

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

~October 17, 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: Every Sunday after 10:00am Mass

Bible Study: Every Tuesday at 7:30pm, via Zoom

**Due to Coronavirus Precautions*

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Is 53:10-11 ~The servant gives his life for others.

Responsorial: Psalm 33 ~Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Reading II: Heb 4:14-16 ~Jesus shares in our suffering.

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45 ~Jesus reveals the stark requirement for sharing in his glory—drink his cup of suffering, be baptized into his death.

Readings for Next Sunday

Jer 31:7-9 Heb 5:1-6 Mark 10:46-52

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	2 Tim 4:10-17b	Luke 10:1-9
Tuesday:	Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21	Luke 12:35-38
Wednesday:	Rom 6:12-18	Luke 12:39-48
Thursday:	Rom 6:19-23	Luke 12:49-53
Friday:	Rom 7:18-25a	Luke 12:54-59
Saturday:	Rom 8:1-11	Luke 13:1-9

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	Myrtle Daniel & Daphne Andrews
Monday	In loving memory of Anthony B. Savoy
Tuesday	Health of Gloria Greene Rodriguez
Wednesday	Lisa Waters-Birthday
Thursday	Gabriel Jean-Charles-Birthday In loving memory of Devin Clay
Friday	Health of Marcus Bell
Saturday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones

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

Your prayers are also requested for *Shirley Adams, Marcus Bell (nephew of Suzanne Chandler), Blondinia Brown, Sheila D. Brown, Viola Barnes, Frank and Rita Brewer, Audrey Caldwell, Nancy J. Evans (sister of Blondinia Brown), Francess Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Gloria Greene Rodriguez (mother of Christina Tilghman), Hortencia Herrera (mother of Henry Herrera), Elizabeth Holmes, Christopher Holton, Sr., Bernard Jarvis, Alice Proctor & her sister, Sarah McCray, 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, October 10th** amounted to **\$4,099.00**, and **\$1,376.00** for **Maintenance.**

Faith Direct contributions amounted to \$6,988.00.

Mass attendance this week: 97 people were physically present in church, and 87 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 meets weekly 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 October issue of the *Word Among Us* is available in the church and rectory.

~PASTOR'S PEN~



Twenty-Ninth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

Today, I am reaching out to encourage you to reconnect and recommit to our St. Thomas More Church family. We have struggled over the past year and it is a blessing to see so many of you returning to Mass on Sunday. Whether you are worshiping in person or by livestream, I am most grateful for your faithfulness to our church, in both your financial support, engagement in ministry, and participation at Mass.

As we work and pray to build up our church and secure our future, I want to invite you to be part of this year's **Take The Next Step** initiative. **Taking the next step** is a great way for you to reconnect and recommit to St. Thomas More through stewardship of time, talent and treasure.

Here are four things you might consider doing in **taking the next step**:

1. Make your plan for returning to in-person attendance at our 10:00am Sunday Mass. We are hoping to return to our Saturday evening Mass soon, but we are in need of lectors and ushers.
2. Recommitting to your ministry—usher, lector, Eucharistic Minister, etc.
3. Prayerfully consider a “**next step**” increase in your tithes or renew your past level of support if you have been unable to give during the past year.
4. Consider using the convenient *Faith Direct* online giving option.

Despite the pandemic, quarantine and isolation of the past months, we have been able to complete several projects including the new outdoor sign, landscaping improvements to mitigate our water issues, and repairs and striping of the parking lot. At this moment we are preparing to install new glass front doors on the church. In addition, your generosity has greatly blessed us in our food pantry program which serves so many people, and our recent purchase of equipment, enabling us to livestream our Masses and other events. Thank you so very much!

Please take time to review the “**Take The Next Step**” material you should have recently received via U.S. Mail. Then prayerfully decide on your commitment for the coming year and return the enclosed form when you are able to do so.

Thank you for your past and present generosity. *I am*

Gratefully yours in Christ Jesus,

Father Moore

SPECIAL MASS INTENTION TODAY

Our special Mass intention today is for *Myrtle Daniel* and her sister, *Daphne Andrews*, on the occasion of their birthdays. May you be greatly blessed in the year ahead.



WELCOME VISITORS!

*We warmly welcome our visitors to
St. Thomas More Church.
We invite all who are seeking a
church home to join our
STM Church family.*

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
Umaimah Taalib*

FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We have begun our 2021-22 IN PERSON instruction. All our children should receive the blessing of our strong program of religious formation. *We meet on Sunday morning after the 10:00am Mass.*

PLEASE SUPPORT THE VIRGINIA MERRICK CENTER!

*We are blessed to have the Merrick Center
in our community.*

*Many of you worked diligently for its construction.
Now you can help support the continued operation of
the Merrick Center with your donations to the United
Way's “Combined Federal Campaign.”*

*Pledge your support the the Merrick Center using
Campaign #13745.*

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL!

*We are pleased to welcome Tracey Jean-Charles,
Damon Smith and Patricia Thomas to a three-year
term of service on our Parish Finance Council.
We extend our thanks to Diana Brown, Denese Clay
and James Hilton for their service on the council.*

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!