

AUGUST 24, 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

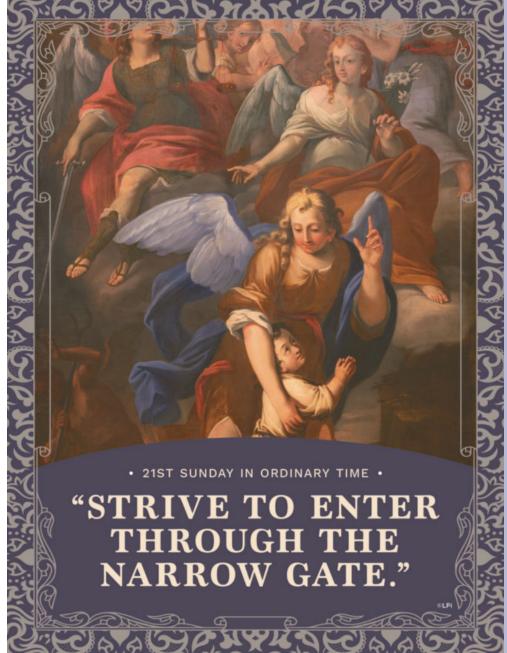
Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

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,

We continue to hear from the Gospel of St. Luke this weekend, and just like last weekend with the themes of fire and division, Jesus again has some very direct words for us. This passage reminds me of times when I have encountered someone who I might not agree with, either what they're saying or how they're acting. It's often just easier to avoid that person entirely and not have to associate with them instead of being polite. Hard to admit, but it's true sometimes! It's easy, isn't it, to dismiss someone when we don't agree with them? Sometimes we turn away, avoid conversation, or convince ourselves their perspective isn't worth hearing.

In the Gospel this weekend, Jesus shows us that the danger isn't just ignoring others, the danger is ignoring him. Some people tried to claim they were close to Jesus simply because they had seen him, heard him, or eaten with him. But the Lord teaches us that true discipleship is not simply about proximity or convenience. It is about entering by the "narrow gate" and allowing the living Word of God, Jesus Christ himself, to shape our lives.

Our culture often encourages us to think like consumers by asking "What do I get out of this?" or "How does this benefit me?" But in this weekend's Gospel, Jesus says that salvation is not about casual association or personal comfort. Entering through the narrow gate demands commitment. Our faith is not simply a product we consume or purchase! It's a life we contribute to with our time, prayer, service, and generosity. The Church invites us into this profound mission. As disciples, we are called to move from consumers of the faith to contributors to the Kingdom of God.

I'll be writing and speaking more about this theme over the next couple months, that of a "consumer" compared to a "contributor". It's worth a reflection both in our personal spiritual lives and in our involvement within the parish community. There are so many different ways to contribute to the life of the parish, and I'm not necessarily talking about financial contributions! Every person reading this column has a beautiful role in the Body of Christ and within the parish of St. Thomas the Apostle, and we certainly need your gifts!

A couple of brief calendar items:

- 1st annual Tiger Trot 5K is coming up on Saturday, September 6, including a free race for kids under 12. Registration and volunteer opportunities: www.stthomas-school.org/tiger-trot.
- The annual parish picnic is Sunday, September 21 at Elm Ave. Park. We'll have Mass outside followed by food and all sorts of fun for families! Please take a moment to fill in a couple slots on the volunteer sign-up sheets in the Gathering Hall.
- The 4th Annual Gala & Auction will honor several honorees from seven areas of our school, kicking off the start of the 70th year of Catholic education at St. Thomas School. It's Friday, October 17, tickets at: www.stthomas-school.org/gala.
- I'm away this week with a group of five classmates from the seminary, we're gathering in Duluth, Minnesota for a few days together before the summer is over. No Masses or confessions Monday, August 25 through Friday, August 29.

Peace to you, FR. MATT

PRAYER CHAIN

Members of our Prayer Chain Ministry pray on an ongoing basis for those referred to them, regard-less 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.

PEACE AND PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES AS OF AUGUST 12

Thank you for your advocacy. Updates have been placed on our website, please visit stthomaschurch.org/pax-christi or contact Marie Copeland mariecopeland62@gmail.com

TUESDAY DRIVES

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

August 26 we are heading back to our Sister Parish St. Lucy/ St. Bernadette's Food Pantry and are collecting hygiene items: Shampoo, Bar Soap, Liquid Hand Soap, Disposable Razors, Incontinence Underwear Large Size and Toilet Paper. God bless you for your generosity!

GENTLE REMINDER NO TUESDAY DRIVE ON SEPT. 2

Enjoy your Labor Day Weekend! "A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love." St. Basil the Great Thank you St. Thomas for gathering love!

GET IN TOUCH

PARISH STAFF

Patricia Holm,

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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

PARISH MINISTRIES

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 signup 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 every-one. 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 for more information.

DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION! PLEASE REGISTER!



Please don't delay! Take time to register for our MS/ HS Discipleship Formation Program today! Share the "Good News" with your

neighbors and friends! Sessions including Confirmation Prep begin the week of Oct. 13. See our Discipleship Formation web page for more information! Thank you for inviting us to be a part of your faith journey! Register now!

ATTENTION 6TH GRADE DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION!

Save the date! Sunday, Sept. 14, 3:30-4:45pm in the Chapel join us for

prayer, fun and information on our Discipleship Program and, H.O.P.E. hours! Sixth graders bring your guardian or parents! Receive your First H.O.P.E. hour! Sign up today! https://shorturl.at/9HIPF Welcome to Sixth Grade Discipleship!

CALLED TO LEAD!

Sunday, Sept. 14 from 6-7:30pm High School Students grades 10th-12th are invited to join us for a night of fun and discussion on being a Discipleship Leader! Grow as a LEADER! https://shorturl.at/dXGtC

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES!

Many blessings to all of our College Students who are preparing to return to College! Please email 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! "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:14

OCIA

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE **CATHOLIC FAITH OR BECOMING CATHOLIC?**

Classes will begin September 7! Contact loe Creamer for more information at joecreamer@ gmail.com or 734-660-9173.

PARISH OFFICE

NO DAILY MASS, ADORATION OR **CONFESSIONS**

There will be no Daily Mass, Adoration or Confessions on August 25, 26, 28 or 29. Thank you for your understanding.

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

STEWARDSHIP

WEEKLY OFFERING AUGUST 9-10

Total Weekly Collection: \$14,522 Includes E-giving: \$3,522 Includes Loose Cash Gifts: \$2,199 Tithe (5% of Offertory): \$726.10 Total Number of Gifts: 275

Special Collection this 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 usccb.org/home-missions

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!

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.

EDUCATIONAL, SPIRITUAL & SOCIAL EVENTS

For more information visit our website!

Sunday Hospitality: August 24, 11 am

NO DAILY MASS: August 25, 26, 28, & 29 | Confessions and Adoration are also canceled

Tuesday Drive: August 26, 3-4 pm | Parking Lot or Gathering Hall

Young Adult Group "518 Frassati": August 26, 7 pm | Gathering Hall | Ages 21-39

Rosary: August 27, 11 am | Mary Chapel



Thank you St. Thomas for your amazing outpouring of kindness to the South End Children's Café! Your gifts will find their way in to the backpacks of many young neighbors! Thank you for making a difference!

PARISH MINISTRIES

CREATION CARE RE PEACE RE HOPE RE A STEWARD

BE PEACE, BE HOPE, BE A STEWARD OF CREATIONBe an instrument of Peace, Hope

and Stewardship for Creation. Help develop a "Good Steward Closet" for St. Thomas. Parishioners will be invited to contribute reuseable, recyclable, Creation-friendly items which can be stored in the closet and used for Parish gatherings. A display of possible items for the Parish closet or for one in your own home will be on display in the Gathering Space beginning in September as the Season of Creation opens on 9/1. 2025's theme for this international celebration of Creation is Peace With Creation. More information about St. Thomas' celebration of The Season will be in future bulletins.

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 if you can help! Thank you!

ST. THOMAS READS BOOK CLUB CARLO ACUTIS: A SAINT IN SNEAKERS BY COURTNEY MARES

Meeting Wednesday, September 24 at 7pm in the Gathering Hall. Mares, a Vatican journalist, offers a powerful look into the life of Bl. Carlo Acutis, told through the memories of people who knew him. Join us as we discuss the inspiring journey of this soon-to-be saint. New members are always welcome!

COMMUNITY GOOD NEWS

PILGRIMS OF HOPE - DISCIPLES ON MIS-SION – 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/

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.

DIOCESAN MARRIAGE JUBILEE

This Annual Celebration will be held September 14th at 3pm, at Christ Our Light Catholic Church, Loudon-ville. 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. 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

ALBANY NY CHAPTER OF MAGNIFI-CAT 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. Mass, Adoration, Rosary, Confession, Divine Mercy Chaplet, lunch (bring a bag lunch and beverage), time for Praising and a talk by Fr. Rendell Torres. The theme is: "Mary, our life, our sweetness, and our hope" Cost: Free-will Donation -RSVP by Sept 3. Seating is limited! Register: email albanymagnificat@gmail.com and include your name, phone # & parish or visit: magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/ ny-albany

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

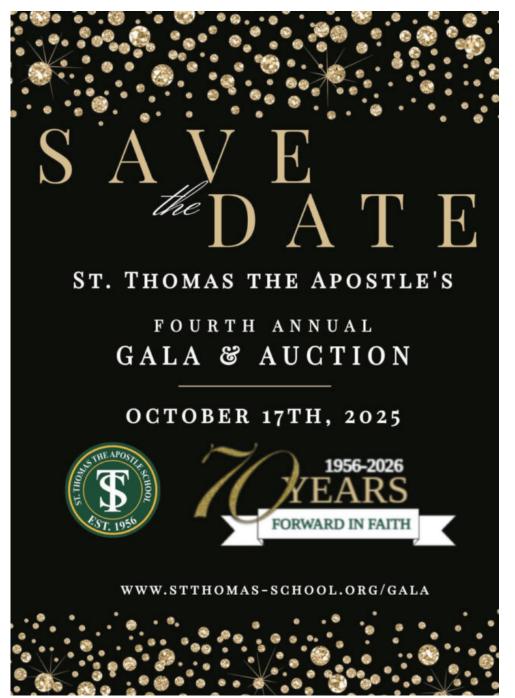
On Wednesday, September 17 at 6pm at Christ the King Church, seasoned storytellers, Barbara Palumbo and Mary Murphy will join us for a story evening titled "Prophets, Saints and other Holy People". As members of the Story Circle of the Capital District (SCCD), Barbara and Mary's repertoire includes sacred stories which have been featured in churches, at conferences and interfaith gatherings. Join us as we kick off our first Coffee and Conversation meeting this season. Refreshments will be served. Invite a friend, come, relax and escape into the stories. Hope to see you there!

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GET IN TOUCH

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL

42 Adams Place, Delmar, NY 12054 518-439-5573 www.stthomas-school.org facebook.com/StThomasSchoolDelmar

Adam Biggs, Principal abiggs@stthomas-school.org



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 HOLINESSGood Shepherd,

Guide me through the narrow gate. Remove from me anything that distracts me from You, Your love, Your invitation, Your mission. Keep me close to You, familiar at every step. Amen.

CATHOLIC CULTURE

DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED!
CONNECT WITH TRADITION
AND GROW YOUR FAITH

IGNATIAN SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

The Ignatian Spiritual Exercises are prayers and meditations developed by Št. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus (commonly referred to as the Jesuits). St. Ignatius of Loyola (1492-1556) was born to a noble Basque family. In his youth, he spent time at the Royal Court of Castile and fought in the Spanish army. He experienced a profound religious conversion during a long period of convalescence following a battle injury. Living in a cave outside of Manresa, he began to keep the journal that became the basis of the famous Spiritual Exercises. The Spiritual Exercises are meant to accompany souls on a journey toward deeper contemplation of God's love and a more meaningful understanding of his call to discipleship in the life of each person. Divided into four stages, or "weeks," the exercises focus on the interior movements of the heart to unveil the will of God.



MASS INTENTIONS

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 Poleto Mary Laicha requested by the Kaplan Family

MONDAY, AUGUST 25 NO DAILY MASS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26 NO DAILY MASS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28 NO DAILY MASS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29 NO DAILY MASS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30 | 5:00 PM

Joseph A. Emma, Sr. (24th Anniversary) requested by his family Charles Marchione, Sr. requested by Frank & Regina

Frederick

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31 | 7:30 AM For the People

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31 | 10:30 AM

Thomas Kappel requested by his sister, Deborah Davis Rocco, Russo,Sr.

requested by his daughter & family

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31 | 5:00 PM

Angela Allen requested by Joan Giglia & Family John Peter Starr

requested by Frank & Regina Frederick

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 24, 2025

Sunday: Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30 **Monday**: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Mt 23:13-22 **Tuesday**: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday, Memorial of Saint Monica: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday, Memorial of Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 24:42-51

Friday, Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist: 1 Thes 4:1-8 (429)/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12/Mk 6:17-29

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30

Next Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

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