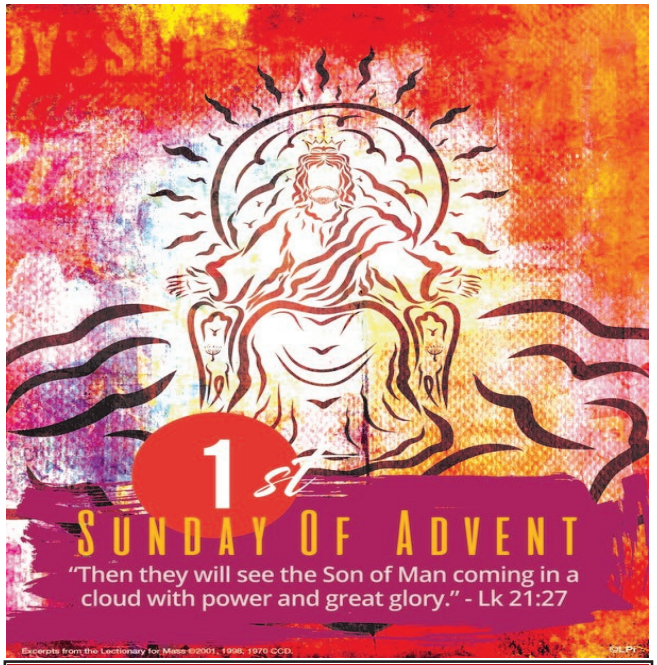
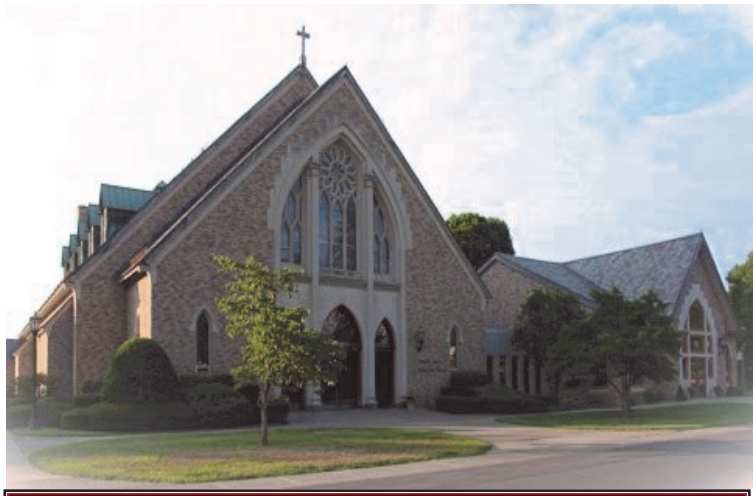


NOVEMBER 27 – NOVEMBER 28, 2021

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

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
***Pending*,** *Pastoral Care Associate*

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*
Jennifer Curry, *Co-Coordinator, Middle/High School Program*
Mary Ann Hospodar, *Coordinator, Youth Ministry Program*
MS/HS FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY EMAIL
HOPE@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

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.

EUCHARISTIC 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.

ANOINTING 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

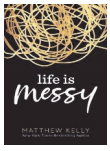
Advent Reconciliation ~ **Tuesday December 14, individual confessions from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. in the chapel, followed by a communal service at 6:30 p.m. in the Church, then individual confessions to follow in the chapel until 9 p.m..**

AT HOME WITH THE WORD ~ The new liturgical year begins **TODAY,** First Sunday of Advent, November 28. The At Home with the Word books, which contain the Sunday readings for the new year, are available in the Gathering Hall opposite to the Communi8ty Bulletin Board. The donation for the books is $5.00.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ~ Wednesday, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. We will have Masses at 12:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. All are reminded that this is a holyday of obligation.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS LITURGY SCHEDULES ~ Christmas Eve Masses will be celebrated at 4,6 and 9 p.m. **Note the time change for the Mass During the Night to 9 p.m.** Christmas Day Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. **There will be NO Vigil Mass at 5 p.m. for The Holy Family, December 26.** New Years Day Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m.

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.



Save the Date! All are welcome to join **The St. Thomas Book Club** for a discussion about Matthew Kelly's ***Life is Messy*** on Thursday, December 9 at 7 p.m. Bring a friend...or 2 and enjoy an evening of engaging conversation with friends, old AND new!

Save the Date ~ Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration, hosted by the Pueblo to People Committee, is set for Friday, Dec. 10, Rosary 6 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Bilingual Mass, both in the Church. All are welcome to join us as we honor our Mother Mary and show our solidarity with our Sister Parish in Yucatan Mexico. If you have any questions please contact Patricia Sosa Suarez at pbgonzsos@gmail.com; or Edi Samaniego at emsamaniego@verizon.net
Thanks for joining us!

Kicking off our Advent Drives, this Tuesday Nov. 30, 3-4 p.m. in the church parking lot. Collecting tube socks and TRAVEL SIZE PERSONAL CARE ITEMS: hand sanitizer, toothpaste, brush, hand lotion, Chap Stick, soap, Band-Aids, soap, wipes, tissues, individual wrapped treats: candy canes, candy, or lunch size cookies. Our young church will create St. Nick gift stockings for our neighbors at St. John St. Ann's Outreach Center. Bless you for sharing the light of HOPE with others!

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.

Children's Liturgy –"Advent"
For children ages 4-6 attending the 10 a.m. Mass. Children will be invited into the Chapel during Mass to learn about our Catholic Advent teachings and traditions. No registration required. **Nov 28, Dec 5, Dec 12, and Dec19.**

Altar Flowers ~ Envelopes are now available in the office or at the church entrances for those who would like to make a donation for Christmas altar flowers. If you choose to make a donation in memory of a particular person, those memorials will be listed in the bulletin at Christmas time. Please submit memorial donations that are to be listed in the bulletin to the Parish Office by Wednesday, Dec. 15.

Peace Vigil December 4 at 12:00 noon ~ As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Price of Peace, 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 December 4. We meet the first Saturday of every month to pray ten to twelve minutes for peace - peace in our world, in our country, in our community, in our homes and in our hearts. We have a prepared prayer that we provide. Please join us. Peace be with you.

Baptism Preparation Class ~ We hold Baptism Preparation classes the first Wednesday of each month. The next class will be December 1 at 7:00pm in the Parish gathering area. If you are planning to have your child Baptized, please contact Deacon Al Manzella at amanz31999@aol.com.

Celebrating The First Christmas ~ Please join us for the viewing of **"The Shepherd" at St. Matthew's Church - Voorheesville; Sunday, December 5 at 1 p.m.** From the writer, creator and director of The Chosen, enjoy this **impactful** 25 minute film of the First Christmas The story is from a shepherd's perspective witnessing the arrival of Jesus. Conversation, Coffee and Dessert will follow the short film. Then stay tuned and watch for our upcoming schedule in January to begin viewing "The Chosen" Movie Series!

REFRESHMENTS AFTER 10AM MASS WEEKLY as we continue to "reconnect and rejoice". We're happy to announce After Mass Refreshments will be returning to St. Thomas **WEEKLY,** starting November 28.We invite you and your family to enjoy refreshments with fellow parishioers in the Gathering Hall following the 10 a.m. Mass every week. Enjoy juice, coffee, tea and light treats, alog with good company. If you are interested in volunteering to host refreshments, please contact Jay Buhr at 518-479-9571

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Update ~ As many of you know, Maura Barrett left her her position as coordinator of our Pastoral Care program on November 23 to spend more time with her family. She has given her time and exceptional talent to supporting and ministering to our parish community over the last eight years. She will be missed. We are conducting a search to fill this vacancy as soon as possible. Until then, any questions regarding the program may be directed to the parish office, Thank you for your understanding.

Visit the Welcome Table Before or After Mass if you need Mass Cards

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

(Contact: Patti Staerker)

Reconciliation Service planned for December 11 at 2 p.m. ~ All children in grades 2-5 who have been prepared for the sacrament of Reconciliation (either recently or in past years!) are invited to come and receive the sacrament of reconciliation either for the first time, or again if they have made the sacrament before. What a wonderful way to prepare ourselves for the wonder and joy of Christmas!!

Review session for the Sacrament of Reconciliation set for December 4, 1 p.m. ~ Please bring your children in grades 2-5 preparing for the sacrament of reconciliation or needing a little refresher in making the sacrament to a review session in the church on Saturday, December 4 at 1 pm.

There will be ***no Elementary Faith Formation classes during the weeks of December 21-23 and December 28-30***. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!! See you in 2022!!

MIDDLE /HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY

*(Contact: Rose Ann Garry, Jennifer Curry, Mary Ann Hospodar at **HOPE@stthomas-church.org**)*

H. O.P.E. Hours ~ Our young church is reminded that a pillar of our MS/HS Faith Formation Program is participate in 15 hours of H.O.P.E. each year! Please check out our Youth Ministry Website for an updated list of opportunities and continue to HELP OTHERS PRAY ENCOURAGE. Youth Ministry Grades 6th - 12th - St Thomas the Apostle Church - Delmar, NY (stthomas-church.org) Fall HOPE reflection sheets are found on our Middle School/ High School Website. Please complete and return to HOPE@stthomas-church.org Thank you!

Middle School & High School Faith Formation continues as we invite families to join us following the 5pm Mass this Sunday Nov. 28 6:00pm-6:45pm for a ***Fun Family Experience to prepare you for CHRISTMAS!*** Refreshments! HOPE hour! Please sign up using our Advent Link on our Youth Ministry Website! Youth Ministry Grades 6th -12th - St Thomas the Apostle Church - Delmar, NY (stthomas-church.org)

Religious Vocations Celebration ~ Special Shout out to Paul Supple and Gabe Martin for leading us in song at our Celebration of Religious Vocations! Thanking God for our guests who shared how they responded to God's Call: Sr. Sue Zemgulis, Sr. Miriam Ukeritis, Deacon Al and Fr. Rick and all who joined us! How is God Calling you today?

Middle School Faith & Fun Night! is this Saturday, Dec. 4 following the 5pm Mass 6pm-7:15pm join us as we celebrate St. Nicholas's Feast Day a little early! Fun! Service! Pizza! Wear your Ugly sweater! Please sign up using our Faith Fun Link on Youth Ministry Grades 6th - 12th - St Thomas the Apostle Church - Delmar, NY (stthomas-church.org)

Agape Latte

High School Students grades 9-12 are invited to join us as we celebrate our ***Christmas Agape Latte***, Sunday Dec. 5 following the 5pm Mass 6pm-7:15pm in the Large Conference Room of the Rectory. Wear your Ugly Sweater or favorite Christmas hat! Join us for conversation with our storyteller Laura Kline and hosts Sarah and Ryan! Check out our Youth Ministry Page for more details and interest link!

School News

Giving Tuesday is November 30!

For 65 years, our dedicated faculty has educated hundreds of students where the love of learning is instilled in every child. Students learn to recognize their own gifts - intellectual, athletic, artistic - and how to use those gifts to benefit others. These lessons are intertwined with an academic program that is second to none. Our graduates succeed as informed, responsible, engaged citizens who care.

Our Annual Campaign gets underway as we welcome our third generation of students. Your donation will help us ensure that St. Thomas the Apostle School will continue to prepare young people to enter a world where their kindness and empathy are needed more than ever. Last year, this campaign raised over $35,000. Our goal this year is $40,000.

The Continuing the Vision Campaign is the most important source of unrestricted funds available to St.

Visit the Welcome Table if you need Sponsor Forms or Sacramental Records

Thomas the Apostle School. It is the foundation of St. Thomas's advancement program.

Please join us with a donation that supports the extraordinary effort and spirit of our wonderful teachers 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.

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

Creation Care Team

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

Real Versus Fake Christmas Tree
Which is better for the environment?

The Nature Conservancy says: hands down the **Real Tree *is* the Right Choice**.

Why?

Real Trees

- Pull carbon out of the air while they grow
- Are a renewable resource
- Are completely recyclable.

Christmas tree farms keep land open instead of being developed. Production and delivery of **Fake Trees increases carbon emissions**. Most are **not recyclable**, and often **end up in our landfills**. If you DO need an artificial tree, try buying one from a neighbor who is selling his or hers, or check area thrift shops.

Christian Service

We continue our long-standing tradition of The Parish Giving Tree supporting local charities. Unfortunately due to continuing Covid-19 precautions we cannot celebrate in the same manner. In order to minimize contact we are requesting **only** gift cards this year. We scaled back on the number of requests and agencies. We will support requests from: **Albany Catholic Workers** for Target or Price Chopper gift cards, **Catholic Charities Housing**, **Hilltown Community Center**, and **St. John's/St. Ann's Outreach Center** for Walmart gift cards, **Interfaith Shelter for the Homeless** for Walmart or Price Chopper gift cards, **Lwanga House, Mercy House, Mary's Corner** and **Sr. Maureen Joyce Center** for Walmart or Target gift cards, **Bethlehem Seniors** and **Reilly House** for VISA, MasterCard or Walmart gift cards, and **Capital City Rescue Mission** for $10, $15, or $20 (only) Target or Walmart gift cards. These gift cards will then be used by agencies to provide food, clothing, strollers, formula, children's toys, clothing or add to gift bags/food baskets for their most needy clients. Please return the gift card on or before Mass on Sunday, December 12. The Advent season is a time for preparation for the coming of the Christ Child and is a perfect time to perform works of charity. All these charities are very grateful for whatever assistance we can provide. As in the past no gift card should cost more than $25 (please include activation completed slip). Gift cards could be left in the basket in the Gathering Hall or mailed to the parish office such that they are received **on or before 5 p.m. Mass on Sunday, December 12**. Gift cards will be delivered to the agencies the next day. **Thank you for your generosity!**

Community

St, Thomas Active Older Adults - Faith, Fun, and Food ~ Thank you to all those who helped make our November luncheon a success - the attendees, volunteers, and parishioners who baked delicious sheet cakes. Our next luncheon will be on Friday, December 17. More Details in the next bulletin.

Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

Catholic Charities Collection - November 27-28 THIS WEEK ~ We are partnering with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, requesting donations to benefit their work in supporting families in need. On the weekend of November 27-28 we will have baskets at each church entrance accepting your contributions. If you are a Vanco user, please see the ***Catholic Charities*** selection option on the Vanco website. And, please consider a generous response to help our neighbors. More information can be found online at www.ccrcda.org/collection and in the Nov 11th issue of the Evangelist.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE – FOR NOV 13 - NOV 14, 2021

OFFERTORY RECEIVED FROM WEEKLY COLLECTION **	**$9,217.50**
OFFERTORY RECEIVED VIA E-GIVING (VANCO)	**$1,917.35**
TOTAL OFFERTORY RECEIVED	**$11,134.85**
MINIMUM AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET EXPENSES	**$14,500.00**
TITHE (5% OF TOTAL OFFERTORY)	**$556.74**
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS	**197**
** **INCLUDES LOOSE CASH GIFTS**	**$508.00**

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

Calendar

Tue	11/30	3 pm	FOOD DRIVE	PL
Sat	12/4	12 pm	Peace Prayer Vigil	PP

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:

Z. IPEK AND SONS

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

Weekday Mass Intentions
For the Week of November 29 – December 3, 2021

Mon.	**7:30 am**	**Richard and Marcella Gorman** *Family* **Charles and Katherine Coughlin** *Family*
Tue.	**12:15 pm**	**Kathleen Kane** *Jim Woolever* **Collin Bursey** *His Family*
Thu.	**7:30 am**	**Intentions of the Celebrant**
Fri.	**12:15 pm**	**Enrollees of Memorial Fund**

Next Weekend, December 4-December 5, 2021

Sat.	**5:00 pm**	**Russo and DeCrescenzo Families** *Their Children* **William Phelan** *Joan McCarthy* **William Sharkey** *Jim and Ronnie Blendell*
Sun.	**10:00 am**	**Maurice and Wanda Burke** *Their Son, Maurice* **Giovannina Ricchiuti** *Robert and Patricia Ricchiuti* **Donald Fox** *Maurice Burke*
	5:00 pm	**For The People**

Scripture Readings: Week of November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent	**Jer 33:14-16 / 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 / Lk 21:25-28, 34-36**
Monday	**Is 2:1-5 / Mt 8:5-11**
Feast of St. Andrew	**Rom 10:9-18 / Mt 4: 18-22**
Wednesday	**Is 25:6-10a / Mt 15:29-37**
Thursday	**Is 26:1-6 / Mt 7:21,24-27**
Friday	**Is 29:17-24 / Mt 9:27-31**
Saturday	**Is 30: 19-21, 23-26 / Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a,6-8**
2nd Sun. of Advent	**Bar 5:1-9 / 1 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 / Lk 3:1-6**

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

Grocery Gift Cards for St. John's/St. Ann's Outreach Center are being requested for assistance in providing Christmas baskets to the poor of Albany's South End. You can help by donating Price Chopper, Hannaford or Shop Rite gift cards that will be used to purchase food items for the baskets. Please place them (labeled "St. John's/St. Ann's") in the collection basket or bring them to the Parish Office. Thank you!