Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy 4275 Fourth Street, Southeast

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E-mail: stmchurch@comcast.net Website: www.stthomasmoredc.org

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

~ July 16, 2023 ~



Let The Eucharist Revive Us Again!

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. Denese Clay, Glorify Praise Team Director

Mrs. Barbara Elliott, Parish Council Chair

Finance Council: Tracey Jean-Charles, Damon Smith,

Patricia Thomas

Mass Schedule:

Saturday 4:00pm ~ Rectory Chapel

Sunday 10:00am ~ Church

Livestreamed on YouTube

Confession:

After 10:00am Sunday Mass and by appointment.

Bulletin Deadline: Items for Sunday's Bulletin must be <u>submitted via email by 10:00am Monday</u> 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.

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: On Summer Break Bible Study: On Summer Break

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Is 55:10-11~ The promise God makes through Isaiah is that God's word will achieve "the end for which God sent it."

Responsorial: Ps 65: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Reading II: Rom 8:18-23~ We have the "first fruits of the Spirit."

Gospel: Matt Mt 13:1-23~ God's harvest will be fruitful and abundant.

Readings for Next Sunday

Wis 12:13, 16-19 Rom 8: 26-27 Matt 13:24-43

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Ex 1:8-14, 22	Mt 10:34—11:1
Tuesday:	Ex 2:1-15a	Mt 11:20-24
Wednesday:	Ex 3:1-6, 9-12	Mt 11:25-27
Thursday:	Ex 3:13-20	Mt 11:28-30
Friday:	Ex 11:1012:14	Mt 12:1-8
Saturday:	2 Cor 5:14-17	Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday Andria Otis-Coker-Birthday

In loving memory of Robert Robinson-Birthday

Monday Adrian Otis-Coker-Birthday

In loving memory of Baby Terrell James

Tuesday In loving memory of Mother Mary Webster Wednesday National Black Catholic Congress Attendees Thursday In loving memory of Orlando Witherspoon Friday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones

Saturday Health of Denzil Garvey

PLEASE KEEP THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Shirley Adams, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Frank & Rita Brewer, Blondinia Brown, Cynthia Bruce, Felicia V. Bush, Jane Cannon, Dixie Clark, Shertia Clark, 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, Zynae Green, Emmanuel Greene, Gloria Greene Rodriguez, William Gunn, Andre Harris, Margaret Harris, Vance Harris II, June Harrison, Shant'e Hawkins, Maximillon Holland, Darryl Jackson, Dr. Jimmie Jackson, Leane Jean-Charles, Ivy John, Phyllis & Harold Johnson, Sarah Jones, Seymour & Patrick Jones, David Larison, Dennis Lucas, Gloria & William McCaskill, Ed Miller, Betty Moeller, Dorothy Myrtle, Angela Neal, Tammy Peterson, Charles Queen, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Arthur Robinson, Leroy Robinson, Yolanda Rollins, Robin Sescoe, Ciara Shields, Brenda Smith, Margaret Spencer, Edsel Swann, Jane Thomas, Myra Thompson, Mary & Charles Travers, Kristine Vivican, Rev. Raymond Wadas, Kayla Warren, Paul Waters, Marilyn Denise Whetstone, Anita Williams, William Wims, Kobe M. Williams, David Wilson, Jean Wright, Marianne Young, and all of our Sick/Shut-in parishioners.

~ PRAYER REQUESTS ~

Please pray for PEACE in our world, all victims of violence, all impacted by COVID-19, our healthcare workers; and all who serve as caregivers for their aging parents/relatives.

Your continued prayers are requested for Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Frank & Rita Brewer, Nancy J. Evans & Myra Thompson, Francess Davies, Priscilla Fuller, David Garner, Denzil Garvey, Rodney Hollins, Jr., Christopher Holton, Sr., Larry Owens, Marquel Poindexter, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Yolanda Rollins, Margaret Spencer, Mary & Charles Travers, Fr. Jordan Turano, Monei Williams, William Wims, our members who are on the road to recovery, sick, shut-in or grieving:

and Pope Francis, Cardinal Gregory, Fr. Moore, Fr. Casmir, Ed Poindexter.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP!

"Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust corrupt, and where thieves do not break through, nor steal." (Matthew 6:20)

Gladly and with gracious hearts, we bring our offering before you this week. May they reflect the genuine gratitude that resides within us, and may they be used to declare our love for you and one another. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

~They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love~

Tithes and offerings for *last Sunday:*Regular~\$6,012.00; Maintenance~\$580.00;
Faith Direct contributions will be reported at a later date.

Mass Attendance

Saturday 4:00pm 18 in the Rectory Chapel

Sunday 10:00am 121 in Church

135 Livestream Views on YouTube

Thank you for your loving commitment to your church family.

FAITH DIRECT eGIVING!!

Before you begin your vacations, travels, and other summer plans, please consider *eGiving* to ensure your support for our parish remains consistent even when you are away. Your recurring gifts will not only sustain our parish throughout the summer months, but you will also help reduce our costs for envelopes. Getting started with eGiving is easy.

Here are the ways to sign up:

- --Visit //faith.direct/DC773 (St. Thomas More Church code.)
- --Call Faith Direct Customer Service at 866-507-8757
- --**Text** "Enroll" to 202-866-5450

10:00AM SUNDAY MASS

Mass continues to be Livestreamed on YouTube.
The link is sent weekly via Flocknote.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY ON BREAK

Adult Bible Study is on break for the Summer.

ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

Our Adult Discussion Group meets on Sundays, <u>1-2:30pm</u>, via Zoom. Come enjoy fellowship and lively discussions.

The Zoom link is 83463722487; Pass code 074454

~ PRAY THE ROSARY ~

St. Thomas More Sodality welcomes you to join us as we pray the Rosary:

<u>Tuesdays at Noon</u>, and <u>Thursdays at 11:00am</u>. Dial-in: 605 313 5818. Access code 883049#.

WORD AMONG US

The *Word Among Us* for July/August is available in the church and rectory.

WEEKDAY MASS

Join us for *Weekday Mass* at 9:00am in the Rectory Chapel on Monday and Wednesday.

~ HOMILY POINTS ~



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Today's readings teach us about the word of God. Three characteristics stand out. First, the word of God is expansive. The prophet Isaiah offers a beautiful image of the word of God coming down from heaven like rain and snow, with enough strength to nourish the whole world. God sends out God's word to the ends of the earth. Like rain and snow, God's word gets to work sparking growth and new life in all who encounter it. God's reach knows no bounds. Where do vou experience the expansiveness of God's word?

**The word of God is also contextual. In the gospel parable of the sower and the seed, Jesus lays out a variety of options for where the seeds can land—and image for how people can receive God's word. Some people are not prepared to absorb the word of God, like seeds on the path. Others find great joy in God's word at first but cannot sustain it. They are like seeds sown on rocky ground. Still others deal with anxieties and temptations that make it nearly impossible to truly take in the word of God, like seeds sown among thorns. The word of God does not change, but the context of the hearer makes a big difference in how well it will be received. How might you cultivate rich soil to truly hear the word of God this week?

**Finally, today's readings show the connection between the word of God and the natural world. Both Isaiah and Jesus use nature imagery to teach about God's word—for it is not stuck somewhere in the heavens out of reach. Rather, the word of God is all around us, ready to be discovered and engaged. Spend some prayerful time in nature this week and listen for God's revelation.

(Living Liturgy)

May the Lord's peace and grace be with you!

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY **FOR THOSE** PREPARING FOR SACRAMENTS

~Preparing for Baptism~

Chizaram Muolete Jayden Quick

~Preparing for Confirmation~

Cameron Anthony Camille Anthony Ariel Collins Christian Doricent Aurora Jarvis-Washington Isis Jarvis-Washington

Kameron Martin Adrian Otis-Coker Marquee Sherrell Habiba Taalib Sydney Weber Tierra Tyer

~Preparing for Matrimony~

Marc Ray and Shanice Ledbetter



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.

AFRICAN AMERICAN **CANDIDATES FOR SAINTHOOD**

Please Pray for the Canonization of Our Six African American Candidates for Sainthood:

Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman Venerable Henriette DeLille Venerable Pierre Toussaint Servant of God Mother Mary Lange Venerable Augustus Tolton Servant of God Julia Greeley

> Prayer for Canonization of Servant of God Mother Mary Lange



Almighty and Eternal God, You granted Mother Mary Lange extraordinary trust in Your providence. You endowed her with humility, courage, holiness, and an extraordinary sense of service to the poor and sick. You enabled her to found the

Oblate Sisters of Providence and provide educational, social, and spiritual ministry especially to the African American community.

Mother Lange's love for all enabled her to see Christ in each person, and the pain of prejudice and racial hatred never blurred that vision. Deign to raise her to the highest honors of the altar in order that, through her intercession, more souls may come to a deeper understanding and more fervent love of You.

Heavenly Father, glorify Your heart by granting also this favor (mention your request here) which we ask through the intercession of Your faithful servant, Mother Mary Lange.

AMEN

ST. THOMAS MORE



CATHOLIC ACADEMY

<u>Registration Continues for the</u> 2023-2024 School Year!

For More Information On Our School
Visit Our Website: stmdc.org
School Office: 202-561-1189
We thank you for your continued support!



FOOD PANTRY Open On ALTERNATING FRIDAYS 10:00am- Noon!

Even well before the pandemic, our community has been long recognized as a "food desert." With your help we have been able to continue assisting our neighbors.

We provide nutritious foods, including meats, fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs, and milk in our 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. 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.)

Again, thanks to our many members who have donated to the pantry throughout this pandemic.

SHARE INFORMATION

Value Package \$25.00

Please contact Flo Gantt for Registration info.

Please also consider making a monetary donation of \$25.00 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 have been purchased to support those we serve from our STM Food Pantry! Thank you!

2023 ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE!

"Many Ministries, One Church."

Thanks to the generosity of 45 of our parish families, our parish currently stands at 58% of our 2023 Annual Appeal goal with pledges of \$21,232.00 committed as of this past week---toward our goal of \$36,900.

If you haven't yet made your gift, please prayerfully consider doing so today by visiting **give.adw.org.**

By donating today, you will support more than seventy ministries vital to the life of our Church.

Again, our 2023 goal is \$36,900!

Many thanks to those of you who have already made pledges supporting the Annual Appeal.

UPDATED COVID 19 PRECAUTIONS 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 we will maintain to ensure the continued 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 coverings are now optional.
- 4. Please receive Holy Communion in your hand.

NOTES FOR TODAY