

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

May 17, 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

Sixth Sunday of Easter



Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17~We are not only given the Spirit by the Father, we are also given the power to share that Spirit with others, as Peter and John went to Samaria to do.

Responsorial: Ps 66: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Reading II: 1Pet 3:15-18~A prayer for Christians undergoing suffering.

Gospel: Jn 14:15-21~ Jesus promises to send us the Spirit.

Readings for Next Sunday

Acts 1:12-14 1Pet 4:13-16 Jn 17:1-11a

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Acts 16:11-15	John 15:26-16:4a
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34	John 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15, 22-18:1	John 16:12-15
Thursday:	Acts 18:1-8	John 16:16-20
Friday:	Acts 18:9-18	John 16:20-23
Saturday:	Acts 18:23-28	John 16:23b-28

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	In loving memory of Victoria Nicholas-Birthday
Monday	Victims/Survivors of Coronavirus
Tuesday	All Persons Caring for Coronavirus Patients
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	Archbishop Gregory-1 yr Anniv of Installation
Friday	Health of Audrey Caldwell
Saturday	Safekeeping of Our Youth

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 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 and their loved ones, the medical and other personnel caring for them, and all first responders. Let us also remember all who have survived this virus, including those still grappling with lingering effects.

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 **\$4,542.00**, and **\$75.00 for Maintenance**. Support received through **Faith Direct** (e-giving) amounted to **\$7,718.75**.

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!**

CONGRESS HEIGHTS POST OFFICE SERVICE RESTORED!

The challenges encountered recently at the Congress Heights (20032) Post Office seem to have been resolved. Hopefully, it is safe to mail your tithes now. Sorry for this inconvenience.

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~

The following is a statement from Washington Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory regarding the recent fatal shooting of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia.

Currently, our attention is fixated on the global deadly virus. Desperately, we search for a vaccine to combat the coronavirus pandemic. Daily, we pray for the dead, those who have lost loved ones and first responders caring for our sick.

The recent brutal killing of Ahmaud Arbery in the state of Georgia reminds us of another virus that is much older, but just as deadly. The virus of racism inflicts hatred, violence, and death in our society and in the lives of far too many people. In the Georgia case of Ahmaud Arbery, once again, an unarmed Black man has had his life violently cut short. This murderous attack, like all acts of racism, hurts all of us in the Body of Christ since we are all made in the image and likeness of God, and deserve the dignity that comes with that existence.

We also see racism destroying the lives of Jewish, Muslim, and Christian people because of their religious and ethnic heritages. Racism triggers the divisive and xenophobic attitudes of nationalism. It also targets people because of their cultural traditions or physical appearances, and it threatens immigrant people who seek nothing more than the opportunity to improve their lives and the lives of their children.

We already have the balm that cures racism - compassion, mercy, love and justice. We must make sure we apply the balm. The prophet Jeremiah reminds us to seek the balm of Gilead and we know from Scripture that the balm is Jesus. Through Jesus, we become more compassionate, merciful, and loving to seek justice for all our neighbors.

**ACKNOWLEDGING OUR
CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATES!**

Although we may not be able to honor our graduates in person just now, we would like to list their names in an upcoming Bulletin.

**If you would like to have your name listed please contact PATTIE HAMILTON directly, VIA EMAIL@:
hamisings@msn.com.**

Please submit your info to Ms. Hamilton by **Tuesday, May 26**. Be sure to include your name, contact info and the school from which you are graduating. College grads please note the degree attained. Please also include your phone number. **God Bless!**



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 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)

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.

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC ACADEMY



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- ~ Catholic Environment ~
- ~ Academically Excellent ~

Mr. Gerald Smith, Jr., Principal

*Before & After School Care Provided.
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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*

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!*

~ 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.

SHARE INFORMATION

Value Package- \$22.00.

PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR JUNE UPDATES.

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!

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.

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)

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.