

Church of
Saint Thomas the Apostle



JANUARY 15-16, 2022

RECONNECT AND REJOICE

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

Pending, Office Assistant

Peter Bukowski, Facilities Manager

pbukowski@stthomas-church.org

Pending, Pastoral Care Associate

Avery Tunngley, 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

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 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

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

Friday: After 12:15 p.m. Mass

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.

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 the Parish Office.

NEW PARISHIONER

Please register in the parish by calling the office.

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

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday ~ The parish office will be closed on Monday, January 17 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. However, Fr. Dan will celebrate the regularly scheduled Mass at 7:30. a.m.

NYS Mask Mandate ~ Due to the surge in COVID 19 cases, Governor Hochul has mandated that all persons gathering indoors must wear a mask. This applies to anyone entering our space: for the church, Gathering Hall, chapel and parish office.

We are happy to have you celebrate with us and remind you that in addition to wearing masks at Mass, please be seated on the right side of the church to be socially distanced. Those seated on the left side need not practice social distancing. Masks will be made available if needed. We thank you for adhering to this mandate.

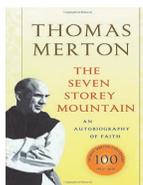


Our Tuesday Food Drive ~ January. 18, 3:00-4:00p.m. in the church parking lot, is for our neighbors served at the **Capital City Rescue Mission**: The chef is most in need of large containers of: caned veggies, pasta, bags of rice & beans, spices, peanut butter, jelly, lunch snacks, granola bars and tomato sauce. God

Bless you for your generosity!

St. Matthew's Book Club~ Scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 20 at 6:30 p.m., **will now be via Zoom**. Please see www.stthomas-church.org for details to be announced, or contact St. Matt's parish office. This month's book is "**Unplanned: The Dramatic True Story of a Former Planned Parenthood Leader's Eye-Opening Journey across the Life Line**".

St. Matthew's Movie Series: The Chosen ~ This movie visually represents the gospel while showing us the humanity of Jesus and his disciples. You won't want to miss this unique experience! 1:00 p.m. at St. Matthew's, Voorheesville, on most Sundays, starting January 16 through the end of March. And, stay for discussion, coffee and dessert! See our Community bulletin board and flyers at the doors for details.



St. Thomas Book Club Discussion - The Seven Storey Mountain ~ Feb. 10 at 7 p.m., Gathering Hall. **The Seven Storey Mountain** tells of the growing restlessness of a brilliant and passionate young man, Thomas Merton, who at the age of twenty-six takes vows in one of the

most demanding Catholic orders—the Trappist monks. The book is available at most book sellers in paperback form. This book will take some time to read, but is worth the journey! Hope to see you in February!

"Baptism Angels" ~ If your child was baptized between March, 2021 and the end of October, 2021, we have an angel with their name on it. Please stop in the parish office weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. or go to the Welcome Table in the church foyer when attending weekend Mass.

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 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. Next month's meeting is **Monday, February 7** in the Gathering Hall.

- 7:00-7:30 p.m. Pray the Rosary
 - 7:30-8:00 p.m. Informal Friendship Activity
- We can't wait to meet you.**

Pastoral Care

Dementia Friendly Congregations/Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia ~ The Capital Area Council of Churches, in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association of Northeastern New York and Albany Guardian Society will host a webinar on January 19 from 1:30—3:00 p.m. addressing issues of Alzheimer' and dementia for those serving in that ministry or anyone interested .

It will feature information from experts and perspectives from individuals living with dementia and their care partners. To register, please contact the Alzheimer's Association of Northeastern New York, 518-675-7214, or ssnoddy@alz.org.

Please find flyers with full details on the table opposite the Community bulletin board.

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-5)

A parent meeting for those with a child preparing for First Communion this coming Spring is scheduled for next Sunday, January 23 at 1:00 p.m. in the church. Aside from receiving information about your child's study of the Sacrament, you will be able to sign up for your choice of First Communion Mass at that time.



Faith Formation classes resume this week. Please be sure to fill out the daily health screening for each child coming into the school for classes prior to entering the building, and make sure every child has a face mask to wear throughout the class.

MIDDLE /HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY

(Contact: Rose Ann Garry, Jennifer Curry, Mary Ann Hospodar:

HOPE@stthomas-church.org)

Faith Formation Students Grades 6th -10th are encouraged to participate in 15 H.O.P.E. hours related to the Corporal Works of Mercy and Catholic Social Teaching (**Help Others Pray Encourage**) every year! H.O.P.E. Opportunities are listed on our Youth Ministry Webpage under LINKS . [Youth Ministry Grades 6th -12th - St Thomas the Apostle Church - Delmar, NY \(stthomas-church.org\)](#)

Students are reminded to keep track of their H.O.P.E. experiences and submit their HOPE Reflections utilizing our H.O.P.E.

Google Reflection Form found on our Middle School/High School Website [Middle & High School Faith Formation - St Thomas the Apostle Church - Delmar, NY \(stthomas-church.org\)](#). Please submit

your Fall Reflection by Feb. 1.



H.S. Seniors are invited to check out a short video on "College Tips" found on our Youth Ministry page. Special thanks to Steven Sitzer and Ryan Teplitzky, two of our YM CORE Alumni, for taking the time to share their experience as College Freshman. Special thanks to

our host, Caitlyn Teplitzky, and Sakura Curry for taping the discussion. Best of luck to all of our High School Seniors who are making decisions regarding future educational goals! *"Surely I know the plan I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a FUTURE with HOPE!"*

School News

SAVE THE DATE!



A Dozen Reasons to Choose Catholic Schools

– **1.** We offer an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence. **2.** We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children. **3.** We set high standards for student achievement and help students succeed. **4.** We provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life. **5.** We use technology effectively to enhance education. **6.** We instill in students the value of service to others. **7.** We teach children respect of self and others. **8.** We emphasize moral development and self-discipline. **9.** We prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders. **10.** Nationally, Catholic schools have a 99% high school graduation rate. **11.** We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are loving, caring, dedicated and effective. **12.** We provide a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Enroll Now for 2021/2022! ~ It's never too early or too late to find the better match for your child.

Whether you're looking for a preschool, kindergarten or a middle grade transfer, St. Thomas the Apostle School offers the comforts of home while at school. We want the same things for your children that you want, the best academic preparation for high school and beyond in an environment that is Christ-centered. **At St. Thomas the Apostle School, we are a family.** We know every child by name and work in cooperation with parents to ensure that the needs of every child are met both academically and spiritually. For more information, contact Jennifer Murphy at 518-439-5573 or jmurphy@stthomas-school.org.

Creation Care Team

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



Pope Frances, Sustainability and Courageous Choices

Pope Francis urges us to make "courageous choices" toward creation of "the future we want: a more inclusive, fraternal, peaceful and sustainable world. In May 2021 the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development introduced the Laudato Si' Action Platform drawn from Pope Francis's encyclical "Laudato Si'", on Care for Our Common Home". It rests on these goals:

- Adopting renewable energy
- Achieving carbon neutrality
- Defending all life
- Solidarity with Indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups
- Adopting simpler lifestyles
- Fostering ecological education and spirituality
- Advocating for sustainable development
- Following ethical investment guidelines, including divestment from fossil fuels and other industries that harm the planet.

We are encouraged to identify and act to achieve the goals within seven years.

All parishioners are invited to join St. Thomas' Creation Care Team as we unite with the Church worldwide to work toward this vision of sustainability.

Administration

2021 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS ~ The parish office will send statements of 2021 contributions to all contributing parishioners by the end of January.

(Contact: Pat Holm)

ELECTRONIC GIVING --A CONVENIENT METHOD FOR FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING THE PARISH ~ As many parishioners know, our electronic giving program, through Vanco, is a convenient and secure method for making contributions to the parish, whether it's offertory contributions, donations for other holy days, or even to the Diocesan Appeal. You can set it up to make contributions weekly, monthly or annually and it ensures that your support to the parish is on an ongoing basis. We encourage you to take advantage of this program, and there are several options to get you started: **go to our website, www.stthomas-church.org, click on electronic giving** on the home page which sends you to the **electronic giving** page that has a link to the Vanco site. And, there is still an option to complete the Vanco application form, found on the oval table near the Community bulletin board. Questions about Vanco or need help? Please contact Pat Holm in the parish office.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE FOR JANUARY 8-9, 2022

OFFERTORY RECEIVED FROM WEEKLY COLLECTION **	\$7,082.00
OFFERTORY RECEIVED VIA E-GIVING (VANCO)	\$6,717.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY RECEIVED	\$13,799
MINIMUM AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET EXPENSES	\$14,500.00
TITHE (5% OF TOTAL OFFERTORY)	\$689.95
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS	166
** INCLUDES LOOSE CASH GIFTS	\$625.00

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

Calendar

Tue	1/18	3 pm	Tuesday Food Drive	PL
<p>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</p>				

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

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

***Weekday Mass Intentions
For the week of January 17-21, 2022***

Mon.	7:30 am	Intentions of the Celebrant
Tue.	12:15 pm	Jack and Ellie Lesser Dr. Joe and Ann Prezio
Thu.	7:30 am	John Bobak, Living Intention His Family Eleanor Miller Barbara Ruggirello
Fri.	12:15 pm	James Finn Cotter Fr. Dan McHale

Next Weekend, January 22-23, 2022

Sat.	5:00 pm	Denise Bobak, Living Intention Bernasconi Family Matthew Manzella Sherye Jones
Sun.	10:00 am	Edwin and Eleanor Lawson The Family David Cerneck Joanne and Family
	5:00 pm	Isabella Ibuna Rose Her Mom and Dad

Scripture Readings: Week of January 16, 2022

Sunday	Is 62: 1-5; 1Cor12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11
Monday	1 Sm 15:16-23, Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday	1 Sm 16: 1-13, Mk
Wednesday	1 Sm 17: 32-33, 37, 40-51, Mk3: 1-6
Thursday	1 Sm 18: 6-9, 19:1-7, Mk 3: 7-12
Friday	1Sm 24: 3-21
Saturday	2Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27, Mk 3:20-21
Sunday	Neh 8 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10, 1 Cor 12:12-30, Lk1:1-4, 4:14-21