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

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

# ~ October 8, 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-Seventh 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 Phil 4:6-9 Is 5:1-7 Mt 21:33-43

### DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Jonah 1:1-2:1-2, 11	Luke 10:25-37
Tuesday:	Jonah 3:1-10	Luke 10:38-42
Wednesday:	Jonah 4:1-11	Luke 11:1-4
Thursday:	Mal 3:13-20b	Luke 11:5-13
Friday:	Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2	Luke 11:15-26
Saturday:	Joel 4:12-21	Luke 11:27-28

## **PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:**

Sunday Myrtle Daniel-Birthday

In loving memory of Augustine Tom-Sahr, Sr.

Health of Elma Garnett Monday

In loving memory of Myra Thompson Tuesday Wednesday In loving memory of Carol Dantley In loving memory of Aaron Otis-Coker Thursday Friday In loving memory of Jason Dantley-Birthday In loving memory of Larry Jones, Jr. Saturday

### 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, 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 ~

Please pray for the peaceful repose of the souls of Carol Dantley, sister of Angie Burns, and Myra Thompson, niece of Blondinia Brown and cousin of Sharie Wood. Please also pray for the consolation of their families at this time.

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, Pete Muschett, Larry Owens, Marquel Poindexter, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Yolanda Rollins, Margaret Spencer, Jan Thelin, Mary Travers, Fr. Jordan Turano, Monei Williams, William Wims, Sharie Wood, 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 \$7,540.00, and \$2,120.00 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 140 in Church

150 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 Tuesdays at 7:30pm.

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:

Tuesdays at Noon, and Thursdays at 11:00am. 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.

**HOLIDAY CLOSURE:** The Church Office will be closed tomorrow, *October 9<sup>th</sup>*, for the Federal Holiday.

# ~ HOMILY POINTS ~

# Twenty-Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time

\*\*We continue the series of gospel parables this week, with a landowner and his tenants taking center stage. Today's story reads harsh: tenants who are supposed to be caring for the land decide to seize and kill the people whom the landowner sent to obtain his produce, first the servants and then the landowner's very son. The tenants are ruthless in their rejection—and Jesus insists that they will pay for their stance.

\*\*As with all parables, the meaning extends beyond the story itself. A first clue of what Jesus may have meant by this parable comes at the very beginning. Jesus addresses the parable to the chief priests and elders of the people. He wants these religious leaders to hear the consequences that come with rejecting the work of the gospel—and even more, the person who embodies the gospel. Note that the tenants do not attack the produce. They attack the people who come to collect it, even the landowner's own son.

\*\*We can draw parallels between the landowner's son and Jesus, the Son of God. In telling this parable, Jesus reminds the religious leaders that the kingdom of God comes as a person—Jesus. Their ministries must always draw people to the truth of Jesus. Those who try to turn Jesus into something he is not will face dire consequences. This is true for all of us. We are called to embrace the fullness of Christ, for it is only through him that we might one day enter the kingdom of God.

(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).

# PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR SACRAMENTS

<u>~Preparing for Baptism~</u> Jayden Quick

# ~Preparing for Confirmation~

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

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

~Preparing for Matrimony~ Marc Ray and Shanice Ledbetter

# Welcome

## **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.

# 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> <u>African American Candidates for Sainthood:</u>

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

# PARISH APPRECIATION COOKOUT... A GREAT SUCCESS!!

We are grateful and appreciative of all our members and their strong commitment to our church. Last Sunday's appreciation cookout was successful and a true blessing for all of us. Thanks to all who planned, prepared, and participated. Your strong commitment and deep faith are signs of your dedication to stewardship. Please continue to commit to producing the good fruit for the vineyard of the Lord's Kingdom right here on Fourth Street!

# THE 2023 HAROLD AND ELIZABETH HOLMES MEMORIAL FOOD DRIVE!

The Holmes family invites our continued support of the beautiful legacy of the Holmes who were so generous and gracious in their loving service to others in the community and our church. Please donate groceries using the boxes located near the church doors.

# 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

ity has been long recognized

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