

AUGUST 14- AUGUST 15, 2021

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Rick Lesser, Pastor

Rick.Lesser@rcda.org

Rev. Dan McHale, Parochial Vicar

mchaled@rcda.org

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

Adam Biggs, School Principal

abiggs@stthomas-school.org

Jennifer Murphy, Associate for Enrollment and Development

jmurphy@stthomas-school.org

Church of

Saint Thomas the Apostle



RECONNECT AND REJOICE

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., 5 p.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."

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



COVID UPDATE ~ Friends: Regrettably, several of the counties of our diocese are experiencing a substantial uptick in COVID cases. Out of an abundance of caution, and consistent with CDC recommendations, the diocese has suggested that we may want to consider re-instating masking protocols. As this is an evolving situation, and as no mandate has yet been made, we will continue for now with our current configuration. However, out of a spirit of charity and selflessness, it would be prudent to return to wearing masks for those who are able, regardless of vaccination status. Fr. Rick



RECONNECT AND REJOICE! Save the dates!

Sunday, August 22 11 a.m.-3 p.m. RAIL TRAIL MINGLE! Sign up today in the Gathering Hall! Fr. Rick will kick off the **MINGLE** at 11 a.m. walking the **trail to the Slingerlands Fire House** where we will meet our Sister Parish St. Matthew's for **snacks, music and lots of MINGLING!** Or join us any time between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. starting in the **Church Parking Lot to walk or bike the trail to the Fire House** If you are unable to walk the 2 miles please join us by car.

Complete a "Spiritual" Scavenger Hunt along the way to enter a **FREE Raffle!** Faith Formation Students will receive a **HOPE hour!**

If you are interested in being a greeter in the church parking lot, 1 mile trail marker or at the Pavilion please email Mary Ann at mhospodar@stthomas-church.org. Looking forward to reconnecting with YOU!

Sunday Sept. 12 Parish Picnic at the Elm Ave Town Park: Details in the Community Section.

Sunday, August 15, is the **Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. We will be celebrating this feast in place of the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Masses will be celebrated on Sat. at 5 p.m. and Sun. at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Sunday Mass at 5:00 p.m. ~ We welcome everybody to our Inaugural Sunday Mass at 5:00 p.m. this weekend. Given our increased Mass attendance it is time to offer an additional opportunity for us to worship together. We will give this time slot "a try" and hope you will find it meets your needs. We are looking for volunteers to greet, usher, lector, serve as Eucharistic Ministers and share their musical talent. And, we invite our parish school families and Faith Formation Families to consider serving in this way as well! **Training will be provided.** Thank you for worshipping with us!

CONGRATULATIONS to the family of the following child who was baptized recently at St. Thomas: Nora Elizabeth Sherman.



This week's Tuesday Food Drive, August 17, 9:30-10:30 a.m. is for our friends served by the Capital City Rescue Mission. They are most in need of: peanut butter, jelly, canned beans (lentil, red beans), pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned dice tomatoes,

canned veggies, salad dressing, Hellmann's mayonnaise, any type of spice, lunch snacks for brown bag lunches: granola bars, peanut butter crackers, cookies and chips. **Thank you for your generosity!**



Volunteers needed for our Welcome Table -- Making parish life easier! ~

Volunteers are needed to help us make parish life easier! Our plan is to offer a **Welcome Table**, a place in the Gathering Hall where parishioners can obtain items such as: Mass cards, parish registration forms, Faith Formation information and St. Thomas School materials as well as place requests for sacramental records (i.e. baptismal certificates and forms to be a sacramental sponsor). This "office" outside of office hours, will be available to parishioners before and after weekend Masses. If you are interested in helping out in this way, please contact the parish office. **We will train You!** Thanks.

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)

"Old age is not an illness; it is a privilege! Loneliness can be an illness, but with charity, closeness and spiritual comfort we can heal it." –Pope Francis

Help Needed ~ Delmar Center Nursing and Rehab (formerly Good Samaritan) is now able to have some religious services! The residents have been so alone and isolated during COVID19, and are really looking forward to having some in-person spiritual care. Our ministry team has always provided support, but we are in need of more volunteers who are willing to provide Communion Services on a rotating basis. Training is provided. Please let Maura know if you might be interested in the **very important ministry to the aged and infirm** in our community.



Bereavement Support Group Resuming for those who have lost a spouse during the last 2 years. Meetings will held October-May once a month on Mondays at 4 p.m. If you or someone you know would be interested in joining this group, please contact Maura at the office via phone or email for pre-screening and more information. Maura is also able to provide information and referral for other resources should this particular group not meet your needs.



The St. Thomas Alzheimer's Care Team is part of Eddy Alzheimer's Service and is a team of caring individuals who provide non-medical support and friendship to individuals and families living with dementia. Training is provided and time commitment is about 2-4 hours a month. The team meets together about 1x/month to review cases and schedules. There has been an increase in referrals and they are in need of more volunteers. Please contact Maura if you would like to learn more about assisting this dynamic team.



Meal Ministry ~ As you may be aware we have switched to a gift card ministry due to COVID19. This ministry provides tangible support for folks going through a significant life event (i.e., surgery, illness, death, birth, etc.). This is not a need-based ministry, but rather a way for our community to demonstrate care and concern for our fellow parishioners. If you would like to assist with this ministry, we are always collecting gift cards to local restaurants that deliver or monetary donations. Thank you to those who have so generously supported this worthy effort.

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR THE RAIL TRAIL WALK IN THE GATHERING HALL AFTER MASS

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

MIDDLE /HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Rose Ann Garry or Bridget Zigrosser)

YOUTH MINISTRY

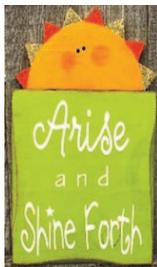
(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)



We are currently accepting Fall 2021 Faith Formation Registration for Grades 6-10. Please register online on our website page [Middle & High School Faith Formation - St Thomas the Apostle Church - Delmar, NY \(stthomas-church.org\)](http://Middle & High School Faith Formation - St Thomas the Apostle Church - Delmar, NY (stthomas-church.org)) as soon as possible to save your spot. Payment balances and

class schedules will occur this fall. God Bless you for inviting us to be a part of your family's Faith Journey.

VOLUNTEER



Prayerfully consider becoming a leader at Mass. Adults and young adults are needed! We are most especially seeking your assistance at our Sunday 5 p.m. Mass. We need greeters to handout song sheets, ushers to take up the collection, acolytes, cantors, singers and musicians! If you are interested please reach out to Mary Ann at mhospodar@stthomas-church.org. Thank you for stepping up to lead!

VOLUNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE TIME; THEY HAVE THE HEART

We invite you to join our Faith Formation Team as a Catechist, Catechist Assistant, Gatekeeper or Youth Ministry Volunteer! Our volunteers are AMAZING and have HUGE HEARTS!

- Our MS/HS Catechists, Catechist Assistants and Gatekeepers share the JOY of the Gospel in a classroom setting for 5 weeks in the fall and 5 weeks in the spring. All materials and lesson plans are provided.
- Our Youth Ministry Volunteers chaperone and supervise our young church in Faith based outreach activities in our parish and community.
- All volunteers must complete the online CMG Connect Program. This is a new program that takes the place of Virtus and other programs. Get started today by checking out information on our Faith Formation Volunteer Page [Catechist/YM Volunteers - St Thomas the Apostle Church - Delmar, NY \(stthomas-church.org\)](http://Catechist/YM Volunteers - St Thomas the Apostle Church - Delmar, NY (stthomas-church.org))
- Interested in learning more about becoming a catechist contact: Rose Ann Garry ragarry@stthomas-church.org or a Youth Ministry Volunteer contact: Mary Ann Hospodar mhospodar@stthomas-church.org

God Bless you for sharing the LOVE of the LORD with our young church!

Best of luck to our young adults preparing to leave for college! Know that you are in our prayers.



Remember the wisdom shared by Aidan and Anna during our College Interview video this past December found on our Youth Ministry Page [Youth Ministry Grades 6th -12th - St Thomas the Apostle Church - Delmar, NY \(stthomas-church.org\)](http://Youth Ministry Grades 6th -12th - St Thomas the Apostle Church - Delmar, NY (stthomas-church.org)) Be yourself! Get involved! Time Management! Check out Campus Ministry or your campus Newman Center! And remember **GOD LOVES YOU!**

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)



Fall Registration ~ Our registration form for next year's program can be found on our church website at www.stthomas-church.org. Our program includes catechesis (religious instruction) for children entering grades 1- 10 in the Fall and includes Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation for those meeting the necessary requirements and looking to make their Sacraments.



Catechists and Class Assistants with up-to date credentials will be **NEEDED** to lead classes either in person and/or virtually for next year. Please contact the Faith Formation office to find out how you can help. 518-439-4951 x108.

Faith Formation Office is Closed for the Summer ~

While our office is closed for the summer, emails and voicemails will be regularly checked over the summer weeks, so please do not hesitate to leave/send a message. It will be replied to as soon as possible.

School News



It's amazing what happens when you make faith a part of a child's everyday learning experience ~ At St. Thomas the Apostle School, our teachers and staff partner with families to instill the same values in our students that they learn at home. Through dedication and effort, we prepare each student to achieve excellence both academically and spiritually. We live our faith with families and the community who, in partnership, define our ministry.

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 2021-2022! ~ 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.

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

INAUGURAL SUNDAY MASS AT 5 PM STARTING THIS WEEKEND

Creation Care Team

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



Caring For Creation Creation Experiences For The Whole Family

Nature Journaling: Make a Journal and begin filling its pages with observations, drawings and thoughts about Creation during a **Five Rivers** program August 21 at 10 am. Call 518-475-0291 by August 18 to register. Space is limited.

Audio Orienteering: Experience Soundscape, an audio orienteering smartphone app August 21, 1:30 to 3:30 pm at **Five Rivers**. The app, designed for use by blind and low vision walkers, can be enjoyed by all ages and abilities. The bells and trumpet sounds of the app will guide you around the nature center trails.

Discover The Pine Bush: Take a guided 0.9 mile hike around the **Albany Pine Bush** and experience this rare and significant part of Creation. Call (518) 456-0655, stop at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve's Discovery Center or visit www.AlbanyPineBush.org/events to make a reservation for this **Discover The Pine Bush** event August 28 at 11 am.

Check with Five Rivers and Albany Pine Bush Preserve for COVID-19 regulations.

Community



Picnic Update

The parish picnic will be on Sunday September 12 at the Elm Avenue Park. The theme is "Reconnect and Rejoice". The event will start with

Mass at 11:30 and food service will begin at 12:15. **Please consider bringing a meatless dish to share** (salads, casseroles, crudites, etc.). The menu is: hamburgers, cheeseburgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs, sausage and pepper sandwiches, corn on the cob, Manhattan clam chowder, popcorn, cotton candy, bottled water, and a variety of soft drinks. Dessert items will be available for purchase from the bake sale at the picnic. Beer and wine will be available for a small donation. There will be a bounce house and a multitude of games for the kids. In addition, there will be pony rides and a petting zoo from 2:00 - 4:00. The raffle will be held at 4:00 and the picnic will end at 4:30. It would be great if a few strong individuals would volunteer to help out with food shopping prior to the picnic, and general equipment movement and setup/breakdown at the picnic. We are also in need of a few gasoline-powered electrical generators. Transportation of the generators between your house and the park will be provided. If you can help out with these important tasks, please contact Paul Supple at paulmsupple@gmail.com. If you'd like to help plan this awesome event, please come to the next picnic meeting. Please consult the Parish Calendar on the St. Thomas website for the date. Thanks to all who have volunteered their time and talents.

Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

2021 Catholic Home Missions Appeal Strengthening the Church at Home (August 21-22) ~ NEXT 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.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE – FOR AUG 7-AUG 8 2021

OFFERTORY RECEIVED FROM WEEKLY COLLECTION **	\$10,479.00
OFFERTORY RECEIVED VIA E-GIVING (VANCO)	\$3,505.35
TOTAL OFFERTORY RECEIVED	\$13,984.35
MINIMUM AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET EXPENSES	\$14,500.00
TITHE (5% OF TOTAL OFFERTORY)	\$699.22
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS	211
** INCLUDES LOOSE CASH GIFTS	\$862.00

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

Note - Suggested Donation for Mass Intentions ~ The suggested donation for Mass Intentions is \$15 per Intention.

Calendar

Sun	8/15	5 pm	Inaugural 5 PM Sunday Mass	CH
Tue	8/17	9:30 am	Summer Food Drive	PL
Tue	8/22	11 am	Rail Trail Walk, Mingle	PL

PLACE: CH – Church; GH – Gathering Hall; LC – Lady Chapel; MC – Media Center; PO – Parish Offices, PP - Peace Pole, Café-Cafeteria, LCR - Large Conference 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:

Peter Aioxa, Nationwide Insurance
Please see their ad in the current bulletin.
Be sure to patronize their business!

Weekday Mass Intentions
For the Week of August 16 - August 20, 2021

Mon.	7:30 am	Intentions of the Celebrant
Tue.	12:15 pm	Brian Boyle <i>Karen Fitzgerald</i>
		Leanne and Herman Sanchez <i>Terry and Mary Ann Mitchell</i>
Thu.	7:30 am	John Bobak-Living Intention <i>His Family</i>
Fri.	12:15 pm	Ginny Acquario <i>Patrick Raimo</i>
		Louise Cirino - 17th Anniv. <i>Andrea Angerame</i>

Next Weekend, August 21 - August 22, 2021

Sat.	5:00 pm	For The People
Sun.	10:00 am	Intentions of the Celebrant
	5:00 pm	Intentions of the Celebrant

Scripture Readings: Week of August 15, 2021

Assumption Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab / 1 Cor 15:20-27 / Lk 1:39-56

Monday Jgs 2:11-19 / Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday Jgs 6:11-24a / Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday Jgs 9:6-15 / Mt 20:1-16

Thursday Jgs 11:29-39a / Mt 22:1-14

Friday Ru 11:1, 3-6, 14b-16b, 22 / Mt 22:34-40

Saturday Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17 / Mt 23:1-12

Sunday Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b / Eph 5:21-32 / Jn 6:60-69

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

Christ the King Church, 518-456-1644, Westmere
Tue, Wed, Fri: 9 am Sat: 4 pm / Sun: 8:30, 10:30 am

St. Lucy/St. Bernadette Church, 518-861-8770, Altamont
Tue, Thu: 5:15 pm / Sat 5 pm / Sun: 9:30 am

St. Matthew's Church, 765-2805, Voorheesville
Tue, Wed, Fri: 8:30 am / Sat: 5 pm / Sun: 9:30 am

RCIA INQUIRIES WELCOME ~ Is God calling you or someone you know to become a Catholic Christian? If so, the RCIA program may be for you.

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is for Baptized Christians and individuals who have never been Baptized who wish to learn more about and explore the possibility of joining our Catholic faith and for Baptized Catholics who wish to be confirmed.

This year's Inquiry Period will start on Sunday, Sept. 19 at 9 a.m. in the Large Conference Room. Contact Paul Edmundson at the parish office if you want more information and/or to schedule an interview with Father McHale.