

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

St. Thomas More Catholic Academy

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

~ April 11, 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**



Second Sunday of Easter
Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Acts 4:32-35 ~The first Christians held everything in common and no one was needy among them.

Responsorial: Psalm 118 ~Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Reading II: 1 Jn 5:1-6~This reading spells out what believing in the risen Christ enables us to do: Love God and others.

Gospel: Jn 20:19-31 ~They did not understand that He had to rise from the dead.

Readings for Next Sunday

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 1 Jn 2:1-5a Lk 24:35-48

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Acts 4:23-31	John 3:1-8
Tuesday:	Acts 4:32-37	John 3:7b-15
Wednesday:	Acts 5:17-26	John 3:16-21
Thursday:	Acts 5:27-33	John 3:31-36
Friday:	Acts 5:34-42	John 6:1-15
Saturday:	Acts 6:1-7	John 6:16-21

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	In loving memory of Fr. John Kinter
Monday	MieKayla Singleton-Birthday
Tuesday	Jo-Ann Hamilton-Birthday In memory of Ezinne S. Onyegwara-Birthday
Wednesday	Carol Dantley-Birthday In loving memory of Aaron Otis-Coker
Thursday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Friday	In loving Memory of Pearl Curtis-Birthday
Saturday	Safekeeping of Our Youth

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, **John Travers, Sr.**, 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 health and well-being of **John Travers, Sr.**, brother of Renee Coles, who is hospitalized at this time.*
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.*

STEWARDSHIP REPORT
EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH
IS WISE STEWARDSHIP

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty may become rich. (2 Cor 8:9)

Gracious God, Receive these gifts of tithes and offerings as expressions of our love, and multiply them for the cause of the gospel here and to the ends of the earth. We pray in Jesus' NAME.

~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 **\$7,815.00** and **\$1,310.00** for **Maintenance.**

Faith Direct contributions will be reported at a later date.

~Mass Attendance~

EASTER SUNDAY: *70 people were physically present in church, and 110 joined live via YouTube.*

Holy Thursday: *23 in church, 63 live on YouTube.*

Good Friday: *21 in church, 67 live on 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 through Faith Direct, our online giving platform that so many have been using over the past year. It is 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.

~PASTOR'S PEN~
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

STM Family,

Happy Easter, once again!! The beautiful thing about Easter is that it is not just one day of joy, but fifty days of celebration leading up to Pentecost. This year we will observe the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and the birthday of the church on May 23rd. Between now and then let us stay prayed up, energized by the Holy Spirit and enthusiastic in reconnecting as a Church family.

Please pray the Pentecost Empowerment Prayer each day through Pentecost:

*Loving Lord,
here I am, just as I am.
I trust that you have incredible plans for me.
So, transform me. Empower me. Use me!
Everything is on the table.
Take what you want to take.
And give what you want to give
so that I can live the life you envision for me.
I hold nothing back.
I am 100% available.
So, dear God, send your Holy Spirit upon me
that I may build your Kingdom in my words and work.
Through Christ our Lord. AMEN!*

HAPPY EASTER! ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Father Moore

PLANNING BEYOND COVID

As we plan forward, with the guidance of the Parish Council and Finance Council, let our focus be on the following:

1. The bright side to the past year has allowed us to seize the opportunity to advance our technology skills as we embrace the virtual world of Zoom and livestreaming. We are all becoming more skilled as we learn and function virtually. An ever increasing number of viewers are joining us in our Sunday Mass and other devotions, like the Stations of the Cross, Sodality Rosary and Bible Study.

2. The pandemic has brought us closer together through the "community connection" meetings that allow us to confer on the various needs of our STM family. We are really making an effort to stay connected even when physically distant.

3. Our Religious Education Program continues to instruct and form both children and adults in the faith, thanks to virtual technology.

4. Our STM Academy continues to educate our scholars using a hybrid model of in-person and virtual instruction.

5. A cooperative/collaborative effort between the parish and school has made possible some great improvements in erosion control and storm water mitigation through the planting of trees, shrubs, grass, and rain gardens on our grounds. The effect of this effort both beautifies and maintains our grounds. This is made possible through grants from River Smart and Laudate Trees.

6. Our food pantry continues to provide for the nutritional needs of our community. Thanks to our members for supporting the pantry.

These are just some of the endeavors that are building up God's Kingdom here on 4th Street, SE. Thanks to all of you who have, despite the challenges, made this all possible.

**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.

CATCHING UP ON SACRAMENTS

Families are reminded of the importance of celebrating the sacraments. If your family has persons to be baptized, receive their First Holy Communion, Confirmation or Matrimony, *please contact Father Moore to register for the process of preparing for these important sacraments.*

**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

~SODALITY ROSARY~

Please join the STM Sodality, via Zoom, to pray the Rosary *each Wednesday at 11:00am. Meeting ID: 88406894101, Passcode: 879964, Phone in number: 301-715-8592*

The STM Sodality will also pray our Monthly Saturday Rosary on April 17th at 12noon. We will meet on the church parking lot. Fr. Moore will distribute Communion following the Rosary. All are invited to come pray with us.

Please bring your Rosary and wear your mask.

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 stmhc.org/links.
For more information about our school, please
VISIT OUR BRAND NEW
WEBSITE: stmhc.org

GRADUATION RECOGNITION 2021

In keeping with our long-standing tradition, we will honor our graduates again this year! Please submit the names of your graduates by calling the rectory, 202-562-0431, so that they will be included in our program as we celebrate their accomplishments!

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 have 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 challenging 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)

Continued THANKS to this dedicated ministry team!

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.