

**Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy**

**4275 Fourth Street, Southeast**

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**St. Thomas More Catholic Academy**

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

**~September 5, 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-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**



### **Preparing to Hear God's Word**

**Reading I:** *Is 35:4-7a~ God will come with healing.*

**Responsorial:** *Psalm 146~ Praise the Lord, my soul!*

**Reading II:** *Jas 2:1-5~ Show no partiality among yourselves.*

**Gospel:** *Mk 7:31-37~ Jesus heals.*

### **Readings for Next Sunday**

**Is 50:5-9a      Jas 2:14-18      Mark 8:27-35**

### **DAILY MASS READINGS**

Monday:	1 Col 1:24-2:3	Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday:	Col 2:6-15	Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday:	Mt 5:1-4a	Mt 1:18-23
Thursday:	1 Col 3:12-17	Lk 6:27-38
Friday:	1 Tim 1:1-2, 1-14	Lk 6:39-42
Saturday:	1 Tim 1:15-17	Lk 6:43-49

### **PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:**

Sunday	In loving memory of Roland Caldwell
Monday	Gratitude for Our Employment Blessings
Tuesday	All impacted by Hurricane Ida
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	In loving memory of Norell James
Friday	Peace in Our Communities/Nation
Saturday	In Memoriam 9/11/01-20 years

### **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, Frances Davies, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Nancy J. Evans, 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, , 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 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 ~**

*We ask your prayers for all impacted by Hurricane Ida, and for the well-being of all students, teachers and school administrators as the 2021-2022 academic year is now underway.*

*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, Nancy J. Evans (sister of Blondinia Brown), Frances Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Hortencia Herrera (mother of Henry Herrera), Elizabeth Holmes, Christopher Holton, Sr., Bernard Jarvis, 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.*

**LABOR DAY CLOSURE:** *The Church Office will be closed tomorrow, September 6, 2021, for the Labor Day Holiday. Please be safe.*

## **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 offering that were received for Sunday, August 22 amounted to \$5,593.00, and \$2,202.00 for Maintenance.*

*For Sunday, August 29, donations amounted to \$4,232.00, and \$82.00 for Maintenance.*

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

### **Mass attendance this week:**

*82 people were physically present in church, and 59 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 Zoom at 7:30pm beginning **Tuesday, September 7, 2021. The link is 808 1208 607: Pass code 548415.**

### **ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP**

Our Adult Discussion Group meets on Sunday at 12noon via Zoom. Come enjoy fellowship and lively discussions. **The Zoom link is 808 1208 607: Pass code 548415**

### **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-Third Sunday In Ordinary Time*

#### *STM Family,*

This week we continue our study of the Letter of James with the encouragement and exhortation of the prophet Isaiah and the evangelist Mark. Once again, these scriptures focus on the connection between religion and reality, the spiritual and its encounter with the natural order of our world.

We have already seen in the Letter of James how we are challenged "to be doers of the word and not just hearers." He goes on to say that "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for the orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world." Yet it is so difficult to not be caught up in worldly things.

This week we are reminded to avoid showing partiality in our treatment of one another. Such attitudes lead to discrimination, bigotry and prejudice that foster racial, social or economic mindsets of superiority, separation and exclusion.

Back in 1950 St. Teresa of Calcutta began her Missionaries of Charity, an order of religious sisters whose mission is to care for the dying and destitute. She wrote, in her book, *In The Heart Of The World*: "Seeking the face of God in everything and everyone, all the time and his hand in every happening; this is what it means to be contemplative in the heart of the world. Seeing and adoring the presence of Jesus especially in the lowly appearance of bread, and in the distressing disguise of the poor." So often it can be difficult for us to recognize Jesus in the people in front of us especially if their "distressing disguise" is one of poverty or mental or physical illness. And yet within these "poorest of the poor" we find the beloved of God.

James concludes this passage with these words: "Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be right in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?"

There are so many around us this week who find themselves on the margins of life: the asylum seeker of Afghanistan, the people of Haiti and now those in our own country whose lives have been disrupted by Hurricane Ida.

This week we pray that the Lord will open our ears that we might hear the cry of the poor and remove whatever impedes us for speaking for justice, peace, and righteousness in our world. Lord, give us the grace to build a better world.

*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 FROM THE ROBINSON FAMILY!**

*Jean Robinson and family extend heartfelt thanks to the STM Church Family for all the prayers, love and kindness they received on the occasion of the passing of Robert-devoted husband, loving father, grandfather and good friend and faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.*

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

Prepare your minds and hearts for our 32<sup>nd</sup> 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*

### **DRIVE FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

#### **ENDS TODAY!!**

Once again, our *STM Parish Action Committee* has sponsored a "Back-to-School Drive" to collect school supplies for students in Grades Pre-K thru 12<sup>th</sup>! *We are asking for your support/donations to position our students for success! TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO DONATE!*

**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. *Thank you!!*

**This year's drive ends T-O-D-A-Y, September 5, 2021.**

## 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.” In the words of our archbishop, Cardinal Gregory: “Together, nourished by the sacraments, we become Christ’s hands and feet, and with apostolic zeal reach out to all those suffering in body, mind, and spirit. This is the mission of the church: to be the ark upon which all are saved, the boat from which we cast our nets, and the lamp that draws in all who wander and are lost.” 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 81.1% of our goal.*  
*91 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). Thanks for your support and 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. 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!*

### FREE GRILL AVAILABLE!!

This grill has been in service here for many enjoyable events. It is very well seasoned and includes a trailer for easy transport. *See Mr. Hawkins* if you would like to receive it. There is no cost.