Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy 4275 Fourth Street, Southeast

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St. Thomas More Catholic Academy Website: <u>stmdc.org</u> 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

Baptism: Please call the Parish Office to register for classes.

Confession: By appointment*

*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 <u>received via email by 12:00pm Monday</u> in order to have them included in Sunday's publication. Thank you for honoring this important timeline.

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

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion Preparing to Hear God's Word

Special Gospel Reading~Luke 19:28-40

Reading I: Is 50:4-7~ Isaiah is like Jesus in two ways. He was a prophet whose words were not understood. For this he was rejected and persecuted.

Responsorial: Psalm 22~ My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Reading II: Phil 2:6-11~ God exalted Christ, who emptied himself.

Gospel: Luke 19:28-40 ~ (PASSION)

Readings for Next Sunday (Easter)
Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Col 3:1-4 John 20:1-9

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday: Is 42:1-7 Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6 Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a Mt 26:14-25
Thursday: Ex: 12:1-8, 11-14 1 Cor 11:23-26 Jn 13:1-15
Friday Service: Is 52:13-53-53:12 Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Jn 18:1-19:42

Saturday *Vigil*: Selected Readings & Rom 6:3-11 Lk 24:1-12

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday Taneka Hollins, Maela Hamilton-Pritchett-Birthday

In loving memory of Larry Jones-Birthday

Monday In loving memory of Fr. John Kinter Tuesday MieKayla Singleton-Birthday

Wednesday Jo-Ann Hamilton-Birthday

In memory of Ezinne S. Onyegwara-Birthday

Thursday Carol Dantley-Birthday

In loving memory of Aaron Otis-Coker

Friday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones Saturday In loving Memory of Pearl Curtis-Birthday

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, 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, 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 Sescoe, 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 the peaceful repose of the soul of **Doris Dodson**, sister of James Hilton, and the consolation of her family.

Please also pray for PEACE in our world, and for all victims of COVID-19, their families, caregivers, and our frontline workers.

Your continued prayers are requested for Shirley Adams, Marcus Bell, Sheila D. Brown, Frank and Rita Brewer, Nancy J. Evans & Myra Thompson (sister & niece of Blondinia Brown), Francess 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.

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 \$6,204.00, and \$1,336.00 for the Maintenance Fund.

Faith Direct contributions will be reported at a later date.

Mass attendance for Sunday, April 3rd:

95 people were physically present in church and 60 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.

<u>Click on DONATE</u> 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 Sundays, **1-2:30pm**, via Zoom. Come enjoy fellowship and lively discussions.

The Zoom link is 83463722487; Pass code 074454

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 LENT

The *Lenten* issue of the *Word Among Us* is now available in the church and rectory.

LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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 his 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.

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

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

<u>April 17th</u>- 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 <u>Saturday</u>, <u>June 4th</u> at 2:00pm in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Preparing for First Communion and Penance:

Ariel Collins
Brianna Hammons
Karter Martin
Steven Collins
Aiden Lewis
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 <u>virtual instruction</u> 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: stmdc.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 <u>550 SHARE PACKAGES</u> that were purchased to support those we serve from our STM Food Pantry! Thank you!

~ LENTEN GUIDELINES ~

The <u>Discipline</u> 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 <u>DO NOT</u> 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 <u>REQUIRED</u> 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.