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

~ February 11, 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,

Detricis The man

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Lev 13:1-2, 44-46 ~This is an outline of the legal prescriptions regarding the treatment of lepers.

Responsorial: Psalm 32 ~I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Reading II: 1 Cor 10:31-11:1 ~We are to do everything to the glory of God.

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45 ~ Jesus heals the leper. Because of the leper's willingness to go beyond the law, the leper receives healing at the touch of Jesus.

Readings for Next Sunday Gen 9:8-15 1 Pet 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15

DAILY MASS READINGS

| Monday: | Jas 1:1-11 | Mark 8:11-13 |
|------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Tuesday: | Jas 1:12-18 | Mark 8:14-21 |
| Wednesday: | Jl 2:12-18 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 | Matt 6:1-6, 16-18 |
| Thursday: | Dt 30:15-20 | Luke 9:22-25 |
| Friday: | Is 58:1-9a | Matt 9:14-15 |
| Saturday: | Is 58:9b-14 | Luke 5:27-32 |

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday In loving memory of Billy Hawkins
Monday In loving memory of Bernadette Waters-Birthday
Tuesday In loving memory of Charlene Barnard
Wednesda In loving memory of Devin Clay-Birthday
Thursday In loving memory of Michael Barnes
Friday In loving memory of Jakari Butler
Saturday Misha Hubbard-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 our longtime, dedicated parishioner, *William (Billy) Hawkins*, and the comfort and consolation of his loved ones and friends.

Thank you for continuing to hold **Fr. Moore** in your thoughts and prayers.

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, Dalantae Caldwell, Margaret Chambers, Francess Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Tanya Gaddie, Elma Garnett, Denzil Garvey, Jim Gilbert, Christopher Holton, Sr., Barbara Kennedy, Erma Lewis, Larry Owens, Marquel Poindexter, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Yolanda Rollins, Margaret Spencer, Jan Thelin, Toni Torain, 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. Casmir, Ed Poindexter.

THE WORD AMONG US for Lent is now 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:

| | January 28th | February 4th |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Offertory | \$3,232.00 | \$5,553.00 |
| Maintenance | \$ 212.00 | \$1,948.00 |

Mass Attendance for:

| | January 28th | February 4th |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 4:00pm Vigil | 13 | 13 |
| 10:00am | 171 | 148 |
| Youtube views | 172 | 164 |

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 Tuesdays at 7:30pm.

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:

<u>Tuesdays at Noon, and Thursdays at 11:00am.</u>
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.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING POSTPONED

The meeting scheduled for today, <u>February 11, 2024</u>, has been postponed until further notice.

~ HOMILY POINTS ~

Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

*People with the leprosy skin condition—today known as Hansen's disease—described in today's first reading and gospel found themselves banished to the margins of society. Those in power deemed people with leprosy both physically and morally unclean. They believed the painful skin condition revealed some sort of sinful transgression made by the sick person and that anyone who encountered such a person would also become unclean. Sadly, similar ostracization continues to be practiced today. Time and again people with privilege cast fellow human beings aside because of differences in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, income, and abilities. Who are the modern day "lepers" in our community? How can this congregation follow the model of Jesus and encounter those on the margins with mercy and compassion?

*Jesus would have been keenly aware of the stigmas against people with leprosy. He knew what it meant to be caught speaking—much less touching—someone with this disease. Yet Jesus did not back away. Rather, he moved closer. Jesus touched the scabbed, swollen flesh of the man kneeling in front of him and made him clean.

*Jesus' actions remind us of the healing qualities of appropriate touch. Human beings are made to be in communion with each other in physical, embodied ways. We hug, hold hands, offer a pat on the back, and touch in other ways as a sign of support and affection. Who in our community is isolated and could use a visit? Who is experiencing grief and might find solace in a hug? After asking for and receiving consent, such actions can be sources of healing. (Living Liturgy)

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

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR SACRAMENTS

<u>~Preparing for Full Communion~</u> 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 Marquee Sherrell
Camille Anthony Habiba Taalib
Ariel Collins 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

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

Ash Wednesday Mass and Distribution of Ashes will take place in the Church on *February 14th, 2024... at 6:00pm*.



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.

"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.

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 African</u> <u>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^{TH} 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!

~ LENTEN GUIDELINES ~

The <u>Discipline</u> for fasting and abstinence were introduced by Pope Paul VI in 1966. Here is a breakdown of what the Church asks of us:

- **-Fasting** means eating a lesser amount of food. While fasting, only one full meal is taken. Two other smaller meals are usually eaten. While fasting, we do not snack between meals!!
- -Catholics who are 18 years of age and not yet 60 years old are asked to observe the fast days of the Church. There are only two days of fasting: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- -Abstinence means not eating any meat. Dairy products as well as fish and seafood may be eaten.
- -The church has established ASH WEDNESDAY and ALL THE FRIDAYS OF LENT AS DAYS OF ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT.

We both FAST and ABSTAIN on Ash Wednesday AND Good Friday!

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!

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.

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