

**Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy**

**4275 Fourth Street, Southeast**

**Washington, D.C. 20032**

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**St. Thomas More Catholic Academy**

**Website: [stmhc.org](http://stmhc.org) Telephone: 202-561-1189**

*~August 22, 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 <i>Livestreamed on YouTube</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: On Summer Break

Bible Study: On Summer Break

*\*Due to Coronavirus Precautions*

## Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



### Preparing to Hear God's Word

**Reading I:** Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b~ Decide today whom you will serve.

**Responsorial:** Psalm 34~ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**Reading II:** Eph 5:21-32~ Paul focuses on the mutual love between husband and wife.

**Gospel:** Jn 6:60-69~ The disciples must decide whether to stay with Jesus.

#### Readings for Next Sunday

1Dt 4:1-2, 6-8 Jas1:17-18, 21b-22, 27 Mk7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

#### DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	1 Thes 1:5, 8b-10	Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday:	Rv 21:9b-14	Jn 1:45-51
Wednesday:	1 Thes 2:9-13	Mt 23:27-32
Thursday:	1 Thes 3:7-13	Mt 24:42-51
Friday:	1 Thes 4:1-8	Mt 25:1-13
Saturday:	1 Thes 4:9-11	Mt 25:14-30

#### PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	Health of Alena Russell
Monday	Health of Nancy Johnson
Tuesday	In loving memory of Earl P. Hamilton, Sr.
Wednesday	Constance Wims-Birthday
Thursday	Well-being of Audrey Caldwell
Friday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Saturday	In loving memory of Joseph Brooks-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 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 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 ~

*We ask your prayers for the victims and survivors of the recent earthquake in Haiti, and for the well-being of all students, teachers and school administrators as they begin the 2021-2022 academic year.*

*Please pray also for all victims of COVID-19, their families, caregivers, and our frontline workers.*

Your continued prayers are requested for *Shirley Adams, Blondinia Brown, Sheila D. Brown, Viola Barnes, Audrey Caldwell, Francess Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Hortencia Herrera (mother of Henry Herrera), Elizabeth Holmes, Bernard Jarvis, Nancy Johnson (sister of Blondinia Brown), Marquel Poindexter, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Yolanda Rollins, Alena Russell, 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 and Ed Poindexter.*

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP

*None of us lives for himself only, none of us dies for himself only. If we live, it is for the Lord that we live, and if we die, it is for the Lord that we die. So, whether we live or die we belong to the Lord. (Romans 14:7-8)*

We thank you, Lord, that we can live for you. And in living the blessed life you promise we build up your Church and your Kingdom. May we always be generous in our tithes and offerings. 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 \$3,589.00, and \$120.00 for Maintenance.*

*Faith Direct contributions will be reported at a later time.*

#### Mass attendance this week:

*73 people were physically present in church, and 171 joined live on 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](http://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! Thank you 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](http://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

Mass continues to be Livestreamed on YouTube. The link is sent weekly via Flocknote.

#### ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Adult Bible Study will resume on *Tuesday, September 7, 2021.* We will meet on Zoom at 7:30pm.

#### ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

Our Adult Discussion Group meets on Sunday at 12noon via Zoom. Come enjoy fellowship and lively discussions.

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Many have not been to Confession in a long, long time. *Confessions will be offered on Sunday after the 10:00am Mass and on request at any convenient time.*

#### WORD AMONG US FOR SEPTEMBER

The September issue of the *Word Among Us* is now available in the church and rectory.

## ~PASTOR'S PEN~

### *Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time*

#### *STM Family,*

We were all so blessed last Sunday with Deacon Richard Walker coming back home and preaching the Word, and we were also blessed to have our deacon-candidate Ed Poindexter assisting at the Mass. Please continue to pray for Ed as he transitions to Louisiana and further education as he continues to grow and learn. God keeps on blessing us real good around here! Thank you, LORD!!

Let me reflect with you on the matter of *vaccination* as we strive to move forward through this pandemic. I will never forget the date this all started —March 13, 2020. Our lives seemed to stop abruptly with the onset of social distancing and COVID restrictions. The church, school and our jobs went virtual or stopped altogether. But, thank God we were blessed with the vaccines. The pace slowed and there was a new spark of hope. Then came the Delta variant! The situation dramatically challenges us, AGAIN. We were all hoping and planning for in-person learning in school, in-person worship on Sunday morning and returning to work. And we still have faith and fervently pray for a return to a more normal lifestyle.

However, for life to get better we all need to be vaccinated. My concern is that a number of us have not received the vaccine, which is now readily available for those over the age of twelve. If you are hesitant, fearful or anxious about the vaccine please prayerfully consider the health and safety of those around you. Keep in mind that all children under twelve years of age are not eligible for the vaccine, and that makes them very vulnerable. In other words, by receiving the vaccine, we are not only protecting ourselves but also the children we love.

On last Saturday, a number of pastors and faith leaders in Southeast met and agreed to encourage our members to get vaccinated! We, as faith leaders, are praying and pleading for those who are not vaccinated to do so at once. For all of us, please continue to wear your mask and wash your hands frequently and please pray...and pray hard!

*In the Lord's peace and grace,  
Father Moore*

### **FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESUMES**

We encourage all of our families to register for Religious Education. Our target start date is Sunday, *September 19, 2021*, hopefully with in-person instruction.

*So parents, please save the date.* More information will be forthcoming over the next few weeks, taking Covid-19 protocols into consideration.

### **THANKS TO SAFEWAY!!**

We extend our sincere thanks to Manager Ms. Constance Julius and the Safeway Store at 500 Royal Street for the very generous donation of sanitizer, wipes and masks. We thank our member *Leonard "LJ" Singleton*, who works there, for thinking of his church and making the donation possible!

### **32<sup>nd</sup> EAST OF THE RIVER REVIVAL!!**

Prepare your minds and hearts for our 32nd East of the River Revival on October 4th. We will gather in person and by livestream at St. Luke Church at 7:00pm. *Please pray the Revival Prayer every day as we anticipate this annual event.* Father Robert Boxie, chaplain at Howard University will be our revivalist. The theme this year is *"In The Midst of It All."*

#### **\*32<sup>nd</sup> EAST OF THE RIVER REVIVAL PRAYER\***

*Almighty and loving Father, we humbly pray that You will bless our revival with the powerful assistance of your Sweet Holy Spirit. Grant that our parish may respond to this time of grace and mercy through our theme*

*"In The Midst Of It All."*

*Touch the hearts of our youth with the gentleness of your love and send your Spirit of Hope into their lives so that they may believe in themselves and know that they are LOVED, VALUED, and NEEDED.*

*Help us to put aside all things that crowd our lives so that we can schedule this time to come together as a praying and fasting Catholic Community. We ask for the grace to learn to live the simplicity that Jesus taught in our complex world.*

*Bless our revival priest, Father Robert Boxie, preacher and teacher. Prepare his heart with the message you have for us.*

*Fill him with your Sweet Holy Spirit to help us to be transfigured in Christ. May Mary, our Mother, our model, and guide obtain from her divine Son, all that we need to make this a time of spiritual renewal.*

*This we ask of You, Father, Son and Sweet Holy Spirit who lives and reigns forever and ever. AMEN*

### **MATRIMONY & CONFIRMATION**

#### *Your Prayers Are Asked For Those Preparing For Matrimony and Confirmation*

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*

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE!!**

The 2021-2022 Academic Year will soon begin. Once again, our *STM Parish Action Committee* is sponsoring a *"Back-to-School Drive"* to collect school supplies for students in Grades Pre-K thru 12th! **We are asking for your support/donations to position our students for success!**

#### **Needed items include:**

Dry Ease Markers, pencils, pens, crayons (boxes of 8-24 count), lined and graph paper, index cards, notebooks, 2-pocket folders, glue sticks, scissors; facial tissues, hand sanitizer and Clorox Wipes.

*Items may be dropped off at church on Sunday, or Tuesday-Friday at the rectory during business hours.*

**This year's drive runs from now until September 5, 2021!**

Please feel free to contact any member of the STM-PAC with questions. **Thank you for your support!**

## ST. THOMAS MORE



## CATHOLIC ACADEMY

*We are currently enrolling families for the 2021-2022 School Year in grades pre-kindergarten through eighth.*

*To better educate our scholars we are in the process of constructing an outdoor classroom space. This will also aid in our efforts to control water runoff and maintain a good natural environment.*

*Give your children the blessing of a good Catholic education here at St. Thomas More.*

*For More Information On Our School*

*Visit Our Brand New Website: [stmcd.org](http://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 weekly 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 are 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!*

### ~ELDERS’ PRAYER FOR OUR YOUNG~

*Creator God,  
Jesus, our Savior,  
Holy Spirit of Wisdom, knowledge and understanding:  
Bless our young with  
Minds eager to learn,  
Memories strong to remember,  
Hearts ready to love,  
And lives committed to Jesus Christ.  
Keep them safe this week under the protection of  
Your Grace and Mercy.  
This we pray through Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

### 2021 ANNUAL APPEAL

This year’s appeal theme is “Seeking Christ.” Our church cares very much for those seeking Christ’s healing in mind, body and soul. Whether visiting the sick in hospitals, reaching out to mothers facing unexpected pregnancies, or caring for infants and young children, this is the work of healing and mercy. Each year our effort in supporting the good works of charity, education and evangelization provided by our Archdiocese gives hope to so many of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

*Our 2021 goal is \$33,900! As of today, our total pledges amount to \$24,790.00, which is 73.1% of our goal. 86 of us have made pledges so far. Thank you very much.*

If you have not yet made a pledge, please consider pledging today. You may use the self-addressed, postage paid pledge form, or go on-line at [appeal.adw.org](http://appeal.adw.org).

### 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. You will sanitize your hands as you enter.*
- 3. Face masks are **REQUIRED** for everybody.*
- 4. The ushers will seat you, maintaining physical distance between you and others.*
- 5. Please follow ushers’ directions when receiving Holy Communion.*
- 6. When leaving the church at the end of Mass, ushers will direct you in exiting the church.*
- 7. Please maintain physical distancing in the back and outside of the church after Mass.*

### 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!*