



## 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." - Mt 16:19

**AUGUST 22 - AUGUST 23, 2020**

### PARISH STAFF

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

[dberberian@stthomas-church.org](mailto:dberberian@stthomas-church.org)

**Rev. Richard Leskovar, Weekend Assistant**

**Rev. James D. Daley, Pastor Emeritus**

**Patricia Holm, Pastoral Associate, Administration**

[pholm@stthomas-church.org](mailto:pholm@stthomas-church.org)

**Barbara Ruggirello, Bookkeeper**

**Paul Edmundson, Office Assistant**

[pedmundson@stthomas-church.org](mailto:pedmundson@stthomas-church.org)

**Peter Bukowski, Facilities Manager**

[pbukowski@stthomas-church.org](mailto:pbukowski@stthomas-church.org)

**Maura Barrett, LMSW, Pastoral Care Associate**

[mbarrett@stthomas-church.org](mailto:mbarrett@stthomas-church.org)

**Avery Tunningley, Parish Music Director**

[tunnac@aol.com](mailto:tunnac@aol.com)

**Nelly Brown Bunk, Choir Director**

[nellybrownbunk@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:pstaerker@stthomas-church.org)

**Rose Ann Garry, Co-Coordinator, Middle/High School Program**

[rgarry@stthomas-church.org](mailto:rgarry@stthomas-church.org)

**Bridget Zigrosser, Co-Coordinator, Middle/High School Program**

[bzigrosser@stthomas-church.org](mailto:bzigrosser@stthomas-church.org)

**Mary Ann Hospodar, Coordinator, Youth Ministry Program**

[mhospodar@stthomas-church.org](mailto:mhospodar@stthomas-church.org)

**Colleen Harrigan, Secretary**

[charrigan@stthomas-church.org](mailto:charrigan@stthomas-church.org)

**PARISH TRUSTEES: Carmel Foltan and Adele Nucci**

**ST. THOMAS SCHOOL: 439-5573 Fax: 478-9773**

[www.stthomas-school.org](http://www.stthomas-school.org)

[info@stthomas-school.org](mailto:info@stthomas-school.org)

**Thomas Kane, School Principal**

[tkane@stthomas-school.org](mailto:tkane@stthomas-school.org)

**Jennifer Murphy, Associate for Enrollment and Development**

[jmurphy@stthomas-school.org](mailto:jmurphy@stthomas-school.org)

Church of

# Saint Thomas the Apostle



35 Adams Place, Delmar, New York 12054

Office Phone: (518) 439-4951 • Fax: (518) 439-0108

Office E-mail: [office@stthomas-church.org](mailto:office@stthomas-church.org)

Office Hours: Closed

Website: [www.stthomas-church.org](http://www.stthomas-church.org)

### WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m., Sunday Mass: 10:00 a.m.

Holy Days As Announced

### WEEKDAY MASS

No Weekday Masses

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

No Eucharistic Adoration in July and August

### RECONCILIATION

by appt. only

### 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](http://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



**Now that we are open for Mass** ~ We have been so happy to see all of you at Mass over the last month. And, as more of you become comfortable with the idea, we look

forward to seeing you too! If you plan to attend, please be sure to review the letter which Father Berberian sent to all parishioners. It is also posted on our website, [www.stthomas-church.org](http://www.stthomas-church.org). This letter gives the specifics as to what you will need to do to attend. Please remember: wear a mask (must cover both nose and mouth), bring your hand sanitizer, and remember to be here 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass. For those of you not yet able to attend, the dispensation from attending Mass continues, so you may always watch Masses "livestreamed" by going to the Diocesan website: [www.rcda.org](http://www.rcda.org)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

© Can Stock Photo

**Volunteers for Mass** ~ We continue to need volunteers for Mass to serve as Greeters, Ushers and Cleaners. Initially we have just enough volunteers to cover a few weekends. **But to continue to**

**offer two Masses, we need more people to help out**, if they are able, to ensure the same people are not asked to serve too frequently. Given the limited number of Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers needed for the immediate future, we have enough at this time, however those of you who have not responded should contact Pat Holm in the parish office if you want to be added to those lists.



**Parish Office** ~ The office continues to be open by appointment only. Parish staff 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, 518-439-4951 or general email, [office@stthomas-church.org](mailto:office@stthomas-church.org). We will respond as quickly as possible. Requests for Mass cards and sacramental records (i.e. baptism, marriage, etc.) can all be filled out online, or by calling the office.



**DONATIONS**

**Your Support** ~ For those of you who are able to support the parish at this time, please be sure 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.



**Private Prayer** ~ If you are planning on visiting the church, you will notice that we have closed off the church during the week. The chapel continues to be available for private prayer. Please remember to wear a mask and maintain social distancing.

## Bishop's Appeal (now the Diocesan Appeal)

~ As a reminder, this year's annual fund drive to support the Diocese (formerly the **Bishop's Appeal**) is now being handled by the Diocese, not through the parish. For future reference, it is now being called the **Diocesan Appeal**. The Diocese is mailing directly to parishioners, in different stages. So, if you receive a letter from them, please be sure to review it carefully and consider what you can do to support the needs of the Diocese. This is not the usual information letter that all of you received in the past. **It is the actual appeal notice**. And, be sure to follow the instructions to return your form to the Diocese. **Please do not send it to the parish office** as we just have to then mail it in. Thank you for your generous

## 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)

**"May the intercession of Mary help us to persevere in faith and fraternal love when the darkness and storms of life place our trust in God in crisis."** --Pope Francis

**Meal Ministry** ~ If you know of someone who is going through a significant life event (birth, death, illness, hospitalization) and could benefit from our Gift Card Meal Ministry Program, please let Maura know. We hope that providing a restaurant gift card or two for these folks can at least help alleviate the burden of shopping and cooking a meal for a time.

**Visitation Ministries** ~ Although our in-person ministries are on hold, we are continuing to send cards to our homebound and institutionalized, as well as telephone check-ins. If you know of someone who should be on the list to be contacted, please let Maura know. Also, if you or your children/grandchildren are looking for a nice activity, we would love to have some handmade cards with happy messages to send on to our fellow parishioners to keep us all connected!

**Managing Stress and Anxiety** ~ As we continue to find our way through this pandemic, we all encounter some levels of stress and anxiety...related to our families, children, work, separations, health, etc. Fr. Tom Konopka, offers a 6-part series on this topic that can be found on the diocesan website. You might want to check it out. I will be sending snippets in my weekly emails. If you are not on my email distribution list, let me know and I will add you! <https://www.rcda.org/application/files/6515/8470/6994/>

[Managing Stress and Anxiety during Difficult Times.pdf](#)

## Weekend Masses are continuing this weekend

### Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

#### ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

**Elementary Faith Formation, grades 1-5**, will be running a home based program this year using the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies we are well familiar with as we have used this program for the last 8 years. Pflaum has added digital content and parent resources on their website to help guide parents as they take over instructing their children at home. We will still use the paper Weeklies and corresponding soft covered books, and will plan a 'parking lot pick up' for families to get their initial set of materials in a few weeks.

**Registration forms for our entire program, grades 1-10** are still being developed to reflect the necessary changes for this year's program. When they are finalized, we will post access to them on our church website, [www.stthomas-church.org](http://www.stthomas-church.org). I will also email the form to all families who were registered last year for elementary faith formation. If you will be new to our program this year, please email me a note introducing yourself and asking to be added to my email contact list. My email is [pstaerker@stthomas-church.org](mailto:pstaerker@stthomas-church.org).

As we have not yet been able to reschedule **First Communion celebrations** from this past Spring, Sacramental preparation for this year's children will not begin until after the new year. At this point, I do not know if by then, we will be able to hold in person sessions for Sacramental prep., or if this curriculum will also be taught at home with as much support and resources offered to parents as possible. Thank you for your continued patience during this very trying time.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Rose Ann Garry or Bridget Zigrosser)

#### YOUTH MINISTRY

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)



**We are happy to share that our Confirmation Candidates who would have been Confirmed in May 2020 will Celebrate the Sacrament on Sunday October 11 at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany with Bishop Scharfenberger. We are awaiting logistical information and will keep you informed of any updates! Thank you for your continued patience and support. Join us as we continue to pray for our Confirmation Candidates.**



Feeding the Community

#### **Food Drive Wednesday August 26**

9:30 -10:30 a.m. in the church parking lot is for our neighbors served at St. John/ St. Ann's Outreach Center. They are in most need of small bags of white rice, any kind of beans (pork n beans, black beans, garbanzo beans and so on) cans of Spagethetti-os , pasta: elbow and rotini, cans of chili and cases of water bottles for takeout lunches or anything you can spare.

**Thank you for your continued generosity!**



#### **South End Children's Café**

located at 25 Warren Street in Albany is collecting fresh produce and non-perishable foods in two cupboards right outside the café's doors, 7 days a week. If you have some extra delicious veggies or fruits from your garden consider sharing them with our neighbors.

**Bless you for your generosity!**



CAMPUS MINISTRY

**College Students are invited to connect with their Catholic Campus Ministry Program. Continue to PRAY, SERVE and BELONG! The Newman Connection can assist you at [signup.newmanconnection.com](http://signup.newmanconnection.com)!**

### School News

(Contact: Thomas Kane, Principal)



St. Thomas School

Visit us at [www.stthomas-school.org](http://www.stthomas-school.org) or on Facebook at St. Thomas the Apostle School - Delmar

**St. Thomas the Apostle School is offering in-person, online and hybrid options for Preschool 4 - Grade 8 ~ 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](http://www.stthomas-school.org) to watch our virtual tour. Call/text [518-439-5573](tel:518-439-5573) or email Jennifer Murphy at [jmurphy@stthomas-school.org](mailto: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.

# Two Masses are scheduled - Sat. 5PM and Sun. 10AM

## Creation Care Team

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



**Student's Commitment to the Environment Honored** ~ Congratulations to Michelle Moczulski, from our parish who has been awarded the Wendy Repass Suozzo Memorial

Award from the Friends of Fire Rivers (FFR). Stephanie Maes, Chair of the Education Committee for the FFR Board stated: "**Michelle's academic achievements and awards in science and math and a clear passion and commitment to environmental education and community service stood out to the committee.**" Join us as we congratulate Michelle's parents Andrew and Anna and wish Michelle much success as she begins a new chapter of life at Villanova University as a Freshman Environmental Science Major. Michelle was a member of our Creation Care Team and Youth Ministry CORE Team

## Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

**2020 Catholic Home Missions Appeal Strengthening the Church at Home (August 22/23) ~ THIS WEEK**, we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Right now, over 40% of dioceses in the United States are considered mission territory because they are unable to fund essential pastoral work in their communities. Your support of this appeal eases the struggle and assists in forming vibrant faith communities. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. Thank you again for your assistance with this important work.

### 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 and smartphone app** 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 or smartphone app 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>

### 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](http://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.

### STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE – FOR AUGUST 15 – 16, 2020

OFFERTORY RECEIVED FROM WEEKLY COLLECTION **	\$6,642.46
OFFERTORY RECEIVED VIA E-GIVING (VANCO)	\$1,510.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY RECEIVED	\$8,152.46
WEEKLY BUDGET AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET EXPENSES	\$14,500.00
TITHE (5% OF TOTAL OFFERTORY)	\$407.72
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS	140
** INCLUDES LOOSE CASH GIFTS	\$103.00
ASSUMPTION OF MARY COLLECTION	\$586.00
Fiscal YTD (7/1/19–3/31/20) collection total	\$631,852
Fiscal YTD (7/1/19-3/31/20) budget	\$677,875

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:

**Berkshire Farm Center and Service**

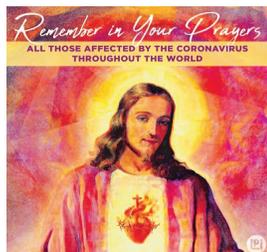
Their advertising dollars help bring this bulletin to you.

**Please see their ad in the current bulletin.**

**Be sure to patronize their business!**

**Mass Intentions**  
For the Week of August 24, 2020 - August 28, 2020

**THERE ARE NO WEEKDAY MASSES CURRENTLY SCHEDULED. IN THE MEANTIME, PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY AT HOME OR IN THE CHAPEL.**



All weekday Mass intentions will be honored when Father Berberian celebrates daily Mass privately.

**Next Weekend, August 29 - August 30, 2020**

Sat. 5:00 pm Harold Houck *Family*

Sun. 10:00 am Thomas Kappel  
*Barbara Othote and Debra Davis*

Antionette Simone *Todd Yutzler*

For the People

**Scripture Readings: Week of August 23, 2020**

Sunday Is 22:19-23 / Rom 11:33-36 / Mt 16:13-20

Monday Rv 21:9b-14 / Jn 1:45-51

Tuesday 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17 / Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18 / Mt 23: 27-32

Thursday 1 Cor 1:1-9 / Mt 24:42-51

Friday 1 Cor 1:17-25 / Mt 25:1-13

Saturday 1 Cor 1:26-31 / Mk 6:17-29

Sunday Jer 20:7-9 / Rom 12:1-2 / Mt 16:21-27

**PARISHES OF OUR LOCAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULES**

Westmere  
Christ the King Church: 456-1644, Sat: 4 pm / Sun:10 am (online)

Altamont  
St. Lucy/St. Bernadette Church: 861-8770, Sun: 9:30 am

Voorheesville  
St. Matthew's Church: 765-2805, Sat: 5 pm / Sun: 9:30 am