

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 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:**

Sunday	10:00am Cantor Only*
Weekdays	<i>Live streamed and on Zoom*</i> <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**

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Preparing to Hear God's Word



Reading I: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16~ God reveals through the prophet Nathan to King David that his kingdom shall endure forever. It is from David's offspring and lineage that the Savior will be born.

Responsorial: Ps 89~ Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Reading II: Rom 16:25-27~ St. Paul gives glory to God through Christ, the Promised One.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38~ From the beginning of salvation history God's revelation has prepared us for the great announcement-the Word will become flesh and dwell among us.

Readings for Next Sunday

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 Luke 2:22-40

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday: Songs 2:8-14 Luke 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sam 1:24-28 Luke 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Luke 1:57-66
Thursday: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Luke 1:67-79
Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25
Friday: Isa 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 John 1:1-18
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Matt 10:17-22

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday In loving memory of Thomas Proctor-Birthday
Monday Yvonne Hanna-Birthday
Tuesday Health of Blondinia Brown
Wednesday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday In loving memory of Sharron Willis-Birthday
Friday Gratitude for Jesus' Birth
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, Blondinia Brown, 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 Felieu, 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 pray for the peaceful repose of the souls of **Hubert Moye**, uncle of **Clint Ray**, and **Duane Wright**, husband of **Patricia Wright**, and the consolation of their loved ones.*

Please pray for all victims of COVID-19, their families, caregivers and all of our frontline workers.

Your continued prayers are requested for *Shirley Adams, Blondinia Brown, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey Caldwell, Francess Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Elizabeth Holmes, Bernard Jarvis, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Robert Robinson, Yolanda Rollins, Jean Stewart, our members who are on the road to recovery, sick, shut-in or grieving; and Pope Francis, Cardinal Gregory, Fr. Moore, Fr. Casimir, 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 **\$3,581.00** and **\$666.00** for **Maintenance**.

Faith Direct contributions totaled **\$6,498.67**.

Mass attendance this week: **34** people physically present in church, and **85** joined 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~

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dear Church Family,

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent I invite you to “Receive and Give the Gift of Jesus.” Over the past three Sundays we have been urged to watch and stay alert; to dream a world better; and to receive, reflect and testify. Now on this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we focus on Mary as our model and example of receiving and giving Jesus; making God with us—Emmanuel. This is what Christmas is all about! Remember there was always Christmas in the heart of God when he created the universe and gave it to us. There was Christmas in the heart of God when he sent his prophets. There was Christmas in the heart of God when he sent his one and only Son to us and gave Him to us.

As Jesus grew up, Son of God and Son of Mary, there was always Christmas wherever He went –giving sight to the blind; giving food to the hungry; giving life and healing the sick and forgiving sinners like us!

God through Mary gave us the gift of Jesus. But Christmas is also about receiving. John 1:12, we hear “...to all who received Him...He gave the power to become children of God.”

“To all who received Him!” When we take those words seriously, we begin to understand that receiving is just as important as giving. It is when we truly receive Christ that we truly experience the gift that is Christmas—like Mary and Joseph. It is when we receive Christ that the Christmas Spirit endures, for Jesus said, “Know that I am with you always.” It is when we truly receive Jesus that we also receive the power and motivation to share him with others, as did Mary. We hear in our Gospel Mary’s response to Gabriel when the angel announced that she would be the mother of the Savior. Her words were, “Let what you said be done to me.” She received God’s Great Gift to the world and she gave Him to us. Now we are to give the great gift of Jesus that we have received. And when we encounter the secret of “blessedness,” the mystery of “happiness,” the secret of full and fruitful Christian living an abundant life: to let it be done to you as God wills; to do as God wills; to love one another as He has loved us.

In this last week of Advent, we receive and give the Gift of Jesus, who is Emmanuel.

Christmas peace and joy!

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

~ 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.*

~WORDS OF THANKSGIVING IN DIFFICULT TIMES~

With God’s grace and mercy we are stronger than we think we are and are able to do more than we even think or dream.

So, MANY THANKS TO:

Those who generously and courageously came out last Sunday to unload the trucks filled with food for the pantry; thanks to those who consistently assist in the pantry operations.

The Mulholland Foundation, our Sodality, and our members who so graciously support the pantry on which so many in our community depend.

The parents who have supported our Religious Education Team in our efforts to form our children and youth in the teachings of our faith and sacramental formation, and our dedicated Religious Education Team.

Those who have made our Sunday Mass possible through the ministries of Music, Hospitality and Lectors; and our new Multimedia Communications Team which provides our livestream and Flocknote services.

Our Parish Staff, who each day serve us so well: Pattie Hamilton, Mary Waters and Barry Rhodes.

The Wonderful Smiles Team, which, despite the pandemic, came through to provide for so many families this Christmas.

Our Church family, YOU, who have continued your strong financial commitment to our ministries and programs.



2020 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

~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.

Adult Bible Study: *Will not meet via Zoom on December 28th.*

Food Pantry: *Closed December 25th and January 1, 2021.*

Parish Office Closings:

Christmas Holiday
December 23, 24 & 25

New Year’s Holiday
Dec. 30, 31, & Jan 1

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.

Masks 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.