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

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

# ~ January 28, 2024 ~



# 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

### Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Preparing to Hear God's Word

**Reading I:** Deut 18:15-20~True prophets can only speak the words God puts into their mouths. God is the source of their authority.

**Responsorial:** Ps 95~If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

**Reading II: 1 Cor 7:32-35~**St. Paul exhorts us not to be anxious about material needs.

Gospel: Mk 1:21-28~Jesus's authority rested in both his word and in his power and willingness to confront evil.

#### Readings for Next Sunday

Job 7:1-4, 6-7 1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23 Mk 1:29-39

#### **DAILY MASS READINGS**

Mark 5:1-20 Monday: 2 Sam 15: 13-14, 30;16:5-13 2 Sam 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a30--19:3 Mark 5:21-43 Tuesday: Wednesday: 2 Sam 24:2, 9-17 Mark 6:1-6 Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 Mark 6:7-13 Mal 3:1-4 Heb 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40 Friday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13 Mark 6:30-34 Saturday:

#### PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday In loving memory of Shirley Brown

In memory of Ernest Adams-Birthday

Monday In loving memory of Helen Elizabeth Hurd

Tuesday Health of Barbara Kennedy

Wednesday In memory of Bishop Eduardo Dorsonville Thursday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones

Friday STM Catholic Academy

In memory of Audrey Caldwell, Doris & Dcn. Martin

Saturday Chester Pearson-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 ~

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, Sheila D. Brown, Frank & Rita Brewer, Margaret Chambers, Francess Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Tanya Gaddie, Elma Garnett, Denzil Garvey, Billy Hawkins, Rodney Hollins, Jr., Christopher Holton, Sr., Barbara Kennedy, 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.

#### **WORD AMONG US**

The *Word Among Us* is available in the church and rectory.

#### STEWARDSHIP REPORT

# EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP!

"Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

Now we give and now we share, O Lord, for now the hour of opportunity is wedded with the moment of need and the glad sharing of the saints.

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

Tithes and offerings for last Sunday amounted to \$2,907.00 and \$15.00 for the Maintenance Fund.

Faith Direct offerings will be reported at a later date.

#### **Mass Attendance**

Saturday 4:00pm 13 in the Rectory Chapel

Sunday 10:00am 113 in Church

**261** Livestream Views on YouTube

Thank you for your 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.* 

#### **LEARNING MORE IN '24!**

All adults are welcome to join our Adult Faith Formation Class, our program for adults interested in becoming Catholic, or those who want to learn more about their faith. We meet on Wednesday at 7:00pm via Zoom.

The link is 808 1208 607: Pass code 548415.

#### ~ 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#.

#### **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 In Ordinary Time

\*The scene that plays out in today's gospel is likely familiar to many of us. We are gathered for an important occasion—a church service, a keynote speaker, a business meeting—when suddenly someone begins to shout. Heads turn in horror. People begin to murmur: What's wrong with this person? Some may feel afraid or angry over the disruption. As Christians, how are we to respond in such a scenario?

\*Jesus models the way. Early in his public ministry, Jesus is teaching in the synagogue when a man with an unclean spirit cries out. Presumably, the authorities would have tried to remove the man as quickly as possible. But Jesus recognizes the troubled man's humanity. He does not send the man away. Rather, Jesus exorcises the demon out of the man's body. He moves to help. We, too, are called not to judge those who cry out but to address their needs with compassion.

\*Jesus acts with authority over the unclean spirit. This is one of many instances where Jesus takes on the supposed power of demonic forces and emerges victorious. Those gathered in the synagogue witness Jesus' exorcism and wonder in amazement, "What is this?" Acceptance of Jesus' authority remains a challenge for the faithful today. Many of us benefit from demonic forces like racism, sexism, capitalism, or other unjust social structures. How might our lives change if we refused to be tempted by the perceived benefits of those demons and instead placed all our trust in Jesus' saving power?

(Living Liturgy)

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

# PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR SACRAMENTS

~Preparing for Full Communion~ Tiffany Porter

#### ~Preparing for Baptism~

The Owens Family:
Mom-Amanda;

Children-Aidyn, Peyton, Brooklyn, and Skylar

#### ~Preparing for First Communion~

Emmanuel Collins Kylie Dozier
Damari Dozier Kinsley Martin

### ~Preparing for Confirmation~

Cameron Anthony
Camille Anthony
Ariel Collins

Marquee Sherrell
Habiba Taalib
Tierra Tyer

Christian Doricent Aurora Jarvis-Washington
Kameron Martin Isis Jarvis-Washington

Adrian Otis-Coker Sydney Weber

~Preparing for Matrimony~ Marc Ray and Shanice Ledbetter

#### "BEAUTIFUL EUCHARIST"

Copies of Matthew Kelly's "Beautiful Eucharist" are available in the back of Church for you to have. This is a great resource for observing this second year of the Eucharistic Revival.



#### **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 CARDINAL GREGORY!!

Our Archbishop, Cardinal Wilton Gregory, will join us for Mass on <u>Friday</u>, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:00am, to mark the beginning of Black History Month. *All are invited to join with our school for this blessed occasion*.

# FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY

We are now in the second half of this session of Religious Education. Our hope is that parents and children will make church a top priority for 2024. Make a firm commitment to coming to Mass and class on Sunday! Time is running out as we approach the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. We are counting on you!

# 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

### **SERVING MORE IN '24!!**

FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> IS VALENTINE'S DAY ... and this year it is also ASH WEDNESDAY.

This year we, as the STM church family, are focusing on recommitting to service and ministry participation.

Is there a particular ministry that the Lord might be calling you to join? Then why don't you think about it? Pray about it? Commit to it? You will surely be blessed if you do!

# 2024 ANNUAL CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL:

"United In Purpose."

Thanks to the generosity of 68 of our parishioners, we finished the 2023 Appeal at 66% of our 2023 Annual Appeal goal with pledges of \$24,395.00 in commitments toward our goal of \$36,900.

The 2024 Appeal will begin shortly. You may have received information in the mail. Our goal for this year is still \$36,900. Let us do what we can to support the various ministries of the Church.

#### 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 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

Contribution Statements were mailed on January 18, 2024. Parish Soft is our recordkeeping program. *Please be most attentive to your TOTAL CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT*.

In the event that you have any **questions and/or clarifications** please contact Pattie Hamilton via EMAIL at the following e-address: HAMISINGS@MSN.COM.

Thank you for addressing your questions ONLY to Pattie, who is the best person to handle any questions regarding your statements. We wish to ensure that all statements are in alignment.

Those contributing via Faith Direct will receive a separate statement directly from Faith Direct E-giving.

### 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

continue to 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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