

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

October 18, 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-Ninth Sunday In Ordinary Time
Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: *Is 45:1, 4-6-"There is no God beside me."*

Responsorial: *Ps 96: Give the Lord glory and honor.*

Reading II: *1 Thes 1:1-5-St. Paul greets the Thessalonians*
"In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Gospel: *Mt 22:15-21-Give to God what belongs to God.*

Readings for Next Sunday

Ex 22:20-26 1 Thes 1:5c-10 Mt 22:34-40

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Eph 2:1-10	Luke 12:13-21
Tuesday:	Eph 2:12-22	Luke 12:35-38
Wednesday:	Eph 3:2-12	Luke 12:29-48
Thursday:	Eph 3: 14-21	Luke 12: 49-53
Friday:	Eph 4:1-6	Luke 12:54-59
Saturday:	Eph 4:7-16	Luke 13:1-9

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	In loving memory of Anthony B. Savoy
Monday	Well-being of Audrey Caldwell
Tuesday	Lisa Waters-Birthday
Wednesday	Gabriel Jean-Charles-18 th Birthday
	In loving memory of Devin Clay
Thursday	Health of Health of Jean Stewart
Friday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Saturday	Health of Suzanne Chandler

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, 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, 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, Gail Ruffin, 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 ~

Your special prayers for the well-being of Audrey Caldwell are asked at this time.

Please also pray for the continued health of Barbara Elliott, Suzanne Chandler and Jean Stewart.

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

Your continued prayers are requested for *Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Francess 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.*

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be expected. (Luke 12:48b)

Today we realize how much you have given for us, dear God. Inspire us to be generous givers, placing before you all that we have so that our gifts may be used for the glory of your kingdom. 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 **\$3,512.00** and **\$450** for **Maintenance. Faith Direct contributions totaled \$5,380.00.**

Mass attendance this week: 32 people physically present in church, and over 69 joining live by Zoom.

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 OCTOBER

The *Word Among Us for October* is 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.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

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

~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-NINTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

Dear Church Family,

As we transition into Autumn, and turn our attention to the Election and our celebrations of All Saints (November 1) and All Souls (November 2) and Thanksgiving, we are tempted to feel overwhelmed. The virus seems to be spreading even as we continue our efforts to remain safe and healthy. Many of us are anxious and fearful over finances, personal health and the uncertain social and political future. So, all the more reason to focus on the Lord and to hold to his unchanging hand.

Unfortunately, many of us are left without the strength that comes from God’s Grace and our fellowship with our brothers and sisters in our STM church family. *Let me offer four spiritual resolutions that may help:*

1. First, read the Word of God—the Bible— a little each day, and pray and talk to God about what you are reading. Set aside some time each day for prayer and reflection. Take advantage of our Tuesday Adult Bible Study which is growing steadily with our Zoom sessions. Don’t forget the “Word Among Us” is still available free of charge. Stop by the rectory to pick up your copy. Be intentional about setting aside time each day to read scripture and pray. If you don’t make the time, you will likely not get around to it.

2. Second, we need to worship. Make use of the many on-line opportunities to experience worship at the different churches that are streaming live. Many services are recorded to provide easy and convenient access.

3. Third, join in safe fellowship with other members of the church. Don’t be a lone ranger. Other faithful disciples can be a great support in helping us be more faithful, too.

4. Fourth, care for and serve others. As we are aware of the needs of others, our hearts are opened and we experience the love of God in a deeper way. Look around and see the needs of others.

Stay safe and stay connected to your church family.

Father Moore

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION!

Classes will begin, VIRTUALLY, this month!

Parents, please check your email for Registration Forms and other pertinent information relative to the 2020-2021 Religious Education Year.

~ 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.*

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Ace Armani Harkless, son of Arturo Harkless and Kaila Nowlin, was baptized yesterday, October 17. We are grateful that his parents made the commitment to bring Ace into the Church through Baptism.

UPCOMING BAPTISMS!

We are pleased to ask your prayers for the family of *Mia Nakia Wallace, daughter of Tony Wallace and Sherita Clark, who will be baptized on November 21st.*

We are grateful that her parents have made the commitment to bring Mia into the Church through Baptism.

Our faith teaches us: “Baptism, the door to life and to the Kingdom, is the first Sacrament, which Christ offered to all that they might have eternal life and which, together with the Gospel, he later commanded his Apostles: ‘Go, teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.’” Baptism is the sacrament by which we are incorporated into the Church and are built up together into a dwelling place of in the Holy Spirit.



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

Ariana Brooks

Renee’ Douglas

Dionni Gillis

Brianna Jean-Charles

Gabriel Jean-Charles

Lisa Chinn

Nahsaan Curtis

Tyree Jones

Tyrone Jones

Journee Logan

Aysha May

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.

****STM GOES PINK****

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month! *On Sunday, October 25*, STM-PAC wants to recognize the importance of Breast Cancer Awareness *by acknowledging* all of our parishioners who are survivors, *and remembering* those we have lost to this disease.

We are asking everyone to Wear Pink on October 25th!!

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR STM ACADEMY *by purchasing a stylish and comfortable face mask, featuring our logo!* This mask also has the added convenience of adjustable ear loops that insure a perfect fit for everyone. The fabric is soft and very wearable. *Your purchase will help support our school. The cost is just \$5.00.* They are available at the school or rectory, and on Sunday morning at the 10:00 Mass. *Thanks for your support!*

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC ACADEMY!



*Serving Students in Grades Pre-K-3-8
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 well underway,
with classes being held virtually.*

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

**Our Food Pantry is open each Friday
from 11:30am to 2:00pm.**

Our ongoing efforts to combat hunger are supplemented by ***Curbside Groceries***, a mobile grocery truck that brings the grocery store to the neighborhood. Choose from a variety of high-quality fresh foods, and pantry staples **at very affordable prices!**

Curbside Groceries is here on the Merrick Center parking lot from 10:00am- 4:00pm each Saturday.

Together we can make an impact and help meet the food needs in our community.

Thanks for your help!!

Needed pantry items include non-perishables such as

***Rice/Pasta/Dry Beans,
Hot & Cold Cereal,
and***

Canned Goods such as

***Meat/Tuna/Beans,
Soup/Vegetables/Fruits***

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

Again, thanks to our many members who have donated to the pantry throughout this pandemic!

***STM continues to serve 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!

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!

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.

STM 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.

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. Questions: Please contact Pattie Hamilton, hamisings@msn.com.