

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy

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E-mail: stmchurch@comcast.net Website: www.stthomasmoredc.org

St. Thomas More Catholic Academy

Website: stmhc.org Telephone: 202-561-1189

March 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**

Fourth Sunday of Lent
Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23 ~ *The exiled Israelites are returned from Babylon to Jerusalem.*

Responsorial: Psalm 137 ~ *Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!*

Reading II: Eph 2:4-10 ~ *We are saved by God's grace.*

Gospel: John 3:14-21 ~ *God so loved the world that he sent his Son, the Light, to cast out the darkness of this world.*

Readings for Next Sunday

Jer 31:31-34 Heb 5:7-9 John 12:20-33

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Is 65:17-21	John 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12	John 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Is 49:8-15	John 5:17-30
Thursday:	Ex 32:7-14	John 5:31-47
Friday:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22	John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday:	Jer 11:18-20	John 7:40-53

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Monday	Health of Marquel Poindexter
Tuesday	Our Dedicated Church Volunteers
Wednesday	STM Catholic Academy
Thursday	Intentions of STM Parishioners
Friday	In loving memory of Alice Baruwa
Saturday	In loving memory of Jacqueline 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 Corry, Odessa Curtis, Francess Davies, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Renee Felu, 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, Francess Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Elizabeth Holmes, Bernard Jarvis, Marquel Poindexter, 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 **\$8,019.00** and **\$1,315.00** for **Maintenance.**

Faith Direct contributions will be posted later in the month.

Mass attendance this week: **52** people were physically present in church, and **87** 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~
FOURTH 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.

In the second chapter, Pope Francis reflects on our responsibilities to ease the sufferings of others. Even within a society that ignores the cries of the suffering, we are called to be like the Good Samaritan, "a stranger on the road." We are called to respond as he did with compassion and care for the frail and vulnerable. Pope Francis asks us to envision and embrace our own vocation, seeing all people we encounter as our neighbor. We are asked to put aside our prejudices and see all persons, regardless of ability, status, race or creed as possessing equal dignity and created in God's image. We must recognize our role in serving our brothers and sisters regardless of what the government supplies. Humans "made for love." We are made to speak clearly about "our conviction of the inalienable dignity of each person, and our reasons for loving and accepting of all brothers and sisters.

Our Holy Father has modeled this "fraternity and social friendship" in his historic visit to Iraq.

Some questions to ponder:

1. *Who is my neighbor?*
2. *Do we see the marginalized? Where? Why do they remain in the margins?*
3. *How do we become co-responsible in creating a society that is able to include, integrate and lift up those who are on the margins, or are suffering?*

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

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 Umimah Taalib*

Preparing for First Penance/Communion:

Heavenlee Curtis, Terral Lewis and Kennadi Martinez

~ 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!

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Now Enrolling for the
2021-22 School Year



Please join us for our Virtual Open House on
Thursday, March 17, 2021 at 6:00pm.
If interested please pre-register by going to
stmhc.org/links.

For more information about our school, please
VISIT OUR BRAND NEW WEBSITE:
stmhc.org
School Office (202) 561-1189

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

(Also, 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 are asked to make a commitment to the 2021 Annual Appeal.

**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.