

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

March 7, 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*
	<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 Lent
Preparing to Hear God's Word**

Reading I: Exodus 20:1-17~ God gives the commandments to Moses.

Responsorial: Psalm 19~ Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Reading II: 1 Cor 1:22-25~ For some the "crucified Christ" is a stumbling block.

Gospel: John 2:13-25~ While Paul preaches about the crucified Christ as a stumbling block, John teaches that the crucified Christ is building block or foundation of a new Temple, the Temple of his Resurrected Body.

Readings for Next Sunday

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23 Eph 2:4-10 John 3:14-21

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	2 Kings 5:1-15ab	Luke 4:24-30
Tuesday:	Dan 3:25, 34-43	Matt 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Deut 4:1, 5-9	Matt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28	Luke 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10	Mark 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6	Luke 18:9-14

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Monday	STM Catholic Academy
Tuesday	Health of Frances Davies
Wednesday	In loving memory of Harold Holmes In loving memory of Constance Berry
Thursday	Health of Elizabeth Holmes
Friday	Our Dedicated Pantry Volunteers & Donors
Saturday	In loving memory of Carolyn Adalan

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, Frances 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 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 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, Frances 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 **\$5,574.00** and **\$505.00** for **Maintenance.**

Faith Direct contributions amounted to **\$8,414.00.**

Mass attendance this week: **47** people were physically present in church, and **90** 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 NEW Zoom Meeting ID is 87377549190.

The NEW 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.

LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join us **Wednesdays at Noon** for Stations of the Cross (via Zoom) during Lent.

~PASTOR'S PEN~
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

STM Family,

As we journey together through this Lenten season, I want to reflect with you on some thoughts offered by our Holy Father, Pope Francis in his Encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship). What Pope Francis writes is a powerful reflection on life in our world today and the challenges of racism, intolerance and division which are so real. My hope over the next few weeks of Lent is to share the wisdom offered by Pope Francis.

Pope Francis, in his introduction, writes "Let us dream, then, of a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all."

In the first chapter, Pope Francis describes the dark clouds over a closed world; these clouds extend to all parts of the world, hindering the development of universal fraternity; they are the circumstances that leave many people wounded by the roadside, discarded and rejected. The clouds plunge humanity into confusion, isolation and desolation.

Our Holy Father calls us to hope. All people experience a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfillment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit to lofty realities like truth, goodness, and beauty, justice and love. Hope can look beyond personal convenience, security, and the trade-offs that limit our horizons, and open us up to grand ideals.

Some questions to ponder:

1. How is it possible to focus our sights on our neighbors, especially people who have been "wounded by the roadside, discarded and rejected?"
2. What does injustice tell us about the equality of rights grounded in our basic and shared human dignity?
3. How does the pandemic impact our thinking of our brothers and sisters and our world?

My prayer for you is that your week be fruitful as you learn and grow and serve the Gospel.

**Be blessed and safe,
Father Moore**

~ LENTEN GUIDELINES REMINDER~

The Discipline for fasting and abstinence were introduced by Pope Paul VI in 1966. Here is a breakdown of what the Church asks of us:

-Fasting means eating a lesser amount of food. While fasting, only one full meal is taken. Two other smaller meals are usually eaten. While fasting, we do not snack between meals!!

-Catholics who are 18 years of age and not yet 60 years old are asked to observe the fast days of the Church. There are only two days of fasting: **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.**

-Abstinence means not eating any meat. Dairy products as well as fish and seafood may be eaten.

-The church has established ASH WEDNESDAY and ALL FRIDAYS OF LENT AS DAYS OF ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT! We must FAST again on GOOD FRIDAY!

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

Father, we 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 national 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

**SPECIAL THANKS FOR THE
BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION!**

Thanks, again, to our Parish Action Committee and Sodality for sponsoring our Annual Black History Month Celebration on February 21st. We are also most grateful for our many talented members who participated by sharing the wealth of their knowledge, musical talents and spoken word. It was a great event using Zoom technology.

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
Beginning at 11:30am.**

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 starting at 11:30am. 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.