# Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy 4275 Fourth Street, Southeast

Washington, D.C. 20032 Telephone: 202-562-0431

E-mail: <a href="mailto:stmchurch@comcast.net">stmchurch@comcast.net</a> Website: <a href="mailto:www.stthomasmoredc.org">www.stthomasmoredc.org</a>

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

# ~ October 1, 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: Every Sunday after 10:00am Mass Bible Study: Every Tuesday at 7:30pm, via Zoom

# Twenty-Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time Preparing to Hear God's Word

**Reading I:** Ez 18:25-28- The prophet's word is a call to conversion in our lives--a life or death choice.

Responsorial: Ps 25: Remember your mercies, O Lord. Reading II: Phil 2:1-11- St. Paul points to Jesus' selfemptying and uses it as an example for the Philippians, and us, as well.

Gospel: Mt 21:28-32- Jesus calls us to make a choice: to choose life by taking "the way of righteousness" and doing the Father's will.

Readings for Next Sunday
Is 5:1-7 Phil 4:6-9 Mt 21:33-43

# **DAILY MASS READINGS**

Monday:	Zec 8:1-8	Matt 18:1-5, 10
Tuesday:	Zec 8:20-30	Luke 9:51-56
Wednesday:	Neh 2:1-8	Luke 9:57-62
Thursday:	Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12	Luke 10:1-12
Friday:	Bar 1:15-22	Luke 10:13-16
Saturday:	Bar 4:5-12, 27-29	Luke 10:17-24

### PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday Elma Garnett-Birthday

Monday In loving memory of Fr. Everett Pearson-Birthday

Tuesday Health of Jan Thelin

Wednesday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones

Thursday Health of Elma Garnett

In loving memory of Lucille Rivas

Friday In loving memory of Roderick Bell-Birthday

In loving memory of Elizabeth Holmes-1 yr.

In memory of Andrew Caldwell, Poris & Den Mor

In memory of Audrey Caldwell, Doris & Dcn. Martin

Saturday Safekeeping of Our Youth

# 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, Phyllis & Harold Johnson, Sarah Jones, Seymour & Patrick Jones, David Larison, Dennis Lucas, Gloria & William McCaskill, Ed Miller, Betty Moeller, Pete Muschette, 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 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 ~

Pray also 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, Denzil Garvey, Rodney Hollins, Jr., Christopher Holton, Sr., Erma Lewis (sister of Jeane Brown), Pete Muschett, Larry Owens, Marquel Poindexter, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Yolanda Rollins, Margaret Spencer, Jan Thelin, Mary 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!

And he said to them, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and unto God the things that belong to God." (Luke 20:25)

Heavenly Father, you have blessed us with inner peace and joy through the working of the Holy Spirit. You have bestowed on us an abundance of material goods. We now bring our offerings to you in response to your word and in gratitude for your favor. Bless our offerings today in the name of Jesus. AMEN

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

Tithes and offerings for last Sunday amounted to \$4,199.00, and \$0.00 for the Maintenance Fund.

Faith Direct contributions will be reported at a later date.

# **Mass Attendance**

Saturday 4:00pm 17 in the Rectory Chapel

Sunday 10:00am 112 in Church

156 Livestream Views on YouTube

Thank you for your loving commitment to your church family.

# FAITH DIRECT eGIVING!!

Please consider *eGiving* to ensure your support for our parish remains consistent even if you are away. Your recurring gifts will not only sustain our parish, 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

Adult Bible Study meets on Zoom on <u>Tuesdays at 7:30pm.</u>

The link is 808 1208 607: Pass code 548415. All are invited to join our lively discussions.

# ~ 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 FOR OCTOBER

The Word Among Us for October is now available in the church and rectory.

## WEEKDAY MASS

Join us for *Weekday Mass* at 9:00am in the Rectory Chapel on Monday and Wednesday, and on Fridays for the school Mass at 10:00am in the Church.

# ~ HOMILY POINTS ~

# Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

\*\*How open are we to changing our minds? We are often told to stay in our camps in today's deeply divided political and social climate. Shouting matches replace civil debate in many pockets of the community. To some, changing one's mind is a sign of weakness or disloyalty. Jesus takes a different stance in today's gospel.

\*\*Changing one's mind is a point of growth for the first son. After an initial decline, he does as his father says and goes to work in the vineyard. The first son ultimately makes a good decision, even if he started off on a rocky foot. The second son, meanwhile, appears to be in alignment with his father's wishes. He gives a suitable answer, presumably because he knew what should be done. But in the end, his actions do not live up to his words. Talk is cheap when it is not followed up by actions. Today's gospel invites us to consider who is worthy to enter the kingdom of God—and to beware that an answer might not be apparent at first glance.

\*\*Jesus celebrates when we change our minds. The one who God greatly exalted, who emptied himself and took the form of a slave out of love for us, longs for us to draw closer to him. Are there areas of your life that could use a change or a different answer? What will it take for such a conversion to happen? Let us ask the Lord for help and healing.

(Living Liturgy)

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

# **ADULT FAITH FORMATION CLASS!**

We are in the process of organizing a program of *Faith Formation for Adults* 

who would like to become Catholic. For further information please contact Father Moore (202-562-0431).

### \*PARISH APPRECIATION SUNDAY\*

In recognition and gratitude to our members for your strong support and commitment to our church we will have a *Fellowship Cookout this Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>*, after the 10:00 am Mass.

# PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR SACRAMENTS

~Preparing for Baptism~

Jayden Quick

# ~Preparing for Confirmation~

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

# 34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EAST OF THE RIVER REVIVAL!!

October 2-4 at 7:00pm
"Hold on, Help is on the Way"
~Revivalist~

Father Anthony Bozeman, SSJ

Holy Family Catholic Church, Hillcrest Heights, MD

As we look forward to our revival, I want to share these seven steps to revival for your reflection:

- 1. Develop the desire to know Jesus better. Develop a holy dissatisfaction.
- 2. Pray for a revolutionary change in your life.
- 3. Do what you know to do. If we pray for revival and neglect prayer, that's hypocrisy.
- 4. Totally repent. "Create in me a clean heart!" David sobbed. For a whole year David was out of fellowship. But he confessed his sin, he turned from that sin, and then he could sing again; he could write again; he could pray again.
- 5. Make the crooked way straight. If you owe a debt, pay it. If a relationship has gone wrong, make it right again.
- 6. Develop a seriousness of purpose. Stay away from detours. Let nothing deflect the magnetic needle of your calling. Don't let the devil rob you of your purpose.
- 7. Major in the majors! The Christian life requires specialists. Too many of us burn up too much energy without engaging in things that bring us closer to God. Refuse to rust out. Start sharing your faith. Make yourself available. Back your plans with your time and talent and dollars.

We all can use a revival. We hold on, help is on the way.

# **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Our Family Religious Education and Youth Ministry Programs are now underway. We extend our thanks to our dedicated team of catechists and youth ministers: *Wanda Brooks (Coordinator)* 

Vanessa Barnard, Frances Hicks, Christine Lee, Amber Lewis, Thomas Marconi, Clint Ray, Rochelle Ray, Vena Simmons, Damon Smith, Monia Smith, Ignacio Washington, and Barbara Deal (Secretary).

# AFRICAN AMERICAN CANDIDATES FOR SAINTHOOD!

<u>Please Pray for the Canonization of Our Six</u> 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

# ST. THOMAS MORE



# **CATHOLIC ACADEMY**

# Our 2023-2024 School Year Is Going Well!!

For More Information On Our School...and to keep abreast of our Scholars throughout the year,

Please Visit Our Website: stmdc.org
School Office: 202-561-1189

We thank you for your continued support!



# **STM FOOD PANTRY!!**

# DISTRIBUTION HOURS: 2<sup>ND</sup> and 4<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH... 10:00am- Noon

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