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St. Thomas the Apostle Church

APRIL 26, 2026

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 &
Reconciliation
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

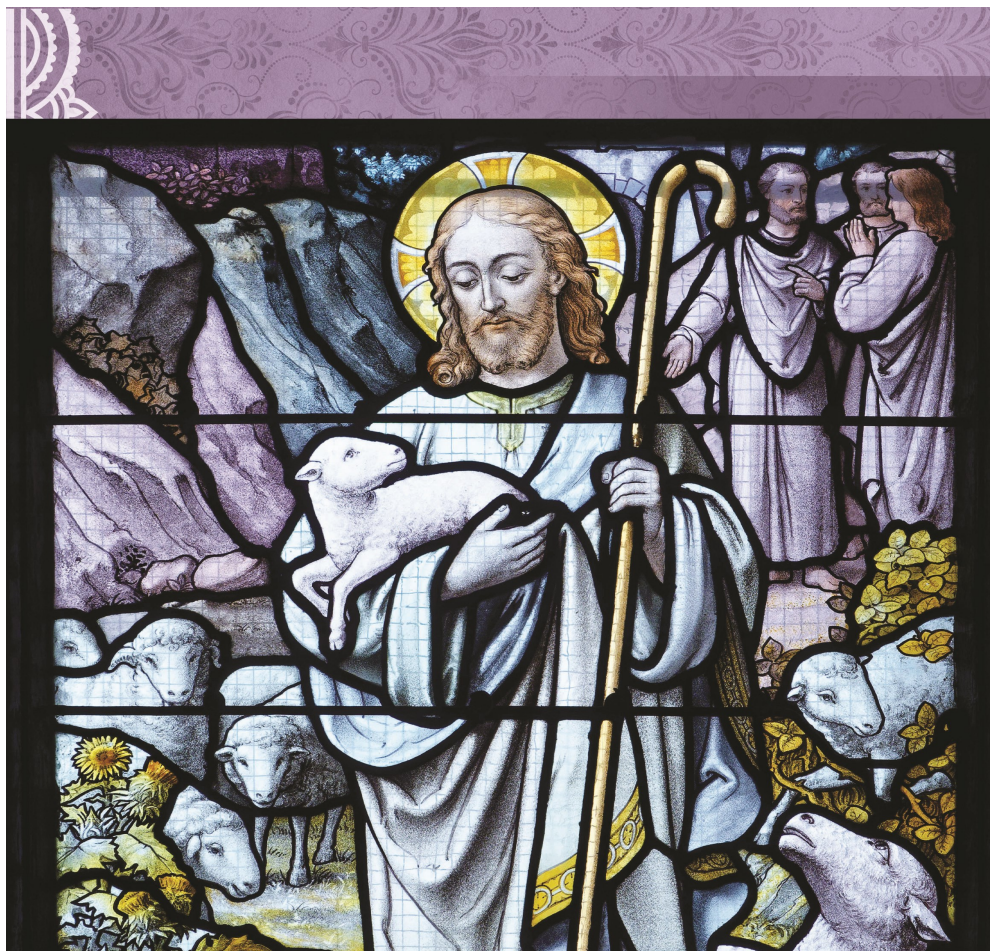
Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

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



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." John 10:10

PARISH MINISTRIES

St. Thomas Parish,

My family once had a bunny as a pet, she lived in a cage downstairs and her name was Runny Babbit. Runny was very cute, she had very soft fur, and we trained her to do one trick. We kept a little jingle bell next to the cage and whenever we would ring it, we would give her a little piece of food. She would have to hop up onto the wooden house in her cage and reach for the treat. After many repetitions of this, she would hop up on the wooden house at the first sound of that bell. You could call it a "Pavlov's Bunny" effect, I guess. It worked without fail!

Runny recognized the exact sound that she associated with receiving a nice little treat. As humans, we work the same way, at least in some instances. I can think of the jingle of the ice cream truck down the street, the way the way a certain song brings back a memory, or even the tone of someone's voice calling our name from another room. We recognize these things instantly, almost instinctively.

That instinct, recognizing a voice and responding to a familiar call, is exactly what Jesus is getting at in this Gospel. "The sheep hear his voice...he calls his own sheep by name...they follow him because they recognize his voice." Just like Runny Babbit learned to associate that bell with something good, the sheep learn the voice of the shepherd because they have experienced it before. That trusted voice is one that has led them to food and to life.

And that raises an important question for us: whose voice are we listening to?

Because, unlike a bunny in a cage or sheep in a pasture, we are surrounded by an endless cascade of voices. Voices that compete for our attention. Voices that promise happiness, success, comfort, or control. Some are loud and constant, while others are subtle and persuasive. But not all of them lead us to life.

Jesus is very clear: "A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." The challenge is that the "thief" doesn't usually sound like a thief. Those voices can sound very attractive, even convincing. Over time, they can train us to respond to them almost automatically, kind of like a spiritual "Pavlov's effect." We start to react without even thinking and automatically chase approval or comfort, believing those things will satisfy us.

But Jesus offers something deeper and he calls each of us "by name." His voice is personal and it leads to abundant life. The more we listen to his voice, the more we begin to recognize it. Over time, we begin to distinguish his voice from all the others. And just like those sheep, we begin not only to recognize his voice, but to follow it.

Many of our young parishioners have followed the voice of Jesus to the sacrament of Holy Communion as they received the Eucharist for the first time last weekend and this weekend, congratulations! Several of our students at St. Thomas School received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist as they expressed their desires to become Catholic! Many of our high schoolers will receive the sacrament of Confirmation by Bishop Mark next month! What beautiful examples of following the voice of Jesus.

Please join me in thanking Sarah Guerra, our Media Coordinator at the parish, who has accepted a new position at St. Gabriel's Church in Schenectady. Sarah has coordinated our social media posts, bulletins, website, photography, and weekly updates for the past several years. Her efforts have been key to spreading the good news of the Gospel and of St. Thomas Church! Sarah, thank you, and God bless you in this next chapter!

A reminder for this week: I'm taking the week off and heading to Ireland with one of my priest friends. It's been on the bucket list for a while now! I'll be back on Friday evening, which means no Masses, Confession, or Adoration Monday, April 27 through Friday, May 1. I'll see you next weekend!

Peace to you,

FR. MATT

OCIA

ENJOY SHARING YOUR FAITH WITH OTHERS?

OCIA is looking for new catechists to join the team and lead discussions for those preparing for the sacraments. We meet on Sundays at 9am. Contact Joe Creamer (joecreamergmail.com) if interested in joining our team.

PEACE AND PUBLIC POLICY

UPDATES AS OF APRIL 14

Thank you for your advocacy. Updates have been placed on our website, please visit stthomas-church.org/pax-christi or contact Marie Copeland mariec-opeland62@gmail.com

TUESDAY DRIVES

APRIL 28

Easter Tuesday Drive set for April 28, 3pm-4pm is for the Sr. Maureen Joyce Center's Food Pantry. Personal hygiene items are most needed: deodorant, shower jell, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream and feminine hygiene products. God bless you for your continued generosity!

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.

GET IN TOUCH

PARISH STAFF

Patricia Holm,

Pastoral Associate, Administration
pholm@stthomas-church.org

Louise Schrecongost, Office Assistant
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Mike Markham,

Accounting and Finance

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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

PARISH MINISTRIES

DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2026-SPRING 2027 FOR ALL GRADES 1-12 IS NOW BEING ACCEPTED



Registration includes those new to our Discipleship Formation Program and our Sacramental Prep for: First Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation which are two year prep programs. Confirmed young people are encouraged to register for Confirmed in the Spirit to remain active in our parish and serve as Confirmed Catholics. Registration for Confirmed in the Spirit is free! Questions or concerns reach out to Colleen Harrigan our Discipleship Formation Secretary at charrigan@stthomas-church.org or call our parish office 518-439-4951 Mon.-Thurs. 8:30am-2:00pm. We look forward to accompanying you on your faith journey. Peace! <https://shorturl.at/yIYC2>

DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION PRAYER REQUESTS!

We invite our parish family to pray for our Confirmation Candidates who will be sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit here at St. Thomas on Saturday May 9, Come Holy Spirit, Come!!

S.A.L.T. SERVICE ACTION LEARNING TEAM

Hosted by the Diocese of Albany Youth Ministry—High School SALT Sunday. Aug. 9, 5pm-7pm & Aug. 10-12, 8:30am-5:30pm at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish 498 Watervliet-Shaker Rd, Latham. Cost is \$75. Middle School S.A.L.T. Sunday Aug. 16, 5pm-7pm and Aug. 17-18, 8:30am-5pm at Church of St. Clare, 1947 Central Ave, Colonie. Cost is \$50. Most service activities will be completed off campus at various agencies. For more info see flyers in the Gathering Hall or contact Dave Stagliano david.stagliano@rcda.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS!

As of this weekend, we have welcomed 48 children to the Table of the Lord for the first time as they made their First Holy Communion during these last 2 weekends of April. Please pray for them and their families during this most wonderful time of their lives as they embrace Jesus; body, blood, soul and divinity, for the first time!

PARISH OFFICE

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS!

Welcome to our new parishioners Rosemary and John Troccoli; Dawn and Robert Baker, and their sons, Ethan and Benjamin; Kasey and William Zeininger, and their daughter, Magnolia; Christy and Adam Kissick, and their children, Iris and Lucas. Congratulations to the families of Hudson Michael Snyder and June Elizabeth Thomas who were recently baptized at St. Thomas. We are blessed to have you here!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

This day of prayer is observed on Sunday, April 26, 2026, also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes. Resources for promoting vocations can be found on the USCCB website.

CROWING OF MARY

Our Living Rosary for Peace & Crowning of Mary is next Monday, May 4 at 7:00pm in the Church. Various Ministries will lead us in prayer. Following the Crowning of Mary we will proceed to the Peace Pole to pray the Litany of Mary. Hospitality will follow in the Gathering Hall. All are invited to honor our Mother Mary and pray for peace. Sponsored by Pueblo to People Ministry and Discipleship Formation/ Youth Ministry. Mary, Queen of Peace, Pray for us!

STEWARDSHIP

WEEKLY OFFERING

APRIL 11-12

Total Weekly Collection: \$19,959.15
Includes E-giving: \$5,195.00
Includes Loose Cash Gifts: \$3,275.00
Total Number of Gifts: 301

MAY BAPTISM CLASS RESCHEDULE

The Baptism class in May will be held on Sunday, May 17 at 6pm in the parish office.

518 FRASSATI (AGES 21-39)

SAVE THE LAND SERVICE PROJECT



Sat, May 2, 9am-noon, Patroon Land Farm. Register at <https://shorturl.at/TARyD> to come plant 70,000 cabbages with us for our food insecure neighbors on I Love My Park Day! It's Patroon Land

Farm's 20th anniversary, and we're thrilled to be celebrating it with them and with our good buddies at Twin Bridges and Spa City!

BISHOP MARK YA Q&A & CHINESE FOOD



Wed, May 20, 7pm, St. Edward the Confessor Social Hall. We won't be holding our regularly scheduled meeting this Wednesday--YA's from near and far, come one

come all! Bishop Mark will be introducing himself to the young adult community and sharing his vision and hopes for young adults in the Diocese. A Q&A will follow his talk. Refreshments rich in MSG will be provided and registration is required on or before May 12, so please use this link to sign up <https://shorturl.at/SyEyD> and submit your questions!

EDUCATIONAL, SPIRITUAL & SOCIAL EVENTS

OCIA: April 26, 9 am | Conference Room

Choir Rehearsal: April 26, 9:45 am | Mary Chapel | New members welcome!

Sunday Hospitality: April 26, 11:30 am | Gathering Hall

Tuesday Drive: April 28, 3-4 pm | Gathering Hall

Respect Life Apostolate Meeting: April 29, 6:30pm | Conference Room

"518 Frassati" Young Adult Group: April 29, 7 pm | Gathering Hall

Bereavement Support Group: April 30, 10 am | Conference Room

Reflecting on the Sunday Scriptures Group: May 1, 10:30 am | Conference Room

Prayer Vigil for Peace: May 2, Noon | Peace Pole

For more information visit our website!

Our young people who received their
1st Communion on April 18.



PARISH MINISTRIES

PASTORAL CARE

DO YOU LIKE TO COOK AND TO SHARE YOUR TALENTS WITH OTHERS?

Then, please consider joining the St. Thomas Meal Ministry team. We deliver home-cooked meals to ill, bereaved, or postpartum parishioners. We are in need of more team members! Please send your contact info to Julie Bablin jbablin@stthomas-church.org or call the parish office, if you are interested in joining.

CREATION CARE

OUR CHALLENGE

"We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation." (<https://www.usccb.org/resources/Seven%20Themes%20of%20CST%20Two-Page%20Resource.pdf>) As stated on the US Conference of Catholic Bishops website, it is a challenge that "has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored." Every parishioner of St. Thomas the Apostle is invited to be part of The Creation Care Ministry. Stop by the Creation Care Ministry Table in the Church Gathering Hall and put your name on the sign-up sheet. A ministry member will contact you and invite you to the next team meeting.

COMMUNITY GOOD NEWS

FREE COURSES THROUGH FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE

Diocese of Albany: Office for Discipleship Formation in partnership with Franciscan University of Steubenville: Catechetical Institute offers an opportunity for personal & professional faith development. *NO Cost to participate* You will find wonderful resources for your personal enrichment and to learn more about what the Catholic Church teaches. You will also find resources to use as part of your preparation or ongoing formation in a particular area of ministry. This program is an opportunity to learn with others in your faith community. Courses can be done individually but are designed to be done with others. Consider inviting at least one other person to learn along with you at Franciscanathome.com/diocese-albany On Diocese of Albany page at Catechetical Institute find your parish under the My Parish is registered box and setup your account to access the programs. Any questions contact Office for Discipleship Formation discipleshipformation@rcda.org

VOICES TO GOD CONCERT

Saturday, September 19 Presented by: St. Matthew's Josh Baldwin/David Leonard - "VOICES TO GOD" at the Universal Preservation Hall in Saratoga Springs. Concert: 7pm Regular Admission: \$45 Doors opening at 6:16pm VIP Meet and Greet \$60 @ 5:30pm with Doors opening at 5:30pm Tickets are on sale now! secure.proctorscollaborative.org/overview/voices-to-god-2026

VALLEYCATS GAME

Join St. Matthew's for a fun evening at the ValleyCats game on Friday, June 5 at 6:30pm! Enjoy premium seating in Section 130 and stay for fireworks after the game. Tickets are \$13 per person and include \$5 in loaded value for food and

concessions. Paid reservations required by May 31. Checks can be made payable to St. Matthew's Church. For more information or to reserve your tickets, contact Peggy McQuade at 518-765-2805 (ext. 14) or st.mattswelcome@gmail.com

WALK WITH GOD CONCERT

Join Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Latham on Sunday, April 26 at 3pm for an inspiring Easter season concert featuring Richard Putorti with Family and Friends of Siena University. Enjoy contemporary Christian music, followed by fellowship and refreshments. All are welcome. A free will offering will be taken. Bring a friend!

LATE NITE CATECHISM

St. Matthew's has reserved group tickets for Late Nite Catechism at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall on Sunday, June 14 at 2pm. This interactive, one-woman comedy transforms the theater into a 1950s-style Catholic classroom, where audience members become part of the show! Tickets are \$62 per person for Parquet Right Center seating. Payments can be made by mailing a check to St. Matthew's Church. Tickets will be emailed to attendees. The reservation deadline is May 26.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

Hurting from an abortion? Experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat, May 29-31 at the Dominican Retreat & Conference Center in Niskayuna. Discussions, spiritual exercises, Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and a Mass of Entrustment. Participation is strictly confidential. \$195 and financial assistance is available. For more info or to register contact: Pat Mousaw, 518-222-1160 or email rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com. For a complete listing of retreat dates and locations contact: 1-877-HOPE-4 ME or visit rachelsvineyard.org.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL

JOIN US FOR THE ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY!

This is a wonderful chance for our parish and school families to come together and enjoy time with one another. Bring your family and invite a friend for an afternoon of good food, music, games, and fun. We hope you'll join us as we gather in community on June 6th from 1-5pm!

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

Lisa Maestro, Director of

Enrollment and

Advancement

лмаestro@stthomas-school.org



TODAY'S LEARNERS,
TOMORROW'S LEADERS,
FORWARD IN FAITH

Suggested
Donation
\$10/person



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL Community Block Party

Local Business Fair
Food Trucks

Live Music
Lawn Games



Kids' Fun Zone



- BOUNCE HOUSES
- CARNIVAL GAMES
- PETTING ZOO
- PONY RIDES
- ALBANY COUNTY SHERIFF'S
ROCK WALL 1PM - 4PM

- FACE PAINTING
- MAGIC SHOW @ 2PM
- RAFFLES, 50/50
- FIRE TRUCKS, POLICE
CARS, & MORE!

**CORNHOLE
TOURNAMENT**



***TEAMS NEED TO
PRE-REGISTER**

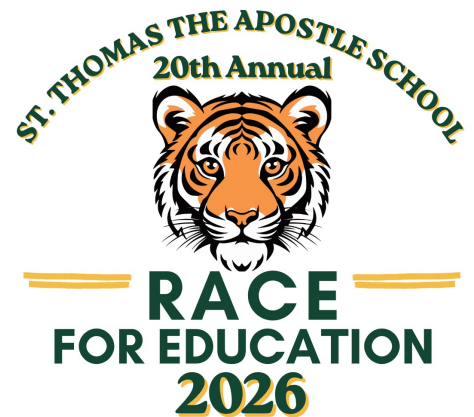
GET READY FOR THE PARTY OF THE SEASON!

JUNE 6TH | 1PM - 5PM



42 ADAMS PL, DELMAR NY 12054

Open to the Community!



OUR 20TH ANNUAL RACE FOR EDUCATION IS OFF TO A GREAT START!

This benefit run will raise funds for STEM, sports programs, and helps keep tuition affordable for all students. Cheer on students as they run, walk and participate in a day of fitness on Friday, May 3rd. To sponsor a runner or support our students, mail a check to St. Thomas the Apostle School - Race for Education, 42 Adams Place, Delmar, NY 12054 or visit <https://givebutter.com/race-for-ed-2026>



PRAYER & CATECHESIS

LIVE THE LITURGY

BLESSING OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Dear Jesus,
Be the Good Shepherd in my life.
Help me to know your voice and to
respond. Help me to find your fold
and the paths on which you lead.
Bless me with verdant pastures and
restful waters. Refresh my soul.
Amen.

©LPi

CATHOLIC CULTURE

VIRTUES, EXPLAINED! CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND GROW YOUR FAITH

HUMILITY

"If anyone wishes to be first," Christ
told the Apostles in the Gospel of
Mark, "he must become the last of
all and the servant of all." (Mark
9:35).

True humility does not require us to
ignore, underestimate or hide our
gifts — it merely demands that we
use these gifts rightly, with the
knowledge that they are from our
Creator and meant for His glory, not
our own. "Man is a beggar before
God," said St. Augustine. The
Blessed Mother is the perfect model
of this, and her Magnificat (Luke
1:46-55) is a blueprint for a life lived
in joyful humility. Humility, says the
Catechism, is also the key to a fruit-
ful prayer life: "Humility is the foun-
dation of prayer. Only when we
humbly acknowledge that 'we do not
know how to pray as we ought,' are
we ready to receive freely the gift of
prayer." (CCC 2559)

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MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 | 5:00 PM

James Fuller
requested by the Maeders
Brian Jordan
Barbara Hodom (Happy Wedding
Anniversary)
requested by her family

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 | 7:30 AM

Grace M. Ricchiuti
requested by Mr. and Mrs. Robert
Ricchiuti
Ruth DePaoli
requested by her family

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 | 10:30 AM

For the People

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 | 5:00 PM

Sharon & Jamie Tietgens (Living
Intention)
requested by Kelly
Nicholas Elacqua (15th Anniversary)
requested by his children

MONDAY, APRIL 27 | 7:30 AM

Mike Pizzitola (Living Intention)
requested by Fulvia Pizzitola
Jerome Quenneville
requested by Vera Bordi

TUESDAY, APRIL 28 | 12:15 PM

Margaret Devine
requested by Patrick & Joan Horan
Matthew Finn (18th Anniversary)
requested by his parents

THURSDAY, APRIL 30 | 7:30AM

Memorial Fund

FRIDAY, MAY 1 | 12:15 PM

Michael A. Skowronek
requested by the Potenza Family
Michael Dwyer
requested by Friends in the Funeral
Ministry
John Michael Bobak (3rd Anniversary)
requested by the Bernasconi Family

SATURDAY, MAY 2 | 5:00 PM

For the People
Judi Kavaney
requested by the Witting Family

SUNDAY, MAY 3 | 7:30 AM

Rose Porcello
requested by Mr. & Mrs. Robert
Ricchiuti
John Gadani
requested by Anne & Paul Krajewski

SUNDAY, MAY 3 | 10:30 AM

Carol Esposito
requested by Women of Mary
Ann Lala
requested by Karen Jones

SUNDAY, MAY 3 | 5:00 PM

John & Maria Sypek
requested by their family
Serafin Canto
requested by Barbara Ruggirello

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

THE WEEK OF APRIL 26, 2026

Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/ Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:11-18 (second choice)

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/ Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday, Memorial of Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church:
Acts 12:24-13:5a/ Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Jn 12:44-50

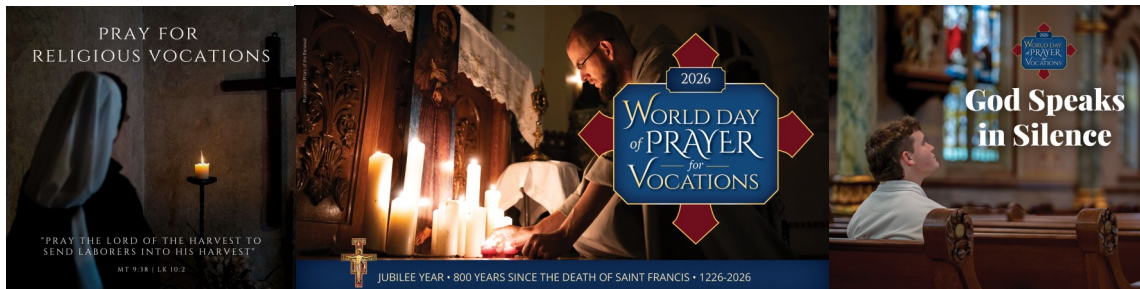
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/ Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33/ Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6

Saturday, Memorial of Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church: Acts 13:44-52/ Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 14:7-14

Next Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12

April 26, 2026



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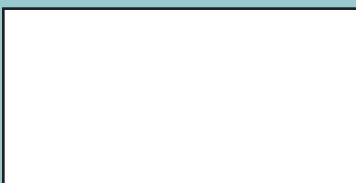
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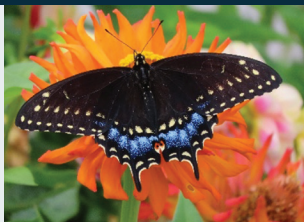
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