Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy 4275 Fourth Street, Southeast Washington, D.C. 20032

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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

~ December 3, 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



First Sunday of Advent Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading 1: Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7~Israel stumbles when they do not actively seek the Lord and keep his commands. Instead of blaming God for letting them wander and have hard hearts, they needed to open their ears and eyes to recognizing the great deeds God was doing "for those who wait for him."

Responsorial: Psalm 80~Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9~God is faithful as we await Jesus' return.

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37~ Jesus foretells a day when the world will be radically changed by the power of God in its fullness. "Therefore, keep awake," warns Jesus.

Readings for Next Sunday
Is 40: 1-5, 9-11 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8

DAILY MASS READINGS

Is 2:1-5 Matt 8:5-11 Monday: Tuesday: Is 11:1-10 Luke 10:21-24 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a Matt 15:29-37 Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Luke 1:26-38 Friday: Is 29:17-24 Matt 9:27-31 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Matt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday In loving memory of Francilla Brown-Birthday

Monday In loving memory of Nancy J. Evans Tuesday Fr. Raymond Moore-Birthday

In loving memory of Ezinne S. Onyegwara

Wednesday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones

Thursday Cardinal Wilton Gregory-Birthday

Friday Alice Proctor-Birthday

Saturday Robin Dillard Harris-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, 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 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 Nancy J. Evans, sister of Blondinia Brown, and her family's comfort.

Prayers of healing are much needed for Margaret Chambers and her sister Doreen Burgess.

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 loved ones.

Your continued prayers are requested for Shirley Adams, Adiata Bell, Sheila D. Brown, Frank & Rita Brewer, Francess Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Tanya Gaddie, Elma Garnett, 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 \$3,444.00 and \$60.00 for the Maintenance Fund.

Faith Direct donations totaled \$6,560.00.

Mass Attendance

Saturday 4:00pm 15 in the Rectory Chapel

Sunday 10:00am 111 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 ADVENT

The Advent issue of the *Word Among Us* 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, and on Fridays for the school Mass at 10:00am in the Church.



~ HOMILY POINTS ~ ADVENT

*Advent is a time for big, bold hope—the kind showcased in today's first reading. The Babylonians return from exile to a city in ruins. Conquerors destroyed their temple. Current residents shooed them away. They compare themselves to "polluted rags" and withering leaves. Such hardships left the returned exiles at their wits' end—and they let God know it. The people recognize God's anger and disappointment. But they never lose hope in the promise of God's redemption. With audacity, the people demand of God: "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you." They long to see God's awesome deeds. In the face of such destruction, the people never stop hoping that God will make something new. We too are called to keep big, bold hope alive. Like our ancestors in faith, God calls us to trust in God's saving power even—especially—in our lowest moments.

*What does the image of God as a potter have to teach us about the divine? Like a potter, God is ready to get messy for the sake of our formation. God carefully crafts God's people in the divine image. How might we recognize our callings to be vessels of the divine more fully this Advent season?

*Jesus offers the summons to "Be watchful. Be alert!" in the thirteenth chapter of Mark's Gospel, in the days before he is crucified. Birth, life, death, resurrection—these are all parts of one narrative. As we prepare for Christmas these next few weeks, let us always be mindful of great transformations still to come.

(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

~Preparing for Matrimony~

Marc Ray and Shanice Ledbetter

DECEMBER 5TH IS A VERY SPECIAL DAY

FOR SOMEONE WE ALL KNOW & VALUE!

<u>HAPPY, BLESSED BIRTHDAY,</u> <u>FATHER RAYMOND MOORE!!</u>

Your STM Family Loves & Appreciates You!!

~WELCOME VISITORS~

We are happy to have you with us today and invite all who are seeking a church home to join our church family!

FREE COATS FOR KIDS!!

Once again, the Knights of Columbus are making free winter coats available to children. Please call the church office to obtain more details: (202) 562-0431. *Thanks to George Hanna and Larry Owens for making this happen!*

FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Our program is going well thanks to the strong commitment of our families, catechists, and youth ministers.

A gentle reminder to our parents: As the first teachers of the faith, please make every effort to have the children here for Mass and Class on a WEEKLY and consistent basis. Every other week does not provide the level of understanding that we are hoping to provide for our young. We are grateful for your support and strong commitment to our program.

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

2023 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR OF 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

<u>Saturday, Dec. 23rd</u>: Vigil-Fourth Sunday of Advent <u>Mass at 4:00pm~Rectory Chapel</u>

Sunday, Dec. 24th: Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass at 10:00am~Church

Monday, Dec. 25th: Christmas Day
Mass at 10:00am~Church

<u>Saturday, Dec. 30th:</u> Vigil-The Holy Family <u>Mass at 4:00pm~Rectory Chapel</u>

Sunday, Dec. 31st: The Holy Family
Mass at 10:00am~Church

Monday, Jan. 1st:

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God Mass at 10:00am~Church

CCD/Youth Group/Adult Discussion Group

On break December 24 & 31, 2023

Adult Bible Study

On break December 19 & 26, 2023

Parish Office Closings

December 25-29, 2023 & January 1, 2024

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 <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

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