

MAY 1 - MAY 2, 2021

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Rick Lesser, Pastor

Rick.Lesser@rcda.org

Rev. Richard Leskovar, Weekend Assistant

Deacon Alfred Manzella

Alfred.Manzella@rcda.org

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

Ernie Casile, Interim School Principal

ecasile@stthomas-school.org

Jennifer Murphy, Associate for Enrollment and Development

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

Office Hours: Open By Appointment Only

Website: www.stthomas-church.org

WEEKEND MASS

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

Holy Days As Announced

WEEKDAY MASS

Mon and Thurs 7:30 a.m.; Tues and Fri 12:15 p.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

No Eucharistic Adoration currently scheduled

RECONCILIATION

Tuesday: 11:30 a.m., Saturday: 4:00 p.m. or by appointment

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 about the program this fall.

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

First Tuesday of the Month after 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 at 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

CONGRATULATIONS to the families of the following children who were baptized recently at St. Thomas: Benjamin Theodore Whitney and Madelyn Jane Milano.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS ~ Alex and Hannah Sobiecki and their daughter Mia.

RCIA MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES ~ One of the best ways to grow in your own faith is to accompany someone who is coming into faith through the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**. Please consider exploring possibility of becoming an RCIA team member. We have an immediate need for a coordinator, (or it could be a position easily shared by two people) for the Fall program. This will give you plenty of time to prepare!. No prior training experience is required and all of the materials for presenting the course are available for your review and consideration.. Please contact Paul Edmundson, in the parish office, who, with his wife, Linda, are the "retiring" program coordinators. And, as the program begins we will have a need for additional team members : such as people to do dismissal with catechumens, catechists, hospitality folks, and sponsors. Check to see which ones match your talents! Contact Paul at 518-439-4951.



All are welcome to join us as we honor our Mother, Mary, Crowning her Queen of Heaven and Earth Friday, May 7 at 7 p.m. in the chapel. Hosted by our Pueblo

to People Committee and Youth Ministry. Please RSVP by calling Colleen Harrigan at 518-439-4951 ext. 108 Mon.-Thurs. or charrigan@stthomas-church.org or sign up with at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4EA8AD22A6F94-bilingual> Mother Mary Pray for Us.



Tuesday Drive on May 4, 3- 4 p.m. in the Church Parking Lot will be for potted **flowering plants for the Mother's Served at the South End Children's Café**. Our goal is 22 plants! Or you are welcome to donate needed food items: fresh or canned fruit, veggies, peanut butter, jelly, fruit, pasta and sauce. Thank you for making someone's Mother's Day that more special.



Congratulation and Blessings to our 2021 Confirmation Class who will be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit this Sunday May 2 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Cathedral will be live-streaming the service at 2 p.m. To access the live-stream please go to the Cathedral's YouTube page. Link provided for your convenience. <https://www.rcda.org/livestream>

Prayer & Worship

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER Joan Graf whose service was held recently 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.



Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

"Mary's life shows that God accomplishes great deeds through us who are the most humble." -- Pope Francis

Pastoral Care Ministry Resumption ~ Pastoral Care volunteers have been completing ZOOM health and safety trainings for in-person ministry. If you have been vaccinated, or have dates for your vaccination, and are interested in resuming (or starting something new!) please let Maura know and she will be happy to have you on board! Maura is also scheduling in-person (socially distanced) trainings for those uncomfortable with using ZOOM on a 1:1 basis.

Funeral Acolytes ~ We have a dedicated group of people who volunteer to serve for funerals. In doing so, they provide assistance during the funeral and support to the bereaved. We have seen an increase in the number of funerals and could use a few more individuals to be available to assist. This is an "as needed" ministry, and one serves only when able. Father Rick is also considering an expanded funeral planning ministry to assist families when going through the process of planning the particulars and offering support. If you are interested in helping in either of these areas, please let Maura know.

Knitting, Quilting, and Crocheting with Love

Ministry ~ Although the long term care facilities are currently not accepting knitted lap robes and blankets, our team was asked to consider creating walker bags. If you are interested in participating in this ministry please contact Maura. She has a demo walker bag in the office and directions.

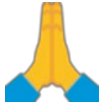
Call for cards! ~ Thank you to all of you who have kindly created cards for our homebound and our seniors in facilities. Maura will be sending out Happy Spring cards throughout the month along with Pastoral Care prayerful items. If you are interested in participating, a happy note is appreciated, signed by "a friend from St. Thomas Parish," and Maura will get them where they are intended. Please leave in the Gathering Hall attention to Maura Barrett.

The Weekend Mass celebrated by Father Lesser is Livestreamed

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)



Congratulations to the following children who made their First Communion here at St. Thomas last weekend: Evan Ackerman,



Trooper Cantalupo, Timothy Creamer, Josephine Guiliano, Camila Kistler, Shane Leonard, Anthony Massaroni, Katherine McAndrew, Ryder Molitor, Hailey Ricafort, Amelia Ricafort-Moulds,

Greyson Rickert, Hugo Rinefierd, Michael Sgroi, Olivia Sweeney and Sami Syed. We are overjoyed to now have you able to join us fully at the Table of the Lord at Mass each and every week.

Faith Formation Program 2021-22 ~ Plans for next year's faith formation program are beginning to be made. We will **need a host of catechists** and hopefully, class assistants all with updated paperwork and safe environment training at the ready. Please contact the faith formation office at 518-439-4951 x108 for more information. **Registration** for next year's classes will begin in the coming weeks. Stay tuned to the bulletin, your email and the parish website for more information as it becomes available.

MIDDLE /HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Rose Ann Garry or Bridget Zigrosser)

YOUTH MINISTRY

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)



"Together we made Great Things Happen!"

On behalf of our Creation Care Team, School and Faith Formation/Youth Ministry Programs we thank everyone who participated in our **Many Blessings of Water Art Show** this past weekend! We thank our art teacher Denise

Chonski for sharing her talent with our young church who created beautifully painted clay jugs, vases and amazing posters. Bravo to our young musicians Alex Skuza piano & cello and Andrew Fallor violin who provided music during our show. We thank Fr. Rick for his continued support of our many ministries. And we **THANK ALL OF YOU** for your donations to **WATER with Blessings!** Thus far we have collected \$700 which means we are able to purchase 9 Sawyer Point One Water Filters for those without clean water. Thank you for a beautiful weekend of **SOLIDARITY!**



Save the date! Congratulations to the Class of 2021! You and your family are invited to join us on Saturday June 5 at 5 p.m. Mass for a special blessing!



Last call to take advantage of this wonderful getaway in the Adirondack! Join us at Pyramid Lake, in Paradox NY! We are considering

two possible options for families and adults **EITHER** July 2-4 or July 4-8. Costs per night include: Lodging, 3 meals, access to water front, canoeing, swimming, kayaking, hiking trails and more! Adults: \$60 a night, 12 yrs. – 18 yrs. \$35, 4 yrs. - 11 yrs. \$15 and 3 & under free! Please contact Mary Ann at mhospodar@stthomas-church.org if you are interested along with date preference ASAP. Questions regarding Camp itself-please contact Brain Evers Camp Director at 518-585-7545.

School News



St. Thomas School

Visit us at www.stthomas-school.org or on Facebook at St. Thomas the Apostle School - Delmar

Congratulations to Amelia Moulds and Hailey Ricafort who received their First Eucharist last weekend! May the Sacred Host that you received at your First Holy Eucharist be a source of inspiration each day of your life.

It all starts at St. Thomas the Apostle School! Pre-K3, Part-Day and Full-Day Pre-K4 as well as Grades K-8 ~ We are now accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year. Contact us to learn how we prepare our students to learn, succeed and lead. We believe in the importance of establishing a solid foundation in which students explore and live their faith, love to learn, know how to find the answers and think critically. Our students are prepared and supported through the challenges of middle school, so that they are as prepared as they can be for high school, college and life beyond. For more information, contact Jennifer Murphy

Please consider a donation to our annual Continuing the Vision Campaign ~ Please 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. **The Continuing the Vision Campaign is the most important source of unrestricted funds available to St. Thomas the Apostle School. It is the foundation of St. Thomas's advancement program.** St. Thomas students are having a positive in-person school experience five days a week. Please consider a contribution that supports the extraordinary effort and spirit of our fine teachers, staff and students. Donations may be made online at stthomas-school.org/giving/annual/ or mailed to St. Thomas the Apostle School, Attn: Continuing the Vision, 42 Adams Place, Delmar, NY 12054.

The Link for the Livestream is on the St. Thomas Home Page.

COVID Bridge Fund ~ This school year, St. Thomas the Apostle School has faced the challenges of bringing students back to the classroom in a way that best protects them and our faculty and staff. This involved hiring additional staff and making significant changes to the physical space to accommodate social distancing and cleaning requirements. The expense is significant, more than six figures.

Please consider making a one-time donation to help St. Thomas the Apostle School bridge the gap at this challenging time by visiting <https://www.stthomas-school.org/giving/Covid-Bridge-Fund/>.

Creation Care Team

(Contact: Marie Myer: myermarie@yahoo.com.)



Small Steps To Care For Creation

- Mark your calendar and plan to start shopping in the Delmar Farmer's Market, 332 Kenwood Ave. May 1 is opening day. Buy local and decrease your "carbon footprint."
- Participate in the zoom meeting "An Introduction to Small Scale Food and Yard Waste Composting", May 6 at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to register: email Jean Bonhotal, Waste Management, at ZeroWasteColumbia@gmail.com
- With warmer weather coming, consider using a clothesline instead of your dryer. Your clothes will smell better and feel fresher, while you are decreasing your energy consumption.

Try A "Tofu Thursday"

Choosing plant-based meals aids in reduction of carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions. It also shrinks our "water-footprint." Beef is one of the most "water-intensive" foods. Creation Care Team members are offering some favorite "meatless meals". This week it's **Cauliflower Tofu Scramble**. Find it on the Parish website.

Community

Help Wanted ~ Part time Faith Formation Administrator. St John the Baptist in Greenville and Sacred Heart in Cairo. Ten to twenty hours a week. Must be practicing Catholic with deep understanding of the Catholic faith. Technologically proficient. If interested please send resume to sacredheartolok@gmail.com.

Senior Luncheon - Attention Active Older Adults

~ Our next luncheon will be on Friday, May 14. Our meal will be a hot turkey dinner with gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, green bean casserole and dessert prepared and donated by Atria Delmar Place. The meal will be packaged in a bag for

you to pick up. If you are attending the 12:15 Mass, you may pick up your meal after Mass in the Gathering Hall. If you are not attending Mass, you may pick up your meal at 1 o'clock in the Gathering Hall. Each registered attendee must be in compliance with the St. Thomas covid-19 safety regulations. (mask, hand sanitizing, and social distancing). For reservations or cancellations, please contact Bobbi Amiri at 518-339-8545 or email at bobbieamiri@gmail.com. Please leave your name and phone number. Reservations must be placed by Monday, May 10. We look forward to when we can gather together as a community.

Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE – FOR APRIL 24-25, 2021

OFFERTORY RECEIVED FROM WEEKLY COLLECTION **	\$11,139.66
OFFERTORY RECEIVED VIA E-GIVING (VANCO)	\$2,235.35
TOTAL OFFERTORY RECEIVED	\$13,375.01
WEEKLY BUDGET AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET EXPENSES	\$14,500.00
TITHE (5% OF TOTAL OFFERTORY)	\$668.75
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS	149
** INCLUDES LOOSE CASH GIFTS	\$387.00

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

Calendar

Tue	5/4	3 pm	Weekly Food Drive	PL
Fri	5/7	7 pm	Crowning of Mary	CH, CHP

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, PL-Church Parking Lot

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

Delmar Dog Butler

Please see their ad in the current bulletin.

Be sure to patronize their business!

Weekday Mass Intentions
For the Week of May 3—May 7, 2021

Mon.	7:30 am	Laura Caggino <i>Mike, Marge and Michelle Kanuk</i>
Tue.	12:15 pm	Domenica Pizzitola <i>Fulvia Pizzitola</i> Collin Bursey <i>Anne and art Young</i>
Thu.	7:30 am	Ronald LaBelle <i>Anna and Bill Keefer</i>
Fri.	12:15 pm	Joseph Esposito, Jr. <i>His Dad</i>

Next Weekend, May 8- May 9, 2021

Sat.	5:00 pm	Celebrated by Father Lesser Dr. and Mrs. Felix Ira <i>Bursey Family</i> Michael Finnigan <i>Colleen and Paul Harrigan</i> Anthony and Florence Nero <i>Their Granddaughter</i>
Sun.	10:00 am	Celebrated by Father Leskovar Virginia DiFabio Acquario <i>Kara (DiFabio) and Scott Marsden</i> Barbara Noonan <i>Rob and Carole Lillis</i> George W. Harder <i>Donna and Dave Kavanaugh</i>

Scripture Readings: Week of May 2, 2021

Sunday Acts 9:26-31 / 1 Jn 3:18-24 / Jn 15:1-8
Sts. Phillip and James 1 Cor 15:1-8 / Jn 14: 6-14
Tuesday Acts 14:19-28 / Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday Acts 15:1-6 / Jn 15:1-8
Thursday Acts 15:7-21 / Jn 15:9-11
Friday Acts 15:22-31 / Jn 15:12-17
Saturday Acts 16:1-10 / Jn 15:18-21
Next Sunday Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48 / 1 Jn 4:7-10
/ Jn 15:9-17

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

Westmere
Christ the King Church: 456-1644, Sat: 4 pm / Sun: 8:30, 10:30 am
Altamont
St. Lucy/St. Bernadette Church: 861-8770, Sat 5 pm/Sun: 9:30 am
Voorheesville
St. Matthew's Church: 765-2805, Sat: 5 pm / Sun: 9:30 am