

**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**

***February 14, 2021***



***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**

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Preparing to Hear God's Word**

**Reading I:** Lev 13:1-2, 44-46 ~This is an outline of the legal prescriptions regarding the treatment of lepers.

**Responsorial:** Psalm 32~I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

**Reading II:** 1 Cor 10:31-11:1 ~We are to do everything to the glory of God.

**Gospel:** Mark 1:40-45 ~Jesus heals the leper. Because of the leper's willingness to go beyond the law, the leper receives healing at the touch of Jesus.

**Readings for Next Sunday**

Gen 9:8-15 1 Pet 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15

**DAILY MASS READINGS**

Monday:	Gen 4:1-15, 25	Mark 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Gen 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10	Mark 8:14-12
Wednesday:	Jl 2:12-18 2 Cor 5:6-2	Matt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Dt 30:15-20	Luke 9:22-25
Friday:	Is 58:1-9a	Matt 9:14-15
Saturday:	Is 58:9b-14	Luke 5:27-32

**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:**

Sunday	In loving memory of Devin Clay-Birthday
Monday	In loving memory of Michael Barnes
Tuesday	In loving memory of Jakari Butler
Wednesday	Misha Hubbard-Birthday In loving memory of Mikki Holmes
Thursday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Friday	Health of Monei Williams
Saturday	In memory of Don, Flo & Bruce Bertman

**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, Jeff Corry, 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, 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 remember 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, Viola Barnes, Audrey Caldwell, Francess Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Elizabeth Holmes, Bernard Jarvis, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Robert Robinson, Yolanda Rollins, Jean Stewart, **Monei Williams**, 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.

**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.

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT  
EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH  
IS WISE STEWARDSHIP**

Heavenly Father: We have come together as your children into this place dedicated to prayer and worship. We pray today for the faith that will make it possible for each of us to experience the living presence of Jesus Christ. We come bringing our faults and failures in need of forgiveness and bring our words of praise and thanksgiving. We come with our tithes and offerings that we may share in your work. Help us to give our minds as well as our bodies into your service to the end that others might experience your love and come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. In Jesus' Name we pray.

**~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 **\$3,333.00** and **\$595.00** for **Maintenance**.

**Faith Direct** contributions will be posted later in the month. **Mass attendance this week: 14** people were physically present in church, and **97** joined live via 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](http://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.**

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASS:** Mass will be in the church at **10:00am on February 17<sup>th</sup>** with Covid-19 protocols in place (Mask and Physical Distancing) and attendance not exceeding 50 persons. The Mass will be livestreamed and recorded on YouTube for your virtual participation.

**OFFICE CLOSED:** The Church Office will be closed **Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>** for the President's Day Holiday.

**~PASTOR'S PEN~**

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**STM Family,**

The Gospel this week shows Jesus reaching out and touching a leper. Now, the leprosy in Jesus' time in Palestine was not the same disease we know today. Nevertheless, it was a contagious skin condition that would cause the victim to be ostracized and isolated from other people, including family. Lepers were required to give a clear warning to others by crying out "Unclean, unclean" as they made their way through the streets. This dreaded skin condition caused fear in the minds of almost everybody. Stay away from a leper and certainly don't touch a leper. Thus, lepers were outcasts to be avoided at all costs. But just check out the gospel. What does Jesus do? He breaks the law. He violates social norms and the required practices. He touches the leper, the outcast. By reaching out and embracing him, he takes the risk of contracting the disease himself. The result of Jesus' risk is that he restores this man to life.

We look around at the conditions of today. The challenges that confront us can easily make one feel like a leper, like outcasts to be avoided. Yet we are all potential outcasts. We are all vulnerable to the disease of being alone and isolated, friendless and unwanted. Maybe you are hurting because someone you loved has let you down. Maybe you have been laid off from your job and are in desperate need of funds—and there is no relief to be found anywhere. Maybe you want to cry out like Jesus did on the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me." But let's remember that God is still our Father and is closest at moments of our greatest pain and deepest need. You remember that God is reaching out to touch you in a healing way. Let his love embrace you and give you a new strength beyond your strength.

The point of our Gospel today is to do what Jesus did. It is so easy to look around and to see "outcasts" around us. Are the outcasts in your life those who suffer from the leprosy of homelessness, or the sickness of addictions and mental illness? How about those who are unemployed and can't pay the rent or stand in line at the food pantry? There are those whose can't speak English. These are all people we can embrace.

In just a few days we will begin Lent. This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. So, with this Gospel in our minds and hearts, let us reach out and embrace the outcasts who find themselves on the outskirts and margins of our community and nation. Let us not only dare to reach out and embrace but also minister hope and healing by our words of love and acts of mercy. Life can be beautiful! "Whoever gives a cup of cold water in my name (says Jesus) will not want for his reward." Plant your roots deep in the world of a good and gracious God. Be compassionate! Be merciful! Be kind for "God has deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places." May your Lent be one of grace, blessings and service to others.

***Be blessed and safe,  
Father Moore***

**BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY FACTS!**

***Did you know?***

A well-known black Catholic in early nineteenth century Washington was Maria Becraft (1805-33), whose father had been a slave in the household of Charles Carroll of Carrollton. She was educated as a young girl in Washington at several of the privately run schools for free black children that existed at the time. When she was fifteen, she opened a school of her own in Georgetown, and at the age of twenty-two was invited by the pastor of Holy Trinity Church to open a girls' school in the parish for both boarders and day students. She was aided by the Visitation nuns who operated a school for white girls in Georgetown. In 1831 Maria Becraft entered the convent of the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore, where she died in 1833.

**Our Family Prayer for  
Justice and Human Dignity**

*Father, to ask that through your Son, Jesus and in communion with the Holy Spirit, you help us in the battle against America's "original sin" of racism that divides us from being the Body of Christ that we are called to be as your children.*

*We implore you to give us your wisdom, so that we may build a community founded on the Gospel message of the life and dignity of all people from conception to natural death, and to live in communion like the divine communion of the Holy Trinity.*

*Bless parents that they may form their children in faith, to love one another regardless of skin color, ethnicity and natural origin, just as Jesus loves us.*

*Bless and protect all of us as we live out our faith in being "instruments of your peace" as St. Francis said.*

*Fill us with a thirst for justice and righteousness.*

*Hear our prayer and give us the courage, compassion, and perseverance to root out any form of injustice within our communities and bring the healing love of Christ to all in need.*

*Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of our Church, hasten to help us. And intercede on our behalf, so that our Archdiocese can continue to witness to the Gospel message of life and dignity of all people. AMEN*

**MATRIMONY, CONFIRMATION &  
FIRST COMMUNION!**

***Your Prayers Are Asked For Those Preparing For  
Matrimony, Confirmation and First Communion.***

The seven sacraments give us a door to God's grace. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The sacraments are signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church by which the divine life (grace) is dispensed to us."

**Preparing for Matrimony:**

***Khadijah McNair and Yonte McCormick.***

**Preparing for Confirmation:**

***Charles Anthony, Damia Moore, Selah Smith,  
Abdur Taalib and Umaimah Taalib***

**Preparing for First Penance/Communion:**

***Heavenlee Curtis, Terral Lewis and Kennadi Martinez***

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!**

***STM-PAC and Sodality Announce  
St. Thomas More's***

**Black History Month Virtual Event!**

***~Theme~***

***The Black Family:  
Representation, Identity, and Diversity.***

***Date: February 21, 2021 Time: 4pm -6pm  
"Location"- Virtual Zoom Link***

## 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**

**(And items readily useful for those who are homeless.)**

***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!***

## **2021 ANNUAL APPEAL!**

***The 2021 Annual Appeal is here!***

This year’s theme is *Seeking Christ* to remind us in this time of hardship and need that Jesus Christ is the one, true source of the healing, unity, and love that we all seek. Through our collective support of the Annual Appeal, we strengthen the Body of Christ that is our local Church in the Archdiocese of Washington. We also support her many charitable works that serve the many needs of our brothers and sisters in our larger community. All Catholics in every parish will be asked to make a commitment to the 2021 Annual Appeal next weekend. Your gift will be credited toward meeting our parish goal. Learn more about the Annual Appeal at [appeal.adw.org](http://appeal.adw.org).

### **WORD AMONG US FOR LENT**

The *Word Among Us* for Lent 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.

### **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 \*196\* 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.***