

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

September 20, 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

Twenty-Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time
Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: *Is 55:6-9 ~Seek God as God seeks us.*

Responsorial: *Ps 145: The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call.*

Reading II: *Phil 1:20c-24, 27 ~St. Paul ponders his future in light of the Gospel.*

Gospel: *Mt 20:1-16~Jesus is teaching us in the gospel parable that God is merciful and generous in calling us to salvation.*

Readings for Next Sunday

Ez 18:25-28 Phil 2:1-11 Mt 21:28-32

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13	Matt 9:9-13
Tuesday:	Prov 21:1-6, 10-13	Luke 8:19-21
Wednesday:	Prov 30:5-9	Luke 9:1-6
Thursday:	Eccl 1:2-11	Luke 9:7-9
Friday:	Eccl 3:1-11	Luke 9:18-22
Saturday:	Eccl 11:9—12:8	Luke 9:43b-45

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	In memory of Joe Elliott-Birthday
Monday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Tuesday	Intentions of STM Parishioners
Wednesday	Charles & Gloria McIntosh-Anniversary
Thursday	In memory of James Butler-Birthday
Friday	In memory of Sylvia Proctor-Peterson
Saturday	In memory of "KiKi" Butler-Bates-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, Frances Davies, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Renee Felio, 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, Maximillion 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, Ed Miller, 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 Sescocoe, 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 ~

Prayers are asked for the victims of the Coronavirus, their loved ones, those caring for them, and all who have survived this virus including those still grappling with its lingering effects.

Your continued prayers are requested for *Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey Caldwell, Frances Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Elizabeth Holmes, Bernard Jarvis, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Robert Robinson, Yolanda Rollins, Margaret Spencer, Mary Travers, Jawan Whittaker*, 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.

RECTORY OFFICE REOPENED!

The rectory office is now operating Monday through Friday between 9:30am and 4:00pm. *Please wear your mask!*

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP

Now, the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. (Acts 4:32)

How can we not give, Father, when we remember your abundant blessings in our own lives? Here is our offering this week. May it increase as we learn to love you more and more and understand our purpose in your perfect plan for our lives. This we pray in Jesus' name. AMEN!

~They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love~

Thanks for your loving commitment to your church family.

Tithes and offerings that were received at Mass, were dropped off or mailed in amounted to **\$2,209.00. \$277.00** for **Maintenance. Faith Direct** contributions will be posted later in the month.

Mass attendance this week: *41 people present in church, and over 67 joining by Zoom and other streaming platforms.*

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 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.

10:00AM SUNDAY MASS LIVE ON ZOOM

We will celebrate Sunday Mass each week at 10:00am for the foreseeable future. Those who wish to participate on Zoom are most welcome. **Meeting ID: 852 3811 8028, AND Password: 545701. Phone in: 1-301-715-8592.**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM

All are encouraged to join with us in our weekly Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 7:30. **The NEW Zoom Meeting ID is 87377549190. The NEW password is 548415. And, the phone dial in number is 301-715-8592.**

WORD AMONG US FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

The *Word Among Us for September and October* 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.

~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 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

Dear Church Family,

Thanks to all for your commitment and support of our church. Each week presents us with new challenges and opportunities. But despite all that is going on in our world, God is still God and God is still in charge of all that he has created. Our charge is to be faithful and generous stewards. We cannot allow pandemic fatigue to overwhelm us. We must stand fast and firm to our faith, knowing that God will make a way like he always has done in the past.

We give God thanks for an increased participation in our Sunday Mass. Last Sunday we had 41 people physically present in the Church and an estimated over 100 joining us remotely. We have received our new camera and are perfecting our ability to use it. We are grateful to Clint Ray and Gerald Smith who are navigating a variety of platforms making Sunday Mass available to an increasingly wider audience—from near and far. Thanks also to Liz Berry and Margaret Butler!!

Technology is a wonderful thing but we are unable to receive the Eucharist virtually. We are making Holy Communion available each Wednesday between 11:00am and 1:00pm, or on request at other times. Please call ahead and let us know if you are coming: 202-562-0431.

We are trying to refine our weekly Bible Study using the Zoom platform. Unfortunately, this past week we experienced a "glitch" that prevented us from meeting. This has been worked out and we should be able to resume next Tuesday. *Please see corrected information in this Bulletin.*

Lastly, I am happy to announce that our food pantry will resume weekly operations beginning on Friday, October 2nd, AT THE RECTORY, between 11:30am and 2:00pm. For the time being we will only be operating on Friday. *Please see today's Bulletin announcement regarding the pantry on the next page.*

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 sacred and prophetic power we possess as we exercise our right to vote.

May the Lord keep you safe in His peace,

Father Moore

**2020 EAST OF THE RIVER REVIVAL
VIRTUAL EVENT~OCTOBER 5, 2020!!**

*The Southeast Deanery and Partnering Churches
Present the 31ST Annual East of the River Fall Revival!*

THEME: Things Change But God Remains the Same.

Revivalist: Fr. Cornelius Ejiogu, SSJ,
Pastor of St. Luke Catholic Church, SE, DC

This **one night only event** will be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube, along with a dial in number. St. Luke's will be the host site.

To join the Revival via Live Stream:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stluke.stlukesedc/>
OR Dial-In: 425-436-6339, **Access Code:** 269675

Please help support the Revival by sending donations to:
ERRC/St. Luke Catholic Church,

4925 E. Capitol St., SE, Washington, D.C. 20019.

2020 ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESAN APPEAL!

Our Archbishop, Wilton Gregory, extends his heartfelt gratitude for our support of the 2020 Annual Appeal. Church members across the Archdiocese have contributed \$10 million for the many charitable works supported by the Appeal. Thanks for your generous support of the parish and the Appeal. **Our parish currently stands at 58% of our 2020 goal of \$37,000.** If you have not yet made your gift to the 2020 Annual Appeal, it is not too late. Simply visit appeal.adw.org and make your gift. **Thus far, we have pledged \$21,750.** Again, thanks for your generosity.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION!

Classes will begin, VIRTUALLY, in October. Parents, please check your email for Registration Forms and other pertinent information relative to the 2020-2021 Religious Education Year.



Please continue to keep in prayer our candidates for the sacrament of Confirmation:

Ariana Brooks

Nahsaan Curtis

Renee' Douglas

Tyree Jones

Dionni Gillis

Tyrone Jones

Brianna Jean-Charles

Journee Logan

Gabriel Jean-Charles

Aysha May

Lisa Chinn

James M. Morton III

DeMarcus Moore

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at 11:00am on Saturday, November 14, 2020. Please continue to pray for our candidates for this final step in their full initiation as member of the Catholic Church. May the Holy Spirit lead and guide them as they grow into maturity as young women and men of the Lord.

**CONGRATULATIONS,
DR. JIMMIE COLSON JACKSON!!**

Dr. Jimmie Jackson will be honored as 2020 inductee to the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame on September 25th. **She will be recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award as an Education Pioneer.** The mission of the NBCA Hall of Fame Foundation is to serve as a catalyst and partner for ensuring the stability, strength, and excellence of the nation's HBCU's. Dr. Jackson is a proud alumnus of Georgia's Savannah State University.

The ceremony will be Virtual. We will provide the link via Flocknotes! Congratulations, Dr. Jackson!

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC ACADEMY!



*Serving Students in Grades Pre-K3-8
Catholic Environment~Academically Excellent
Mr. Gerald Smith, Jr., Principal
(202)-561-1189*

*Please continue to pray for our STM Academy Faculty,
Staff, Scholars and Families.
The 2020-2021 School Year is now underway,
with classes being held virtually.*

FOOD PANTRY NEWS/UPDATE!

Even well before the pandemic, our community has been long recognized as a “food desert.” But with your help we have been able to assist our neighbors. We provide nutritious foods, including meats, fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs and milk in our biweekly food distributions. We are indebted to our faithful volunteers and supporters who make this possible. We are grateful to those individuals and families who have made donations of food and cash. We are also blessed with the ongoing support of the Mulholland Foundation, our Sodality and the Ward 8 Farmer’s Market.



Beginning on Friday, October 2nd we will reopen our STM Food Pantry and resume distribution on a WEEKLY BASIS AT THE RECTORY. Also, we are blessed by the Bread For The City organization, which will be giving away groceries each Wednesday, through October, on the Merrick Center parking lot. Together we can make an impact and help meet the food needs in our community.

*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 off food at the rectory, please call ahead
to make sure someone is there to accept it.*

Thanks for your help!!

****IMPORTANT REMINDER****

The Food Pantry will be distributing food from 11:30am-2:00pm on Friday, September 25, in the Cedar Room.

Donations to the pantry will also be received in the Cedar Room on September 25th.

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

STM has served as a REFUGE OF RELIEF for many!

SHARE INFORMATION

Value Package- \$22.00.

Please contact Flo Gantt for 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!

THIRTY-FIRST EAST OF THE RIVER REVIVAL PRAYER

Almighty and loving Father, we humbly pray that You will bless our Revival with the powerful assistance of your Sweet Holy Spirit. Grant that our parish may respond to this time of grace and mercy through our theme “Things Change but God Remains the Same”. Touch the hearts of our youth with the gentleness of your love and send your Spirit of Hope into their lives so that they may believe in themselves and know that they are loved, valued and needed.

Help us put aside all things that crowd our lives so that we can schedule this day to come together as a praying and fasting Catholic community. We ask for the grace to learn to live the simplicity that Jesus taught in our complex world.

Bless our revival priest, Father Cornelius Ejiogu, preacher and teacher. Prepare his heart with the message you have for us. Fill him with your Sweet Holy Spirit to help us to be transfigured in Christ.

May Mary, Our Mother, our model and guide, obtain from her divine Son, all that we need to make this a time of spiritual renewal. This we ask of You, Father, Son, and Sweet Holy Spirit who lives and reigns forever and ever.

AMEN!

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 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~

To simplify the process of signing up, 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 (Coordinator) 240-271-6164

So far *185* 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.