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

Telephone: 202-562-0431

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

St. Thomas More Catholic Academy Website: <u>stmdc.org</u> Telephone: 202-561-1189

~ December 24, 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

Wirs. Darbara Emou, Farish 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 **submitted via email by 10:00am Monday** 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16~God reveals through the prophet Nathan to King David that his kingdom shall endure forever. It is from David's offspring and lineage that the Savior will be born.

Responsorial: Ps 89~Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Reading II:Rom 16:25-27~St. Paul gives glory to God through Christ, the Promised One.

Gospel: Lk 1:26-38~From the beginning of salvation history God's revelation has prepared us for the great annunciation-the Word will become flesh and dwell among us.

Readings for Next Sunday Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 Luke 2:22-40

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday: Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 John 1:1-18 Matt 10:17-22 Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Wednesday: 1 John 1:1-4 John 20:1a, 2-8 Thursday: 1 John 1:5-2:2 Matt 2:13-18 Friday: 1 John 2:3-11 Luke 2:22-35 Saturday: 1 John 2:12-17 Luke 2:36-40

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday Health of Billy Hawkins

In loving memory of Mom Audrey Caldwell In loving memory of Sharron Willis-Birthday

Monday In Gratitude for the Birth of Christ Tuesday In loving memory of Betty Beatty-1 yr. Wednesday Denzil & Iona Garvey-Anniversary

In memory of Natalie Ebb & Bernice Sescoe

Thursday In loving memory of James Butler
Friday In loving memory of Deacon Ralph Cyrus
Saturday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones

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 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, Doreen Burgess, Margaret Chambers, Francess Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Tanya Gaddie, Elma Garnett, Denzil Garvey, Billy Hawkins, 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 \$3,021.00 and \$265.00 for the Maintenance Fund.

Faith Direct donations will be reported at a later date.

Saturday 4:00pm 13 in the Rectory Chapel

Sunday 10:00am 122 in Church

151 Livestream Views on YouTube

Sweet Treat Sunday raised \$375.00!

Please note: In order for your 2023 Tithes (and other contributions) to be included in your 2023 Contribution Statement, please be sure they have been turned in by Sunday, December 31, 2023. Offerings received after December 31st will be noted on your 2024 Statements. Thank you for your understanding, and generous spirit of giving.

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:

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

Dial-in: 605 313 5818. Access code 883049#.

WORD AMONG US FOR JANUARY

The *January* issue of the *Word Among Us* 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 ~

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Advent is a season of surprises. God's Spirit shows up in a myriad of unexpected places: in a raggedy man dressed in camel's hair, in the hope of the long-suffering Israelite people, in the blind who can now see, in the deaf who can now hear, in the dead who are now raised. There is perhaps no greater surprise in human history than when God's Spirit appears to a young, poor unwed woman in Nazareth and asks her to carry God's Son. God finds Mary—Mary!—to be full of favor and grace. She holds none of the characteristics that society deems favorable, yet she is entirely worthy in God's eyes.

*Mary's story can inspire us to also see ourselves as worthy in God's eyes. It can be easy to doubt our worth, particularly during the holiday season. Perhaps you are struggling to find meaning after a divorce, a family dispute, or a layoff. Maybe you are deep in the throes of a mental health crisis, cannot afford the gifts you want to give, or are feeling lonely while everyone else looks merry and bright.

*Mary empathizes with our pain. She asked similar questions. And in the end, the young girl from Nazareth trusted in God's almighty power. She believed that indeed nothing is impossible for God. She believed God could lift up the lowly and bring the holiest of holies to life within her. On this last day of Advent, spend some time in prayer with Mary. We ask her to intercede for us so that we might come to see ourselves as worthy.

(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
Isis Jarvis-Washington

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

~Preparing for Matrimony~

Marc Ray and Shanice Ledbetter

NFL "TEAM SWAG" SUNDAY!

STM-PAC invites you to wear your favorite NFL Swag to Mass on Sunday, *January 7, 2024*. This is the last home football game for the Washington Commanders.



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.

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> <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

2023 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR OF 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

Monday, January 1, 2024:
Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Mass at 10:00am~Church

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CCD/Youth Group/Adult Discussion Group

On break December 24 & 31, 2023

Adult Bible Study

On break December 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

ty has been long recognized a

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

More of us are now vaccinated and have even received "boosters" at this time. More of us have also been returning to Mass on Sunday morning.

As a reminder, these are the procedures we will approximate to maintain to answer the continued health.

<u>continue to maintain</u> 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