

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
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E-mail: stmchurch@comcast.net Website: www.stthomasmoredc.org

St. Thomas More Catholic Academy
Website: stmcdc.org Telephone: 202-561-1189

~February 20, 2022~



Growing Stronger Together in '22

Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Raymond Moore, Pastor, x12
Installed Acolyte: Ed Poindexter
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
Finance Council: Tracey Jean-Charles, Damon Smith,
Patricia Thomas

***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**

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*

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: 1 Sam 26: 2, 7-9, 12-12, 22-23 ~No harm shall come to the Lord's anointed one.

Responsorial: Psalm 103~The Lord is kind and merciful.

Reading II: 1 Cor 15: 45-49 ~We shall bear the image of the heavenly one.

Gospel: Luke Lk 6: 27-38~We are called to do unto others as we would have them do unto ourselves, to love our enemies and to forgive one another.

Readings for Next Sunday

Sir 27:4-7 1 Cor 15: 54-58 Lk 6: 39-45

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Jas 3:13-18	Mark 9:14-29
Tuesday:	1 Pet 5:1-4	Matt 16:13-19
Wednesday:	Jas 4:13-17	Mark 9:38-40
Thursday:	Jas 5:1-6	Mark 9:41-50
Friday:	Jas 5:9-12	Mark 10:1-12
Saturday:	Jas 5:13-20	Mark 10:13-16

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	Health of Mary Travers
Monday	Health of John Mercer
Tuesday	In loving memory of Jason Plaskett, Jr.-Birthday
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	In loving memory of Doris Martin
Friday	Family of Shirley Brown
	In loving memory of Clyde Sapp
Saturday	In loving memory of Conchita Brown

PLEASE KEEP THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Shirley Adams, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Betty Beatty, Frank & Rita Brewer, Blondinia 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 Sescos, Ciara Shields, Brenda Smith, Margaret Spencer, 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 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), 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), Frances Hicks, Elizabeth Holmes, Christopher Holton, Sr., Bernard Jarvis, Felicia James, John Mercer, Marquel Poindexter, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Yolanda Rollins, Alena Russell, Margaret Spencer, 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.

OFFICE CLOSED: The church office will be closed Monday, February 21st for the Federal Holiday.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP

The same Lord is Lord of all, and his generosity is offered to all who appeal to him, for all who appeal to him, for all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Romans 10:12-13)

Our gracious Father, your generosity has made us witnesses to the whole world, to tell of your love poured out in Jesus Christ for our salvation. Grant now that what we bring in tithes and offerings may be used to give our faith and love a voice. 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 last week amounted to \$3,891.00, and \$295.00 for the Maintenance Fund.

Faith Direct contributions amounted to \$6,640.91.

Mass attendance for Sunday, February 13th

42 people were physically present in church and 90 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 available by appointment. Please speak to Father Moore if you would like to take advantage of this important sacrament.

WORD AMONG US FOR FEBRUARY

The **February** issue of the **Word Among Us** is now 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 still have the 2022 Josephite African American Calendar (Free).

~PASTOR'S PEN~

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

***ADW Annual Appeal Commitment Weekend
Letter from Cardinal Gregory***

Dear Father Moore,

May the blessings of Christ be with you and your parish family!

I wish to congratulate and thank you and your generous members for exceeding your annual Appeal goal in 2021. Your model of stewardship and sacrificial giving is a source of inspiration for all who love and serve our local Church. I am especially grateful for your help in uplifting our Archdiocesan ministries during this time of great need.

Working together, we collected \$10,368,796 for the 2021 Annual Appeal through 28,232 gifts made. The amount collected was within 1% of the gifts collected in 2020—a remarkable result considering the adverse effects of the pandemic. I was pleased to see a more than two-fold increase in online gifts made in 2021.

As we give thanks for God's blessings in 2021 and turn to a new year, I count on your continued support for the 2022 Annual Appeal. It is evident that our people desire to support the ministries of the Church through their gifts of treasure, and I thank you for your impassioned and effective promotion of those charitable works. With our new parish rebate program, 50% of the funds you raise over your 2022 goal will be returned to your parish to support your ministry life. Through this program, we will add to the many ways in which a strong Annual Appeal benefits our local community of faith.

Our theme for the 2022 Annual Appeal is ***From God's Abundance, Our Gifts of Charity*** as a reminder that our humble acts of service are ultimately a participation in God's mercy and love. I thank you for faithfully sowing the seeds of God's hope in our people, through which abundant fruit will bear forth for our Church.

***Yours in Christ,
+ Wilton Cardinal Gregory,
Archbishop of Washington***

****IMPORTANT REMINDERS****

~ASH WEDNESDAY MASS~

March 2, 2022 at 10:00am in the Church.

~LENTEN FOOD DRIVE~

Once again we invite you to support our STM Food Pantry by donating non-perishable food items for our needy neighbors. Please bring your donations to church on Sunday or drop them off at the church office during the week. ***All donations will be used right here at STM.***

~FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION~

Because of the spike in COVID 19 infections ***we have resumed virtual instruction for our children.*** For further information, please contact Ms. Wanda Brooks.



WELCOME VISITORS!

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

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

OUR FAMILY PRAYER FOR JUSTICE AND HUMAN DIGNITY

Loving and faithful God, we come to you, Father, to ask that through your Son, Jesus and in communion with the Holy Spirit, you help us in the battle against America's "original sin" of racism that divides us from being the Body of Christ that we are called to be as your children.

We implore you to give us your wisdom, so that we may build a community founded on the Gospel message of the life and dignity of all people from conception to natural death, and to live in communion like the divine communion of the Holy Trinity.

Bless parents that they may form their children in faith, to love one another regardless of skin color, ethnicity and national origin, just as Jesus loves us. Bless and protect all of us as we live out our faith in being "instruments of your peace" as St. Francis said. Fill us with a thirst for justice and righteousness.

Hear our prayer and give us the courage, compassion, and perseverance to root out any form of injustice within our communities and to bring the healing love of Christ to all in need.

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of our Church, hasten to help us and intercede on our behalf, so we can continue to witness to the Gospel message of life and dignity of all people.
AMEN

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 & Yonte McCormick
Jasmine Jones & Martin Sedegah
Chelsea St. Peter & Nash Crosby***

Preparing for Confirmation:

***Charles Anthony Damia Moore
Selah Smith Abdur Taalib
Umamiah 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 GOAL **EXCEEDED!!**

**As of today, our total pledges
closing out the 2021 Appeal
amounted to \$41,000,
which exceeds our Annual Goal
of \$33,900 by \$7,100!**
Thank you so much for your great support!

COVID 19 PROCEDURES IN CHURCH

As more and more of us are vaccinated, more and more of us have been 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.*

2021 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution Statements totaling \$100.00 or more were mailed on January 22, 2021.

Contributions are manually entered into the Parish Soft Recordkeeping System. This system is then used to generate your contribution statements each year.

**In the event that you may have any
questions and/or clarifications
please contact Pattie Hamilton
via EMAIL at the following e-address:
HAMISINGS@MSN.COM.**

Thank you for reaching out directly to Pattie should you have any questions. She is the best person to handle matters regarding your statements.

We wish to ensure that all statements are in alignment.

*Those contributing via Faith Direct will receive a
separate statement directly from Faith Direct E-giving.*