

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy

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St. Thomas More Catholic Academy

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

~September 26, 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-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Num 11:2-29 ~ Moses of old taught that anyone upon whom God's spirit rests can prophesy.

Responsorial: Psalm 19 ~ The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

Reading II: James 5:1-6 ~ Words of warning for the rich

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48 ~ Jesus is the new Moses who teaches that anyone who speaks and acts in his name belongs to him ("whoever is not against us is for us").

Readings for Next Sunday

Gen 2:18-24 Heb 2:9-11 Mark 10:2-16

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Jonah 1:1-2:1-2, 11	Luke 10:25-37
Tuesday:	Jonah 3:1-10	Luke 10:38-42
Wednesday:	Jonah 4:1-11	Luke 11:1-4
Thursday:	Mal 3:13-20b	Luke 11:5-13
Friday:	Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2	Luke 11:15-26
Saturday:	Joel 4:12-21	Luke 11:27-28

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	In memory of Sylvia Proctor-Peterson
Monday	In memory of "KiKi" Butler-Bates-Birthday
Tuesday	Brianna Jean-Charles-16 th Birthday
Wednesday	In memory of Georgianna Barnes-Birthday
Thursday	In memory of Minnie R. Ford
Friday	Elma Garnett -Birthday In memory of Doris & Dcn. Martin-Prayer Gp
Saturday	Peace In Our Communities/Nation

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 Sescio, 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 pray 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.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP

But you, brothers and sisters, do not weary in well doing. (2 Thessalonians 3:13)

Lord, We pray that you will make us strong and faithful in our stewardship. This we pray with the assurance that you will cause our efforts, in due time, to succeed. 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, September 19th** amounted to **\$4,429.00**, and **\$90.00** for **Maintenance.**

Faith Direct contributions amounted to \$5,392.00.

Mass attendance this week:

119 people were physically present in church, and 28 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 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. 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 has resumed on Zoom. All are encouraged to join with us each Tuesday evening at 7:30. **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 OCTOBER

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

~PASTOR'S PEN~

Twenty-Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

STM Family,

This week we conclude our instruction from the Letter of James. James has exhorted and instructed us with these words “Be doers of the word and not just hearers.” As true disciples of Jesus, we must demonstrate our Christian faith in our actions. Today, he places special emphasis on treating one another justly. In our first reading and gospel the focus is on acceptance, inclusion, and the free gifts of God which are for everyone. They cannot be limited or diminished by human judgement.

In today's gospel, the disciples become upset when they witness a stranger “driving out demons” in Jesus' name. But Jesus stops them from interfering, telling them “Whoever is not against us is for us.” This is similar to what happens in our first reading from Numbers. Two men, Eldad and Medad, who were not present when God bestowed the Spirit of prophesy upon the seventy elders, receive the Spirit anyway. At first, Joshua, Moses's aide, is incensed. But Moses challenges him: “Are you jealous for my sake. Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets.”

We see in the reaction and response of Joshua and the disciples of Jesus a common human tendency: trying to own or control something that doesn't belong to us. In these instances, it's God's generosity that the disciples and Joshua are judging. Jesus' and Moses' responses, however, point to the uncontrollable nature and power of God's will. We are laborers in the vineyard of the Lord, not managers who question or judge the worthiness of our fellow workers.

Once again, we are called to renounce the temptation to competition and the need to be better than others. Our prayer should be that of Moses'—that all the people of the Lord might be prophets—not that our churches, our families or ourselves might be recognized as the best. As we welcome and rejoice in the talents of others, we exemplify Jesus' own humility who “did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself taking the form of a slave. The Kingdom of God arises among us when people develop their talents fully, not for their own profit, prestige or prominence, but for the good of all as an act of praise for the Lord!

Let u keep these things in mind as doers of the Word of God:

1. We come to God when we come to the end of ourselves, our selfishness and self-centeredness. When we empty ourselves we can be filled with the divine presence.
2. Live each day aware that we serve something that is much bigger than ourselves.
3. Put the needs of others ahead of our own wants and desires.

In the Lord's peace and grace,

Father Moore

THANKS TO MARGARINE NEAL!!

We are so grateful to Mrs. Neal who spent a day's work weeding and caring for our flower beds this past week.

32nd EAST OF THE RIVER REVIVAL!!

Prepare your minds and hearts for our 32nd East of the River Revival on **October 4, 2021**. 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.”**

32nd 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*

FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We encourage all of our families to register and attend our 2021-2022 Religious Education Program.

The Religious Education Program will *begin immediately following the 10:00am Sunday Mass.*

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 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 \$27,520.00, which is 81.2% of our goal! 105 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.

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!