

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 13, 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*

Third Sunday of Advent
Preparing to Hear God's Word



Reading I: *Is 61:1-2a, 10-11~ God will bring justice and glad tidings to the poor.*

Responsorial: *Is 61:10b~ My soul rejoices in my God.*

Reading II: *1 Thes 6:16-24~ Pray, rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances.*

Gospel: *Jn 1:6-8, 19-28~ John was sent to prepare the way for Jesus.*

Readings for Next Sunday

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Rom 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Num 24:2-7, 15-17a	Matt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13	Matt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Isa 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25	Luke 7:18b-23
Thursday:	Gen 49:2, 8-10	Matt 1:1-17
Friday:	Jer 23:5-8	Matt 1:18-25
Saturday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a	Luke 1:5-25

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	In loving memory of Andre Lyles-Birthday
Monday	In loving memory of Paul Edmonds
Tuesday	Health of Frances Davies
Wednesday	In memory of Bernice SESCOE-Birthday
Thursday	In memory of Jason Dantley
Friday	In memory of Baby Michael Green
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 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, 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 SESCOE, 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 Suzanne Chandler's cousin, Paul Edmonds, and the family's comfort.

Please pray also 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 **\$5,272.00** and **\$1,005.00** for **Maintenance.**

Faith Direct contributions will be posted at a later date.

Mass attendance this week: **34 people** physically present in church, and **over 175** 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!

The easiest way to support our church is Faith Direct, our online giving platform that so many have been using over the last ten months. It's this easy: Go to our website: **www.stthomasmoredc.org.** Click on **DONATE** and make your contribution by choosing **Enroll In Recurring E-giving** or **Make A One Time Gift Now.**

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 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~

Third Sunday of Advent

Dear Church Family,

On this Third Sunday of Advent I invite you to “Rejoice.” On the First Sunday of Advent Jesus urges us with the words “Watch” and “Be alert”. Last week our scriptures invited us to “Dream a world better.” “I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul,” says Isaiah. St. Paul writes, “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks.” The Church calls this third Sunday of Advent “Gaudate Sunday” from the Latin Rejoice.

On this December 13, 2020, what do we have to rejoice about? A lot!! John, in today’s Gospel, speaks of the “light who is coming into the world.” He tells us that John the Baptist came on the scene to “testify to the light.” This witness to the “Light” was John the Baptist’s singular purpose. He was to witness to the Light. And not just any light, but “the Light of the human race,” the “Light that shines in darkness,” that the darkness can never overpower. One of the reasons that the Church celebrates Christmas on December 25th was to highlight the birth of Jesus, who claimed to be the “Light of the world” during the darkest days of the Northern Hemisphere’s winter.

No matter where we find ourselves, in the Northern or Southern Hemisphere on this Gaudate Sunday, there is plenty of darkness in our world—the pandemic, poverty, war, violence in our streets and homes, sickness, unemployment, and all manners of evil. When we turn our focus to our own sufferings, and that of others, it is easy to become discouraged. We ask ourselves, “How can any light brighten our world with joy?”

As believers and followers of Jesus, we could all say that we have been born into the world with same mission and calling as John the Baptist: to testify to the light, to be hope in the world by fully living our faith in Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, and striving during Advent to strengthen our relationship with him. This is the source of our joy and gladness, and the reason St. Paul urges us all to “rejoice always.” As the feast of Christ’s nativity draws ever closer, we pause and ask, “How do we live our Christian calling with joy?” “How are we being called at this moment in our history to testify to the One True Light that the darkness of sin, sickness, politics, and hatred can ever overcome?”

*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.

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION!

We want to ask the prayers of our entire STM family for our young members who are preparing for the sacraments of First Holy Communion, Penance and Confirmation!

Our First Penance/Communion candidates are: *Heavenlee Curtis, Terral Lewis and Kennadi Martinez.* Their catechists are Ms. Frances Hicks and Mrs. Nicole Garrison.

Our Confirmation candidates are: *Charles Anthony, Selah Smith, Abdur Taalib and Umaimah Taalib.* Their catechists are Ms. Wanda Brooks and Father Moore.

SODALITY ROSARY

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.

FOOD PANTRY ASSISTANCE NEEDED!!

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

We hope you can 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, and the Ward 8 Farmer’s Market.

~ CHRISTMAS EVE MASS ~

***We will celebrate the Nativity of the Lord on
Thursday, December 24th at 7:30pm.***

***You are invited to join us via
LIVESTREAM or YOUTUBE.***

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.