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St. Thomas the Apostle Church

NOVEMBER 23, 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

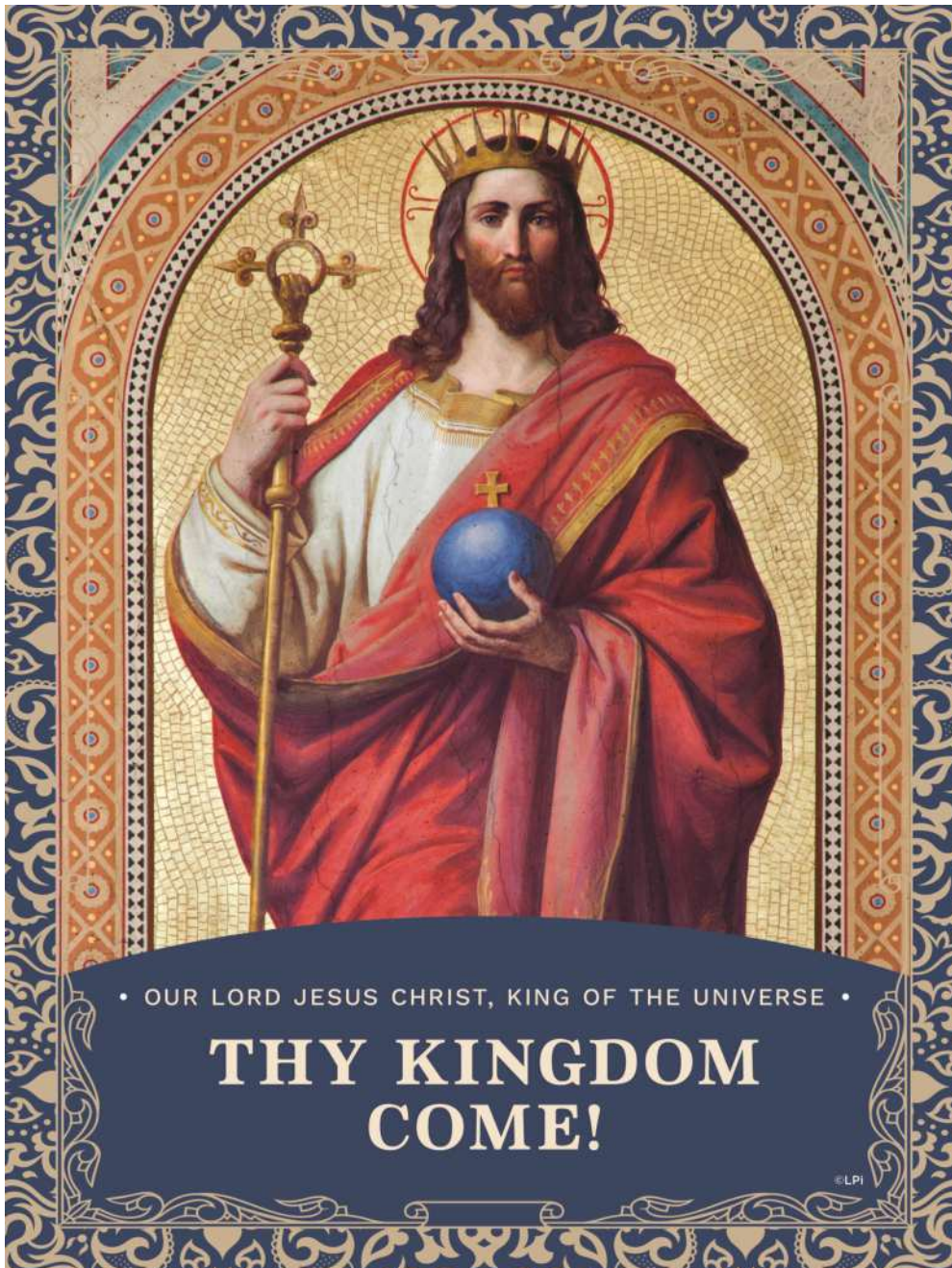
Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

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,

Ends and beginnings, conclusions and new chapters, that's what's on my mind at the moment! We have arrived at the final week in Ordinary Time and the final week of our liturgical year with weekend's celebration of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. We stand at the threshold of a transition as Advent approaches. The Scriptures this weekend teach us that God's reign doesn't begin with earthly strength or political triumph as one may have expected with the King of the Universe. Instead, we see Jesus with a shepherd's heart, a king who leads by sacrifice. From the anointing of David at Hebron to the heavenly hymn of Christ's preeminence in Colossians, we're shown a kingdom built on unity, mercy, and peace. Finally, the Gospel, we meet our King lifted up on the cross, reigning from a place of self-giving love, so generous that even in his final breaths he opens the gates of Paradise to a repentant thief.

Our diocese also faces a new chapter with installation of Bishop Mark O'Connell in just a couple weeks! Our prayer is twofold: in thanksgiving to Bishop Scharfenberger for his ministry in this diocese since 2014, and in anticipation of Bishop Mark's leadership. Please note the information about the events:

Thursday, December 4, 7pm: Evening Prayer at the Cathedral, all are invited.

Friday, December 5, 2pm: Installation Mass at St. Edward the Confessor, this is by invitation only. Mass, Adoration, and Confessions will be cancelled at St. Thomas that day. We will have a livestream available in the Chapel for those who would like to gather.

Also, in this weekend's bulletin you'll see our annual Advent flyer, with theme: "The Light of Hope," trusting that Jesus is indeed a light even in some troubling times in the world. The Jubilee Year of Hope has given us the chance to see that 'Christian Hope' is based in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord. The first item on the calendar is 24 hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in church from 7am on Saturday, November 29 to 7am on Sunday, November 30 (pausing for the 5pm Mass on Saturday). There is a sign up on the church website homepage. Please sign up to make sure we have people praying with Jesus at each hour. Of course, you are welcome to stop in for prayer at any time of the day or night. Let's welcome the Advent season in a spirit of quiet, watchful prayer.

I'd encourage you to note the other events on your calendars. There is something for everyone! Lots of musical offerings, things for families, events for our students, and times of service and prayer. My thanks go to all who are involved in this beautiful season!

We have purchased six new Christmas trees for decorating the high altar at the end of Advent and through the Christmas season. The cost was about \$1,500. If you would like to make a donation towards covering that cost in memory of someone, please see the link on the webpage: www.stthomas-church.org. Thank you!

The Giving Tree is up, thank you for your generosity to those in need. It is such a blessing to see people and families step forward to assist those in our community, thank you again!

Finally, we'll have Thanksgiving Mass on Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 6:30pm. There is no Mass on Thanksgiving Day, or on Friday, November 28 (I'll be with my family!).

Peace to you,

FR. MATT

GIVING TREE

IT'S TIME!

The Parish Giving Tree is set-up in the Church! We are asking parishioners to choose a tag and to fulfill the request on it. Please return the wrapped gift with the tag attached to the gathering hall on Saturday or Sunday, December 6-7. In the spirit of Advent, we are urged to serve the poor & less fortunate in our community. By choosing to buy a gift, you are helping make Christmas special for an individual in need! No gift should cost more than \$30 & many are less costly. If you take a tag, please fulfill the request (many gifts are for specific people) and return the gift before or no later than after the 5pm Mass on Dec 7. All gifts will be picked-up by the organizations the next morning. If you are not able to be here that weekend, you may leave your gift in the gathering hall the previous week.

CREATION CARE

CARING, CONNECTING, THANKSGIVING

Our efforts to protect the environment, ensure just sharing of earth's resources, to care for those in need, are not siloed acts. They are lifelines uniting us in tangible expression of thanksgiving to our God for His gift of Creation. In a world often rife with discord, Caring for Creation unites us. This Thanksgiving may our prayer be for God's grace to help us strengthen that unity through commitment to practices protecting life, the environment, Creation.

ST. THOMAS ORNAMENT

Help plant our Tree of Hope on the school grounds. Your offering of \$20 will support purchase of the tree. For your generosity you will receive a hand-crafted wooden ornament of St. Thomas' Tree of Hope to hang in your home. Stop by the Church office with your donation and to receive your ornament.

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 OFFICE

A THANKSGIVING OFFERING

This year we are setting aside Thanksgiving and the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle in July, to encourage contributions for those most in need in our community and surrounding area. In church, over the next several weeks, you will find a Thanks-giving Offering envelope at the entrances and at the Welcome Table. Please use these envelopes for any donation you are able to make. Your contributions will fund the various requests for much needed assistance which we receive throughout the year.

Many of us are so fortunate to have more than adequate food, clothing and shelter. And, many are not. At Thanksgiving we pray for all those who are in need and we give thanks for all the blessings we have received. We invite you to join us at our Thanksgiving Vigil Mass on Wednesday, November 26 at 6:30pm and we thank you in advance for your generosity.

BISHOP MARK O'CONNELL

It is with great joy that we welcome Bishop Mark O'Connell as the next bishop of the Diocese of Albany! He will be installed as our bishop at a Mass on Friday, December 5 at St. Edward the Confessor Church in Clifton Park. This Mass will be limited in seating and we are still receiving information about the allotment of tickets per parish. Please note that Mass, Holy Hour & Confession will be cancelled at St. Thomas on Fri, December 5. Instead, we will have a livestream available in the Chapel for those who would like to gather to watch the Installation Mass. Evening Prayer will take place on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 7pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 125 Eagle St., Albany and all are invited.

SAVE THE DATE!

Second Annual Cookies & Caroling with Fr. Matt! Saturday Dec. 6, 6:15-7:15pm in the SCHOOL! Sign up today! Cookies & Caroling with Fr. Matt <https://shorturl.at/Cdqk7>

WELCOME!

Welcome to our new parishioners Dawn & Robert Baker, and their sons Ethan and Benjamin. We are blessed to have you here!

PUEBLO TO PEOPLE

VIGIL FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Join us for our Vigil Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe here at St. Thomas, Dec. 11 for a 6pm Rosary, followed by Serenade and 6:30pm Bilingual Mass celebrated by Fr. Daniel Vallejo & Fr. Matt Duclos. Hospitality to follow. Invite a friend to join us as we honor our Lady!

ST. THOMAS READS BOOK CLUB

TIME CHANGE THIS MONTH

Join us for our next gathering on Sunday, November 24 from **6-7:30pm** in the Gathering Hall for fellowship and discussion of "The Women of Christmas" by Liz Curtis Higgs. This book reflects on three women whose hearts belong to God—Elizabeth, Mary, & Anna—as they prepare for the coming of the Savior.

DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

HS AGAPE LATTE

All High School Students are invited to join us at our Christmas Agape Latte Gathering Sun, Dec. 7, 6pm. Our hosts, Catherine, Gabriel, Emily and Paige will be welcoming our Music Director John Vasto as our special guest. Wear your favorite holiday sweater or cap and get ready for some holiday fun, faith and pizza! Sign up today!

STEWARDSHIP

WEEKLY OFFERING NOVEMBER 8-9

Total Weekly Collection: \$10,380.85
Includes E-giving: \$3,532.00
Includes Loose Cash Gifts: \$2,686.35
Total Number of Gifts: 236

MS/HS DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION

Please check your H.O.P.E Google site for updated HOPE events!

518 FRASSATI (AGES 21-39)

NEW MEETING DAY

Going forward we are permanently switching our day to Wednesdays. Please keep an eye on the bulletin and parish calendar to see where we will be meeting each week. Thank you and join us!

GROUP ROSARY WITH SENIORS

Parishioners and ministries of St. Thomas are warmly invited to join 518 Frassati Young Adult Ministry for an intergenerational evening of prayer with the residents of the Delmar Center. We will gather together to pray the Rosary and share in community with our beloved elders on Wednesday, November 26 at 6pm (In place of 518 Frassati's regular meeting) at The Delmar Center, 125 Rockefeller Rd, Delmar, NY 12054. For more information, please contact: 518Frassati@gmail.com



EDUCATIONAL, SPIRITUAL & SOCIAL EVENTS

OCIA: November 23, 9:00 am | Conference Room

Choir Rehearsal: November 23, 9:45 am | Mary Chapel | New members welcome!

Children's Liturgy of the Word: November 23, 10:30 am Mass

Sunday Hospitality: November 23, 11:30 am | Gathering Hall

St. Thomas Reads Book Club: November 24, 6 pm | Gathering Hall | Note time change for this month

Evening Adoration: November 24, 7:30 pm

Tuesday Drive: November 25, 3-4 pm | Church Parking Lot

Rosary: November 26, 11 am | Mary Chapel

Thanksgiving Vigil Mass: November 26, 6:30 pm

Young Adult Group "518 Frassati": November 26, 7 pm | Rosary at Delmar Center | Ages 21-39

Reflecting on the Sunday Scriptures Group: November 28, 10:30 am | Gathering Hall

24 Hour Adoration: November 29, 7 am—November 30, 7 am

For more information visit our website!



PARISH MINISTRIES

TUESDAY DRIVES

TUESDAY DRIVES GETTING A JUMP START ON CHRISTMAS JOY! (PICTURED ABOVE)

Our young church packed 35 festive holiday bags for seniors at St. John St. Ann's Outreach Center. Special thanks to our Clynkers for recycling your New York State bottle and can deposits at Hannaford. Money from our CLYNK fund was used to purchase our reusable holiday bags. Pick up a green CLYNK bag in the Gathering Hall and become a Clynker today!

WE DO HAVE A TUESDAY DRIVE THIS WEEK

On Nov.25 we will add to our St. Nick stockings for St. James Food Pantry the following items: festive candy treats, cookies, note pad, small dish detergent and holiday kitchen towels. Thank you for making a neighbor's Christmas jolly!

THANK YOU

Thank you for your kindness shown to our neighbors since March of 2020 when our weekly Tuesday Drives started! Your donation of food, personal care products, gift cards, baby supplies & everything in between has been a joyous witness to our young church on what it means to be a Disciple of Christ. As families gather round the table this Thanksgiving enjoying stuffing, gravy & cranberry sauce know that they are thanking God for you! Thank you St. Thomas for your prayers & works of charity. Together we are shining His light to others. We are making a difference! Wishing you and those you love a wonderful Thanksgiving!

COMMUNITY GOOD NEWS

CATHOLIC SINGLES EVENT

St. Pius X will be hosting their first Anchored Connections Singles Event for ages 25-49 on December 4 at 6:30pm. Registration is \$10. Any questions can be directed to Kirsty Canavan at St. Pius X. Register: stpiusxloudonville.org/news-events/r6k6rxrsulfhgfes27c787vx0md18b

NOTRE DAME RETREAT HOUSE RETREATS

Advent Sacred Stillness Days Dec 1 & 15 and Advent Retreat Day Dec 13. Spend some time anticipating the birth of Christ the King. Register at notredameretreat.org 585-394-5700.

PLEASE REGISTER TODAY FOR CTK'S LAST BLOOD DRIVE OF 2025!

The drive takes place on December 6 in the Knights Chapel at Christ the King Church from 9am-2pm. To register, visit www.redcrossblood.org & use sponsor code *churchchristking*. You will see a time slot that meets your needs. Our past drives have all met or exceeded our collection goals let's continue to do so!

WHO MOVED MY CHEESE

The next St. Matthew's/Christ the King book club will read *Who Moved My Cheese* by Dr. Spencer Johnson. The book is about navigating times of change. The discussions will be at St. Matthew's on December 9, 4pm and Christ the King on December 13, 9am. All are welcome to attend either session.

"DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?"

All are invited to Christ the King for an Advent Evening Prayer. Led by Fr Tom Berardi, we will reflect on hearing and listening to God during a busy and noisy time. The evening will include scripture, meditation and song. Monday - December 1st - 6:30pm

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

This annual event returns on Dec 7 at 4pm at Christ the King Church, sponsored by the Guilderland Interfaith Council. Join us for adult, youth, and handbell choirs along with readings by clergy from local Guilderland churches. There will be an offering to benefit the Guilderland Food Pantry.

DEAR NEIGHBORS,

Since the removal of SNAP, more than 40 million Americans—including nearly 3 million New Yorkers—have lost access to vital food assistance. At Catholic Charities, we witness the impact every single day. Across our 12 food pantries and three soup kitchens, more individuals and families than ever are turning to us for help putting food on the table. Without SNAP, the need has grown, and our food programs simply cannot meet that level of demand. Each day, people in crisis walk through our doors, reaching out to our staff for support in their time of greatest need. We remain unwavering in our commitment to ensure that no one goes hungry during this time. If you or someone you know needs help, please remember you are not alone! Now more than ever, we are called to come together as a community of faith & compassion. Your support makes this mission possible. If you are able, please consider making a donation to help us keep food on the shelves & hope in the hearts of those we serve. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a real difference. shorturl.at/LmOAI Let us lift one another up & continue to be instruments of God's love & mercy. Be blessed - Be a blessing, Sister Betsy Van Deusen, CSJ CEO, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Thank you to the many parishioners who provide support to St. Thomas the Apostle School throughout the year. We are appreciative of your prayers, participation at school events, and your financial support. We are thinking of you this upcoming Thanksgiving week and we pray that God blesses you and your families abundantly!

DID YOU KNOW?

At St. Thomas the Apostle School, our library brings in local children's authors to share their stories with our students! WMHT Family Literacy also visits our library, providing stories and related crafts for our elementary students! We're so thankful for these special moments that add to our students' educational experience at STS.

ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR A NURTURING, FAITH-FILLED ENVIRONMENT THAT FOSTERS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE?

Join us for a personalized tour and see firsthand what makes St. Thomas the Apostle School so special! Come meet our dedicated teachers, tour our classrooms, and learn about our programs for Pre-K through 8th grade. Whether you're looking for small class sizes, individualized attention, or a strong community, it's all here at St. Thomas School. Contact Lisa Maestro at 518-439-5573 or лмаestro@stthomas-school.org

GET IN TOUCH

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL

42 Adams Place, Delmar, NY 12054
518-439-5573

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facebook.com/StThomasSchoolDelmar

Adam Biggs, Principal

abiggs@stthomas-school.org



GROWING WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE C



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Christ the King • Luke 23:35-43



GOSPEL

When someone hurts you, you might get very angry. You might want to say or do mean things to get even. Before you do anything, pray first. Ask God to help you say and do the right things. When Jesus hung on the cross, he said, "Father, forgive them." When you love God and forgive yourself and others, God will say, "I promise that when you die, you will be with me in paradise."



PRAYER

Lord, I want to be with you in paradise.



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JESUS IS KING

Dear Jesus,
I see the kingdom you love, the one
full of the broken and forgotten.
I see the crown you wear — thorns out
of love for me. I pick you as my King.
Mold my heart to be a worthy mem-
ber of your kingdom. Amen.
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CATHOLIC CULTURE

Q&A

WHEN WE SAY THE PENITENTIAL ACT AT MASS, WHY DO WE STRIKE OUR CHEST THREE TIMES?

Our rituals and liturgical celebrations are filled with a variety of symbols, some of which also relate to our gestures and physical postures (e.g. kneeling, sitting, processing, making the Sign of the Cross). The custom of striking our breast three times during the “I Confess” of the Penitential Act of the Mass is one of those gestures that is loaded with symbolism. The tradition of Christian’s striking the breast (above the heart) is rooted in the image of Sacred Scripture, especially texts like Psalm 51 which speak of a “humbled contrite heart” or how God heals broken hearts, binding up our wounds (see Psalm 147:3). Early Christian writers like Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Jerome also refer to this custom in their writings. Ultimately, this practice is an expression of our sorrow for those times when we have been guilty of faults and a sign that we are willing to take responsibility for our sins and failings. That we all perform this gesture together is also an act of solidarity, recognizing that none of us, regardless of where we are on our journey of faith, is without fault and the need for grace and forgiveness.

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MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22 | 5:00 PM

Jim Pedlow
requested by his family
Mary Laicha
requested by Dorothy & Norb Hall

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 | 7:30 AM

D. Ralph Ricchiuti
requested by Robert & Patricia Ricchiuti
Catherine DePuccio
requested by her daughter,
Catherine Daley
Ruth DePaoli
requested by the Ciancio Family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 | 10:30 AM

Salvatore & Angela Rappoccio
requested by Paul Rappoccio
Anna Marie Arico
requested by her family
Jim Pedlow & Mary Jane McGraw
requested by the Hart Family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 | 5:00 PM

For the People

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24 | 7:30 AM

Marco Zhispon (Living Intention:
Birthday, 11/28)
requested by Ana Patricia Coraizaca
David Burger
requested by the Flynn Family
Donald Ullman
requested by Geri Walsh

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25 | 12:15 PM

Peter Dereski (38th Anniversary)
requested by his family

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25 | 12:15 PM CONTINUED

Nicholas Peek
requested by his family

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26 | 6:30 PM THANKSGIVING VIGIL

Jack Berke
requested by Dina Jazrawi
Virginia Maccio
requested by Joan Rose

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27 NO DAILY MASS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28 NO DAILY MASS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29 | 5:00 PM

Stella Dempf
requested by the Hospodar Family
Christopher Orzeszek
requested by his parents & sisters

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 | 7:30 AM For the People

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 | 10:30 AM

Kathleen S. Kane
requested by Jim Woolever
Salvatore & Angela Rappoccio
requested by Paul Rappoccio
Angela Merrill
requested by her family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 | 5:00 PM

José & Elena Realubit
requested by Joan Realubit
Roberta Ann Osborn
requested by Robert Fox

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Sunday, The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe: 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43

Monday, Memorial of Saint Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19

Thursday: Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74/Lk 21:20-28

Friday: Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36

Next Sunday, First Sunday of Advent: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

This week we encourage you to patronize our bulletin sponsor Delmar Pediatrics

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