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# St. Thomas the Apostle Church

AUGUST 17, 2025

## SERVED BY

**Rev. Matthew Duclos, Pastor**  
matthew.duclos@rcda.org

**Dcn. Al Manzella, Deacon**  
amanz31999@aol.com

## MASS SCHEDULE

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

† Reconciliation also by appointment.

† Baptisms, Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), and Matrimony please contact the Parish Office for info.

† Anointing of the Sick offered the first Tues. of the month after 12:15 pm Mass or by request.

† Please call the parish office to notify of persons who would like a visit or home Communion.

## CONTACT US

35 Adams Place, Delmar, NY 12054  
518-439-4951

[office@stthomas-church.org](mailto:office@stthomas-church.org)

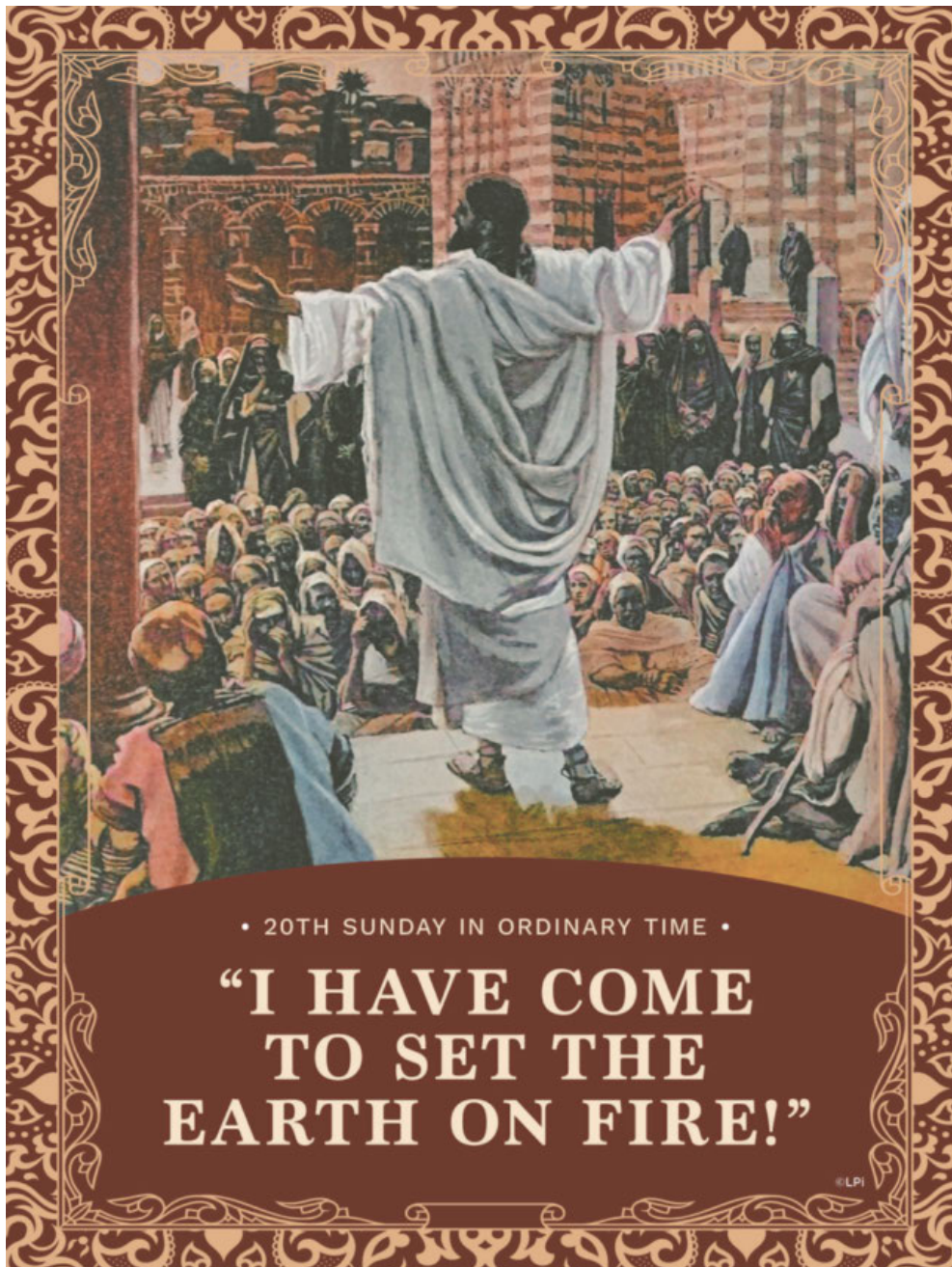
Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

## 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.

## PARISH TRUSTEES

Joseph V. DiStefano and Robert Ricchiuti



# PARISH MINISTRIES

St. Thomas Parish,

When we picture Jesus, I'm sure we often think of his gentleness, his compassion for the poor, his miracles of healing, and his words of peace. One of his more famous titles is "Prince of Peace!" That's why this Sunday's Gospel might catch us off guard. Jesus says he has come to "set the earth on fire" and even speaks of division within families. These words can sound startling and out of character until we look more closely at the meaning.

Jesus is speaking in the middle of his journey toward Jerusalem where his mission will culminate in the passion, death, and resurrection. The "baptism" he refers to is not the one in the Jordan River, but the baptism of suffering he will endure on the cross. The fire he longs to see blazing is the fire of God's love and the purifying power of the Holy Spirit, which will be poured out on the Church at Pentecost. But that fire demands a choice. Either to accept and live by the Gospel or to reject it. And because not everyone will make the same choice, the result can be painful division, even within families.

Following Jesus is not always comfortable. The fire he speaks of is a call to deep transformation, and that can stir resistance at times. But we are not left alone in this struggle! The Letter to the Hebrews teaches us to "persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith." He has gone before us, enduring the cross for the sake of the joy set before Him, and now reigns in glory.

Speaking of running the race...the 1st annual Tiger Trot 5K is coming up on Saturday, September 6. There's also a free race for kids under 12 following the 5K. Lots of info and registration, including opportunities for those who just want to volunteer: [www.stthomas-school.org/tiger-trot](http://www.stthomas-school.org/tiger-trot). Free t-shirt if you register before September 5! Many thanks to our premium sponsor: American National Insurance.

The 4th Annual Gala & Auction will honor several honorees from seven areas of our school, from pastors to parents to volunteers to teachers and alumni. The Gala will kick off the start of the 70th year of Catholic education at St. Thomas School. It's Friday, October 17. Tickets are now available: [www.stthomas-school.org/gala](http://www.stthomas-school.org/gala).

And make sure to mark your calendars for the annual parish picnic, just about a month away! Sunday, September 21, Elm Ave. Park. We'll have Mass outside followed by food and all sorts of fun for families!

Peace to you,

**FR. MATT**

## PARISH PICNIC

### COME ONE COME ALL!

Our annual picnic will be held at the Elm Avenue Park on September 21 starting with **Mass at 12:00 noon** followed by food and festivities up to 4pm. Please see the volunteer sign-up sheets in the gathering hall. Soon information will be available on the table and in the bulletin on how to sign up on line. The more people that sign up to help, the better the picnic will be for everyone. Please consider the gift of your time to take a 1-hour shift as a picnic worker (ticket sales, cook or serve food, serve drinks or baked goods,

first aid support, set up and tear down, and more), prepare a **meat-less covered dish** or dessert, or offer to transport equipment with your pickup truck or trailer. Many hands make for light work, and it's fun! Finally, we are aiming for a **"zero waste picnic"**. Please bring your own reusable plates, utensils, water bottles, and cups. Thank you. Please contact Paul Supple at [paulmsupple@gmail.com](mailto:paulmsupple@gmail.com) for more information.

## TUESDAY DRIVES

### TUESDAY SUMMER DRIVES 3PM-4PM IN CHURCH PARKING LOT OR GATHERING HALL

August 19 is for our Sister Parish St. Lucy/St. Bernadette's Food Pantry. We are collecting: Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta, Canned Tomatoes, Soups, Broth, Instant Oatmeal, Pancake Mix, Mayo, White Rice and Canned: Peaches, Beets, Mushrooms, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes, Yams, Garbanzo Beans.

August 26: We are collecting Hygiene Items for them: Shampoo, Bar Soap, Liquid Hand Soap, Disposable Razors, Incontinence Underwear Large Size and Toilet Paper. God bless you for your generosity!

## GET IN TOUCH

### PARISH STAFF

**Patricia Holm,**

Pastoral Associate, Administration  
[pholm@stthomas-church.org](mailto:pholm@stthomas-church.org)

**Louise Schrecongost,** Office Assistant  
[lschrecongost@stthomas-church.org](mailto:lschrecongost@stthomas-church.org)

**Mike Markham,**  
Accounting and Finance

**Sarah Guerra,** Media Coordinator  
[sguerra@stthomas-church.org](mailto:sguerra@stthomas-church.org)

**Peter Bukowski,** Facilities Manager  
[pbukowski@stthomas-church.org](mailto:pbukowski@stthomas-church.org)

**Julie Bablin, PhD, MATS,**  
Pastoral Care Associate  
[jbablin@stthomas-church.org](mailto:jbablin@stthomas-church.org)

**John Vasto,** Music Director  
[jvasto@stthomas-church.org](mailto:jvasto@stthomas-church.org)

**Colleen Harrigan,** Discipleship Formation Secretary  
[charrigan@stthomas-church.org](mailto:charrigan@stthomas-church.org)

**Patti Staerker,** Coordinator, Elementary Discipleship Formation  
[pstaerker@stthomas-church.org](mailto:pstaerker@stthomas-church.org)

**Rose Ann Garry,** Co-Coordinator, Middle/High School Discipleship Formation

**Jennifer Curry,** Co-Coordinator, Middle/High School Discipleship Formation

**Mary Ann Hospodar,** Coordinator, Youth Ministry  
[HOPE@stthomas-church.org](mailto:HOPE@stthomas-church.org)

# PARISH MINISTRIES

## PARISH OFFICE

### WELCOME TO THE WELCOME TABLE

For our "parish office on the run" you are invited to stop by our Welcome Table in the church foyer, before or after Mass. There you will find information about the parish and what you may need as a parishioner, including: Mass cards, parish registration materials, forms needed to become a sponsor or godparent and as available, books to explore and enhance your faith. Or, just stop by to say hello! If we can't answer your question, we will find someone "in the know" to help. We look forward to seeing you!

### WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS!

Welcome to our new parishioners Sophie Goddard; and Edward and Barbara Martenis. Congratulations to the families of Cameron William Marshall and Gracie Louise Engdahl who were recently baptized at St. Thomas. We are blessed to have you here!

### HOST AFTER MASS HOSPITALITY!

Spread joy & hospitality to our fellow parishioners after the 10:30am Sunday Mass (and potentially other Masses if we get enough volunteers). The ministry involves setting up and staffing tables with beverages (coffee, tea, hot chocolate and juice) as well as homemade snacks. The time commitment is from 9:30am till about noon (including you attending the 10:30am Mass). There's no need to commit to any date – you can host once a year or once a month – whatever works for you. Training is provided. If you have any questions or would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Jay Buhr at 518-331-0541.

## LOST AND FOUND BOX --MISSING SOMETHING?

We have a large black "LOST AND FOUND" bin in the area behind the Welcome Table. If you are missing sunglasses, baseball caps, kids toys, "readers", umbrellas, etc., you may find it here! Please stop over and check out this bin by the end of the day on Sunday, August 31. After that we will find a "home" for remaining items. Thanks.

## DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

### REGISTER FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL DISCIPLESHIP SESSIONS TODAY!



Plans are underway and we need your registration form so we can best serve you! Our Confirmation Prep Program is a two year program and planning is underway! . "Confirmed in the Spirit" registration is also being accepted for all Confirmed high school students. Please consider remaining involved in our parish community and grow your relationship with the Lord! Reserve your spot using the link on our parish homepage or QR code. Thank you for inviting us to be a part of your faith journey!

### COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Many blessings to all of our College Students who are preparing to return to College! Please email [HOPE@stthomas-church.org](mailto:HOPE@stthomas-church.org) with your mail box address to receive a care package from your parish family! Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers! "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" Jeremiah 29:11 Best of luck to you! God Bless you!

## STEWARDSHIP

### WEEKLY OFFERING

#### AUGUST 2-3

Total Weekly Collection: \$17,490.00  
Includes E-giving: \$4,757.00  
Includes Loose Cash Gifts: \$2,576.20  
Tithe (5% of Offertory): \$874.50  
Total Number of Gifts: 291

**Special Collection** next weekend is for the Catholic Home Missions. Today, nearly 40% of dioceses in the US and its current and former territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities for their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, & other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the USA. More info at [uscgb.org/home-missions](http://uscgb.org/home-missions)

### HOPE OPPORTUNITIES

Please check out H.O.P.E. opportunities on our Youth Ministry Discipleship Page. Or pick a tag from our HOPE Tree in the Gathering Hall and shine His light for all to see! Thank you for making a difference!

### PRAYER CHAIN

Members of our Prayer Chain Ministry pray on an ongoing basis for those referred to them, regardless of need. Please contact Pam Seward, 518-439-7845, to have someone added to the prayer chain or become a volunteer. These calls are confidential.

## EDUCATIONAL, SPIRITUAL & SOCIAL EVENTS

**Sunday Hospitality:** August 17, 11 am

**Picnic Committee Meeting:** August 18, 7 pm | Conference Room

**Women of Mary Prayer Group:** August 18, 7 pm | Gathering Hall

**Tuesday Drive:** August 19, 3-4 pm | Parking Lot or Gathering Hall

**Creation Care Team Meeting:** August 19, 7 pm | Conference Room

**Young Adult Group "518 Frassati":** August 19, 7 pm | Gathering Hall | Ages 21-39

**Rosary:** August 20, 11 am | Mary Chapel

**Eucharistic Adoration:** August 22, 1 pm | Church

For more information visit our website!



## PARISH MINISTRIES

### CREATION CARE BE A PEACEMAKER

The old saw "What is the definition of insanity? Doing what you have always done and expecting different results" is never more true than when we look at how we care for Creation. Changing how we Care for Creation is challenging. The 2025 Season of Creation, themed *Peace With Creation* offers a time to examine how we live, to re-commit to being Peacemakers, and Pilgrims of Hope. More about Parish activities for The Season coming in future bulletins.

### CLYNK

Pick up a CLYNK bag from the Gathering Hall, fill it with your recyclable cans/ bottles and return to Hannaford. Proceeds from CLYNK when using a St. Thomas marked bag fund charitable Parish activities.

### PASTORAL CARE

#### TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

We have parishioners who are in need of a ride to Mass and we are in need of more volunteers who are willing to help in this ministry. Please contact Julie Bablin [jbablin@stthomas-church.org](mailto:jbablin@stthomas-church.org) if you can help! Thank you!

## COMMUNITY GOOD NEWS

### PILGRIMS OF HOPE – DISCIPLES ON MISSION – A DIOCESAN JUBILEE GATHERING

On behalf of Bishop Scharfenberger, the Office for Discipleship Formation and the ReMade for Mission Team are delighted to invite you Saturday, September 20, 8:30-2pm at St. Matthew's Church, Voorheesville. Fr. Frank Donio, S.A.C. will be the major presenter for our gathering. We pray that this day of prayer and inspiration will bring us renewal as disciples and pilgrims, especially as we embark on the ReMade for Mission initiative. There is no cost for the day. However, advance registration is required. To register go to [webapps.rcda.org/ParishFaithFormation/](http://webapps.rcda.org/ParishFaithFormation/)

### CHRIST OUR LIGHT CHURCH IS HIRING

Our Faith Formation & Youth Ministry is seeking faith-filled, enthusiastic individuals for a Part-Time Flex Position. If you have a heart for youth and a desire to help them grow in their faith, we'd love to have you on our team! Pay range: \$19-\$21/hour. Contact Kari at 518-459-6635 x105 or email [kari.kurtz@rcda.org](mailto:kari.kurtz@rcda.org).

### DIOCESAN MARRIAGE JUBILEE

This Annual Celebration will be held September 14th at 3pm, at Christ Our Light Catholic Church, Loudonville. Couples celebrating their 1st, 25th, 50th, or any special wedding anniversary are invited to attend this celebration. Bishop Scharfenberger will celebrate the Liturgy and greet couples and their guests at a reception in the Parish Hall immediately following Mass, with an opportunity for photos. Please register through the parish office or you may e-mail [Marriage.Jubilee@rcda.org](mailto:Marriage.Jubilee@rcda.org). Deadline Sept 7.

### NEW LIFE MATERNITY SLICE FOR LIFE GOLF OUTING

Here's a chance to play golf and help a good cause at the same time. Join us for our Slice for Life Golf Tournament on September 6 at The Sycamore Golf Club in Ravena. You can find all the details at and sign up at: <https://newlifematernity.org/events>

### MARIAN CONCERT

Join Albany NPM and guests to honor the Blessed Mother August 17th at 2pm at Christ Our Light Church, Loudonville. Join us for an afternoon of sacred choral music and liturgical song featuring a full choir, children's voices, & guest soloists as we honor Mary. There is a \$5 suggested donation to support Albany NPM & a collection for Catholic Charities to aid the communities affected by the recent flooding in Texas.

### ALBANY NY CHAPTER OF MAGNIFICAT WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION

September 13, 10-2:30pm at the Sisters of the Resurrection Provincial House, 35 Boltwood Ave., Castleton. Check-in begins 9:30am in the vestibule of the Chapel. Mass, Adoration, Rosary, Confession, Divine Mercy Chaplet, lunch (bring a bag lunch and beverage), time for Praising and a talk by Fr. Rendell Torres, Rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The theme is: "Mary, our life, our sweetness, and our hope" Cost: Free-will Donation – RSVP by Sept 3. Seating is limited to 70! Register: email [albanymagnificat@gmail.com](mailto:albanymagnificat@gmail.com) and include your name, phone # & parish. Questions or registered by phone call Kathleen 518-930-8380 (after 6pm) or visit: [magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/ny-albany](http://magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/ny-albany)

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## GET IN TOUCH

### ST. THOMAS SCHOOL

42 Adams Place, Delmar, NY 12054  
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[www.stthomas-school.org](http://www.stthomas-school.org)

[facebook.com/StThomasSchoolDelmar](https://facebook.com/StThomasSchoolDelmar)

**Adam Biggs, Principal**

[abiggs@stthomas-school.org](mailto:abiggs@stthomas-school.org)

**SAVE *the* DATE**

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE'S**

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**OCTOBER 17TH, 2025**

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**FORWARD IN FAITH**

**WWW.STTHOMAS-SCHOOL.ORG/GALA**

**1ST ANNUAL Tiger Trot 5K**  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

Lace up your running shoes and be part of an exciting community event! Whether you're a seasoned runner or just out for a fun walk, the Tiger Trot 5K is for everyone.

5K Run through Olde Delmar  
Race start: 9:00 AM | Check in: 7:30 - 8:30 AM  
FREE T-SHIRT if you register by September 5  
FREE Kids Run Following the 5K (12 and under)  
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Scan QR code to register or volunteer.

### THE 1ST ANNUAL ST. THOMAS SCHOOL TIGER TROT 5K AND KIDS RUN

Join us for our 1st Annual Tiger Trot 5K and Kids Run the weekend after Labor Day! Be a part of the event as a runner, walker, or volunteer. Spread the word to your friends - this race is completely open to the public. Scan the QR code below to register!

### ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL VISION

St. Thomas the Apostle School, rooted in our Catholic faith and responding to the mission of Jesus Christ, partners with students, families, faculty, parishioners, and alumni to foster a learning environment where students can deepen their relationship with God, foster a love of learning and the pursuit of truth, cultivate moral and academic excellence, and grow in respect for self and others.

# PRAYER & CATECHESIS

## LIVE THE LITURGY

### PRAYER FOR BRAVERY

Dear God,  
In the moments when my faith is met with others' disdain or ridicule, give me the grace to be grounded in You. Remind me that Your mission matters, and that You alone bring comfort, healing, and salvation. Amen.

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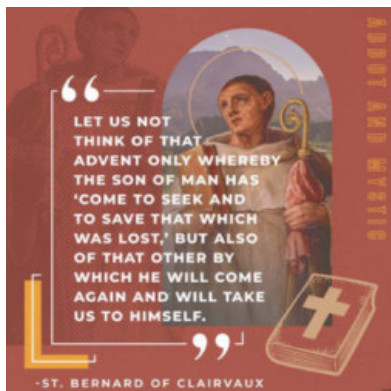
## CATHOLIC CULTURE

### DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED! CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND GROW YOUR FAITH

#### GREGORIAN CHANT

Gregorian chant is an ancient form of sacred music used in liturgical worship and prayer. Defined by a monophonic (meaning a single melody without harmony or chords), unaccompanied song, this type of chant focuses the singer's mind on the content of the prayer being sung, which makes it uniquely suited for use in the Mass. Dating to the first millennium, it derives its name from Pope St. Gregory the Great, though scholarship is unclear on when exactly this type of chant originated. Prior to the Second Vatican Council, it was standard to use Gregorian chant in the Roman Rite Mass. Sacrosanctum Concilium, the Constitution on Divine Worship promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1963, asserts that Gregorian chant is "specially suited to the Roman liturgy...(and) should be given pride of place in liturgical services."

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## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 16 | 5:00 PM

Mae Elizabeth Reed  
requested by Frank & Regina  
Frederick  
Joseph Melcher  
requested by his family  
Anthony Iavenditti  
requested by his family

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 | 7:30 AM

For the People

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 | 10:30 AM

Dorann Stagnitta  
requested by her family  
Virginia Fisher (Birthday  
Remembrance)  
requested by Joann House

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 | 5:00 PM

Deborah Powell Carey  
requested by Steve & Christine  
Corson  
Mary Laicha  
requested by Barbara Ruggirello

### MONDAY, AUGUST 18 | 7:30 AM

Duncan Barry  
requested by his wife, Diana  
Barry  
Sabatino Sirignao  
requested by Fulvia Pizzitola

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 19 | 12:15 PM

John Bobak (Living Intention)  
requested by his family  
Sheila Gorman  
requested by the Gorman Family

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 21 | 7:30 AM

Christine McCarroll  
requested by Patrick Raimo  
Louise Cirino (21st Anniversary)  
requested by Andrea Angerame

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 22 | 12:15 PM

Anthony Elacqua  
requested by Nicholas Elacqua  
Joseph & Lena Roman  
requested by their family

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 23 | 5:00 PM

Virginia Fisher  
requested by Joanne Hoose  
Jay Thompson  
requested by the Maeder Family

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 24 | 7:30 AM

For the People

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 24 | 10:30 AM

Dan Lowenski (10th Anniversary)  
requested by Catherine  
Lowenski  
Donald Christiansen  
requested by the Baccaro Family  
& the Sarsfield Family

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 24 | 5:00 PM

Richard Mahlstedt  
requested by Peter & Molly  
Poletto  
Mary Laicha  
requested by the Kaplan Family

## READINGS & OBSERVANCES

### FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 17, 2025

**Sunday:** Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18 (14b)/Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53

**Monday:** Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22

**Tuesday:** Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 19:23-30

**Wednesday,** Memorial of Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church: Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16

**Thursday,** Memorial of Saint Pius X, Pope: Jgs 11:29-39a/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mt 22:1-14

**Friday,** Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40

**Saturday:** Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Mt 23:1-12

**Next Sunday:** Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30

This week we encourage you to patronize our bulletin sponsor Lisa Joy-Rupinski, Bicentennial Realty

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