

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

~November 21, 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 *Livestreamed on YouTube**

Weekdays *No Daily Mass on site at this time**

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*

***Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Preparing to Hear God's Word***

Reading I: Dn 7:13-14 ~God's dominion is everlasting.

Responsorial: Psalm 93 ~The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

Reading II: Rev 1:5-8 ~Christ the King has made us into a kingdom.

Gospel: Jn 18:33b-37 ~Jesus says that his kingdom is not of this world.

Readings for Next Sunday

Jer 33:14-16 1 Thes 3:12--4:2 Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Dn 1:1-6, 8-20	Luke 21:1-4
Tuesday:	Dn 2:31-45	Luke 21:5-11
Wednesday:	Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28	Luke 21:12-19
Thursday:	Sir 50:22-24 1 Cor 1:3-9	Luke 17:11-19
Friday:	Dn 7:2-14	Luke 21:29-33
Saturday:	Dn 7:15-27	Luke 21:34-36

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Monday	Well-being of Audrey Caldwell
Tuesday	Health of James Curtis
Wednesday	Health of Frank and Rita Brewer
Thursday	Gratitude for Our Many Blessings
Friday	Our Dedicated Volunteers
Saturday	Deidre Daniel-Birthday

PLEASE KEEP THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Shirley Adams, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Betty Beatty, Frank & Rita Brewer, 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, Fracness 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 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 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, Frank and Rita Brewer, Audrey Caldwell, Nancy J. Evans (sister of Blondinia Brown), Fracness Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Gloria Greene Rodriguez (mother of Christina Tilghman), Hortencia Herrera (mother of Henry Herrera), Elizabeth Holmes, Christopher Holton, Sr., Bernard Jarvis, Charles Johnson (brother of Barbara Elliott), 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.*

HOLIDAY CLOSURE:

The Church Office will be closed **November 25th & 26th** for the Thanksgiving Holiday. **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

**EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH
IS WISE STEWARDSHIP**

Give and it will be given to you—a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

Dear Lord, even our best giving is small when compared to what you have given us. Yet we offer our tithes and gifts today, knowing that you will multiply them as you always have, and through them bless our church and those we serve. So, in Jesus name we give. 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, November 14th amounted to \$4,650.00, and \$430.00 for the Maintenance Fund. Faith Direct contributions amounted to \$5,937.95**

Mass attendance for last week:

106 people were physically present in church and over 48 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

Beginning next **Saturday, November 27**, the sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at 11:00am in the church.

WORD AMONG US FOR NOVEMBER

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

~PASTOR'S PEN~

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Dear Church Family,

Today we celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This observance closes the Church Year. Next week we will begin a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent. For today, our scriptures focus on the second coming of Jesus, our Savior, Lord and King. Both the first reading (Daniel 7:13-14) and the second reading (Revelation 1:5-8) speak clearly that Christ will come again. The question for us is "When will he come?" and "Will we be ready when he does come?"

One way to ready ourselves for this Second Coming is to reflect and recommit to living the commandments.

Moses gave Israel ten commandments:

1. I am the Lord your God; you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall covet your neighbor's goods.

Jesus gave us the Two Great Commandments:

The Two Great Commandments that contain the whole law are:

1. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This the greatest and first commandment. This commandment relates to the first three of the ten commandments.
2. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. This commandment relates to the last seven of the ten commandments.

We will be using the next few weeks to "Get Back to the Basics of Our Faith" with a more in-depth consideration of the Ten Commandments.

Let's use this Advent Season to grow in our faith and commitment to God and his Church as we prepare for the two comings of Christ—his coming in time on Christmas and his promised second coming which we "know not the time or the hour."

Also please take some time to go online and complete the survey for the synod. The instructions are below.

Online Synodal Survey For Individuals-Individuals can participate in the online survey by going to **adwsynod 2021-2023** and clicking on **Synod Surveys and choosing Synod Survey for Individuals**. You will be asked to respond to these questions:

1. *Synod's Foundational Question*- A Synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together." How is this "journeying together" happening today in the Church? Where do you hear the voice of the Holy Spirit calling you closer to the Church?
2. *Synod's Core Question 1: Listening*- How is God speaking to you through the voices that are in your life? How is God speaking through voices we sometimes ignore, including those on the peripheries? What space is there in your life to listen to the voices on the peripheries of the Church especially cultural groups, women, the disabled, those who experience poverty, marginalization, or social exclusion?
3. *Synod's Core Question 2: Speaking Out*- What enables or hinders you from speaking out courageously, candidly, and responsibly in the Church and society? What space is there in our parishes for the voice of people, including active and inactive members of our faith?

PASTOR'S PEN (Continued)

4. *Synod's Core Question 3: Sharing*- How are you able to participate in the mission of the Church to proclaim the Gospel? What hinders you from being active in your parish? How is authority or governance exercised in your local parish and in the Church?

5. *Synod's Core Question 4: Discerning and Deciding*- How does your parish use the methods of listening and speaking (consultation) to make decisions? How does your parish promote participation in decision-making within the hierarchical structures of the Church? Does the decision-making methods of your parish help you to listen to all members of the community, including those who are on the peripheries of parish life?

6. *Synod's Core Question 5: Celebration*- How does prayer and liturgical celebrations, especially Sunday Mass, inspire and guide you? How does your prayer life and celebration of the Mass inspire and inform your personal decisions? How does the parish invite all Catholics, including cultural communities, youth, families and persons with disabilities and their families into the active life of the parish, especially Sunday Mass?

In the Lord's peace and grace,

Father Moore

MATRIMONY, CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION

Your Prayers Are Asked For Those Preparing For Matrimony, Confirmation and First Communion

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

Preparing for First Communion and Penance:

Ariel Collins Steven Collins

Brianna Hammons Aiden Lewis

Karter Martin Tylia Pilgri

FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

After beginning our in-person instruction with Eucharistic Adoration and the Rosary, we will now turn our attention to the sacrament of Reconciliation and preparing for the birth of Jesus in the Advent season which will begin on November 28th. Parents are asked to take care to pray with their children, bless their children and encourage their children in the practice of our faith. Remember that formation in faith includes Sunday Mass, religious education and family practice and prayerful devotion.

THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE COPIES ARE STILL 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!

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.

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.

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. **Kindly REMEMBER to leave your mask on until you have received the Host in the palm of your hand. Step to the side, place the Host in your mouth, readjust your mask to cover your mouth and nose, and return to your pew.***
- 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.*