

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
4275 Fourth Street, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20032
Telephone: 202-562-0431 Fax: 202-563-7347
E-mail: stmchurch@comcast.net Website: www.stthomasmoredc.org
School: 202-561-1189

~ *March 29, 2020* ~



***Our Focus for 2020: With New Eyes,
A Fresh Vision and Pure Hearts.***

Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Raymond Moore, Pastor, x12
Ms. Patricia Hamilton, Pastoral Administrator, x11
Mrs. Mary Waters, Office Assistant, x10
Mr. Gerald Smith, Academy Principal
Ms. Wanda Brooks, Coordinator of Religious Education, x31
Mr. Henry Herrera, Gospel Choir Director
Mrs. Charnetta Dobbins, Youth Choir Director
Mrs. Denese Clay, Glorify Praise Team Director
Mrs. Barbara Elliott, Parish Council Chair
Ms. Diana Brown, Finance Council Chair

Mass Schedule:

Saturday	5:00 pm	(Rectory Chapel)
Sunday	8:45 am	Youth Choir
	11:30 am	Gospel Choir
Weekdays	8:00 am	(Rectory Chapel)

Bulletin Deadline: Items for Sunday's Bulletin must be received via email by 12:00pm Monday in order to have them included in Sunday's publication. Thank you for honoring this important timeline.

Baptism: Please call the Parish Office to register for classes.

Confession: After Sunday Masses, by appointment, or on Saturday afternoon at 4:00 pm in the Rectory.

Marriage: Diocesan policy requires notification to the priest at least six months in advance. Attendance at pre-Cana classes is also required. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

Pastoral Care of the Sick: Please notify the Parish Office when a member of the parish is in the hospital, nursing home, or is otherwise unable to come to Mass and wishes to receive any of the sacraments.

Religious Education:

Interested in becoming a Catholic? Please contact Fr. Raymond Moore at the Rectory.
CCD Classes: Every Sunday at 10:30am
Bible Study: Every Tuesday at 7:30pm

Fifth Sunday of Lent
Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Ez 37:12-14~God's life-giving presence restores Israel.

Responsorial: Ps 130: With the Lord here is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Reading II: Rom 8:8-11~St. Paul promises the Romans that "through his Spirit dwelling in them," their "mortal bodies" would receive life.

Gospel: John 11:1-45~Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

Readings for Next Sunday (Palm Sunday)

Mt 21:1-11

Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Mt 26: 14—27:66

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Dan 13:41c-62	John 8:1-11
Tuesday:	Num 21:4-9	John 8:21-30
Wednesday:	Dan 3:14-20, 91-92, 95	John 8:31-42
Thursday:	Gen 17:3-9	John 8:51-59
Friday:	Jer 20:10-13	John 10:31-42
Saturday:	Ez 37:21-28	John 11:45-56

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	In loving memory of Agnes Baker In loving memory of Sr. Thea Bowman
Monday	Safekeeping of STM Parishioners
Tuesday	In loving memory of William Kemp
Wednesday	Marie Edelin-Birthday
Thursday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Friday	In memory of Doris & Dcn Martin-STM Prayer Gp
Saturday	In memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

PLEASE KEEP THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Shirley Adams, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Viola Barnes, Betty Beatty, Shirley Brown, Francillia Browne, Cynthia Bruce, Felicia V. Bush, John Bush, Audrey Caldwell, Jane Cannon, Dixie Clark, Shertia Clark, Odessa Curtis, Francess Davies, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Renee Feliu, Diane Finley, Priscilla Fuller, Craig Fulmer, Betty Furr, Tasha Gant, David Garner, Tyrone Garrison, Brenda Green, Zynae Green, Emmanuel Greene, William Gunn, Andre Harris, Margaret Harris, Vance Harris II, June Harrison, Shant'e Hawkins, Maximillon Holland, Elizabeth Holmes, Darryl Jackson, Dr. Jimmie Jackson, Ivy John, Sarah Jones, Seymour & Patrick Jones, David Larison, Dennis Lucas, James Makle, Jr., Gloria & William McCaskill, Emma McEntyre, Betty Moeller, Gloria Morgan, Dorothy Myrtle, Angela Neal, Tammy Peterson, Charles Queen, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Arthur Robinson, Jean, Leroy & Robert Robinson, Yolanda Rollins, Thelma Sawyer, Robin SESCOE, Ciara Shields, Brenda Smith, Edsel Swann, Jane Thomas, Mary Travers, Kristine Vivican, Rev. Raymond Wadas, Kayla Warren, Paul Waters, Marilyn Denise Whetstone, Anita Williams, Kobe M. Williams, David Wilson, Jean Wright, Marianne Young, **and all who are Sick/ Shut-In.**

~ PRAYER REQUESTS ~

Please pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of Agnes Baker, age 99, mother of our dedicated parishioners, James Bowman and Thomas Baker, and for the consolation and comfort of her family.

Your continued prayers are requested for Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey Caldwell, Suzanne Chandler, Francess Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Elizabeth Holmes, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Robert Robinson, Yolanda Rollins, Margaret Spencer, Mary Travers our members who are on the road to recovery, sick, shut-in or grieving; **and Pope Francis, Archbishop Gregory, Fr. Moore, Fr. Casmir, Ed Poindexter & Dcn. Ralph Cyrus.**

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP

When someone is given a great deal, a great deal will be demanded of that person, when someone is entrusted with a great deal, of that person, more will be expected. (Lk 12:48b)

Father, we bring our offerings now to be joined with those of many others as we cooperate to accomplish your purpose in this world. May every tithe, every gift, and all offerings be magnified by power that they may ably serve your purpose in Christ, Jesus, our Lord. May our generosity be a blessing to others. AMEN!

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH THROUGH THE CRISIS!

Thanks to all of you who have continued to support the church during this time of crisis. Despite the pandemic and not having Mass for two consecutive Sundays, some of you have managed to mail or drop off your tithes which amounted to **\$1,700.00** and **\$100.00** for the Maintenance Collection. Electronic contributions through Faith Direct amounted to **\$4,667.54**.

Please continue to support the church in the manner in which you are most comfortable. You may **donate online by going to the STM web page: www.stthomasmoredc.org** and clicking on "Donate" and then on "Make A One Time Gift Now." You will then be asked for credit card information. Making a one-time gift DOES NOT sign you up for Faith Direct!

Thanks for supporting St. Thomas More!

FAITH DIRECT!

Can't find your checkbook or envelope Sunday morning?

Join the parishioners who are using *Faith Direct* for automated giving to St. Thomas More Church. It is secure, convenient and *Faith Direct* will provide you an Offertory Card to place in the basket during the collections. There is no cost to you, and the program provides a great benefit to our parish.

Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/DC773.

ENLISTING WITNESSES FOR JESUS CHRIST

Youth Religious Education: Attendance is paramount to all that we teach and learn about Jesus. Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30am. Parents desiring their children to receive the sacraments of *Baptism, First Communion, Confession or Confirmation* should enroll their children in our Sunday School Program.

Youth Ministry: Our Youth Ministry Program, for youth who have received the sacrament of Confirmation through the twelfth grade, meets during the school year on Sunday mornings at 10:30 in the rectory living room. All youth are encouraged to participate.

Adult Faith Formation Class Forming: We are presently enrolling adult candidates for *Baptism and reception into the Catholic Church*. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church, please complete the registration form in the back of the church and turn in to ushers.

Adult Bible Study: Our Adult Bible Study meets each *Tuesday evening at 7:30pm* in the rectory. All are welcome to join in our study of God's word.

~ **ELDERS' PRAYER FOR OUR YOUNG** ~

Creator God,
Jesus, our Savior,
Holy Spirit of Wisdom, knowledge and understanding:
Bless our young with
Minds eager to learn,
Memories strong to remember,
Hearts ready to love,
And lives committed to Jesus Christ.
Keep them safe this week under the protection of
Your Grace and Mercy.
This we pray through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

~ **PASTOR'S PEN** ~

* **This Week's Special Message** *

Dear Church Family,

As we enter into this Fourth Week of Lent and our third week without celebrating and gathering for Sunday Mass, I want to assure you of my prayers for each one of you and your families as well. May you all be safe and healthy in the days ahead. I must confess that your faith and loving response to this crisis is both inspiring and most encouraging. I am especially grateful for those of you who have reached out to others with offers of support and service which is most comforting. We must continue to look out for each other.

Despite the Coronavirus, we, as disciples of Christ, are still on our 40 day journey of Lent. This year we are presented with new and different opportunities for spiritual growth in our prayer, fasting and charity. While very difficult, Social distancing, allows more time to focus on prayer and scripture. I hope you are taking advantage this. We are also able to be more intentional in our works of charity as we reach out to serve one another. And then there is fasting! We are fasting in new ways as our daily routines are radically changed, as we deal with less of many things. Essentially, fasting means "going without." When we experience losses in this life we are able to fill those empty places with what really matters—Jesus Christ. So I invite you to join with your church family as we journey through the suffering and death of Jesus to the glory of Easter and resurrection keeping in mind that there is no Easter without the Good Friday, no crown without the cross, no eternal life without earthly death.

1. Play It Safe: Please be sure to continue to adhere to the best practices which have been recommended such as social distancing, hand washing, and staying at home and avoiding close contact with others.

2. Reaching Out To You: We have formed the **STM Community Connection Ministry** to reach out to all of the STM Church family to be of service in meeting needs that may arise during this crisis. You are invited to contact Clinton Ray (240-271-6164), Margaret Spencer (202-561-8974) or Margaret Butler (301-702-1398) or the Church office (202-562-0431).

3. Mass On Air and Online: Mass is celebrated daily on EWTN Catholic Television. The Archdiocese of Washington livestreams Mass on adw.org/live-streamed-mass-and-prayers/. **The Sunday TV Mass** is broadcast on WDCW 50 at 10:30am Sunday morning: Comcast DC channel 23, and PG channel 3. Please make use of the *Word Among Us* and *It Is Finished, the last words of Christ*.

4. Food Pantry: At the present time the food pantry is closed to the public. However, any members of our church family who have a need for food should call the church (202-562-0431).

5. Your Financial Support: St. Thomas More, like most churches, depends on the financial support of our members. This is especially true under the present circumstances. Please do whatever you can to continue to support our church. You may mail your tithes and offerings, or you may use Faith Direct electronic giving by going online: faith.direct/DC773.

(**PASTOR'S PEN CONTINUED**)

6. Pray for Our Church and the World: With confidence in God's grace and mercy, continue to pray for healing for each other, and the whole world.

7. Stay Informed with Flock Notes: If you are not yet signed up, please see direction for Flock Notes in this Bulletin.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who came together to form the STM Community Connections, under the leadership of *Clinton Ray*. Thanks also, Clint, for your Flock Notes Communications of important community resources. *Be Strong, Be Blessed and Stay Safe since "There is no weapon formed against us that can prosper.*

Let's pray for each other!

Father Moore

Please keep in your prayers all those preparing to receive the following Sacraments:

~ **Baptism** ~

*Dominique Brooks Tylia Pilgrim
Taj Lee Tolliver*

~ **First Holy Communion** ~

*Dominique Brooks Penelope Hawkins
Ashwin Gordon Jonah Kamara
Terrence Tyer, Jr.*

~ **Confirmation** ~

*Ariana Brooks Tyree Jones
Renee' Douglas Tyrone Jones
Dionni Gillis Journee Logan
Brianna Jean-Charles Aysha May
Gabriel Jean-Charles James M. Morton III
Nahsaan Curtis DeMarcus Moore*

~ **Full Communion** ~

Njeri Jarvis Washington

2020 LENT/HOLY WEEK/EASTER SCHEDULE

Confessions

Sundays after both Masses
Tuesdays from Noon to 1:00pm & 6:30 to 7:30pm
in the Rectory Chapel.

April 5- Palm Sunday

*Blessing and Distribution of Palms
Mass at 5:00pm (Vigil), 8:45am & 11:30am*



PASCHAL TRIDUUM

(7:30pm each evening)

April 9- Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of Feet

April 10- Good Friday

Service of the Lord's Passion (Youth Passion Play)

April 11- Great Easter Vigil

Mass, Baptisms and Reception into the Church

****EASTER****

April 12- Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection

Mass at 8:45am & 11:30am

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC ACADEMY



*Serving Students in Grades Pre-K3-8
Catholic Environment ~ Academically Excellent*

Mr. Gerald Smith, Jr., Principal

Before & After School Care Provided. (202)-561-1189

SODALITY SCHOLARSHIPS!!

ATTENTION, STM High School Seniors, plus 8th Grade parishioners and/or STM Academy students planning to attend a Catholic high school during the 20-21 school year:

The St. Thomas More Sodality will be awarding scholarships in the amount of \$300 for seniors, and \$150 for 8th graders. Detailed information may be found on the table near the main entrance of the church. **Due date is on/before May 31, 2020.**

Questions: Please contact Ms. Judy Kenner, 301-839-3012.

STM FOOD PANTRY

**PLEASE HELP US PROVIDE
NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR FAMILIES!**

We are seeking the following donated items:

~DRY GOODS~

Rice/Pasta/Beans/Hot & Cold Cereal

~CANNED GOODS~

Meat/Tuna/Soup/Fruits & Vegetables

*STM has served as a REFUGE OF RELIEF for many!
Food/Monetary donations will help keep our pantry viable!
Thank You! God Bless!*



SHARE INFORMATION!

Value Package- \$22.00.

Schedule for APRIL 2020:

Sign-up~ April 5, 2020 (Anticipated Date)

Pick-up ~ Sat., April 25, 2020, 9-10am

Please also consider making a monetary donation of \$22.00 to provide a SHARE Package to a family in need. If interested, please see any member of our SHARE Team. Thank you!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

(Once we are able to resume normal activities.)

Sunday	Religious Ed Classes-(10:30am-Classrooms) Second Chance (3:30pm-Old Library)
Monday	Youth Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm-Church)
Tuesday	Bible Study (7:30pm-Rectory Living Rm) NCW 2 nd Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
Wednesday	NCW 1 st Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm) Praise Team Rehearsal (7:00pm-Church)
Thursday	Adult Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm-Church)
Friday	AA (8:00pm-Old Library)
Saturday	NCW Communities (8:00pm-Church)

~ FLOCK NOTES TECHNOLOGY ~

*So far *127* of you have signed up for this new communications tool. Flock Notes has been a very valuable tool for spreading important information about recent events and activities around STM! **Here is how you sign up:***

For those who are “tech savvy”, you may self-register for “Flock Notes” by following these easy steps:

1. *Go to your cell phone and create a new text message.*
2. *Put 84576 in the field.*
3. *Put stm4265 (all lower case) in the body of text.*
4. *Hit “Send.”*
5. *Click the link in the reply message*
6. *Complete the name page, hit save.*
7. *Choose your groups, hit next*
8. *Complete the rest of the fields, hit save.*
9. *You will receive an email to verify your email address, click verify my email*
10. *You will receive another email to create a password, click create password*
11. *Once your password is set it will log you into Flock Notes.*

If this does not work for you, please complete the “Joining Flock Notes” form and we will assist you.

~ LENTEN GUIDELINES ~

The Discipline for fasting and abstinence were introduced by Pope Paul VI in 1966. Here is a breakdown of what the Church asks of us:

-Fasting means eating a lesser amount of food. While fasting, only one full meal is taken. Two other smaller meals are usually eaten. While fasting, we do not snack between meals!!

*-Catholics who are 18 years of age and not yet 60 years old are asked to observe the fast days of the Church. There are only two days of fasting: **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.***

-Abstinence means not eating any meat. Dairy products as well as fish and seafood may be eaten.

*-The church has established **ASH WEDNESDAY and ALL THE FRIDAYS OF LENT AS DAYS OF ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT.** We both **FAST and ABSTAIN** on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday!*

~ 2020 EASTER HOLIDAY CLOSURES ~

***Pastor’s Bible Study** will be on Break April 7 & 14.*

***Religious Ed Classes** will not meet on Easter Sunday.*

***Office Closures:** The church office will be closed Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Monday.*

STM SODALITY TRIP!

Please join the Sodality for a trip to see “**Queen Esther**” at Sight & Sound Theater, Lancaster, PA on **Wednesday, July 29, 2020.** Cost: Adults-\$150; Children (2-12 yrs.) \$85. *Payment schedule available on flyers posted in the church.*

Contacts: Laura Brown, 301-899-8099; Margaret Butler, 202-549-1506; Margarine Neal, 202-438-1865.