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: <u>stmdc.org</u> Telephone: 202-561-1189

~ October 22, 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-Ninth Sunday In Ordinary Time Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Is 45:1, 4-6~"There is no God beside me."

Responsorial: Ps 96: Give the Lord glory and honor.

Reading II: 1 Thes 1:1-5~St. Paul greets the Thessalonians "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Gospel: Mt 22:15-21~Give to God what belongs to God.

Readings for Next Sunday, Ex 22:20-26 1 Thes 1:5c-10 Mt 22:34-40

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Rom 4:20-25	Luke 12:13-21
Tuesday:	Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21	Luke 12:35-38
Wednesday:	Rom 6:12-18	Luke 12:39-48
Thursday:	Rom 6:19-23	Luke 12:49-53
Friday:	Rom 7:18-25a	Luke 12:54-59
Saturday:	Eph 2:19-22	Luke 6:12-16

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday Victims and Survivors of Breast Cancer Monday In loving memory of Dcn. Richard Walker

Tuesday Well-being of Yolanda Rollins

Wednesday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones Thursday In loving memory of Delores Anne Dawson

Friday Safekeeping of Our Youth

Saturday In loving memory of Roland Caldwell-Birthday

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, 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 soul of **Deacon Richard Walker**. Let us keep his family, friends, and all of us who were so profoundly and lovingly impacted by Deacon Richard's ministry lifted in prayer.

-Funeral Arrangements for Deacon Walker-Our beloved Deacon Richard's funeral will take place on <u>Saturday</u>, October 28th at St. <u>Luke Catholic Church</u> with visitation from 9:00am until the Funeral Mass at 11:00.

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, Denzil Garvey, Rodney Hollins, Jr., Christopher Holton, Sr., Erma Lewis, , 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 \$3,777.00, and
\$152.00 for the Maintenance Fund.
Faith Direct donations totaled \$6,500.53
~Sweet Treats raised \$403.00~

Mass Attendance

Saturday 4:00pm 14 in the Rectory Chapel

Sunday 10:00am 153 in Church

165 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:

<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-Ninth Sunday In Ordinary Time

*The Second Vatican Council made many bold claims when it convened more than fifty years ago. It put forth practical reforms, like the ability to celebrate Mass in native languages, and set forth guidance for Catholics interacting with their diversifying communities. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the council set a vision for the "church in the modern world." It recognized that while the ultimate authority rests in God, we also live in a world with varying systems of governance.

*How do we discern what authority to listen to? What happens if the will of the government clashes with the will of God? These are questions people of faith have asked throughout time, from church councils to the days of Christ. Today's gospel could have inspired the types of discussions happening at Vatican II. The religious leaders of the day ask Jesus a legitimate question—even if their intent was to trick him: "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" They are, in essence, asking where their allegiances should lie. Jesus' answer may have surprised them: "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

*Jesus recognizes that his followers are responsible to both heaven and earthly matters. The ultimate question is not whether to avoid taxes. The issue is how should Christians hold the government accountable for practicing values like peace and justice? We have a responsibility to engage in the political lives of our communities, to advocate for the marginalized as Jesus did. Being a church in the modern world is not easy. With the Spirit's help, we can discern a right and just way forward.

(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

~Preparing for Confirmation~

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

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

<u>~Preparing for Matrimony~</u> 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.

WELCOME DEACON KYLE SIMON

We will be blessed with the preaching presence of Deacon Kyle Simon, St. Joseph Parish, Largo. Deacon Kyle will be returning to STM on Sunday, *October 29th*. We look forward to welcoming him and hearing his good preaching.

FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Our program is off to a very great start thanks to the strong commitment of our families, catechists, and youth ministers. Remember that parents are the first teachers in the ways of faith. We are grateful for your support and strong commitment to our program.

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

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.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS SUNDAY!

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Our STM Parish Action Committee is honoring those who are Breast Cancer Survivors, and will also be remembering those who have lost their battle to this disease **TODAY**, *October 22nd*, by having everyone *WEAR PINK TO MASS*.

Thank you for wearing pink, but most especially, for your prayers for all victims/survivors of Breast Cancer.

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: 2ND and 4TH 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 550+ SHARE PACKAGES 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