



#### PARISH STAFF

**Rev. Rick Lesser, Pastor**

*Rick.Lesser@rcda.org*

**Rev. Dan McHale, Parochial Vicar**

*daniel.mchale@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**

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

*mbarrett@stthomas-church.org*

**Avery Tunningley, Parish Music Director**

*tunnac@aol.com*

**Nelly Brown Bunk, Choir Director**

*nelybrownbunk@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*

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

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

Office Hours: Open By Appointment Only

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



**St. Thomas Reads!** ~ We are excited to announce the launch of the St. Thomas Book Club! We will meet every other month and discuss books that are connected to our faith. The October selection, ***The Story of a Soul***, in honor of the Feast Day of St. Thérèse De Lisieux, is widely available at most bookstores. We will meet on October 14 at 7 p.m. in the Gathering Hall to discuss the book.

**Here is an overview of *The Story of a Soul*:** Two and a half years before her death in 1897 at the age of 24, as Thérèse Martin began writing down her childhood memories at the request of her blood sisters in the Lisieux Carmel, few could have guessed the eventual outcome. Yet this *Story of my soul*, first published in 1898 in a highly edited version, quickly became a modern spiritual classic, read by millions and translated into dozens of languages around the world.

**We hope that you are as excited about this adventure as we are and we hope to see you on October 14!**



### Welcome Table -- Making parish life easier!

~ The **Welcome Table** is a place in the Church foyer 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 at least 2 weekends a month. If you are interested in helping out so we can staff more weeks, please contact the parish office. **We will train You!** Thanks.

**An Invitation to Serve** ~ Continuing this week we will be taking several minutes at each Mass, hoping to inspire you to serve our parish! Volunteering your time does not mean a lifetime commitment. You may be available for a weekend, a few hours, weeks, or for a specific project. If a certain ministry calls out to you, just try it out! Whatever time you can give is so appreciated. We look forward to highlighting these opportunities for you, as your fellow parishioners explain our needs and tell you what inspired them to serve. This week, Patty McDermott will be speaking about the Funeral Acolyte Ministry. If you are interested in this ministry, please fill out the form that is enclosed in the bulletin. Please place the completed form in the basket by any of the exit doors. **Thanks so much!**



Together Fr. Dan and I personally thank all of you who have answered the call to be a Catechist, Gatekeeper, Youth Ministry or Welcome Table volunteer. **These ministries still need volunteers.** Please prayerfully consider sharing some time for the parish.. God Bless you!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the families of the following parishioners who were baptized recently at St. Thomas: William Harrison Gentile, Larkin Tartell Gameng, and Austin James Sill.

**WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS** ~ Evan and Maureen Marsh and their children Regan and Declan; Gina and James Norfleet and their children Arieanna, Dominic and Nicholas; Danielle Moreau and her children Autumn and Dominick; David Curran.



**Kicking off our Respect Life Tuesday Drives on October 5, 3-4 p.m. in the Church Parking Lot. We are collecting LARGE SIZE DIAPERS Size 4 and 5 and wipes for Catholic Charities Maternity Services! Thank you for supporting LIFE!**

## Prayer & Worship

### NEW WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY - COME JOIN THE "WOMEN OF MARY"

~ Would you like to meet other women of faith? Grow your faith family? Do you want to learn to pray the rosary? Do you feel called to pray with others for our country? Our world? To grow in faith?

The Blessed Mother said that "Prayer and fasting can stop wars and change the laws of nature." As we live through this pandemic together, it is more important than ever to know and support each other. **Women of all ages** are invited to join in prayer and fellowship. We hope to meet once a month starting **Monday, October 18** in the St Thomas Gathering Hall.

- 7:00-7:30 p.m. Pray the Rosary
  - 7:30-8:00 p.m. Informal Friendship Activity
- Come alone or bring a friend. We can't wait to meet you!**

**PRAYER CHAIN** ~ Members respond to urgent prayer intentions. **Calls are confidential.** Contact Pam Seward at: 518-439-7845 for your intention to be added.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** Ralph LaBarge whose service was held last week at St. Thomas. May the Lord welcome him into Eternal Life.

**The New York Capital District Christian Women's Connection** is sponsoring a "*The Seasons of Past, Present and Future*" luncheon on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at the Guilderland Elks Lodge, 3867 Rte. 146 (Carman Road) in Schenectady beginning at 11:30am and ending at approximately 1:30 p.m. Please be prompt. CDC and State Covid-19 recommendations will be followed. Your reservation is necessary no later than **October 7** and cancellations a must. **Please call Nancy (518) 869-0642 or Carol (518) 869-5253 for reservations.** All are welcome - bring a friend!! More details on the flyer hanging on the Community Bulletin Board.

## Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

**Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. St. Francis of Assisi**



**~In Loving Memory ~ New Tradition Beginning at St. Thomas** ~ During the week prior to and after All Soul's Day, our bereavement team will have an "**In Loving Memory**" table located in between the church and gathering space. We invite any parishioner to bring in a **framed photo of a deceased loved** to be included in this display. You may drop your photo at the office prior to Oct. 21 or leave on the table during that timeframe. Our bereavement team will create a lovely display to honor your departed loved ones. Please provide your own frame or picture holder and include your name on the back.



**Mass of Remembrance** ~ will be offered on Tuesday, Nov. 2 at 5:30 where those who have lost a loved one from **Nov. 1, 2019 – Sept. 1, 2021** will be particularly remembered. At that time, family members may collect their loved ones' crosses.

Kindly let Maura know if you plan to attend, or if you will need your cross held to be retrieved at another time.



**Bereavement Support Group is now at capacity.** If you need grief support, please contact Maura Barrett and she can assist you and provide referral for additional services, if needed.

## The Fall Food Drives Continue Tuesday October 5 at 3PM in the Church Parking Lot



**Albany Center Assisted Living (formerly Kenwood Manor) ~** We have resumed our Communion Services **Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m.!** The residents are thrilled to have us back. We could use one or two more helpers on a rotating basis for either day. Training is provided. Please let Maura know if you would be interested in joining this team.



**Call for cards! ~** Maura will be collecting cards for seniors in the parish, particularly for the nursing home residents. This is a great inter-generational project. *Happy Fall, Happy Halloween, Happy Thanksgiving, Thinking of*

*You, Sending Cheer*, etc. are the themes that would be best. Handmade or store bought are all appreciated. Please sign **"A friend from St. Thomas Parish."** Thank you to those who have been kindly sending them in already. You may drop at the office to Maura's attention. Thank you!

### Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

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

**Elementary Faith Formation classes** for children in grades 1-5 are set to begin this week, October 5, 6, and 7. If your children are registered for classes, please check your email regularly for updates and important information. If you have not yet registered your children for faith formation, it is not too late!! Please do so as soon as possible. Necessary forms as well as an online registration option are available on our church website, [www.stthomas-church.org](http://www.stthomas-church.org), under the Faith Formation tab.

**Our program still needs several class assistants** to help our catechists in running a smooth program. Please contact our office as soon as possible to find out how you can help!!



**We also still need 2 catechists to run weekly virtual classes** online using Google Meet or Zoom for children whose parents chose this method of instruction for this year. Please contact our office for more information if there is any way you can help with

this most important ministry---teaching our faith to our young church!!!

### MIDDLE /HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Rose Ann Garry)

### YOUTH MINISTRY

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)



**Catechists, gatekeepers and Youth Ministry volunteers are still needed** in our Middle School and High School Programs. Please consider sharing your faith with our young church. All you need is to have Jesus in your heart and we and the Spirit will take care of the rest! Questions contact Rose Ann Garry at [ragarry@stthomas-church.org](mailto:ragarry@stthomas-church.org)



We invite you to stop by the Gathering Hall to view our Tents of Radical Hospitality created by students at St. Thomas School, Faith Formation, Pueblo to People and Creation Care Team. Calendars are still available.

Please take a Seasons of Creation Calendar with you. Suggestions on the calendar assist us in being good stewards of all God's Creations any day of the year! God Bless!



**The MINGLE continues... Apple Picking with our Sister Parish ST. Matthew's Saturday Oct. 16 at Indian Ladder! We will meet at St. Matthew's Parking lot at 12:45 p.m. and drive over together so we will be picking apples in the same grove!** Pricing: \$25 for a single 1/2 bushel bag, \$22 each for two or more 1/2 bushel bags.

Apple donations are being accepted for The New Scotland Food Pantry and Capital City Rescue Mission. Designated cars will be marked for accepting the apple donations. Enjoy the remaining day eating donuts! Visiting the petting zoo or hanging out at Cidery! Looking forward to Reconnecting and Rejoicing with YOU!



### Faith Formation

Join us as we celebrate Mass Sunday Oct. 17 at 5 p.m. and start our 2021-2022 Faith Formation Year. Hospitality and

Faith Formation information will be available after Mass. Looking forward to celebrating with you!

### School News



**Our first gift card order of the school year! ~** There's no easier way to help raise funds for the school and **it doesn't cost you an extra cent!** Purchase your cards at face value and the school will receive a rebate for each card sold. Order forms are available in the Gathering Hall or print one from our school homepage at [www.stthomas-school.org](http://www.stthomas-school.org) (under Quick Links) and drop off your order form with payment to the school office, Attn. Erica Fox. (Payments must be cash or check made out to St. Thomas the Apostle School). **Orders are due Monday, October 4 by 10:00 a.m.** For more information, contact Erica at 518-439-5573 or [efox@stthomas-school.org](mailto:efox@stthomas-school.org).

## The Fall Food Drives Continue Tuesday October 5 at 3PM in the Church Parking Lot

**Have Some Fun Shopping at Boscov's and Help Support St. Thomas the Apostle School!** ~ We are offering 25% Off Discount Passes for a special one-day-only in-store shopping event to be held at Boscov's on October 20. While shopping at the event, you'll have the opportunity to register for a chance to win a \$100 Boscov's gift card. **These discount passes are \$5 each and 100% of that goes directly to our school!** For more information about this event, please visit [boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends](http://boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends). If you would like to order passes, please contact Erica Fox at [efox@stthomas-school.org](mailto:efox@stthomas-school.org) or 518-439-5573.



**Are you looking for a school with limited class sizes** which allow for safe, personalized instruction, Spanish beginning in Preschool, or band in addition to your Music, Art, and Physical Education? 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. St. Thomas offers Pre-K3, Part-Day and Full-Day Pre-K4 (flexible options available) as well as Grades K-8. Visit

[www.stthomasschool.org](http://www.stthomasschool.org) to watch our virtual tour. Call/ text 518-439-5573 or email Jennifer Murphy at [jmurphy@stthomasschool.org](mailto:jmurphy@stthomasschool.org) for more information.

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

### Creation Care Team

(Contact: Marie Myer: [myermarie@yahoo.com](mailto:myermarie@yahoo.com).)



### As The Season Of Creation Comes To A Close

- **With the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi this Monday, the Season of Creation comes to a close.** But the opportunities to protect and preserve the earth as **A Home For All** continue. The three pillars of this season: **prayer, sustainability and advocacy**, remain as signposts guiding our ongoing work to care for, what Pope Francis reminds us is **Our Common Home**. The task of protecting this planet for future generations may seem impossible, but as St. Francis teaches: **“Start with doing what’s necessary, then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”**
- So pick something, no matter how simple to begin, and together we can make the impossible a reality.
- **Begin with a prayer that we select leaders who work to justly share earth’s resources. Act to sustain those resources by even simple acts such as turning lights off when you leave the room, buying locally grown produce, having at least one meatless meal each week. Advocate for the environment with your voice, your vote, your purchases.** Support companies that are committed to sustainable practices.

### Community



**St. Thomas Active Older Adults - Faith, Food, and Fun** ~ Our next luncheon will be on Friday, October 22. We will meet at 12:15 for Mass and then enjoy lunch together. This is a good opportunity to meet some of your fellow parishioners. For reservations or cancellations, please contact Steve or Christine Corson at 518-439-3286. Please sign up early because space may be limited due to seating 6 people, rather than 8, at a table. Reservations must be made by Monday, October 18. If possible, please bring a personal care item that will be donated to Bethlehem Senior Services for distribution to Bethlehem residents. **Attention Parishioners:** If you like to bake, would you please be able to help us out this month by making an apple pie? Please call Steve or Christine Corson at 518-439-3286 if you are able to help out.

### Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

#### STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE – FOR SEP 25-SEP 26 2021

OFFERTORY RECEIVED FROM WEEKLY COLLECTION **	\$7,496.08
OFFERTORY RECEIVED VIA E-GIVING (VANCO)	\$1,630.35
TOTAL OFFERTORY RECEIVED	\$9,126.43
MINIMUM AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET EXPENSES	\$14,500.00
TITHE (5% OF TOTAL OFFERTORY)	\$456.32
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS	194
** INCLUDES LOOSE CASH GIFTS	\$852.98
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY COLLECTION	\$510.00

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE PARISH

### Calendar

Tue	10/5	3 pm	Fall Food Drive	PL
<b>PLACE:</b> 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:

**Thomas H. Abele DMD**

**Please see their ad in the current bulletin.  
Be sure to patronize their business!**

**Weekday Mass Intentions**  
 For the Week of October 4 - October 8, 2021

Mon.	7:30 am	<b>Aleta D. Lyons</b> <i>Mike and Leslie Brady</i> <b>Diana Barry-renewed health</b> <i>Duncan Barry</i>
Tue.	12:15 pm	<b>Ruth B. Moak—37th Anniv.</b> <i>Gloria and Jim Moak</i> <b>Thomas G. Kilgallon</b> <i>Michele Bernasconi</i>
Thu.	7:30 am	<b>John Gallogly</b> <i>LaBelle Family</i>
Fri.	12:15 pm	<b>George and Helen Esposito</b> <i>Their Son, Joseph</i> <b>Jim McCormick</b> <i>Pam and Ernie Seward</i>

**Next Weekend, October 9-October 10, 2021**

Sat.	5:00 pm	<b>Tammy McHugh</b> <i>Siobhan Cashin-Smith</i> <b>Margaret Edge</b> <i>The Smith Family</i> <b>Gary Lane</b> <i>Dr. Virginia Lazaro</i> <b>Katherine Hepinstall—1st Anniv.</b> <i>JoAnna Hepinstall and Mary Jane Flanigan</i>
Sun.	10:00 am	<b>Bill Joynt</b> <i>Family</i> <b>Joseph and Anna Sgambelluri</b> <i>Robert and Patricia Ricchiuti</i> <b>Lena and Tom LaForte</b> <i>John LaForte</i>
	5:00 pm	<b>For The People</b>

**Scripture Readings: Week of October 3, 2021**

- Sunday Gn 2:18-24 / Heb 2:9-11 / Mk 10:2-16
- Monday Jon 1:1-2:2,11 / Lk 10:25-37
- Tuesday Jon 3:1-11 / Lk 10:38-42
- Wednesday Jon 4:1-11 / Lk 11:1-4
- Thursday Mal 3:13-20b / Lk 11:5-13
- Friday JI 1:13-15; 2:1-2 / Lk 11:15-26
- Saturday JI 4:12-27-28 / Lk 11:27-28
- Sunday Wis 7:7-11 / Heb 4:12-13 / Mk 10:17-30

**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

