SERVED BY

REV. RICK LESSER, PASTOR
Rev. Daniel McHale, Parochial Vicar
Dcn. Al Manzella, Deacon

MASS SCHEDULE

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Monday: 7:30 am
Tuesday: 12:15 pm (11:30 am Reconciliation)
Thursday: 7:30 am
Friday: 12:15 pm (1:00 pm Adoration)
Saturday: 5:00 pm (4:00 pm Reconciliation)
Sunday: 10:00 am | 5:00 pm

Reconciliation also by appointment.
Baptisms, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), and Matrimony please contact the Parish Office for information.
Anointing of the Sick offered the first Tues. of the month after 12:15 pm Mass or by request.

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.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 31, 2022

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

RECONNECT AND REJOICE

PARISH NEWS UPDATE

CREATION CARE

YOU'RE INVITED – SAVE THE DATE
Concerned about the people of this world, refugees, people unable to access the basic resources of life: food and water? Worried about the environment our children will inherit? Looking for an opportunity to join with others in acts of charity, justice, and sustainability? Come to the St. Thomas Creation Care Team meeting Aug. 23, 7 pm in the Church Gathering Space.

No commitment necessary. Just come and meet the Team, share your ideas. If you prefer, you can join us via zoom. Respond to the email below this article and we will send the zoom link.

All parishioners, from the youngest to the most senior are invited to come Aug. 23 in person or via zoom to take an active part in positive plans to care for creation.
Parish contact: myermarie@yahoo.com

GET IN TOUCH

PARISH STAFF

35 Adams Place, Delmar, NY 12054
518-439-4951
office@stthomas-church.org
Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Patricia Holm, Pastoral Associate, Administration
pholm@stthomas-church.org
Louise Schrecongost, Office Assistant
lschrecongost@stthomas-church.org
Barbara Ruggirello, Bookkeeper
Sarah Guerra, Media Coordinator
sguerra@stthomas-church.org
Peter Bukowski, Facilities Manager
pbukowski@stthomas-church.org
Julie Bablin, PhD, MATS, Pastoral Care Associate
jbablin@stthomas-church.org
Avery Tunningley, Parish Music Director
tunnac@aol.com
Nelly Brown Bunk, Choir Director
nellybrownbunk@gmail.com
Konstantin Tsykun, Contemporary Music Director
Colleen Harrigan, FF/YM Secretary
charrigan@stthomas-church.org
Patti Staerker, Coordinator, Elementary School FF
pstaerker@stthomas-church.org
Rose Ann Garry, Co-Coordinator, Middle/High School FF
Jennifer Curry, Co-Coordinator, Middle/High School FF
Mary Ann Hospodar, Coordinator, Youth Ministry
MS/HS Faith Formation and Youth Ministry email:
HOPE@stthomas-church.org

PARISH TRUSTEES

Carmel Foltan and Joseph V. DiStefano

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL

42 Adams Place, Delmar, NY 12054
518-439-5573
www.stthomas-school.org
facebook.com/StThomasSchoolDelmar
info@stthomas-school.org
Adam Biggs, Principal
abiggs@stthomas-school.org
Jennifer Murphy, Associate for Enrollment and Development
jmurphy@stthomas-school.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep in prayer this week:
Active and veteran military
Those in nursing homes
Members of our parish family who have recently died:
Marie Gaynor
Jean Marie Grogan
Rose Tassone
May the Lord welcome them into Eternal Life.
All special intentions

Call Pam Seward: (518) 439-7845 to add a confidential prayer request. Please call the parish office to notify of persons who would like a visit or home Communion.

PARISH NEWS UPDATE

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

REGISTER FOR THE 2022-23 FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM TODAY!

Information as well as the necessary forms and a great new online registration option is on our church website, stthomaschurch.org/ff-forms If you have any child coming into the program for the first time, please submit both the registration form as well as the "New to Faith Formation" form including a copy of the child's baptismal certificate. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your family's faith journey.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Please prayerfully join our MS/HS Team! We have openings at every grade level, 6th to 10th grade. Our classes are offered on Tues., Wed. and Thurs. from 6-7:15 pm or 7:30-8:45 pm. Our young church are involved in many activities: scouts, plays, sports and so on and they still choose to make time to gain a better understanding of their Catholic Faith! Please consider supporting them as a Catechist, Catechist Substitute, Gatekeeper or Youth Ministry Volunteer. Check out stthomas-church.org/catechist-ym-volunteers

SCHOOL

SUBMIT YOUR 2022-23 APPLICATIONS TODAY!

Limited openings in our Full Day 4 year old class, PartDay Pre-K 3 year old, PartDay 4 year old classes as well as Grades K-8. Please note we have a waiting list four our Full Day 3 year old class. For more information, please contact Jennifer Murphy.

PASTOR'S CORNER

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE PROFESSIONAL POSITION & EVENTS ABOUND

The 50th Annual Diocesan Marriage Jubilee Celebration will be held on October 29 at 2 pm at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany. Couples celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th or other special wedding anniversaries are invited to attend this celebration. Bishop Scharfenberger will celebrate the Mass and greet couples and their guests at a reception in the gathering area of the Cathedral immediately following Mass. You may contact the parish office to register.

The Synthesis of the Synod Listening Sessions by the Albany Diocese has been recently posted on the Diocesan website rcda.org/synod Our Pastoral Council and Staff are still processing our Parish Summary and are already making plans for the future based on the report. Our Parish Summary will be made available soon.

We ask our parishioners to please spread the word as we search for the best candidate or accounting firm to fill the Accounting and Finance Professional position currently open. The network of parishes including St. Thomas the Apostle (Delmar), St. Matthew's Church (Voorheesville), and Christ the King Parish (Albany) are consolidating their accounting operations. You may find the full job posting and ways to apply on our website.

Our Tuesday Drive on August 2 from 9:30-10:30am is for our neighbors served at St. John/St. Ann's Outreach Center. They are most in need of: butter & margarine (if dropping off before Tuesday please place in refrigerator in the Gathering Hall), canned soup, canned SpagettiOs, spaghetti pasta, hygiene items: toothpaste, deodorant, soap & shampoo. We thank you for your continued love of your neighbor! August 9, we will be collecting for Catholic Charities Community Services in need of diapers size 5 & 6.

Our Sacrificial Giving Committee, on behalf of the parishioners of St. Thomas, recently approved a donation to the Beatitudes Mission. This donation will help defray the expenses of our parishioner, Katherine Bernasconi, who will be part of a mission trip to the Holy Land later this summer. Katherine's service will include working with minority Christian communities & youth. Our weekly tithe, 5% of our offertory collection, allows us to make these donations to worthwhile programs and causes.

Our St. Thomas Reads Book Club August discussion is fast approaching but there is still time to read *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Taylor Brown by August 18th.

There are a few Diocesan wide events coming up you may find of interest. A Young Adult Weekend will take place at Pyramid Life Center Aug 5-7 and the registration can be found at pyramidlifecenter.campbrainregistration.com Worldwide Marriage Encounter's next weekend offering is in September. Learn more at wwmectw.org

Lastly, I invite you to participate in our monthly Prayer Vigil for Peace this Saturday, August 6 at noon. We will gather around the Peace Pole to pray for the needs of our brothers and sisters around the world and in our own back yard.

God Bless,

Fr. Rick

STEWARDSHIP

WEEKLY OFFERING
JULY 16-17

Weekly Collection: $9,501.15
E-giving: $2,103.35
Total Received: $11,604.50
Minimum needed
for Expenses: $14,500.00
5% Parish Tithe: $580.22
Loose Cash Gifts: $1,175.15
Number of Gifts: 240

***Special Collection** this weekend, July 30-31 for Peter's Penance Collection for the Holy Father. These funds support the work of the Pope within the Holy See and his charitable giving.

CALL TO MINISTRIES

SHARE YOUR TIME & TALENT IN ONE OF THESE EXCITING MINISTRIES CURRENTLY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Alzheimer's Care Ministry Team - *contact Julie Bablin*
Care Facilities & Reilly House Communion Ministers - *contact Julie Bablin*
Transportation Ministry - *contact Julie Bablin*

THANK YOU

Julie Bablin, our Pastoral Care Associate, shared how appreciative our homebound seniors were with your festive Fourth of July bags and cards! God Bless you for kindness and for sharing some sparkle and joy with our seniors.

EDUCATIONAL, SPIRITUAL & SOCIAL EVENTS

For more information visit our website.

Hospitality after the 10 am Mass: July 31, 11 am|Church Gathering Hall
Tuesday Drive: August 2, 9:30-10:30am|Church Parking Lot
Diocesan Young Adult Weekend: August 5-7|Pyramid Life Center|Register at pyramidlifecenter.campbrainregistration.com
Eucharistic Adoration: August 5, 1 pm|Church
Prayer Vigil for Peace: August 6, 12 pm|Peace Pole
St. Thomas the Apostle School Open House: August 10, 11 am- 1 pm & 4- 6 pm|School
Story and Craft Time: August 15, 2- 3:15 pm|St. Thomas School Library
St. Thomas Reads Book Club: Aug 18, 7 pm|Church Gathering Hall|Discussing *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Taylor Brown

MASS INTENTIONS

1, AUGUST, 2022 | 7:30 AM
Lawrence D. Stornelli
requested by John and Diane Gilbert
Alexander Skripshak
requested by John Keith

2, AUGUST, 2022 | 12:15 PM
For the family members, both living and deceased, of Gladys Mwesgwe
requested by Gladys Mwesgwe
Sally Peyrebrune
requested by Mike and Marge Kanuk

4, AUGUST, 2022 | 7:30 AM
John Edmundson (30th Anniversary)
requested by the Edmundson Family
Rev. Joseph Grasso (Living Intention)
requested by Joan Strait

5, AUGUST, 2022 |12:15 PM
Memorial Fund
Sacred Heart of Jesus
requested by Gladys Mwesgwe

6, AUGUST, 2022 | 5:00 PM
Rose Tassone
requested by James MacKrell
For the People

7, AUGUST, 2022 | 10:00 AM
John Sypek
requested by Jolanta Augusiak
William Burkhard
requested by Parish "Counting Team"

7, AUGUST, 2022 | 5:00 PM
Angela Frigola
requested by Robert & Patricia Ricchiuti
Pat Stellato
requested by the Bernstein Family

JULY 31 GOSPEL MEDITATION

A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF LUKE 12:13-21

Many people look to tangible forms of security that will safeguard their livelihood and prepare for their future. We tend to associate security with things: the accumulation of goods and possessions, retirement funds, savings accounts, and substantial incomes. While acquiring these promises a life with less anxiety and worry, we actually find ourselves more preoccupied and consumed with their growth and preservation. We worry more! Our minds and hearts are always restless, and we never seem to be at peace.

Why do we so easily give our self-worth, value, and sense of security over to things? God certainly does not deny us the pursuit of a productive and enjoyable life but where do we draw the line? A sense of well-being and happiness can easily get deferred to sometime "in the future" while we continue to wrestle with the toils of today. There is no guarantee that there will be an earthly tomorrow and all of the frenzy we bring to securing our state in life will be for naught.

We cannot be hoarders, pursuers of vanity, or greedy. Rather than always feeling the need for more, we need to learn how to be grateful for what we have. "Happiness can only be achieved by looking inward and learning to enjoy whatever life has, and this requires transforming greed into gratitude (St. John Chrysostom)." We all need to be good stewards of what has been entrusted to our care. Grateful hearts recognize the true source of what we have and realize that our true treasure lies not in what matters to us but to God.
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CATHOLIC CULTURE

Question: Why do the Gospels differ in their details? Not all of the Gospels tell the same stories, for example, the Nativity. Doesn't this take away from their credibility?

Answer: Each Gospel writer tells the story of Jesus from their own perspective. Versions differ in some details, not because one is true and the other is not, but because each Gospel writer, or Evangelist, has a different theological point to communicate as well as a different audience for whom he is writing. He picks and chooses the details of his Gospel based on what message he is preaching, what his audience may already know, and what message they need to hear. The various details of the Gospels point more to their authenticity as a record of the church's experience and understanding of Jesus. In a good study Bible, the background notes for each Gospel contain a lot of information that helps us better understand each Evangelist and his message.
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REFLECT

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes speaks of "vanity" in the sense of emptiness or futility, such as those who seek to build their legacy or those who suffer with a restless heart. How are you able to remain focused on the important things in your life?

SECOND READING

Paul teaches the Colossians that the key to focusing on "what is above, not on what is on earth" is to live a moral and upright life, grounded in your faith in Christ. Who do you know who does this well?

GOSPEL READING

Jesus tells the parable of the rich fool in response to a question about inheritance, warning the crowd about over dependence on possessions. How do you balance your material needs with "what matters to God?"

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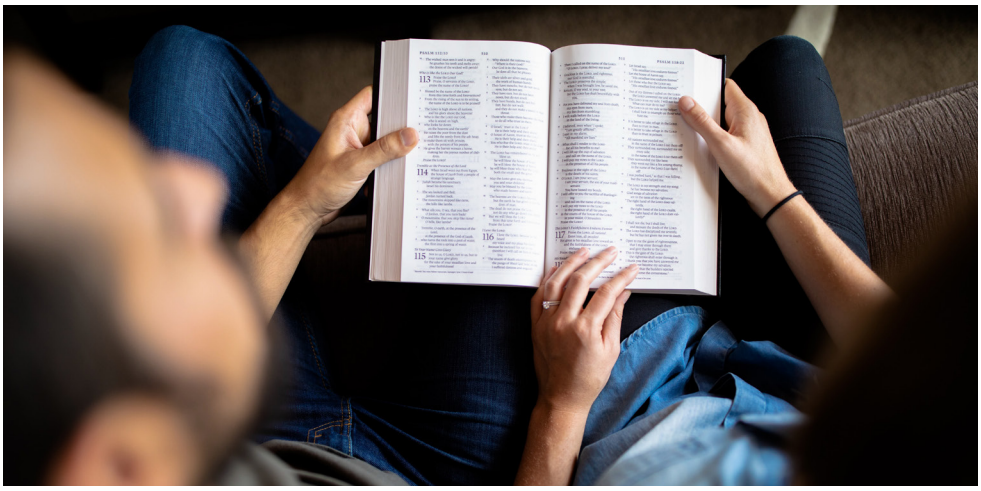

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 31, 2022

Sunday: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 [1]/Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-21
Monday, Memorial of Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church: Jer 28:1-17/Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102/Mt 14:13-21
Tuesday: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23/Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14
Wednesday: Jer 31:1-7/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Mt 15:21-28
Thursday, Memorial of Saint John Vianney, Priest: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/Mt 16:13-23
Friday: Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7/Dt 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41/Mt 16:24-28
Saturday, Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Lk 9:28b-36

This week we encourage you to patronize our bulletin sponsor Albany Braces.