

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
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Washington, D.C. 20032
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E-mail: stmchurch@comcast.net Website: www.stthomasmoredc.org
School: 202-561-1189

~ *May 3, 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

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Acts 2:14a, 36-41~St. Peter preaches to the Jews.

Responsorial: Ps 23: The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Reading II: 1 Pet 2:20b-25~"By his wounds we have been healed." The shepherd does not lead us anyplace he has not gone first. "Christ suffered for you. "And you should follow in his footsteps."

Gospel: Jn 10:1-10~This is our call to follow in the footsteps of Jesus who is both the gate and the shepherd.

Readings for Next Sunday

Acts 6:1-7 1Pet 2:4-9 Jn 14:1-12

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Acts 11:1-18	John 10:11-18
Tuesday:	Acts 11:19-26	John 10:22-30
Wednesday:	Acts 12:24-13:5a	John 12:44-50
Thursday:	Acts 13:13-25	John 13:16-20
Friday:	Acts 13:26-33	John 14:1-6
Saturday:	Acts 13:44-52	John 14:7-14

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	Judy Kenner-Birthday In loving memory of Shantel Bright-Birthday
Monday	In loving memory of Sandra Barron-Birthday
Tuesday	Vi Davis-Birthday
Wednesday	Mary Toomer, Joy Garnett-Birthday
Thursday	In loving memory of Mable Swan
Friday	In loving memory of Julia Robinson
Saturday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones

PLEASE KEEP THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Shirley Adams, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Viola Barnes, Betty & Joseph 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 Sescoc, 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 remember in your prayers the happy repose of the souls of **Fr. Charles Green, Mable Swan and Julia Robertson**, (James Roberts' sisters) and former STM parishioner, **Francine Spurlock Pallin**, who recently passed away. Please pray also for the comfort and consolation of James and his family, Francine's loved ones, and all whose lives were enriched by Fr. Green, including his parishioners at Assumption Church, where he served as pastor from 2004-2008.

Your continued prayers are requested for **Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey Caldwell, 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!

Tithes and offerings that were dropped off or received in the mail amounted to **\$3,610.00**, and **\$200.00 for Maintenance**. Support received through **Faith Direct** (electronic giving) amounted to **\$8,269.20**.

Thank you for your financial support of your church!

Please continue to support the church in the manner with which you are most comfortable.

Thanks to all of you who have ventured into the new reality of electronic giving.

*Simply go to the STM web page: www.stthomasmoredc.org and click on "Donate" and then "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 Fourth Sunday of Easter** *

Dear Church Family,

I want to encourage each one of you to stand strong and keep your eyes fixed firmly on Jesus our Good Shepherd and listen as he calls you by name. In our Gospel today (John 10:1-10), Jesus is that Good Shepherd who calls us to follow him: "as the Shepherd **calls** his own sheep—the sheep **hear** his voice, the shepherd **walks ahead of them**, they **follow** him because they **recognize** his voice." As we deal with this pandemic, let us remain faithful to that Good Shepherd. Let the prayer of David in *Psalm 23* be ours today and every day: "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want." Despite all of the uncertainties that confront us, let's not be confused and forget we have a Good Shepherd who WILL LEAD US THROUGH THIS VALLEY OF DEATH. This present moment is temporary. And we are GOING THROUGH!! This present moment is a trial. And God uses trials to test us and to give us courage and strength. And God uses trials to bring us closer to Him.

So many people right now are dealing with the deaths of people near and dear, and this crisis prevents us from providing the kind of funeral we would want to give them, but remember "The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."

So many people are dealing with unemployment and paying bills and providing for loved ones, but remember "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."

So many people in our community are depending on food pantries and are hungry, but remember, "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."

All of us are worried and anxious about the ever -unfolding effects of the virus but we remember, "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."

All of us long for the day when we can come together in our church home here at St. Thomas More and share the Word, the Eucharist, and our love for each other. Until that day remember that "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."

And also remember the last line in today's Gospel: "I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly."

The blessings of Easter peace and mercy be with all of us.

In the joy of the Resurrection,
Father Moore

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.

**CONGRATULATIONS,
CHANDRAI JACKSON-SAUNDERS!**

We are proud to announce that Chandrai has been awarded Bishop McNamara High School's 2020 Caritas for Distinguished Alumni Award!

In the words of McNamara's president, Marco Clark: "The vision we have for our graduates today is that they will become empowered leaders, inspired by the Gospel, who transform the world. You are a shining example of this ideal and a great role model for today's young people. You have distinguished yourself professionally and personally and have made your La Reine High School and the Bernadine Franciscan Sisters proud."

We, your church family, congratulate you and share in your joy, Chandrai!



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

**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



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~ Academically Excellent ~

Mr. Gerald Smith, Jr., Principal
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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 MAY 2020:

PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES TBD.

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 again 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)

NEW!

FLOCKNOTES STREAMLINED

SIGN-UP:

A number of you have expressed a desire to be a part of our online church via Flocknotes, **joining with 163 others.**

The process has been a little complicated so, to simplify it, you are asked to contact one of these members who will help you:

Margaret Butler (Sodality Prefect)
202-549-1506

Darren Coles (Flocknotes Manager)
240-605-8467

Clint Ray
(STM Community Connection Coordinator)
240-271-6164

~ **FLOCK NOTES TECHNOLOGY** ~

So far *163* of you have signed up for this helpful and important communications tool.

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

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 listed above 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.