

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 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*
	<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**

Fifth Sunday of Lent
Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Jer 31:31-34~ Throughout their history Israel fell into sin despite God's love and forgiveness.

Responsorial: Psalm 51~ Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Reading II: Heb 5:7-9~ God has great love for us.

Gospel: Jn 12:20-33~ God so loved the world that he sent his only Son to save us.

Readings for Next Sunday

Mk 11:1-10 Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Mk 14:1-15—15:47

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Dan 13:41c-62	John 8:1-11
Tuesday:	Num 21:4-9	John 8:21-30
Wednesday:	Dan 3:14-20, 91-92,95	John8:31-42
Thursday:	Gen 17:3-9	John 8:51-59
Friday:	Jer 20:10-13	John10:31-42
Saturday:	Ez 37:21-28	John 11:45-56

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Monday	In loving memory of Lenora Lancaster
Tuesday	Health of Deacon Bobby White
Wednesday	In loving memory of Leo Brown
Thursday	In loving memory of Alice Baruwa-Birthday
Friday	In loving memory of Sandra Barron
Saturday	In loving memory of Edith F. Ellis-Birthday

PLEASE KEEP THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Shirley Adams, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Viola Barnes, Betty Bayly, 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 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, Frances 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

He who provides seed for the sower will also provide bread for eating; he will provide you with more seed, and will increase the harvest of your goodness. 2 Corinthians 9:10

"In the act of giving do not fear a lack of means. A generous spirit is itself great wealth." (Pope St. Leo the Great.)

~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 **\$2,422.00** and **\$317.00** for **Maintenance.**

Faith Direct contributions amounted to **\$8,865.77.**

Mass attendance this week: **47** 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 EASTER

The **Word Among Us for Easter** is now 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.

2021 EASTER HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

The Church Office will be closed Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Monday.

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

STM Family,

This week our focus from Fratelli Tutti (On Fraternity and Social Friendship) will be on Chapter Three, *Envisioning and Engendering an Open World*. We are social beings. We must push "outside the self" to realize "a fuller existence in another."

Pope Francis tells us "love impels us towards universal communion". It is love that draws us into deeper communion (fraternity) with others. Even when we are called to fraternity with our brothers and sisters, it is clear that many people lack basic human rights. Human rights have no borders, and cannot be denied to anyone regardless of ethnicity, national origin, gender or ability. Understanding this, the Holy Father asks us to consider "an ethics of international relations with regard to goods and services being available to all those in need, regardless of borders. Pope Francis warns us that "unless the rights of each individual are harmoniously ordered to the greater good, those rights will end up being considered meaningless and consequentially will become the source of conflicts and violence."

Pope Francis highlights the damaging effects of ignoring people who cry out for justice and human rights. Pope Francis warns us of the evil of racism, which "is a virus that quickly mutates and, instead of disappearing, goes into hiding, and lurks waiting." Another example of our brothers or sisters who lack full access to human rights are persons living with disabilities. It is not our duty merely to care for persons living with disabilities or welcome people of various cultures, but we must acknowledge and hold up their inherent dignity by advocating for their full and active participation in our churches and in our communities. Solidarity is the solution to accompanying our brothers and sisters who are on the margins. Solidarity is, "thinking and acting in terms of community." Human rights, dignity and access to the Earth's goods belong to all people, and we must learn to act for the common good.

Some questions to ponder:

- 1. What does it mean to live with common purpose for the common good of all people?*
- 2. What does the phrase, "rights have no borders" mean?*
- 3. How are you living out actions of solidarity with the poor, disabled and immigrants?*

Be safe and blessed this week!

Father Moore

LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join us **Wednesdays at Noon** for Stations of the Cross (**via Zoom**) during Lent. The following info will help you **to join via telephone** or to sign on **via Zoom**:

Phone in number: 301-715-8592.

Meeting ID: 85238118028 Password: 545701

~ LENTEN GUIDELINES REMINDER~

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

-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 Umimah Taalib***

Preparing for First Penance/Communion:

Heavenlee Curtis, Terral Lewis and Kennadi Martinez

**SCHEDULE FOR
HOLY WEEK/EASTER 2021**

(Covid-19 Protocols in Effect)



Palm Sunday Mass at 10:00am*

(Limited Distribution of Palms Outside Following Mass.)

Spy Wednesday

Stations of the Cross at Noon (Zoom)

Holy Thursday

Mass at 7:30pm*

Good Friday

Service at 7:30pm*

Easter Sunday

Mass at 10:00am*

****Livestreamed***

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Now Enrolling for the
2021-22 School Year



Please join us for a Virtual Open House.

Please pre-register by going to
stmcd.org/links.

For more information about our school, please
VISIT OUR BRAND NEW WEBSITE:

stmcd.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!!

We have begun our annual effort in supporting the good works of charity, education and evangelization provided by our Archdiocese. **Our theme this year is simple: Seeking Christ.** Even in this time of hardship and need we know that Jesus Christ is the one, true source of our healing, unity, and love. The past year has been particularly difficult on our neighborhood, the food desert that surrounds us. With the help of our partners, like Catholic Charities, our food pantry remains a vital source of nourishment and encouragement.

Our 2021 goal is \$37,000. Through our collective efforts we can achieve our goal and support the ministries of feeding the hungry and providing quality Catholic education and faith formation for our children. **All Catholics in every parish will be asked to make a commitment to the 2021 Annual Appeal.**

Many of you recently received a letter regarding the appeal from Father Moore. It included a pledge form and a self-addressed, postage paid envelop for your convenience.

**Or, if preferred, you may pledge on line at
appeal.adw.org.**

Thanks for your support of the Annual Appeal. **Together we will keep making a difference in our community!!**

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.