

### 31<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY *in ordinary time*

When Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." Mk 12:34ab

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

**OCTOBER 30 - OCTOBER 31, 2021**

#### 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**

*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*

**Jennifer Curry, Co-Coordinator, Middle/High School Program**

**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

2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of the month 1 p.m.

#### 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

**Saturday November 6 Confessions** ~ Fr. John Tallman will celebrate the Saturday evening Mass at 5 p.m. Due to his schedule he is not available to hear confessions before Mass, but instead will be available after that Mass. Please remember that in addition to our regularly scheduled time at 4 p.m. on Saturday, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is also available at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday as well as by appointment.

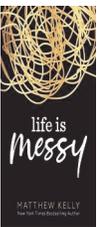
**Diocesan Appeal 2021** ~ This annual appeal, which is now administered through our Diocesan Stewardship Office, will run through June 30, 2022. They have experienced some processing delays and you should receive this initial mailing from the Diocese within the week! Please watch for it. We thank you for your consideration and continued generosity.

**WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS** ~ Theresa and James F. Leslie; Johnathan and Colleen Marro and their child Giovanni; Dennis and Nicole DiBari and their children Sophia, Noelle, Emma and Luke. **A second welcome to Gerrit Hopper and Ashley Caizzo and their daughter Kendall. We sincerely apologize for publishing the incorrect gender in your first welcome.**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the families of the following children who were baptized recently at St. Thomas: Rory Michael Cunningham and Elizabeth Grace McWilliam.



**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. This week, Nelly Bunk will be speaking about Choir and Liturgy Committee. If you are interested in these ministries, 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**



**Save the Date! The St. Thomas book club** will discuss Matthew Kelly's **Life is Messy** on Thursday, December 9 at 7 p.m. in the Gathering Hall - **All are welcome!** *Life is Messy is for anyone with a mess. Born from the three most devastating years of Matthew Kelly's life, it has the power to walk and talk with people in their messes and remind them of their deep spiritual needs.*

**2021-22 Lector Workbooks** ~ The Lector Workbooks for the 2019-20 liturgical year may be picked up on the counter in the church foyer.



**Ring the Bells for Climate Change** ~ World Leaders are meeting in Glasgow, Scotland Nov. 1 to 12 to set new goals to combat Climate Change and its dire consequences. The St. Thomas Creation Care Team is holding a 'Ring of the Bells for Climate' after each Mass, next weekend in support of this global effort. As you hear the Bells, we ask that you say a silent prayer for all Creation and consider what you can do to protect this gift of God.

**Peace Vigil Saturday** ~ Please join us to pray for peace at the Parish Peace Pole, adjacent to the driveway, on the corner of Adams Place and Kenwood Avenue at 12:00 noon on November 6. We have a prepared prayer that we will provide you. Peace be with you.



**WEEKLY FALL DRIVE** ~ This Tuesday's drive, Nov. 2, 3-4 p.m. in the Church parking lot is for our annual Christmas Gift Bags for our homebound neighbors at St. John/St. Ann's Outreach Center. Our goal is to create 44 bags!

This week we are adding personal care products to the gift bags: razors, shaving cream, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotions and hand sanitizer. Thank you for your generosity!

## 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.



**COME JOIN US FOR THE NEXT THE "WOMEN OF MARY" MEETING** ~ 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 meet again on **Monday, November 15** in the St Thomas Gathering Hall at 7 p.m..

## Pastoral Care

(Contact: Maura Barrett, LMSW)

**"There is so little distance between heaven and earth that God always hears us. Nothing but a thin veil separates us from God."** –St. Andre Bessette

**THANK YOU** ~ to Bernadette Pedlow, Patty McDermott, David DeCancio, and Art Copeland for kindly speaking out at Mass about 3 of our many Pastoral Care Ministries ~ Communion to the homebound and assisted living residents and funeral acolyte ministry. We appreciated hearing about your experiences in ministry. We have a number of opportunities to serve in Pastoral Care. See the website for more details!



**~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 Hall. We invite any parishioner to bring in a **framed photo of a deceased loved one** to be included in this display. You may drop your photo at the office 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.

November 1, All Saints Day, Not a Holy Day This Year, Mass at 7:30 a.m.

## Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

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



**Class Date Announcements** ~ In order to keep all classes on target, we will be holding faith formation classes as usual on Thursday, November 11, even though the schools do not have classes for the Veteran's Day Holiday. 2 weeks later, there will be **no classes** during **Thanksgiving week**, November 23, 24 and 2.



**We are in need of a volunteer gatekeeper on Tuesdays from 4:15 -5:45 p.m.** to let children into the school and direct them to their classrooms as well as assist with dismissing students back to their parents after class. Please contact

our faith formation office to find out how you can help us out with this critical ministry!!

### MIDDLE /HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

(Contact: Rose Ann Garry, Jennifer Curry)

### YOUTH MINISTRY

(Contact: Mary Ann Hospodar)



This is our third week of Classes for Middle School and High School! We thank you for your willingness to share your faith and adhere to our Health and Safety Guidelines. Parents please have students complete our Daily Health Screen prior to class. Thank you all for caring for one another by wearing your mask properly at all times. Your support is appreciated!



Please contact Colleen Harrigan at [charrigan@stthomas-church.org](mailto:charrigan@stthomas-church.org) our Faith Formation secretary Mon.-Thurs. 9am-2pm if your child needs to attend Faith Formation Class on a different

night or time. Our class size is limited this year due to social distancing guidelines. We thank you in advance for your support!



**COME ONE! COME ALL! Celebrate Halloween with us at SAINTS + SNACKS + SERVICE THIS Sunday Oct. 31, 11 a.m. till noon in the Church Parking Lot and Gathering Hall! Learn about our wonderful ministries and how you can get**

**involved! Complete a Ministry/Saint Scavenger Hunt Sheet and enter to win a gift card from Starbuck's, Dunkin Donut or Amazon! Free bake goodies, cider and popcorn! Plus PLENTY of treats! Sponsored by our YM CORE Team! Looking forward to RECONNECTING with YOU!**

Check out our **YOUTH MINISTRY PAGE** for other HOPE events! [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))



**MIDDLE SCHOOL FAITH & FUN NIGHT! NEXT SUNDAY NOV. 6 following 5 p.m. Mass 6-7:15 p.m., Pizza, Fun, Scavenger Hunt in the Church! RSVP to Mary Ann mhospodar@stthomas-church.org.**



### High School Agape Latte! Sunday

**Nov. 7, 6-7:15 p.m.** ~ Join us next Sunday for conversation and cafe food with our guest "storyteller" Coach Michael Gerrety, from LaSalle Institute. Join us as we listen to Coach Gerrety, share his experience of Agape Love... a love that seeks nothing in return. Bring a friend! If you are interested email us at [Agapelatte@stthomas-church.org](mailto:Agapelatte@stthomas-church.org)! Agape Latte is a faith storytelling program started at Boston College in 2006. A guest storyteller offers a short personal experience about friendship, hope or forgiveness and shares their faith journey with others. Hope to see YOU next Sunday!

### Happy Halloween!



## School News



**HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER, 22" MIXED EVERGREEN WREATHS, \$30/ea. or 2 for \$50 Pick-up or Delivery Available in time for Thanksgiving.** Orders/payment due Nov 1. Contact Miss Fox at [efox@stthomas-school.org](mailto:efox@stthomas-school.org) for more info.



### PANERA FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, November 10  
4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Glenmont Location (241 Route 9W)  
Dining Options: Drive-Thru • Curbside Pick-Up • Rapid Pick-Up • Contactless Delivery • Cafe Dining

During this 4-hour event, Panera in Glenmont will give St. Thomas the Apostle School **20%** back when you order online using code **PRFUND** at checkout **OR** order at the cafe using our flyer (available in the Gathering Hall).

**Are you looking for a school with limited class sizes which allow for safe, personalized instruction,** Spanish beginning in Preschool along with 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.**

## All Souls Day, November 2, No 12:15 Mass, 5:30 p.m. Mass of Remembrance

### Creation Care Team

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

#### Caring For Creation This Fall



**BUYING CANDLES** for yourself or friends this Fall? The environmentally friendly choice is a candle made from beeswax rather than paraffin wax, a product of petroleum refining. Check local markets or craft fairs to decrease the carbon footprint of shipping.



**FALLEN LEAVES** left in piles on the lawn can cause patches of dead grass. Instead mulch the leaves and distribute them evenly on the yard, around the base of trees, or on top of garden

beds. As they breakdown their nutrients feed the grass, sustain soil moisture, and protect the microbes that will continue to enrich the earth throughout the upcoming winter months.



**PREVENT WASTING HEAT** as the temperatures go down by using door draft stoppers to block winter winds. You can purchase or make your own.

### Community

**Academy of the Holy Names Open House - Grow, Excel, Lead, Achieve!** ~ Let us show your daughter how at **Academy of the Holy Names Grades 6-12 Open House**, Thursday, November 4 at 4:30. Register online at [ahns.org](http://ahns.org) or contact Ann Rento [arento@ahns.org](mailto:arento@ahns.org), 438-7895 x202. 1075 New Scotland Road, Albany.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter** ~ To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and are seven sessions on weekdays from 7:00pm to 9:30 p.m. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call Frank & Margie Pearson at 860-337-2447 or visit them at <https://www.mectw.org/>. **"The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself". Your spouse is your closest 'neighbor'. Learn how to love your spouse by participating in the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience.**

**St. Thomas Active Older Adults - Faith, Fun , and Food** ~ Thank you to all those who helped make our October luncheon a success - the attendees, volunteers, and parishioners who baked delicious apple pies. Our next luncheon will be on Friday, November 19. We will be dining together in person. 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, November 15. If possible, please bring 10 or more Christmas Cards for our homebound parishioners. Please sign them "Your friend from St. Thomas Church."

**Attention Parishioners:** If you like to bake, would you please be able to help us out this month by baking sliced sheet cakes? Please call Steve or Christine Corson at 518-439-3286 if you are able to help out.

**Blessed Sacrament School is seeking a First Grade Teacher** for an immediate opening. Qualified candidates should possess a Master's Degree and teaching experience is preferred. Applicants should forward their resume to Principal, Maureen Daurio at [mdaurio@blessedsacramentschool.net](mailto:mdaurio@blessedsacramentschool.net) or call the School Office at 518-438-5854

### Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

#### STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE – FOR OCT 23 OCT 24 2021

OFFERTORY RECEIVED FROM WEEKLY COLLECTION **	\$9,408.00
OFFERTORY RECEIVED VIA E-GIVING (VANCO)	\$1,947.35
TOTAL OFFERTORY RECEIVED	\$11,355.35
MINIMUM AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET EXPENSES	\$14,500.00
TITHE (5% OF TOTAL OFFERTORY)	\$567.77
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS	206
** INCLUDES LOOSE CASH GIFTS	\$924.00
MISSION SUNDAY	\$1,264.00

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

### Calendar

Mon	11/1	7:30 am	All Saints Day Mass - Not a Holy Day of Obligation	CHP
Tue	11/2	3 pm	Fall Food Drive	PL
Tue	11.2	5:30 PM	Mass Of Remembrance, No 12:15 Mass	CH

**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:

**Delmar Pediatrics PLLC**

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

**Be sure to patronize their business!**

**Weekday Mass Intentions**  
 For the Week of November 1 - November 5, 2021

All Saints Day– Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year  
 Mon. 7:30 am Kevin Nash *Bill McDermott*  
 Tue. 5:30 pm All Souls Day  
 Mass of Remembrance  
**Thu. 7:30 am, Fri 12:15 pm Masses Cancelled**  
**Diocesan Priest Convocation**

**Next Weekend, November 6-November 7, 2021**

Sat. 5:00 pm Tyler Lane  
 Ralph LaBarge *Carol Tomlin*  
 Sun. 10:00 am Marianne Gould  
*Walter and Barbara Gould*  
 Thomas J. Dwyer  
*Robert and Patricia Ricchiuti*  
 Paul Richmond *Hospodar Family*  
 5:00 pm For The People

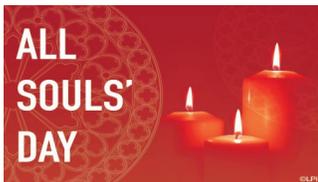
**Scripture Readings: Week of October 31, 2021**

Sunday Dt 6:2-6 / Heb 7:23-28 / Mk 12:28b-34  
 Monday All Saints Day  
 Rv 7:2-4, 9-14 / 1 Jn 3:1-3 / Mt 5:1-12a



ALL SAINTS' DAY

Tuesday All Souls Day / Mass of Remembrance  
 Wis 3: 1-9 / Rom 5:5-11 / Jn 6:37-40



Wednesday Rom 13:8-10 / Lk 14:25-33  
 Thursday Rom 14:7-12 / Lk 15:1-10  
 Friday Rom 15:14-21 / Lk 16:1-8  
 Saturday Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27 / Lk 16:9-15  
 Sunday 1 Kgs 17:10-16 / Heb 9:24-28 / Mk 12:38-44

**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