

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy

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St. Thomas More Catholic Academy

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~December 12, 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*and Saturdays at 11:00am during Advent.*

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*

Third Sunday of Advent

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Zep 3:14-18a ~God is with his faithful people.

Responsorial Psalm: Is 12 ~Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Reading II: Phil 4:4-7 ~Rejoice always for God is near.

Gospel: Lk 3:10-18 ~John prepares the way for Jesus. Each of these readings makes clear for us what is at the basis of our relationships with each other and of the good news that John preached: because the Lord God is in your midst, a mighty savior (first reading), your kindness should be known to all (second reading).

Readings for Next Sunday

Micah 5:1-4a Heb 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Num 24:2-7, 15-17a	Matt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13	Matt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25	Luke 7:18b-23
Thursday:	Is 54:1-10	Luke 7:21-30
Friday:	Gen 49:2, 8-10	Matt 1:1-17
Saturday:	Jer 23:5-8	Matt 1:18-25

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	Intentions of STM Parishioners
Monday	In loving memory of Andre Lyles-Birthday
Tuesday	Well-being of Audrey Caldwell
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	In loving memory of Bernice Sescoe-Birthday
Friday	In loving memory of Jason Dantley
Saturday	STM Synod Listening Session

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. Casimir 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 \$7,290.40, and \$1,661.00 for Maintenance. Faith Direct contributions will be reported at a later time.

Mass attendance for last week:

120 people were physically present in church and over 126 joined live on YouTube.

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

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.

Great Resources Now Available To You!

Please take advantage of these resources: Books-*The Cross and the Lynching Tree* (\$10.00), and *Life Is Messy* (Free). We also have the 2022 Josephite African American Calendar (Free).

“ADOPT-A-CHILD” GIFT CARDS DUE TODAY!

Those who “adopted” teens from the *Giving Tree* are asked to return your gift cards **T-O-D-A-Y, Sunday, December 12th**. Please use the *blue envelope provided* for the gift cards and place them in the *Offertory Collection Basket* during the Sunday Mass.

God bless you and thank you for your giving support.

Questions: Please speak to Peggy Higgins, 240-375-0388.

~PASTOR'S PEN~
Third Sunday of Advent

Dear Church Family,

Today, on this Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudate Sunday, we are invited to REJOICE. The prophet Zephaniah tells us to shout for joy, for the Lord is in our midst. Likewise, St. Paul insists that the Lord is near and exhorts us to rejoice in the Lord. Although, it takes a more somber tone, even the Gospel reading speaks of rejoicing as John the Baptist warns his followers that there is still time to turn to God before the wheat is gathered and the chaff is burned.

These advent readings emphasize an important element of discipleship: The Kingdom of God is both "here" and "not yet." God is present in our lives, yet we still look for the time when God's kingdom will come in its fullness. We are never not in the presence of God, yet we know there will be a time when wars, poverty, and injustice and division will be no more. We wait in hope but must commit ourselves to spreading the realm of God.

Emmanuel, "God with us," is such a powerful reality that is far beyond what we can possibly comprehend. Even so, we can reflect on the idea that God loves us so intimately that he becomes one of us. If we really lived this belief that God is Emmanuel, would we not treat all people with dignity and respect? Would we not live as stewards of the earth, working to care for our common home? As we continue this season of Advent, how might we be called to more fully live this certainty of Emmanuel, God with us?

May God bless your Third 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 Pilgrim

National Shrine Annual Christmas Dinners:

Each year the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception delivers Christmas dinners for those who are alone or in need on Christmas Day. **For home delivery orders, please call 202-526-8300.** Anyone wishing to volunteer to deliver dinners, please call 202-526-8300.

STM SYNOD 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 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. **Please pray for the success of the Synod.**

FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION!

After beginning our in-person instruction with Eucharistic Adoration and the Rosary, we have now turned our attention to the sacrament of Reconciliation and preparing for the birth of Jesus in the Advent Season, which began 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.

2021 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

ST. THOMAS MORE

**Advent, Christmas
and**

The New Year of 2022



ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Saturdays at 11:00am in the Church
and By Appointment

MASS SCHEDULE

~Christmas Eve~

**Friday, December 24, 2021
Mass at 7:30pm**

~Christmas Day~

**Saturday, December 25, 2021
Mass at 10:00am**

~New Year's Day~

**Saturday, January 1, 2022
Mass at 10:00am**

Adult Bible Study

On break December 21 & 28, 2021

Religious Education Classes

On break December 26, 2021 & January 2, 2022

Parish Office Closings

**Christmas Holiday
December 23 & 24**

**New Year's Holiday
December 29, 30 & 31**

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!*

ST. THOMAS MORE TO HOST ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING MASS!

Once again, we are honored to host the annual Mass in observance of the birth of Dr. King. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Roy Campbell on Saturday, January 22, 2022 at 5:00pm. Music will be provided by Archdiocesan Gospel Mass Choir. The program will begin at 4:30pm with praise and worship, followed by Mass at 5:00pm. All are invited to join in this great celebration.

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. **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.*

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.***