of us as we determine how we can open for Masses, safely and in compliance with all of the requirements asked of us. Please visit the diocesan website, www.rcda.org, to review all of those requirements. **If you can help in any way, please contact Pat Holm in the parish office. Thank you.**

Church Seating ~ If you are visiting church in the foreseeable future you will notice that we have closed off some of the pews. As we don't know how many people stop in for prayer and where they sit, we need to reduce the amount of space that could potentially be contaminated, therefore reducing the time and cost of cleaning the entire space. When visiting, please remember to maintain social distancing, keeping at least one pew away from others. We hope this will not inconvenience anyone and we thank you for your patience during this time.



Parish Office ~ Staff members are working from home but still able to respond to your questions and needs. Please contact any of us directly via email (see front page of the bulletin), by phone or office@stthomas-church.org. We will respond as quickly as possible. Form requests, including those for sacramental records (i.e. baptism, marriage, etc.), to schedule a Mass, or to be a sponsor, can all be found in the Gathering Hall or filled out online. For hardcopies, please scan and email to office@stthomas-church.org, or mail the form to the office.



Your Support ~ We recognize at this very difficult time that families have serious financial decisions to make

both for today and to protect their future. With that in mind, for those of you who are able, we ask that you remember to support our parish. Please feel free to mail your offertory contribution/envelope directly to the parish office. Or, consider using our electronic giving (Vanco) program which you can access through our website. Please call the parish office if you need assistance with Vanco.

Prayer & Worship

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER Mary C. Ryan who passed away recently. 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.

Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

A Prayer for Independence Day

Lord Jesus, bring peace to the world.
Lord, give us your peace.
Help all nations to work in harmony.
Lord, give us your peace.
Bless our country and help us to work together for peace.
Lord, give us your peace.
Guide those who govern us, and help them to work for the good of all.
Lord, give us your peace.
Make us generous in sharing our gifts with other people.
Lord, give us your peace.
Teach us to do your will and to grow in our service to others.
Lord, give us your peace.
Lord Jesus Christ, look on the people of our land and bless us all.
Help us to be brothers and sisters to all the world and to work for peace and love.
Be with us, Jesus, and bless our country, for you are our Lord and Savior forever.
Lord, give us your peace.
Amen.
("Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family," Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, US Edition 2008)

Meal Ministry Changes ~ Our Meal Ministry has been very successful over the past several years providing short-term home delivered meals to parishioners experiencing a significant life event (i.e., death, illness, hospitalization, birth, etc.). Due to COVID-19 we are not able to provide home cooked and delivered meals to our parishioners. However, we are looking at providing a gift card(s) for a meal(s) from local (in the town of Bethlehem) restaurants that provides delivery. Maura Barrett will continue to organize the ministry and make contact with the recipients. As always, a ministry's success is based on parishioner interest and support. If you are interested in assisting in getting this ministry going again in this way, you may provide a gift card (in any denomination) to a local restaurant **that delivers** or make a **cash donation** to the Pastoral Care Office marking the designation for meal ministry. Food can provide a sense of support and comfort during stressful times. Maura is currently researching area restaurants that provide delivery and reaching out to them as well. If we receive enough interest, we will proceed. Please contact Maura via email or phone at the office. Messages left will be returned as soon as possible.

Reopening Plans -- Please consult the St. Thomas website,

Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5) (Contact: Patti Staerker)

Waiting for NYFORWARD ~ Until things begin to reopen and we gain clarity on when and what we are able to do going forth, we continue waiting to reschedule canceled events and to plan for next year's programming. Stay tuned to the bulletin, the parish website, stthomas-church.org, and the "My Parish" App for any changes as we move forward through this crisis. May God bless you all and keep you and your families healthy!

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Rose Ann Garry or Bridget Zigrosser)

YOUTH MINISTRY

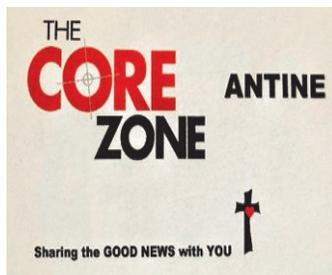
(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS of 2020!

**"God has more in store for you than you can ever imagine!"
Ephesians 3:20**

**Check out our "HATS OFF the CLASS of 2020" window in the Gathering Hall!
Blessings to you and your family!**



"CORE antine Video" located on our Parish's website under FF / Youth Ministry.

Check out our newest Video by Adian Cianco!



Summer Food Drives resume every Wednesday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the church parking lot! Hope to see you this Wednesday July 8! Please check our Parish Homepage for items needed.

Show your patriotism by wearing red, white and blue! Thank you so much your generosity!



Stay connected on our Youth Ministry Instagram Account! [Stthomas-youth-ministry](https://www.instagram.com/stthomas-youth-ministry)



Together let us pray, to our Mother Mary for PEACE AND HOPE for our Nation and for our world.

Enjoy your 4th of July weekend!

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

Are you looking for a school with limited class sizes which allow for safe, personalized instruction? St. Thomas the Apostle School is now enrolling for 2020-2021! ~ Pre-K3, Part-Day and Full-Day Pre-K4 (flexible options available) as well as Grades K-8. Visit www.stthomas-school.org to watch our virtual tour. Call/text 518-439-5573 or email Jennifer Murphy at jmurphy@stthomas-school.org for more information.

Partnering with parents because at St. Thomas, we are family ~ Encouraging prayer and Catholic faith-centered activities allows our teachers to reinforce the values you're working so hard to instill at home. We create an environment in which students are celebrated for their unique gifts and are encouraged to explore and live their faith, to have respect for themselves and others, to always be eager to learn, and to know how to find the answers and think critically. With this strong foundation, our students are prepared to be successful in high school, college and beyond.

Inquiry Into Joining the Catholic Church

(Contact: Paul Edmundson)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CATECHUMENS ~ Jessica Logan and Zhangliang Ma completed the RCIA program and will officially be initiated into the Catholic faith soon after Masses resume. A big **CONGRATULATION** to them.

A new program will begin shortly after Labor Day in September. If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining the Catholic faith, please call Paul.

Creation Care Team

(Contact: Jeanne Schrempf: jdschrempf6@gmail.com
or Marie Myer: myermarie@yahoo.com.)

Happy 4th of July! ~ This weekend is probably the most loved of all national holidays as it is the beginning of summer and a celebration of the hope our nation was founded on and a gathering of family, friends, and communities throughout our country. This Fourth of July causes a pause in all of us as the year has been filled with fear, discord, illness, violence, loneliness, and sadness. In the Gospel this week, Jesus seems to gather us in to find rest, solace and hope acknowledging that the yoke of life is difficult at times but in him and with him we can find solace and rest. May this holiday be a time of renewal of who we are as citizens and children of God. When our children left the house for times with friends, we would always say to them **"Remember who you are!"** On this 4th of July, let us remember who we are!

Public Policy

From the NYS Catholic Conference Part 2: (Recap of the legislative session)

The Medicaid Beyond Pregnancy bill would extend Medicaid coverage for women for a full year after having given birth, pending federal financial participation. This legislation would change the current 60 day period of Medicaid coverage following childbirth to one year. This bill is stalled. The Catholic Conference supports this bill. Thank you for your advocacy. Visit nyscatholic.org "Take Action" to make your voice heard on several issues on the NYS Bishops' agenda.

From AARP:

Protect the health and rights of nursing home residents ~ Tell your lawmakers to uphold the health and human rights of nursing home residents and their families during the pandemic and to reject any proposal that allows nursing homes to avoid legal accountability related to COVID-19. Visit AARP.org/advocacy to send an email to your federal representatives.

From Bread for the World:

Call 800/826-3688 or write your senators and representatives urging them to **increase SNAP benefits by 15%**; to fully fund the international response to the coronavirus pandemic with an additional \$12 billion; and to expand and extend the EBT program so families can buy food for their children during the summer months. Visit bread.org/COVID-19

Thank you for your advocacy on these important public policy issues.

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, **my-Parishapp 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 JUNE 27 – JUNE 28, 2020

Offertory contribution information for June 27 – June 28 was not available at the time of publication. It will be included in a future bulletin.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE PARISH DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES

"Advertiser of the Week" ~ This weekend we highlight one of the valued companies advertising in our bulletin:

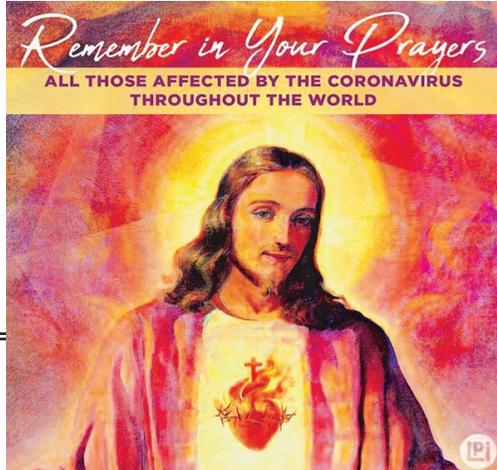
Delaware Dental, PC

Their advertising dollars help bring this bulletin to you.

Please see their ad in the current bulletin.

Be sure to patronize their business!

Mass Intentions
For the Week of July 6, 2020 - July 10, 2020



MASSSES WILL BE STARTING UP AGAIN SOON. PLEASE CONTINUE TO MONITOR OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE PARISH REOPENING. IN THE MEANTIME, PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY AT HOME

Scripture Readings: Week of July 5, 2020

Sunday	Zec 9:9-10 / Rom 8:9, 11-13 / Mt 11: 25-30
Monday	Hos 2:16, 17c-18, 21-22 / Mt 9:18-26
Tuesday	Hos 8:14-17, 11-13 / Mt 9:32-38
Wednesday	Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12 / Mt 10: 1-7
Thursday	Hos 11:1-4, 8c-9 / Mt 10:7-15
Friday	Hos 14:2-10/ Mt 10:16-23
Saturday	Is 6:1-8 / Mt 10: 24-33
Sunday	Is 55:10-11 / Rom 8:18-23 / Mt 13:1-23

Meet Our Advertising Support Coordinator ~ Hello parishioners of St. Thomas, my name is Victoria Russo. I sell ads for your bulletin at St. Thomas. I work on this throughout the year so if you or someone you know would like to advertise, please give a call at 528-527-3017. Let's keep the bulletin strong for the church. Stay well and thank you.