

**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](mailto:stmchurch@comcast.net) Website: [www.stthomasmoredc.org](http://www.stthomasmoredc.org)  
School: 202-561-1189

***May 24, 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

## ***The Ascension of the Lord***

### ***Preparing to Hear God's Word***

**Reading I: Acts 1:1-11** ~ You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses.

**Responsorial: Ps 47:** God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpet for the Lord.

**Reading II: Eph 1:17-23**~A prayer for disciples to have all they need to carry forth Jesus' saving mission: a Spirit of wisdom and revelation, enlightenment and hope.

**Gospel: Matt 28:16-20**~Jesus commissions his disciples to go into the world and proclaim the Good News as he ascends into heaven.

### **Readings for Next Sunday**

**Acts 2:1-11 1Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 Jn 20:19-23**

### **DAILY MASS READINGS**

Monday:	Acts 19:1-8	John 16:29-33
Tuesday:	Acts 20:17-27	John 17:1-11a
Wednesday:	Acts 20:28-38	John 17:11b-19
Thursday:	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11	John 17:20-26
Friday:	Acts 25:13b-21	John 21:15-19
Saturday:	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31	John 21:20-25

### **PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:**

Sunday	In Memory & In Honor of Our U.S. Veterans
Monday	In loving memory of Ronald Johnson
Tuesday	In loving memory of Fred Bockry
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	Safekeeping of Our Youth
Friday	In memory of Sylvia Proctor Peterson-Birthday
Saturday	Margaret Spencer-Birthday

### **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, Frances 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 pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of Alfred Bockry, husband of former parishioner, Jean Bockry, and the consolation of his family.**

**Continued prayers are asked for the victims of the Coronavirus and their loved ones, those caring for them, and 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, Frances 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. Casimir, 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 **\$7,666.00**, and **\$450.00 for Maintenance**. Support received through **Faith Direct** (electronic giving) will be posted next week.

*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](http://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](http://faith.direct/DC773).*

### **STM-PAC INVITES ALL TO JOIN THESE SPECIAL "GATHERINGS" ON ZOOM!**

**On Thursday, May 28**, the STM Parish Action Committee (PAC) will be hosting an on-line *Coffee/Tea Chat with Fr. Moore*. This Zoom event will begin at **8:30am**, and last for just one hour. **ALL are welcome!**

**On Thursday, June 9**, and continuing on a bi-weekly basis, PAC will host a *Mental Health Check* with anyone who wishes to attend. The one-hour session begins at **8:30am**.

**The following connectivity info will support you in joining on-line through Zoom:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86506112799?pwd=NzBSa11XRVP5eVFSSOUZCRVFZbXdlLQOT09>**

**Meeting ID: 86506112799. Password: 045720**

For those who may not be able to connect on-line, you may **CALL-IN** on this one tap mobile number: **1-301-715-8592**. **Use the same Meeting ID and Password for calling in.**

~ **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 Ascension Day**

*Dear Church Family,*

As we prepare to resume public Masses in our church, I want to remind you that we are still in the midst of the pandemic and it is the responsibility of everyone to prevent the virus' spread. When will we come back to Mass? That is the big question everyone is asking. ***Returning to church depends first on when the Mayor will declare it safe to gather in large numbers again.***

And when we do gather, many aspects of our Sunday mornings will be very different. ***As we plan for our reopening, please keep these things in mind:***

1. The responsibility for keeping us safe and fighting the virus requires the commitment of each one of us.
2. If you are not feeling well or are in the high-risk population, please DO NOT come to church.
3. When you do come to church, first sanitize your hands upon entering the church.
4. Face coverings are required for EVERYONE.
5. Please maintain Social Distancing of 6 feet. However, members of the same household may sit closer together in the pews.
6. We will not hold hands during the Our Father.
7. The Sign of Peace is suspended for now.
8. New procedures will be explained for receiving Holy Communion.
9. Make every effort to NOT move around the church.
10. At the end of Mass we will dismiss one pew at a time to minimize contact
11. Avoid congregating and fellowshiping at the beginning and end of Mass.

These are some preliminary considerations as we prepare to resume Sunday Masses. We will be meeting to formulate our plan over the next few days. Once again, we do not have a precise date for the resumption of Mass. More details—including the process for the reception of Holy Communion will be forthcoming. These procedures are for the health and safety of us all and it the responsibility of each one of us to protect each other. ***Please pray for a smooth transition.***

***Be blessed and stay safe!***

***Father Moore***

**ALL HANDS ON DECK!**

We are expecting a large delivery of food on **Sunday, June 14, at 3:00pm.** If you are able, please lend us a hand in unloading the truck. ***Your love is most appreciated!***

~ **WELCOME** ~

**SEMINARIAN JONATHAN BARAHONA!**

We are pleased to welcome *Jonathan Barahona* to our parish. He is preparing to become a priest for the Archdiocese of Washington and is studying at Catholic University. Archbishop Gregory has assigned him to us for the summer.

***We warmly welcome Jonathan to St. Thomas More!***



***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***

**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!***

**STM**

**COMMUNITY CONNECTION MINISTRY!!**

***To assist our STM Church Family during these difficult times we still have available our***

***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**

## 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/](http://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.

## FLOCKNOTES INFORMATION!

### ~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

**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 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.**

### **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!*

## **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	<b>Office Closed-Memorial Day Holiday</b> Youth Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm-Church)
Tuesday	Bible Study (7:30pm-Rectory Living Rm) NCW 2 <sup>nd</sup> Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
Wednesday	NCW 1 <sup>st</sup> 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.