

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy

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St. Thomas More Catholic Academy

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

~ May 2, 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 Easter
Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Acts 9:26-31~Paul testifies in Jerusalem following his conversion.

Responsorial: Psalm 22~I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Reading II: 1 Jn 3:18-24~We should believe in the name of Gods Son, Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Jn 15:1-8~I am the vine, you are the branches.

Readings for Next Sunday

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 1 Jn 4:7-10 Jn 15:9-17

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	1 Cor 15:1-8	John 14:6-14
Tuesday:	Acts 14:19-28	John 14:27-31a
Wednesday:	Acts 15:1-6	John 15:1-8
Thursday:	Acts 15:7-21	John 15:9-11
Friday:	Acts 15:22-31	John 15:12-17
Saturday:	Acts 16:1-10	John 15:18-21

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	Karen Coles-Birthday
Monday	Judy Kenner-Birthday
	In loving memory of Shantel Bright-Birthday
Tuesday	In loving memory of Sandra Barron-Birthday
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	Mary Toomer, Joy Garnett-Birthday
Friday	In memory of Doris & Dcn. Martin-Prayer Gp
Saturday	Health and well-being of Jeff Cory

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 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 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, John Travers, Jr., 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 **\$3,2.00** and **\$35.00** for **Maintenance.**

Faith Direct contributions amounted to **\$9,779.84.**

Mass attendance this week: *43 people were physically present in church, and 106 joined live via YouTube.*

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 MAY

The **Word Among Us for May** 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~
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

STM Family,

We continue our journey from Easter to Pentecost. Today is the Fifth Sunday of Easter and the twenty-ninth day of the Easter season. That means that there are only twenty-one days to Pentecost 2021 on May 23rd.

In today's Gospel we hear these words of Jesus: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ...I am the vine and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit. ...If you remain in me and my word remains in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Just as last week we found a powerful and poignant example in Jesus, the Good Shepherd, today's image is Jesus the vine and we being the branches on that vine. And because a branch is vitally connected to the vine, it is able to produce good fruit. And that is where we are headed as we draw closer to Pentecost. As the True Vine Jesus nourishes and strengthens us to bear good fruit for the Kingdom of God.

In our society we hear the loud shouts of would-be people of power and authority: fanatical tyrants, political agitators, self-righteous politicians. We may even add to this chorus our own small voices on matters personal, religious, racial or social. But what Jesus speaks to us about today is the power of love and gentle growth. He gives us another image of the great intimacy that exists between himself, his Father, and his disciples. "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower"—and we are the branches.

The vine and the vineyard were familiar images to God's people in Old Testament. Israel was the vine brought out of Egypt and planted by God the vine grower in his own soil. The image of the vine is a radical image of the people of God, for all the branches are so intertwined that when looking at a vine it is almost impossible to tell where one branch begins and another ends. All tangled together they grow from the central stock, undifferentiated by anything but their fruitfulness. Such is the relationship of Jesus to the new community that grows from his death and resurrection. These communities are to be branching out, hospitable communities that live by and bear fruit through life-giving nourishment of the Risen Christ.

This week we see a new image in order to understand and appreciate our relationship and responsibilities to the Lord—He the vine and we the branches that bear good fruit. Unlike a shepherd and his sheep, a vine and its branches cleave to each other in such a way that it is impossible to say where one ends and the other begins. This is the closeness Jesus wants to have with each one of us—that his life-giving Holy Spirit might flow from him to us as effortlessly as the sap of a healthy vine flows through the veins of the branches, allowing it to produce fruit.

Please pray the Pentecost Empowerment Prayer each day that we may bear the good fruit of the Holy Spirit:

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

**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*

**ST. THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC ACADEMY**
Now Enrolling for the 2021-22 School Year



Thanks to all who supported our school by
purchasing a face mask.

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 \$33,900!

Our total pledges amount to \$16,800, or 49% of goal.

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.**

If you have not yet made a pledge, please join with the fifty-one other members of our church family and commit today. You may pledge using the self-addressed, postage paid pledge form, or on-line at appeal.adw.org.

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

COVID 19 PROCEDURES IN CHURCH

As more and more of us are vaccinated, more and more of us will be returning to Mass on Sunday morning. Here are the procedures that we have been practicing to ensure the health and safety of our church family:

- 1. Please DO NOT come to Mass if you have a fever or are not feeling well.**
- 2. Everyone must register by signing in at the door when you arrive.**
- 3. You will sanitize your hands as you enter.**
- 4. Face masks are required for everybody.**
- 5. The ushers will seat you, maintaining physical distance between you and others.**
- 6. Please follow ushers' directions when receiving Holy Communion.**
- 7. When leaving the church at the end of Mass, ushers will direct you in exiting the church.**
- 8. Please maintain physical distancing in the back of the church and outside of the church after Mass.**

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)

Our continued THANKS to this dedicated ministry team!