

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

July 12, 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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: *Is 55:10-11~ The promise God makes through Isaiah is that God's word will achieve "the end for which God sent it."*

Responsorial: *Ps 65: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

Reading II: *Rom 8:18-23~ We have the "first fruits of the Spirit."*

Gospel: *Matt Mt 13:1-23~ God's harvest will be fruitful and abundant.*

Readings for Next Sunday

Wis 12:13, 16-19 Rom 8: 26-27 Matt 13:24-43

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Is 1:10-17	Matt 10:34-11:1
Tuesday:	Is 7:1-19	Matt 11:20-24
Wednesday:	Is 10:5-7, 13b-16	Matt 11:25-27
Thursday:	Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-21	Matt 11:28-30
Friday:	Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8	Matt 12:1-8
Saturday:	Mic 2:1-5	Matt 12:14-21

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	In loving memory of Julie Robinson-Birthday In loving memory of Brenda Chube
Monday	In loving memory of Emma McEntyre
Tuesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Wednesday	Iona Garvey-Birthday
Thursday	Well-being of All Caregivers
Friday	In loving memory of Baby Terrell James
Saturday	Victims of Coronavirus/Their 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, Kenneth Louis, Dennis Lucas, James Makle, Jr., Gloria & William McCaskill, 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 **Emma McEntyre, 106, aunt of LaJuan Pringle and Shelby Hollins.***

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 its lingering effects. Please also pray for all victims/survivors of violence.

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, Deacon Ralph Cyrus and Seminarian Jonathon Barahona.**

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!

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY, WE ARE MAKING IT!!

*Tithes and offerings that were dropped off or received in the mail amounted to **\$5,247.00; and \$812.00 for Maintenance.** Support received through **Faith Direct (electronic giving)** will be reported later in the month.*

*There were **15 people at our reopening Mass.***

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.

STM-PAC INVITES ALL TO JOIN OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION CHATS ON ZOOM!

*On Tuesday, July 21, and continuing on a bi-weekly basis, PAC will host another **CONNECTION CHAT** with anyone who wishes to attend. **Join us as we connect to pray and check in with one another.***

The one-hour chat begins at 10:00am.

**YOU MAY ALSO JOIN USING ONLY YOUR PHONE
BY CALLING THE FOLLOWING FREE NUMBER:**

1-301-715-8592.

You will be asked to give our STM:

Meeting ID: 86506112799 AND Password: 045720.

For those who wish to join via Zoom video, please use the following info:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86506112799?pwd=NzBSa1lXRVP5eVFSSOUZCRVFZbXdlLQ09>

OR...

Simply download Zoom onto your device and click on the log-in LINK emailed via Flocknotes.

~PRAYER FOR OUR NATION~

*Rise up, Lord, in defense of your people
and this nation.*

*Do not hide your face from us in our
trials and tribulation.*

*Father of orphans, friend of the widow,
wealth of the poor,*

Provider for the hungry and the oppressed,

*Healer of the sick and hope for us all,
we rejoice in making you known to others.*

*May we find in you comfort and security
in times of pain and anxiety*

*as we work to make this country
"One nation under God."*

~PASTOR'S PEN~

**MESSAGE FOR FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

Dear Church Family,

I want to bring you up to date regarding our transitioning through the pandemic. The last time we were together in church was on March 8th, the Second Sunday of Lent. Two weeks ago we re-opened the church and celebrated our first public Mass since then. The attendance was light and reflected the abundance of caution that most of you were exercising. I want to encourage us to continue to battle the virus by practicing the recommended procedures of physical distancing, hand washing and avoiding large gatherings, like church.

Let me thank our hospitality ministers for implementing our new practices and procedures while at Mass, which are working rather well. Also we extend a word of gratitude to our Community Connection Ministry for keeping us all connected, and to the Parish Action Committee for sponsoring our Zoom chats that have been very enlightening and a source of encouragement to those who are participating.

Moving forward, we must all continue to be vigilant in preventing the spread of the virus. This means that we are going to need to develop new strategies for effective communication and education. We are working on plans for religious education, Bible study, adult formation, youth ministry and the reengagement of other ministries and organizations. This will include utilizing Zoom, Flock Notes and live streaming. We have a small team that is developing strategies for live streaming of services. This is a work in-progress, and we are moving slowly so that we can implement a quality production with minimal glitches.

With regard to the physical plant, we were blessed in being able to repave the back playground/parking lot which we had planned long before the pandemic. Please drive gently and look out for the speed bump!! Unfortunately, however, we are now challenged with problems with our seventy-year-old water system. The pipes, which are made of galvanized metal, can begin to leak with the deterioration caused by age. There was a major break a couple of weeks ago in the Cedar Room which is currently under repair.

Finally, let me share with you our plans for celebrating the sacraments. At the moment we are rescheduling the Baptisms we had planned for Easter. After the Baptisms we will schedule First Communion and Confirmation. So please continue to pray for our candidates for the sacraments and their families.

Let's continue to stand together as the Body of Christ here at St. Thomas More as:

1. We continue to fight the virus with face coverings, hand washing, and physical distancing. This is how we "love our neighbor as ourselves."
2. We reach out to others and help when the need arises. Practicing physical distancing doesn't mean social isolation. Keep on caring for each other.
3. We recognize the sacred and prophetic power we possess as we exercise our right to vote.

*Stay safe and be blessed,
Father Moore*



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

2020 ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESAN APPEAL

With the onset of the pandemic back in March, the Archdiocese suspended active solicitation of this major funding effort for ministries and services of the Archdiocese. However, we are pleased to report that thanks to your generosity our parish has, despite the pandemic, committed to pledges of \$18,265 toward our **goal of \$ 37,000**. Thanks for your generous support of the parish and the Appeal.

10:00AM SUNDAY MASS

We will celebrate Sunday Mass each week at 10:00AM for the foreseeable future. Those who attend must wear face masks. **Only those who are not at high risk due to age or health concerns should attend**, following the ushers' directions, and practicing physical distancing.

WORD AMONG US FOR JULY/AUGUST

The *Word Among Us* for July and August are now available at the Sunday Mass or at the rectory during the week. Those who are attending Mass should bring their copy with them since we will have no other printed aids such as missalettes or hymnals.

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



Serving Students in Grades Pre-K3-8

~ Catholic Environment ~

~ Academically Excellent ~

Mr. Gerald Smith, Jr., Principal

Before & After School

Care Provided.

(202)-561-1189

FOOD PANTRY DATES **FOR THE MONTH OF JULY!**

*The Food Pantry will be open on **Friday, July 24**, from 11:30am to 2:00pm in the Cedar Room.*



*Donations to the pantry will also be received on **July 24**, from 11:30am to 2:00pm in the Cedar Room.*

Helpful items include non-perishables such as Rice/Pasta/Dry Beans, Hot & Cold Cereal and

Canned goods such as

Meat/Tuna/Beans/Soup/Fruits, Vegetables, etc.

To drop food off at the rectory, please call ahead to make sure someone is there to accept it: (202-562-0431.)

Thanks to our many members who have donated to the pantry throughout this pandemic.

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.

Pick-up date: July 18, 2020

Please contact Flo Gantt for July Registration info.

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

STM SODALITY TRIP IMPORTANT STATUS UPDATE!!

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and after serious, prayerful consideration, the Sodality Executive Board has decided to **cancel our July 29th trip to Sight and Sound.**

The health and welfare of all parishioners and friends who signed up and made payments are of the utmost importance to us, and your support was extremely appreciated.

No further monies will be collected. Once our deposit is received from Nelson Travel, we will let you know when reimbursements will be made. Please direct questions to:

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

Thank you for your understanding and patience!

ST. THOMAS MORE COMMUNITY CONNECTION MINISTRY!

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

FLOCKNOTES INFORMATION!

~STREAMLINED SIGN-UP~

The process had been a little complicated for some, 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.

VIEW THE SUNDAY BULLETIN ON-LINE

Our Sunday Bulletin continues to be available on our STM website each week. Please visit www.stthomasmoredc.org to access the church website. Click on the "Sunday Bulletin" link to open the specific Bulletin you would like to view.

The Sunday Bulletin is generally uploaded onto our STM website by Thursday evening.