

**Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy**  
**4275 Fourth Street, Southeast**  
**Washington, D.C. 20032**  
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**St. Thomas More Catholic Academy**  
**Website: [stmhc.org](http://stmhc.org) Telephone: 202-561-1189**

**~November 28, 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*

## First Sunday of Advent

### Preparing to Hear God's Word

**Reading I:** Jer 33:14-16 ~The prophet declares the advent of the coming of the day of the Lord, a time of justice and peace.

**Responsorial:** Psalm 25 ~To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

**Reading II:** 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 ~Live as to please the Lord when he comes again. May the Lord strengthen your hearts for his coming.

**Gospel:** Lk 21:25-28, 34-36 ~Be vigilant and ready to stand before the Lord when he comes.

#### Readings for Next Sunday

Bar 5:1-9 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6

#### DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Is 2:1-5	Matt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Rom 10:9-18	Matt 4:18-22
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a	Matt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6	Matt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24	Matt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26	Matt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

#### PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	Well-being of Audrey Caldwell
Monday	In loving memory of Julie Robinson
Tuesday	Margarine Neal-Birthday
Wednesday	In loving memory of Edith (Tee) Ellis
Thursday	Health of Jim Curtis
Friday	In memory of Doris & Dcn. Martin-Prayer Gp
Saturday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones

#### 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, 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, 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, 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.

## 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 last Sunday, amounted to \$2,733.00, and \$42.00 for Maintenance. Faith Direct contributions will be posted at a later date.

**Mass attendance for last week:** 102 people were physically present in church and over 61 joined live on YouTube.

#### ~TAKING THE NEXT STEP UPDATE~

Thank you for *Taking The Next Step* in your commitment to our parish. We are pleased to announce the following increase in support.

**Yr-To-Date Offertory:** 10/31/20 91,219.00 10/31/21 103,026.00

**Yr-To-Date Faith Direct:** 10/31/20 54,264.00 10/31/21 64,301.00

**Yr-To-Date Other Contrib:** 10/31/20 3,092.00 10/31/21 7,083.00

#### Total Income Year-to-Date

2020 = \$148,575.00

2121 = \$174,410.00

**TOTAL 2021 INCREASE 25,835.00!**

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 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

The sacrament of Reconciliation will be available in the church at **11:00am on Saturdays** during Advent.

#### WORD AMONG US FOR ADVENT

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

**~PASTOR'S PEN~**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

**Dear Church Family,**

Today we begin a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent. We look ahead to Christmas at the end of this very short yet powerful season of preparation for the coming of Christ, Emanuel, God with us. The prophet Jeremiah, who we encounter in our first reading, lived during one of the most devastating times in the history of Israel. He saw the ravaging of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple by the Babylonians. He witnessed many people enslaved and taken into exile, separated from their religious traditions, their social customs, and their country. Yet, his words reflect hope and not despair. His hope is built and based not on human capabilities but on God's faithfulness to his promises. God promised King David an offspring who would do what is right and just and whose rule would bring peace and security to Jerusalem. While we still long for peace in Jerusalem and our whole world as well, we have confidence in the fact that this Son of David, our Lord and Messiah Jesus, has begun his reign. Our gospel assures us that one day this Christ will come in Great Glory as the judge of all.

Today, we together prepare the way of the Lord. We do this by our intentional practice of our faith: receiving Jesus in Holy Communion at Mass, taking advantage of the healing graces of Confession on Saturdays at 11:00am in the church, and by reading devotional books like the Word Among Us and Life is Messy by Matthew Kelly. We have an extra supply of the Word Among Us for you to share with family and friends.

The past years of COVID 19 has forced most of us into isolation and a sort of exile, separating us from loved ones and our church family. Like Israel in captivity long ago, we take comfort and courage as we listen to the words of hope for the future in Jeremiah and St. Paul this week:

**Jeremiah** (33:14-16), "The days are coming says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days...I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land."

**St. Paul** (1Thessalonians 3:12-4:2) "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones." *Come LORD Jesus, Come.*

**May God bless your First week of Advent!**

**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 Pilgr**

**Synod Update and STM Listening Session-**

An important component of the synod is the parish listening session. You are invited to join with other STM members on **Saturday, December 18th** at 9:00am in the Cedar Room to share your thoughts and personal feeling and contribute to fashioning a stronger church, or you may join on zoom, using the link that will be sent on FlockNote. You can also go online and complete the survey for the synod. **The instructions are below.** The results of all these deliberations will be compiled and shared with the Archdiocese of Washington which will collect all of the data gathered from the parish listening sessions. This information will be submitted to Pope Francis. Pray for the success of the Synod.

**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?
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 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?

**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.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.*