

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy

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St. Thomas More Catholic Academy

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~January 2, 2022~



**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**

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*



Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Is 60:1-6 ~Raise your eyes and see the goodness of God. All people are invited to God's saving grace and merciful love.

Responsorial: Psalm 72 ~Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Reading II: Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 ~As the light of Christ shines on in us, we are invited to see what lies deep within our own hearts, to bring forth what is good, and then spend ourselves for others.

Gospel: Matt 2:1-12 ~ As the light of Christ shines on in us, we are invited to see what lies deep within our own hearts, to bring forth what is good, and then spend ourselves for others.

Readings for Next Sunday

Is 42: 1-4, 6-7 Acts 10:34-38 Lk 3:15-16,21-22

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	1 John 3:22-4:6	Matt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday:	1 John 4:7-10	Mark 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 John 4:11-18	Mark 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 John 4:19-5:4	Luke 4:14-22
Friday:	1 John 5:5-13	Luke 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 John 5:14-21	John 3:22-30

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	In loving memory of Audrey Caldwell
Monday	Health of John Mercer
Tuesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Wednesday	In loving memory of Lum Garnett
Thursday	In memory of Richard Tyer
Friday	In memory of Doris & Dcn. Martin-Prayer Gp
Saturday	In loving memory of Jacqueline Wilson-Iyr

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, 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, **John Mercer**, 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, Myra Thompson, 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 the peaceful repose of the soul of our longtime, devoted parishioner, **Audrey Caldwell**, and the consolation of her family and friends.*

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, 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), **John Mercer**, Marquel Poindexter, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Yolanda Rollins, 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 December 26th amounted to \$5,572.00, and \$560.00 for Maintenance. Faith Direct contributions amounted to \$9,438.00. Christmas contributions totaled \$1,805.00.

Mass Attendance:

Sunday, 12/26/21: 53 people were physically present in church and over 60 joined live on YouTube.

Christmas Eve: 56 were present in church and over 443 via YouTube.

Christmas Day: 14 people were present in church.

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 available by appointment. Please speak to Father Moore if you would like to take advantage of this important sacrament.

WORD AMONG US FOR JANUARY

The January 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).

~PASTOR'S PEN~

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Dear Church Family,

Today, we begin the first full week of 2022 and our annual observance of the Epiphany—the manifestation of the Christ child to the Magi. We also know them as the Wise Men from the East who arrive in Bethlehem in search of the “newborn king of the Jews.” In today’s Gospel we read, “They saw the child with his mother Mary and, falling to their knees, they did him homage.” This is the familiar story of the “Wise Men” from the East. “Where is the Infant King of the Jews?” they ask. “We saw His star, and we have come to give Him homage.”

Where was the Infant King when they found him?” Could he have been lying in a manger? What a paradox: the King of the Universe, the King of all that was, all the is, and all that will be, the King of every King who lived in a stately palace was born in a manger.

Today, we, like the Magi, fall on our knees and give homage to Jesus. But our act of honor and homage is incomplete until we get up off our knees. And then we must return to our daily living to do the work as disciples for Christ.

When God had showed Himself, in physical form, to the Wise Men from the East, God had given them a new lease on their inner life. Not only had they found the answer to their question, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews,” but also, they had found the answer to the question of their own identity. Their search for meaning and purpose brought them to their knees in that Bethlehem stable—and their hearts were filled with joy! And that’s the story of our salvation, too!

In and through our experience of the presence of Christ our King, we find new inner meaning for our life, and our hearts are filled with joy, and we fall on our knees and worship him.

In and through our experience of the presence of Christ our King, we know in our hearts that the world will be redeemed because God is in charge.

In and through our experience of the presence of Christ our King, we know in our hearts that beyond our death and the death of the world, the Christmas, Good Friday and Easter promise of eternal life will be kept.

In and through our experience of the presence of Christ our King, we know in our hearts that we can rely absolutely on the continuing action of God’s grace in our individual lives, in our families and in our world.

May we all follow the star that leads us to our Lord, Savior and King, today and throughout the rest of 2022.

Happy and blessed New Year,

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.

WELCOME VISITORS!



*We warmly welcome our visitors to
St. Thomas More Church.*

*We invite all who are seeking church
home to join our STM Church family.*

~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

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.*

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!*

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.