

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
4275 Fourth Street, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20032
Telephone: 202-562-0431
E-mail: stmchurch@comcast.net Website: www.stthomasmoredc.org
School: 202-561-1189

December 6, 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:**

Sunday	10:00am Cantor Only*
	<i>Live streamed and on Zoom*</i>
Weekdays	<i>No Daily Mass on site at this time*</i>

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: *By appointment only at this time.**

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-Virtually at this time.*
Bible Study: Every Tuesday at 7:30pm-Virtually at this time.*

***Due to Coronavirus Precautions**

Second Sunday of Advent
Preparing to Hear God's Word



Reading I: Is 40: 1-5, 9-11~ "Comfort, give comfort to my people."

Responsorial: Psalm 85 ~ Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Reading II: 2 Pt 3:8-14 ~ The "Day of the Lord" will be unexpected.

Gospel: Mk 1:1-8~ John the Baptist foretells the Messiah's coming. John the Baptist appears in the beginning of Mark's Gospel. Mark's description of John recalls the simple, even austere dress of the great prophet Elijah in the Old Testament. In John's proclamation of Jesus as the Messiah, the age of the prophets closes, and the age of the Messiah begins.

Readings for Next Sunday

Is 61:1-2A, 10-11 1 Thes 6:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Is 35:1-10	Luke 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12	Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31	Matt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20	Matt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19	Matt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Zec 2:14-17	Luke 1:39-47

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	In memory of Saadat Taalib
Monday	Cardinal Wilton Gregory-Birthday
Tuesday	Well-being of Audrey Caldwell
Wednesday	Alice Proctor & Robin Dillard Harris-Birthday
Thursday	Muriel Whitfield-Birthday
Friday	In loving memory of Earl Hamilton, Sr.-Birthday
Saturday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones

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 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, Leane Jean-Charles, Ivy John, Nancy Johnson, Sarah Jones, Seymour & Patrick Jones, David Larison, Dennis Lucas, 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 ~

Please also pray for all victims of COVID-19, their loved ones and caregivers.

Your continued prayers are requested for *Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey Caldwell, Frances Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Elizabeth Holmes, Bernard Jarvis, Nancy Johnson, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Robert Robinson, Yolanda Rollins, Jean Stewart, Mary Travers, our members who are on the road to recovery, sick, shut-in or grieving; and Pope Francis, Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Fr. Moore, Fr. Casmir, Ed Poindexter, Deacon Ralph Cyrus and Seminarian Jonathon Barahona.*

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Psalm 80:7)

You have richly blessed us, O God, and now we would honor and thank you with our offerings of gratitude. You have blessed us with the ability bring these tithes and offerings and now we pray that your Kingdom may grow as we turn our hearts to you because of our stewardship. **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 \$4,725.00 and \$175.00 for Maintenance.

Faith Direct contributions will be posted at a later date.

Mass attendance this week: 25 people physically present in church, and over 200 joining live by Zoom or YouTube.

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 YOUTUBE/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: 85238118028. The Password is: 545701. Phone in number 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. Phone in number: 301-715-8592.**

WORD AMONG US FOR DECEMBER/ADVENT

The *Word Among Us* for December/Advent 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 thru 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~

Second Sunday of Advent

Dear Church Family,

On this Second Sunday of Advent I invite you to “Dream the World Better.” Don’t we all dream a world better when we will have defeated the virus, inaugurated a new president, and come closer to social and racial reconciliation in our nation and world. Reflect the words of African American poet Langston Hughes in his “I Dream A World:”

*I dream a world where man
no other man will scorn,
where love will bless the earth
and peace its paths adorn.*

*I dream a world where all
will know sweet freedom’s way,
where greed no longer saps the soul,
nor avarice blights our day.*

In his “I Have A Dream” speech during the 1963 March on Washington, Dr. King said, “We will not be satisfied until justice runs down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.” The crowd responded to the emotion of the prophet Amos, and Dr. King’s biographer, Taylor Branch reports that Dr. King could not bring himself to deliver the next line in his speech.

Some on the platform urged him on, and gospel singer Mahalia Jackson called out, “Tell ‘em about the dream, Martin. Dr. King went on to preach!! His dream message took him from Amos to Isaiah, and he ended with the words, “I have a dream that one day, every valley shall be exalted.”

Isaiah, Jesus, and Dr. King show us that words create reality. The word of Isaiah dreamed the world better, and then Jesus made those words real. Jesus is, for us, the Word of God made flesh, and we can be thankful that “the word of God will stand forever as reflected the words of Dr. King. Jesus forgives our sins, wipes the slate clean, straightens us out, and gives us hope for the future. All we have to do is receive him, believe in him and walk behind him. Jesus is the one that Isaiah was talking about when he said, “lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, heard of good news, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Here is your God’” God is with us and now we “Dream the World Better”

*Continue to pray for our country as we make the
Presidential transition and dealing with the Coronavirus.*

*May the Lord bless and keep us all in his peace.
Stay safe and stay connected to your church family.*

Father Moore

~ 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 TO
CARDINAL GREGORY!**

*Our Holy Father Pope Francis has named our own
Archbishop Wilton Gregory to the College of Cardinals.*

*He is our first African American Cardinal and received
this honor in a “Consistory” in Rome on November 28th.*

We are so blessed by the ministry Cardinal Gregory has rendered here in our own Archdiocese, in Atlanta and the church in the United States.

SODALITY ROSARY EVENTS!!

Please join the STM Sodality, via Zoom, to pray the Rosary ***each Wednesday at 11:00am.*** Detailed information has been sent to all parishioners via Flocknotes.

SPECIAL DECEMBER ROSARY INVITATION:

Join with the Sodality in praying the Rosary on Saturday, **December 12th at 12 noon.** This is the Feast of Our Lady Guadalupe, commemorating our Blessed Mother’s appearance to St. Juan Diego on four different occasions in 1531. We will also have the opportunity to receive Holy Communion. Weather permitting, our meeting will be on the parking lot. In case of cold or inclement weather we will gather in the church.

FOOD PANTRY ASSISTANCE NEEDED!!

Your help is greatly appreciated on December 13th, as we will be receiving a large donation of food for the pantry. This will take place in the afternoon. Further details will be forthcoming via Flocknotes.

We hope you can come out and assist in this noble Advent effort. Please be encouraged to drop off your donations to the pantry at the rectory. The St. Thomas More Food Pantry is open each Friday, beginning at 11:30am, We provide nutritious foods, including meats, fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs and milk in our weekly 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, as well as cash. We also blessed with the ongoing support of the Mulholland Foundation, our Sodality, the and the Ward 8 Farmer’s Market.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IS UNDERWAY! *Please register your child/children so they may participate virtually. See Ms. Wanda Brooks for more information.*

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 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!**

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

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

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 also blessed with the ongoing support of the Mulholland Foundation, our Sodality, and the Ward 8 Farmer’s Market.

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

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

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!

Cardinal 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. **Our parish currently stands at 64% of our 2020 goal of \$37,000, which amounts to \$23,840 in pledges.**

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. **Let's try to meet our goal before the end of 2020. Thanks for your generous support of the parish and the Appeal.**

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 *191* 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.