

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy

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E-mail: stmchurch@comcast.net Website: www.stthomasmoredc.org

St. Thomas More Catholic Academy

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

~October 31, 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*

Thirty-First in Ordinary Time



Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Deut 6:2-6 ~ Love the Lord with all your heart.

Responsorial: Psalm 18 ~ I love you Lord, my strength.

Reading II: Heb 7:23-28 ~ Jesus has a priesthood that does not pass away.

Gospel: Mark 12:28b-34 ~ There is no other commandment greater than these.

Readings for Next Sunday

1 Kings 17:10-16 Heb 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday: Rev. 7:2-4, 9-10 John 3:1-3 Matt 5:1-12a
Tuesday: Wis 3:1-9 Rom 6:3-9 John 6:37-40
Wednesday: Rom 13:8-10 Luke 14:25-33
Thursday: Rom 14:7-12 Luke 15:1-10
Friday: Rom 15:14-21 Luke 16: 1-8
Saturday: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27 Luke 16:9-15

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday Alvin & Shirley Brown-Anniversary
In loving memory of Kandeh Turay-Birthday
Monday In memory of Our Deceased Loved Ones
Tuesday In loving memory of Trina Cooper
Wednesday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday In loving memory of Dorothy Morgan
Friday In memory of Doris & Dcn. Martin-Prayer Gp
Saturday Safekeeping of our Youth

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 Felui, 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 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 ~

*Please remember to pray for the happy repose of the souls of **Dorothy Morgan, sister of Lonny Savoy, Trina Cooper, daughter of Thelma Cooper, and the consolation of their loved ones.***

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

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. Casimir 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 24th amounted to \$4,499.00.**

Faith Direct contributions amounted to \$10,536.75.

Mass attendance this week:

112 people were physically present in church, and 60 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 NOVEMBER

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

~PASTOR'S PEN~



Thirty-First Sunday In Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

In our Gospel today Jesus is asked “Which is the first of all the commandments?” Jesus answers “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

There are many saints who have been excellent examples of loving their neighbors. Mother Teresa is one many would recognize. Most of us won't measure up to her greatness and that's okay. God is calling each of us to just do our best and that in itself is pleasing to God. Use the saints as good examples for motivation and inspiration. But do not compare yourselves with them because everyone has been given different talents as well as different levels of abilities and expectations. Jesus tells us, “The more you are given (time, talent and treasure) the more is expected.”

Loving your neighbor could be as little as giving of your time to call or visit someone you haven't talked to for a while or doing something as big as giving your life totally to God, for instance as a missionary. Loving your neighbor could be using your talents for cutting the grass for a neighbor, or as big as dedicating your life for building homes for the homeless. Loving others could be as little as using your treasure to support a food pantry or soup kitchen. St. Paul reminds us in Romans 13:10 “Love never wrongs the neighbor; hence love is the fulfillment of the Law.”

Finally, I want to thank you for supporting “**Take The Next Step**” in your personal stewardship of sacrifice and service. May the Lord bless us all with His amazing and abundant grace in recommitting to our church. Remember, You were saved to serve.

In the Lord's peace and grace,

Father Moore

THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE NOW AVAILABLE

Dr. James Cone's book, *The Cross and The Lynching Tree* makes the connections between the Cross of Jesus Christ and the lynchings that occurred in the United States. It is now available for just \$10.00. Pick up a copy after Mass from the ushers. It is a very enlightening and thought-provoking publication!

PLEASE SUPPORT THE MERRICK CENTER!

We are blessed to have the Virginia 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 for the Center using Campaign #13745.



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. *This year we have focused on the Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration. We meet on Sunday morning after the 10:00am Mass.*

~ COMING SOON ~

STM's “ADOPT-A-CHILD” GIVING TREE

This year of COVID has been an especially difficult one for families. The *STM Community Outreach Committee* thanks you for your past support which has enabled many children to receive gifts for Christmas.

This year we have also identified 13 teens whose younger siblings are being blessed with gifts.

With your support, we are hoping to provide each of these 13 teens with a gift card totaling \$60.00.

Each teen will have their own envelope on the Giving Tree for you to select. If you are able to help provide a gift card, either by yourself or in partnership with others, we would be most appreciative.

Please note: Instructions regarding how to return the gift card for your adopted teen will be provided next to the Giving Tree sign-out sheet.

And... please keep an eye out for the ***Christmas Giving Tree*** which will be set up in the back of the church the beginning of November.

Questions or comments: Please contact Peggy Higgins, 240-375-0388.

ST. THOMAS MORE



CATHOLIC ACADEMY

*We are currently enjoying the blessings of
IN PERSON instruction for all our scholars.
We extend a big thank you for your donations of
school supplies.*

*For More Information On Our School
Visit Our Website: stmdc.org School
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!*



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.

***We are so thankful to our members who have donated over
500 SHARE PACKAGES for the food pantry! Thank you!***

~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
\$29,541.00, which is 87% of our goal!
114 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.*