

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
4275 Fourth Street, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20032
Telephone: 202-562-0431
E-mail: stmchurch@comcast.net Website: www.stthomasmoredc.org
St. Thomas More Catholic Academy
Website: stmcdc.org Telephone: 202-561-1189

April 10, 2022 ~ Palm Sunday



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*

Wednesdays at Noon in Rectory Chapel, and on Zoom.
The Zoom link is 808 1208 607; Pass code 548415

~PASTOR'S PEN~

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Dear Church Family,

I want to share the following reflection by Mike Russell on last week's Gospel on the woman caught in adultery:

Today is another one of the Gospels which is relatively short and a lot of meaning is obvious, but where there are possibly more subtle messages, if we take the plunge. Everyone focuses on the fact that Jesus writes in the dirt, and many speculate that He is writing the sins of those accusers, and they are leaving one by one. What I hardly see people focusing on is that Jesus actually writes twice. And the first writing is generally passed over. The Holy Spirit got me to thinking, "What was the first writing all about?" Picture a woman in mortal fear because, firstly, she is exposed as an adulteress to the whole community, and then compound that with the fact that she is brought to a particularly respected Teacher, by the scribes and Pharisees, who did not have her well-being in mind, and would have been perfectly happy to have her stoned to death. Jesus sees this poor woman and knows exactly what she is going through. Do you think he would have ignored her until the very end? Or rather, do you think Jesus would have provided an immediate remedy for her fear? Time and time again, there was one phrase which ushered forth from Jesus to his apostles and others He had found in panic and shock: "Do not be afraid!" It isn't in Scripture, but I posit that that is exactly what he wrote in the dirt, to her. In other words, "My sister, hang in there. I got this handled." In the end of the story, He tells her, if no one else condemns her, He won't either. In reality, Jesus never condemns. Jesus tells the woman, "Go, and sin no more," a simple show of grace on its surface; but remember in John 5 when he tells the man He has healed, "Sin no more, lest something worse happen to you." This is the very same admonition contained in His final words to her. It is much more than a simple instruction. It is a warning, and words of practical wisdom to all of us in the pews, handed down from the Person responsible for us even being in the pews. "Just because someone sets a trap for you, doesn't mean you have to step in it. And don't think that because the enemy has missed in one trap, he won't try another." **Stay careful and stay prayerful. Jesus did. Now, you go and do likewise.**

Written by Mike Russell

2022 HOLY WEEK/EASTER SCHEDULE



April 10th- Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Mass at 10:00am. Blessings of Palms and Reading of
the Lord's Passion. **Confession before & after Mass.**

April 13th- Spy Wednesday: Confessions will follow Stations
of the Cross at Noon (Rectory) and 7:00pm in the Church.
This is the day that Judas betrayed the Lord Jesus. We betray
the Lord in our sins. You are invited to receive the Sacrament
of Reconciliation.

April 14th- Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper and
Washing of Feet at 7:30pm.

April 15th- Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord
Service at 7:30pm.

April 17th- Easter Sunday Mass of the Resurrection of the
Lord at 10:00am.

~ HOLIDAY SCHEDULES ~

Pastor's Bible Study will be on break April 12th & 19th.

Religious Ed Classes will be on break Easter Sunday.

The Church Office will be closed Holy Thursday,
Good Friday and Easter Monday.

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
Tranay Bell & Eric Ray

Preparing for Confirmation:

Charles Anthony **Damia Moore**
Selah Smith **Abdur Taalib**
Umaimah Taalib

Cardinal Gregory will administer Confirmation on
Saturday, June 4th at 2:00pm in the Basilica of the National
Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Preparing for First Communion and Penance:

Ariel Collins **Steven Collins**
Brianna Hammons **Aiden Lewis**
Karter Martin **Tylia Pilgrim**

First Communion will be celebrated here at St. Thomas
More on Saturday, May 21st at 11:00am.

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.

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC ACADEMY

*We are currently enjoying the blessings of
IN PERSON instruction for all our scholars.
We thank you for your continued support!*

For More Information On Our School

Visit Our Website: stmhc.org

School Office: 202-561-1189

GRADUATE RECOGNITION 2022

Please submit the names of your graduates for our annual recognition by calling the church office, emailing stmchurch@comcast.net, or signing the list in the back of church.

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 grateful to you for the 550 SHARE PACKAGES that were purchased to support those we serve from our STM Food Pantry! Thank you!

~ LENTEN GUIDELINES ~

The Discipline for fasting and abstinence were introduced by Pope Paul VI in 1966. Here is a breakdown of what the Church asks of us:

-Fasting means eating a lesser amount of food. While fasting, only one full meal is taken. Two other smaller meals are usually eaten. While fasting, we do not snack between meals!!

-Catholics who are 18 years of age and not yet 60 years old are asked to observe the fast days of the Church. There are only two days of fasting: **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.**

-Abstinence means not eating any meat. Dairy products as well as fish and seafood may be eaten.

*-The church has established **ASH WEDNESDAY and ALL THE FRIDAYS OF LENT AS DAYS OF ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT.***

*We both **FAST and ABSTAIN** on Ash Wednesday
AND Good Friday (April 15th)*

2022 ANNUAL APPEAL NOW UNDERWAY!

The Annual Appeal is now well underway. ***So far, 119 of us have donated.*** We are grateful for your generosity as we exceeded our 2021 goal. ***Please consider your pledge in supporting the 2022 Annual Appeal. This year our goal is \$35,500.*** You might be wondering: "Why should I donate to the Annual Appeal when I can support individual Catholic ministries? As Catholics, we are united in our faith, the sacraments, and the good works of the Church. The Annual Appeal is a way to support critical services and ministries of the Church in an effective and meaningful way, and to support ministries larger than any particular parish or agency. Further, there are many ministries supported by the Annual Appeal that do not have a means to receive support directly from charitable donations. ***Please support this year's Annual Appeal.***

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.