

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
4275 Fourth Street, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20032
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School: 202-561-1189

April 5, 2020 ~ Palm Sunday



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



Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion Preparing to Hear God's Word

Palm Sunday Procession: Mt 21:1-11

Reading I: Is 50:4-7~ God's servant knows how to hear and speak.

Responsorial: Ps 22: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Reading II: Phil 2:6-11 ~ God exalted Jesus, who emptied himself.

Gospel: Mt 26: 14-27:66~ The Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Readings for Next Sunday-Easter

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Col 3:1-4 John 20:1-9

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Is 42:1-7	Jn 12:1-11	
Tuesday:	Is 49:1-6	Jn 13:21-33, 36-38	
Wednesday:	Is 50:4-9a	Mt 26:14-25	
Holy Thursday:	Ex 12:1-8, 11-14	1Cor 11:23-26 Jn 13:1-15	
Good Friday:	Is 52:13-53:12	Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 Jn 18:1-19:42	
Holy Saturday:	<i>Easter Vigil (Selected Readings)</i>		
	1 st -Gen1:1-2:2	3 rd -Ex 14:15-1-5:1	5 th -Is 55:1-11
	Epistle: Rm 6:3-11	Gospel: Lk 24:1-12	

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	All impacted by the Coronavirus Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Monday	Intentions of STM Parishioners
Tuesday	Bertha Tucker-Birthday
Wednesday	In loving memory of Fr. John Kinter
Thursday	Fr. Moore & Fr. Casmir-Feast Day
Friday	Taneka Hollins-Birthday Maela Hamilton-Pritchett-21 st Birthday
Saturday	In memory of Ezinne S. Onyegwara-Birthday

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 victims of the Coronavirus, our medical personnel caring for them and our first responders.

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!

In these most difficult of times, thanks for your commitment to St. Thomas More in your prayers, service and financial support. Your tithes and offering last week amounted to ***\$2,417.50*** and ***\$180*** in Maintenance. This reflects only donations that were mailed in or dropped off at the rectory. Faith Direct donations are reported on a bi-weekly basis.

Please continue to support the church in the manner with 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~

Message For Palm Sunday and Holy Week

Dear Church Family,

Here we are at Palm Sunday and Holy Week. This is the most sacred time and although we will be socially distant, we are still definitely spiritually connected as we remember the final days of Jesus' earthly life. It so hard for us not to: be in church and receive blessed palms today and recall the great gift of the Holy Eucharist, wash feet on Holy Thursday, participate in the Passion on Good Friday, celebrate the Easter Vigil and welcome new Catholics in Baptism on Holy Saturday. We may not be in church, but the church is in us as we enter this Holy Week.

As difficult and different as this is, one thing is certain: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." (John 3:16). And the gift of eternal life comes only through the suffering and death of the "only Son" on that old rugged cross of Calvary. St. Leo the Great once preached, "How marvelous the power of the cross; how great beyond all telling the glory of the passion: here is the judgement seat of the Lord, the condemnation of the world, the supremacy of Christ crucified. Through the cross the faithful receive strength from weakness, glory from dishonor, life from death. God's compassion for us is all the more wonderful because Christ died, not for the righteous or the holy but for the sinful." Yes, "God so loved the world that he gave," and he gave, and he still gives life to each one of us. In the words of Good Friday's Service, we "Behold the wood of the cross on which hung the Savior of the world. Come let us adore!" And despite the circumstances of the present time we can, must and will continue to adore HIM.

Be blessed and stay safe!

Father Moore

**HOLY WEEK
LIVE STREAMED SERVICES
LEAD BY ARCHBISHOP GREGORY**

Archbishop Gregory will be celebrating the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter at the Cathedral of St. Matthew. We are invited to join him via Live-stream on the **Archdiocese of Washington You-Tube Channel:**

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at 5:30pm
Good Friday of the Lord's Passion at 1:00pm
Holy Saturday Vigil at 8:00pm
Easter Sunday Mass at 10:00am



WELCOME VISITORS!

We warmly welcome our visitors to
St. Thomas More Church!
We invite all who are seeking a church home
to join our church family.
Please sign our Guest Book located near the entrance.



Please continue to keep in prayer our candidates for the sacraments. These celebrations are delayed and will be rescheduled once it is safe to gather again!

~ 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

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.

**STM
COMMUNITY CONNECTION
MINISTRY!!**

To assist our STM Church Family during these difficult times we have formed the *STM Community Connection Ministry*.

Our goal is to reach out to the STM Church family to be of service in meeting needs that may arise during this Coronavirus crisis.

You are invited to contact Clinton Ray (240-271-6164), Margaret Spencer (202-561-8974), Margaret Butler (301-702-1398) or the Church office (202-562-0431).

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 *146* of you have signed up for this helpful and important communications tool.*

Flock Notes has been a very valuable tool for spreading important information about recent events and activities regarding St. Thomas More, particularly during the Coronavirus Emergency.

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.

CONTINUED IMPORTANT REMINDERS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS!

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.

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).

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.

Stay Informed with Flock Notes:

If you are not yet signed up, please see directions for Flock Notes in this Bulletin.

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 may be obtained from one of the Sodalists listed below.***

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