



February 26-27, 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

Sarah Guerra, Media Coordinator

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 9am- 2pm Mon. - Fri.

Website: www.stthomas-church.org

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm; Sunday Mass: 10:00am, 5pm

Holy Days As Announced

Sunday Masses are live streamed on YouTube. Link on the homepage of www.stthomas-church.org

WEEKDAY MASS

Mon and Thurs 7:30am; Tues and Fri 12:15pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday: After 12:15pm Mass

RECONCILIATION

Tuesday: 11:30am, Saturday: 4:00pm 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 12:15pm 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.

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

WELCOME, BISHOP ED!

Thank you for your continued support and prayers—especially for our YOUNG CHURCH! God be with you.

All are welcome to join us and Bishop Ed for After Mass Refreshments in the Gathering Hall following the 10 a.m. Mass.

WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU CELEBRATE WITH US!

~ There is no longer a mandate to wear a mask, but as the COVID infection rate is still elevated, you may choose to still wear a mask and sit apart from anyone who is not wearing a mask. If you are not wearing a mask, please be considerate of those near you who are still masked and practice social distancing for their wellbeing and peace of mind. Thank you for your patience and kindness to each other.

FRIENDLY FACES ~ The After Mass Refreshments Group invites you to participate in our ministry of hospitality. We host the refreshment table after 10am Mass each Sunday. No meetings, just a quick training on where things are and you can serve as little or often as works for you. This is an especially great ministry for 2 friends or a family to do together. If you are interested in trying it out one Sunday, please call or text Jay Buhr at 518-331-0541 or email jaybuhr@hotmail.com. Thank you!

DO YOU LIKE TO BAKE? ~ Refreshments are served after 10am Mass every Sunday. If you like to bake, please feel free to drop off treats to the kitchen by the Gathering Space any Sunday morning -- with your name so we know who to thank! If you have questions, call or text Jay Buhr at 518-331-0541 or email jaybuhr@hotmail.com.

HEARING DEVICES ~ If you find a hearing device is not working, please leave it at the Welcome Table in the church foyer. Thank you.

ACOLYTES — YOUTH AND ADULTS! ~ We soon hope to be able to have acolytes serve at Masses again! Pre-covid we had two groups of acolytes, children/youth and adults. If you have a child who would be interested, or if you would be, please email: office@stthomas-church.org with your child's name, or your name if you want to be an adult acolyte, phone # (cell preferred) and email address. Children must have received First Holy Communion to serve.

Lenten Offerings

March 2, 2022 ~ begins our Lenten season. Please join us at 12:15pm for a prayer service with distribution of ashes or 5:30pm for Mass with distribution of ashes.



THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK ~ These books, "...your companion for Lent" contains six-minute meditations on the parables of Jesus. The meditations begin this Sunday, February 27. We will have books at each church entrance. Please take one per family.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ~ every Friday during Lent at 7pm in the Church. Come walk with Jesus!

FASTING** ~ For Catholics, age 18 but not yet 59, there are only two out of 365 days a year that we are asked to fast: **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**. When we fast, we go without our normal amount of food. The essence of fasting is to reduce and simplify our meals. A helpful guideline is one regular meal plus two small meals, and no snacks in between (fluids, including coffee and tea, do not "count" as elements of a meal, technically speaking). The trick is that the two smaller meals put together shouldn't be bigger than the normal meal.

ABSTINENCE** ~ Abstinence is another layer of Lenten fasting — it is simply avoiding meat, which is traditionally associated with feasting because it was eaten on special occasions. **In addition to Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics, 14 years of age and older, are asked to abstain from meat on all the Fridays during the season of Lent.** It is a tangible way to remember that Jesus suffered and died for us — it's a small way to connect our sacrifice with his. (**From the Diocese of Albany website. See www.rcda.org, for more information).

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.

Community

ST. THOMAS ACTIVE OLDER ADULTS ~ Unfortunately, we are also cancelling the Senior Luncheons for March due to concerns about Covid. Watch for details in a future bulletin about starting up the luncheons again.

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

Elementary Faith Formation (Grades 1 -5)

Wednesday **classes on March 2 will dismiss early at 5:10pm** for Ash Wednesday Mass at 5:30pm in the church.

Many of our young people are preparing to receive our Lord Jesus in the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time. Please pray for them and their families as they continue to learn of God's great love for us and His gift of Himself to us the Eucharist.

Middle/High School Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

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

Students are reminded to keep track of their H.O.P.E. experiences and submit their Fall H.O.P.E. Reflection utilizing our H.O.P.E. Google Reflection Form found on our Middle School/High School Website at stthomas-church.org/middle-and-high-school-faith-formation 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.



GROW this LENT by starting your Lenten Journey at our Ash Wednesday Prayer Service 12:15pm or Mass at 5:30pm. Please see our Youth Ministry Webpage under Links for upcoming Lenten H.O.P.E.

Opportunities stthomas-church.org/youth-ministry

Second semester Faith Formation Classes for Grades 6th -10th and Confirmation Prep Classes for all candidates public and private begin NEXT WEEK March 8 – April 7. Questions regarding changes in class days or times please contact our Faith Formation Secretary Colleen Harrigan at charrigan@stthomas-church.org or call the church office Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm. We look forward to sharing the Good News with one another!

Save the dates:

March 12 Middle School Faith & Fun Night with Fr. Dan following 5pm Mass 6pm-7:15pm in the school. Lenten tips to prepare for VICTORY... EASTER, PIZZA, Basketball & MORE!

March 13 High School Agape Latte following 5pm Mass 6pm-7:15pm in our "café" Gathering Hall. Join hosts Ryan and Sarah as they welcome our guest storyteller, Dan Jason, author of the book The Saint Next Door. Dan will share his journey of faith and service.

CELEBRATING SCOUTING! Scouts of all ages and Troops are welcome to join us at our Scout Mass here at St. Thomas Sunday, March 6th at the 5pm Mass. Please RSVP using the link on our Youth Ministry Page under Links or signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4EA8AD22A6F94-scout

School News

Help our 8th graders get to DC!

Eat in or take out a delicious Italian meal and a percentage of the profits go to the St. Thomas 8th grade class for their Washington DC trip! Flyers are available in the Gathering Hall.

Romo's Pizza (365 Feura Bush Road, Glenmont)
Tuesday, March 1st, 4:00 - 8:00pm.



Take a chance on our 2022 Pot of Gold Drawing!

Order tickets for a chance to win one of 2 Pots of Gold filled with **\$100 or \$50 worth of scratch-off tickets**, with a potential jackpot of up to **\$18 million or \$12 Million! \$5/ticket OR five tickets for \$20.** Ticket order forms are available in the Gathering Hall or send your payment (made out to St. Thomas PTO) with your name, phone number and # of tickets desired to St. Thomas the Apostle School, Attn: Pot of Gold, 42 Adams Place, Delmar, NY 12054. **Get your tickets by Tuesday, March 15th.** Drawing will be posted on Facebook on Thursday, March 17th. Virtual presence not required to win!

Now is the time to get your 2022-2023 applications in!

Spaces are filling up quickly! Part-Day & Full-Day Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 as well as Grades K-8. It's never too early or too late to find the better match for your child. Whether you're looking for a pre-school, 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 information, contact Jennifer Murphy, 518-439-5573, jmurphy@stthomas-school.org. Visit us at stthomas-school.org or on Facebook at St. Thomas the Apostle School - Delmar

Creation Care Team

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



A Thought For The Approaching Season Of Lent

Consider “fasting” from acts that harm God’s creation... the people, animals, plants, environment...

choose instead to “feast” on actions that protect our universe, now and for generations to come.

Pope Francis counsels us: “Fasting involves choosing a sober lifestyle; a way of life that does not waste, a way of life that does not “throw away”. Fasting helps us to attune our hearts to the essential and to sharing.”

Creation Care Team: Stop By This Weekend

Members of the Creation Care Team will be available to answer questions about the work of the Team during Hospitality in the Gathering Hall after all the Masses this weekend. Stop by, share your ideas and pick up some literature about protecting our environment.

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)

Collection on March 5-6: Black, Native American & Latin American Missions ~ We ask for your continued support in the Diocesan Collection on March 5-6, 2022 for the Black, Native American & Latin American Missions. Your gift supports projects, and funds programs, including: catechesis, pastoral, marriage and family life, seminarian education and evangelization throughout the U.S., Latin America and Caribbean. The Black and Native American Mission Office provides grants for projects that promote Native American and Black evangelization efforts throughout North America including programs in the Diocese of Albany. By contributing to next week’s collection you will provide seeds to grow the faith for years to come. We appreciate your support.

YEAR END DONOR STATEMENTS ~ Statements have been mailed to all those who contributed to the parish in 2021. If you did not receive your copy, please contact the parish office.

REMEMBER~ ELECTRONIC GIVING is an easy and effective way to provide your financial support to the parish. Please go to our website to enroll or contact the parish office for assistance.

Stewardship of Treasure

Due to the holiday, the offertory numbers for the weekend of February 19-20 are not available. They will be included in next weekend's bulletin.

We thank you for your continued support of the parish.

Calendar

Wed	3/2	12:15pm	Service with ashes	CH
Wed	3/2	5:30pm	Mass with distribution of ashes	CH
Sat	3/5	12pm	Prayer Vigil for Peace	PP

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 Pediatrics PLLC

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

***Weekday Mass Intentions
February 28—March 4, 2022***

Mon.	7:30 am	Roger Moak, 12th Anniv. Jim and Gloria Moak
Tue.	12:15 pm	Jack and Ellie Lesser Dr. Joe and Anne Prezio Carl Winters Kathy and Gerry Schimanski
Thu.	7:30 am	Intentions of the Celebrant
Fri.	12:15 pm	Memorial Fund

Next Weekend: March 5-6, 2022

Sat.	5:00 pm	Mary Richards Kathleen Crandall David Timko Jackie and Dennis
Sun.	10:00 am	Katrina Gjonaj Leka Gjonaj Joseph and Helen Russo The Family
	5:00 p.m.	The Intentions of the Celebrant

Scripture Readings: Week of February 27, 2022

Sunday	Sir 27:4-7 1; Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45
Monday	1 Pt 1:3-9; Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9 and 10c; Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday	1 Pt 1:10-16; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Mk 10:28-31
Ash Wednesday	Jl 2:12-18 ; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 ; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday	Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 9:22-25
Friday	Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
Saturday	Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32

**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