

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

February 21, 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**

**First Sunday of Lent
Preparing to Hear God's Word**

Reading I: Gen 9:8-15 ~God enters into a covenant relationship with humankind after the Great Flood.

Responsorial: Psalm 25 ~Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Reading II: 1 Pet 3:18-22 ~Peter teaches us that we are saved through our covenant in Baptism. Noah went through the flood and we are immersed in the waters of Baptism.

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15 ~Temptation always presents us with a choice. Here Jesus' choice is to take up his saving mission of proclaiming the good news—the truth, hope and peace.

Readings for Next Sunday

Gen 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Rom 8:31b-34 Mark 9:2-10

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	1Peter 5:1-4	Matt 16:13-19
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11	Matt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10	Luke 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25	Matt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28	Matt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Deut 26:16-19	Matt 5:43-48

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	In loving memory of Our Ancestors
Monday	In loving memory of Jason Plaskett, Jr.-Birthday
Tuesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Wednesday	In loving memory of Doris Martin
Thursday	In loving memory of Clyde Sapp
Friday	In loving memory of Conchita Brown
Saturday	Brenda Green-Birthday

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 Cory, Odessa Curtis, Francess 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 Clyde Sapp, brother of Margie Neal, and the family's consolation.

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 Flocknotes.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

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

"One who is generous will prosper; the one who refreshes others will be refreshed as well" Proverbs 11:25

Dear Lord, As we travel the highway of this life, give us a generous, compassionate and sympathetic spirit that compels us to lay our wealth on the altar of sacrifice for the sake of others whose needs greatly exceed ours, We pray in Jesus' Name. 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 \$4,220.00 and \$1,045.00 for Maintenance.

Faith Direct contributions amounted to \$4,671.00.

Mass attendance this week: 10 people were physically present in church, and 130 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. 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 Zoom Meeting ID is 87377549190.

The Password is 548415.

Phone in number: 301-715-8592.

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.

**~PASTOR'S PEN~
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

STM Family,

Each year the Church blesses us with the season of Lent. This is a time for personal spiritual growth. We began this season of forty days last Wednesday—Ash Wednesday. We heard the words, “Repent and be faithful to the Gospel.” I want to encourage you this Lent to be reminded that the ashes of Ash Wednesday are an outward sign of our desire to learn, grow, and do things differently. This year, more than most, presents unique challenges. We are confronted with the Covid-19 virus as well as racial, social, and political issues. Yet we, by faith, possess hope. We have a vaccine. We have a new president. Most importantly, we have Jesus!! He is still the answer for our world today.

Be encouraged as we begin these forty days of preparation for our celebration of the Lord’s Resurrection—EASTER!! Maybe you are going to give something up. Maybe you are going to fast. But I would also encourage you to do these three things—not really hard. Ask yourself:

-What did I learn today? What spoke both to my heart and my head?

-How did I grow today? What touched my heart and affected my actions?

-What will I do differently?

Learning leads to growth and doing things better. So, don’t be scared of the prospect of improvement in your life. To be better, you must believe you can be better. Author Denis Whitley offers this definition of personal development. He says that it is the conviction that there is value in you. It is the belief that “you are worth the effort, time and energy, needed to develop yourself. It gives you permission to invest in yourself so that you can develop your own potential.” Philosopher Thomas Carlyle said it so well: “Let each person become all that he was created capable of being.”

Let us make this Lent a season of personal learning, growth and hope for a better life.

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

BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY FACTS!

Did you know?

Saint Katherine Drexel, a wealthy Philadelphia heiress, used her wealth to establish the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament whose mission was ministry to Native Americans and African Americans. One of her outstanding accomplishments was the establishment of the only Black Catholic HBCU—Xavier University of Louisiana, in New Orleans. In 1915 a high school was opened for Black students at the request of Archbishop Blenk, with the hope of an eventual college. In 1925 a teachers’ college and a college of liberal arts was added. Xavier has weathered many storms, including Hurricane Katrina, and is still going strong today. For further details on Xavier and Black Catholic History go to Fr. Cyprian Davis’ “The History of Black Catholics in the United States.

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT!

Thanks to all of our parents and children for their strong commitment to our religious education efforts. Our program has been provided virtually this year. Despite the challenges of remote learning in our schools, our families have risen to the occasion and have demonstrated great commitment. *Thanks, also, to Ms. Wanda Brooks and our team of catechists.*

**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

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

Black History Month Virtual Event!

~Theme~

The Black Family:

Representation, Identity, and Diversity.

Date: T-O-D-A-Y, 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.

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 *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.

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS!

***Contribution Statements totaling \$100.00 or more were
mailed January 21, 2021. IF YOU HAVE NOT
RECEIVED YOUR STATEMENT IN THE U.S. MAIL,
or have any other questions, PLEASE EMAIL PATTIE
HAMILTON, hamisings@msn.com, right away.***