

February 5-6, 2022

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 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.
- Colleen Harrigan, Secretary**
charrigan@stthomas-church.org
- 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

PARISH TRUSTEES: Carmel Foltan and Adele Nucci

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL:

- 518-439-5573 Fax: 518-478-9773**
www.stthomas-school.org
info@stthomas-school.org
- Adam Biggs, 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 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 the parish office to make us aware of persons who would like a visit or home Communion.

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

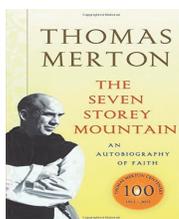
NEW MINISTRY OFFERED ~ In the event that a priest is unable to celebrate a regularly scheduled Mass, we are authorized to have a Deacon or lay person celebrate the **Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion, in the Absence of a Priest**. We currently have several people who are trained to celebrate this liturgy and we are looking for others who may want to serve. If you are interested, please contact Pat Holm in the parish office. Training will be provided.

NYS MASK MANDATE ~ Governor Hochul has continued the mandate 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 "DRIVE"
~ This Tuesday, February 8, from 3-4 p. in the church parking lot, we are requesting donations for the **South End Childrens' Café**.

They are most in need of spaghetti, ziti, elbow macaroni, tomato paste, crushed tomatoes, oregano, cilantro, pepper, parsley, black beans, kidney beans, olive oil, canola oil, salad dressing, bread crumbs, bread mix in a box, beef broth, canned green beans, extra large cans of corn and vegetable soup, tomato soup, individual cereals, packets of oatmeal, crackers, paper towels rice and canned fruit. God bless you for your generosity!



St. Thomas Book Club Discussion - The Seven Storey Mountain ~ February 10 at 7 p.m., in the 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 during the week or go to the Welcome Table in the church foyer when attending weekend Mass. **We will hold these items for you until the end of February.** Thank you.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS ~ Pilar Dell and children Mason and Camden, and Krzysztof and Alexandra Drzymalski and their son, Kane.

CONGRATULATIONS to the families of the following children who were baptized recently at St. Thomas: Oliver Michael Noll, Kane Mateusz Drzymalski, Elizabeth Jordan Nassif, and Lorenzo Jeffrey Romano.

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

"IN LOVING MEMORY" PHOTOS, AND CROSSES FOR DECEASED LOVED ONES ~ We still have a number of photographs and crosses to be claimed. They are available in the parish office during the week. We will also have them at the Welcome Table in the church foyer at weekend Masses for your convenience. **We will hold all of these items for you until the end of February.** Thank you.

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

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

If your child is making his or her First Communion this Spring, and you have not yet signed up for your choice of First Communion date, please call our office as soon as possible to secure a spot for your family on your choice of celebration dates.

There will be no faith formation classes when the children are on Winter break the week of February 21-25.

MIDDLE /HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY

(Contact: Rose Ann Garry, Jennifer Curry, Mary Ann Hospodar: HOPE@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 \(stthomas-church.org\)](http://Middle & High School Faith Formation - St Thomas the Apostle Church - Delmar, NY (stthomas-church.org)). Please submit your Fall Reflection! All Faith Formation students are encouraged to complete 15 hours of H.O.P.E. each year. Please see our Youth Ministry Webpage under Links for H.O.P.E. opportunities.



Please remember if you are unable to participate in our Sunday Liturgy in person our Sunday Mass Celebration is available to you on YouTube! The link is found on the Home page of our Website.

Please make time to "Keep HOLY the LORD's DAY!"



Middle School Students are invited to join us Sat., Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. in the Gathering Hall for our FAITH & FUN Night!

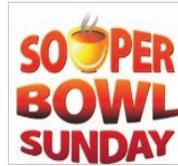
High School Students are invited to join us this Sunday Night Feb. 6 from 6pm-7:15pm for our February Agape Latte Gathering. Join our hosts Ryan Ciancio and Sarah Bernasconi as they welcome our storytellers: engaged couple Michael Gerrety & Catherine Cassidy and married couple Garrett & Brianna Bernardo, who will share how their faith impacts their love for one another at this very special Valentine Agape Latte! "Agape a LOVE that seeks nothing in return!"



Save the Date! Scout Mass celebrated here at St. Thomas on Sunday March 6 at 5pm Mass! All Scouts WELCOME!



God is LOVE! What does God Look Like to YOU? Be creative and share your image of God! Please submit your Drawing of God (11x 18) to our Faith Formation Office by Feb. 9th. All masterpieces will be displayed in our Gathering Hall to Celebrate God's Love for ALL of us this Valentine's Weekend! HOPE hour.



Pueblo to People Committee and Youth Ministry will be hosting our annual Souper Bowl Sale next weekend Feb 12 & 13 after all Masses! Take out only. Donation of \$3.00 for 8oz or \$ 5.00 for 16oz. The soup is Fr. Rich Broderick's Third World Soup, a delicious tomato

base soup with rice and veggies. All proceeds will benefit our Sister Parish in Yucatan, Mexico. Thank you for remembering our Sister Parish in your prayers! Know that they are praying for you too! God Bless!

School News



St. Thomas the Apostle School in Delmar - Preschool 3 through Grade 8 in a private faith enriched school setting. Several preschool options including a full day four-year-old program (and a full day three-year-old program starting in September!) with small group learning, PE, Music, Art and Spanish beginning in Preschool. Visit www.stthomasschool.org to watch our virtual tour. Call/text 518-439-5573 or email Jennifer Murphy at jmurphy@stthomasschool.org for more information.

Social Justice Begins in Preschool

Even as early as the preschool years, children can be shown that their kind thoughts and actions can contribute towards another person's well-being. Each month, we collect items related to a specific theme such as pasta, vegetables, baby care items and toiletries for the St. Thomas Church Food Pantry. By making a small contribution once per month, we can begin discussing the importance of helping our community and sharing our gifts and our hearts.

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

Community

ST. THOMAS ACTIVE OLDER ADULTS ~

Unfortunately, we are cancelling the Senior Luncheons for February and March due to the surge in Covid-19 cases. Watch for details in the March bulletin about starting up the luncheons again.

Creation Care Team

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

Step Into Creation ~ Come to Five Rivers Environmental Center **February 12 for** a day filled with fun in God's Creation.

10 am: Cottontail Rabbits Are Everywhere ~

Learn about where the rabbits come from, where they go and the important roles they play in the Environment. To register, call 518-475-0291 by Feb. 9.



2 pm: How To Do It: Learn To Snowshoe ~

Learn how to put snowshoes on, walk and turn and then go outside to try it out. Snowshoe rental fees are waived.

If not enough snow, there will be a hike instead. Space is limited. Call 518-475-0291 by Feb. 9, to register.

4 pm: Five Rivers After Dark . . . Howl Prowl ~

Come look and listen to our resident coyotes during a guided walk with a Five Rivers staff member. Learn more about these animals of the night.

To register, call 518-475-0291 by Feb. 9.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Community Maternity Services, an agency of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, has an immediate need for volunteer assistance in preparing and dropping off meals to our residential programs. Our residential programs serve the most vulnerable youth in foster care, all with unique needs. The Farano Center for Children serves youth who have mental health and /or developmental disabilities, and the Heery Center serves youth who are pregnant or parenting. Our youth have all experienced trauma in their lives, and we offer "family" type meals for them to engage with each other and staff. We are requesting a commitment of one meal per week through the winter months. Individuals interested can contact Jackie Buff Rogers at 518-482-8836 or at jackie@cccms.org.

Administration

(Contact: Pat Holm)

ELECTRONIC GIVING --A CONVENIENT METHOD FOR FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING THE PARISH ~ 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 holy days, or the Diocesan Appeal. You may set it up to make contributions weekly, monthly, annually or one-time only and it ensures that your support to the parish is on an ongoing basis. We encourage you to take advantage of this program. **Go to our website, www.stthomas-church.org, click on electronic giving** on the home page which sends you to the 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 29-30, 2022

OFFERTORY RECEIVED FROM WEEKLY COLLECTION **	\$7,776.75
OFFERTORY RECEIVED VIA E-GIVING (VANCO)	\$1,478.35
TOTAL OFFERTORY RECEIVED	\$10,405.35
MINIMUM AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET EXPENSES	\$14,500.00
TITHE (5% OF TOTAL OFFERTORY)	\$520.29
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS	176
** INCLUDES LOOSE CASH GIFTS	\$1,150.75

We thank you for your continued support of the parish.

Calendar

Tue	2/8	3 pm	Tuesday Food Drive	OPL
PLACE: CH – Church; GH – Gathering Hall; LC – Lady Chapel; MC – Media Center; PO – Parish Offices, PP - Peace Pole, Café-Cafeteria, CR - Conference Room, CHP-Chapel SCH-School, OPL-Office Parking Lot				

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

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

***Weekday Mass Intentions
For the week of February 7–11, 2022***

Mon.	7:30 am	Emily Etzkorn (17th Anniversary)	The Family Joseph A. Bradley Nancy Nieves
Tue.	12:15 pm	Marie and Harry Mathison	Karen Jones Tom Gallup Mike and Peg Dorgan
Thu.	7:30 am	Thomas Milavec	Todd Yutzler
Fri.	12:15 pm	Dad	Joseph Josephine Edmundson Edmundson Family

Next Weekend, February 12-13, 2022

Sat.	5:00 pm	Intentions of the Celebrant	
Sun.	10:00 am	Helen M. Dwyer Robert and Patricia Ricchiuti	Pjeter Gjonaj Leka Gjonaj
	5:00 pm	Intentions of the Celebrant	

Scripture Readings: Week of February 6, 2022

Sunday	Is 6: 1-2a, 3-8; 1 Cor 15: 1-11; Lk 5: 1-11
Monday	1 Kgs 8: 1-7, 9-13; Mk 6: 53-56
Tuesday	1 Kgs 8: 22-23, 27-30; Mk 7: 1-13
Wednesday	1 Kgs 10: 1-10, Mk 7: 14-23
Thursday	1 Kgs 11: 4-13, Mk 7: 24-20
Friday	1 Kgs 11: 29-32, 12:19; Mk 7: 31-37
Saturday	1 Kgs 12: 26-32, 13:33-34; Mk 8: 1-10
Sunday	Jer 17: 5-8 ; 1Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26