

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

***December 27, 2020***



***Jesus Is The Answer  
For The World Today***

**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**



**The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph  
Preparing to Hear God's Word**

**Reading I: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14~** We are to honor our parents, and shall endure forever.

**Responsorial: Psalm 128~** Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

**Reading II: Col 3:12~** Live in love and at peace with one another in Jesus' name.

**Gospel: Luke 2:22-40~** The favor of God is upon Jesus, presented in the Temple.

**Readings for Next Sunday**

**Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12**

**DAILY MASS READINGS**

Monday:	1 John 1:5-2:2	Matt 2:13-18
Tuesday:	1 John 2:3-11	Luke 2:22-35
Wednesday:	1 John 2:12-17	Luke 2:36-40
Thursday:	1 John 2:18-21	John 1:1-18
Friday:	Num 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7	Luke 2:16-21
Saturday:	1 John 2:22-28	John 1:19-28

**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:**

Sunday	Denzil & Iona Garvey-50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary In memory of Natalie Ebb & Bernice Sescoc
Monday	In memory of James Butler
Tuesday	In loving memory of Deacon Ralph Cyrus
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	Gratitude for Our Blessings to Come in 2021
Friday	In loving memory of Juanita Mercer
Saturday	In memory of Doris & Dcn. Martin-Prayer Gp

**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, Fracness 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 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 soul of STMCA Alum, Deacon Ralph Cyrus, and the consolation of his family, many loved ones and friends.*

*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, Fracness 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. Casmir, Ed Poindexter 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 **\$3,079.00** and **\$410.00** for **Maintenance.**

**Faith Direct** contributions will be posted at a later date.

**Mass attendance this week: 38 people physically present in church, and over 88 joined live via 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](http://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](http://www.stthomasmoredc.org). Click on **DONATE** and make your contribution by choosing **Enroll In Recuring 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 JANUARY**

The **Word Among Us** for January 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!*

**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 Flocknote.

**~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~**

**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
A Prayerful Reflection Welcoming A New Year**

As we bid farewell to 2020, let us prayerfully reflect on and welcome the New Year of 2021, reminding ourselves that “Jesus Is The Answer For The World Today.” I want to share, for your reflection, these words penned by Howard Thurman:

In many ways beyond all calculation and reflection, our lives have been deeply touched and influenced by the character, the teaching, and the spirit of Jesus of Nazareth. He moves in and out upon the horizon of our days like some fleeting ghost. At times when we are least aware and least prepared, some startling clear thrust of his mind is our portion—the normal tempo of our ways is turned back upon itself and we are reminded of what we are, and what life is. Often the judgement of such moments is swift and silencing: sometimes his insights kindle a wistful longing in the heart, softened by the muted cadence of unfulfilled dreams and unrealized hopes. Sometimes his words stir to life long forgotten resolutions, call to mind an earlier time when our feet were set in a good path and our plan was holy. Like a great wind they move, fanning into flame the burning spirit of the living God, and our leaden spirits are given wings that sweep beyond all vistas and beyond all horizons.

There is no way to balance the debt we owe to the spirit which he let loose in the world. It is upon this that we meditate now in the gathering quietness. Each of us, in his own way, finds the stairs leading to a Holy Place. We gather the fragments of our lives, searching eagerly for some wholeness, some all-encompassing unity, capable of stilling the tempests within us and quieting all the inner turbulence of our fears. We seek to walk in our own path which opens before us, made clear by the light of his Spirit and the radiance which it casts all around us. We join him in the almighty trust that God is our Father and we are his children living under the shadow of His Spirit.

Accept the offering of our lives, O God; we do not quite know what to do with them. We place them before Thee as they are, encumbered and fragmented, with no hints, no suggestions, no attempts to order the working of Thy Spirit upon us. Accept our lives, our Father—work them over. Correct them. Purify them. Hold them in Thy focus lest we perish and the spirit within us dies.

And as we welcome 2021: May knowing Jesus bring us peace to bless each day, hope for each tomorrow and joy for every season.

*Happy New Year, and remember  
“Jesus is the answer for the world today!”*

*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.*

**~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 on a recent 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**

**Adult Bible Study:** *Will not meet via Zoom on December 28<sup>th</sup>.*

**Food Pantry:** *Closed January 1, 2021.*

**Parish Office:** *Closed December 30, 31 & January 1, 2021.*

**~NEW YEAR’S EVE MASS ~**

***Join us in praying in 2021 on New Year’s Eve,  
December 31, at 7:30pm in the church.***

***(There is a 50 person limit.)***

***You are welcome to join 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.***

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](http://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/](http://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](http://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](mailto:hamisings@msn.com).*