

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy

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St. Thomas More Catholic Academy

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~December 19, 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*

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Micah 5:1-4a ~The Messiah of God will come from the little town of Bethlehem.

Responsorial: Psalm 80 ~Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reading II: Heb 10:5-10 ~The son of God comes to do the Father's will.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 ~The gospel discloses both Mary's and Elizabeth's willingness to do God's will.

Readings for Next Sunday

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 Lk 2:41-52

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Is 7:10-14	Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Songs 2:8-14	Luke 1:39-45
Wednesday:	1 Sam 1:24-28	Luke 1:46-56
Thursday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24	Luke 1:57-66
Friday:	2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16	Luke 1:67-79
Vigil Mass:	Is 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25	
Saturday:	Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 John 1:1-18	

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Monday	Well-being of Audrey Caldwell
Tuesday	In loving memory of Tom Proctor-Birthday
Wednesday	Yvonne Hanna-Birthday
Thursday	Health of Myra Thompson
Friday	In loving memory of Sharron Willis-Birthday
Saturday	Gratitude for Jesus' Birth

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, Frances 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 & Myra Thompson (sister & niece of Blondinia Brown), Frances 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 \$6,883.40, and \$1,560.00 for Maintenance. Faith Direct donations totaled \$12,420.00

Mass attendance for last week:

117 people were physically present in church and over 57 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).

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.

~PASTOR'S PEN~
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dear Church Family,

Today, on this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Love as we draw closer to celebrating the Nativity of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Over the past weeks we have focused on the very ordinary people that God used to bring about the mystery and miracle of our salvation. He sent his angels to announce the very good news of our redemption, not to the powerful and well positioned, not to royalty, but to the lowly and humble.

First, an angel speaks to John the Baptist's father, Zechariah. Now, Zechariah does happen to be a priest—a position of some influence—but he's not the high priest. Zechariah is hardly a mover or shaker in his community. He is more like a country pastor.

Next, an angel, Gabriel, appears to Mary: a poor peasant girl, one of low social status. "Greetings, favored one!" the angel says to her. Mary has never been addressed that way in her life! "Favored One!" What favor is there in being a girl of maybe 14, whose only lot in life is to be betrothed by her parents to a man she barely knows, then live the rest of her days hauling water, baking bread, washing laundry, and bearing her husband's children? Yet it is to none other than Mary that the angel comes. Humble Mary—not some jewel bedecked princess in a lavish palace—is the favored one in God's eyes.

Then there is Joseph, the man to whom Mary is betrothed, a humble carpenter who receives God's message in a dream through an angel. The angel's message is that he is to take Mary as his wife and to have no fear to have faith.

Next, a whole company of angels appears to a group of shepherds on a hillside outside of Bethlehem. Shepherds were considered not just common folk. They're cast-offs, day laborers. Other, more respectable folk looked on them with disdain and distrust.

Who would be the contemporary equivalents of the shepherds in today's society? To whom would the angels sing were they to appear today?

No doubt they'd appear in those places where day laborers gather, looking for work; they'd appear in the migrant camps and where the homeless congregate.

So, in this final week of Advent, let us be attentive to the voice of God in the words of the angel's message and song. Let us find our savior in the simple and unlikely spots in our neighborhoods, nation and world. Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

May God bless your Fourth Week of Advent!

Father Moore

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.

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

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

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***