

# Saint Thomas More Catholic Church & Academy

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Website: [www.stthomasmoredc.org](http://www.stthomasmoredc.org)

Saint Thomas More Catholic Academy

Website: [stmhc.org](http://stmhc.org) Telephone: 202-561-1189

## August 17, 2025

### Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



#### Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Raymond Moore, Pastor, x12

Ed Poindexter, Installed Acolyte

Linda Clay Roberson, Pastoral Administrator, x11

Mary Waters, Office Assistant, x10

Barry Rhodes, Assistant to Pastor, Facilities Director

Harold Thomas, Academy Principal

Marcus Thompson, Academy Assistant Principal

Wanda Brooks, Coordinator of Religious Education, x31

Henry Herrera, Gospel Choir Director

Renee Coles, Parish Council Chair

Finance Council: Tracey Jean-Charles, Damon Smith,

Patricia Thomas, George Hanna

*Hope Dwells as the Desire and Expectation of Good Things to Come*



#### WELCOME VISITORS!

*We warmly welcome you to St. Thomas More Church! If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join our parish family. We hope you worship with us again soon!*

#### HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, 4:00pm – Rectory Chapel

Sunday, 10:00am – Church (also Livestreamed on YouTube and link is sent weekly via Flocknote)

Monday & Wednesday, 9:00am – Rectory Chapel

#### SACRAMENTS

**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.

**Penance (Reconciliation, Confession):** Sundays after the 10:00am Holy Mass and by appointment

**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 Holy Mass

**Adult Bible Study is on Summer Break and will resume in the Fall.**

#### **RE-Member The Church**

If you have been away from the Church and are led by the Holy Spirit to come back to us, please consider our invitation to **“RE-MEMBER”** the Church. Call the Church office (202-562-0431) or speak to Father Moore for more details.

~ 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#.

# DAILY MASS READINGS

<i>Sunday</i>	<b>Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10; Hebrews 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53
<i>Monday</i>	Judges 2:11-19; Matthew 19:16-22
<i>Tuesday</i>	Judges 6:11-24a; Judges 6:11-24a
<i>Wednesday</i>	<b>Memorial of Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church</b> Judges 9:6-15; Matthew 20:1-16
<i>Thursday</i>	<b>Memorial of Saint Pius X, Pope</b> Judges 11:29-39a; Matthew 22:1-14
<i>Friday</i>	<b>Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Matthew 22:34-40
<i>Saturday</i>	Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Matthew 23:1-12
<i>Sunday</i>	<b>Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Isaiah 66:18-21; Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13; Luke 13:22-30

## ~ HOMILY POINTS ~

- In chapter 12, Luke's Gospel presents Jesus not as a healer, but as a divider, as one who will cause anguish, trial, and separation for his followers. This is almost strange for a gospel that begins with the peace of Jesus's birth. Yet this dissonance contains wisdom. For those who accept the incarnation and truth that Jesus teaches, the life that they must follow is often not accepted. In fact, the saints teach us that followers of Christ are not infrequently met with opposition and bitterness. If you want to be popular, do not chose Christianity.
- So why choose Christianity? The answer lies in the opposite choice. If we were to reject Christianity, we would be saying "no" to a life where God is radically present to us in prayer, in our neighbors, and in the sacraments. We need our incarnate, crucified, and risen Christ; he is our joy and salvation.
- The division Christ speaks of is not anti-family or anti-community. Rather, it is about building a household that is not dominated by social expectations and conformity. Instead of allowing others to choose for us, let us choose the yoke that brings lightness and joy! Being yoked to Christ, who is perfect and never leaves us, is far better than being yoked to the imperfect and sometimes bullying wills of our neighbors. So let us seek to create our family in and with Christ. It is he who gives us our mother, our brothers, and our sisters!

*(Living Liturgy) May the Lord's peace and grace be with you!*

### PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday	STM Academy Faculty and Staff
Monday	Safekeeping of Our Youth
Tuesday	Our Dedicated Volunteers
Wednesday	Starving people in Ghana
Thursday	Successful School Year for Our Students
Friday	Peace in Ukraine
Saturday	In loving memory of Fr. Everett Pearson

## PRAYER CORNER

### Prayer for Refugees and Victims of War

Lord God, no one is a stranger to you  
and no one is ever far from your loving care.

In your kindness, watch over refugees  
and victims of war,  
those separated from their loved ones,  
young people who are lost,  
and those who have left home or who have run away  
from home.

Bring them back safely to the place  
where they long to be,  
and help us always to show your kindness  
to strangers and to all in need.

Please Pray For Our Sick, Shut-In, And Those In Need:

Fr. Raymond Moore, Ed Poindexter, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Frank & Reta Brewer, Blondinia Brown, Sheila D. Brown, Cynthia Bruce, Felicia V. Bush, Jane Cannon, Margaret Chambers, Dixie Clark, Shertia Clark, Odessa Curtis, Damian Daniel, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Eleanor Dozier, Renee Feliu, Diane Finley, Priscilla Fuller, Craig Fulmer, Betty Furr, Tanya Gaddie, Tasha Gant, David Garner, Tyrone Garrison, Denzil Garvey, Zynae Green, Emmanuel Greene, Gloria Greene Rodriguez, William Gunn, Andre Harris, Vance Harris II, June Harrison, Shant'e Hawkins, Gilbert Herrera (brother of Henry Herrera), Maximillon Holland, Christopher Holton, Sr., Darryl Jackson, Dr. Jimmie Jackson, Leane Jean-Charles, Carolyn Johnson, Phyllis Johnson, Seymour & Patrick Jones, Barbara Kennedy, Esme Kosier (sister of Henry Herrera), David Larison, Erma Lewis, Dennis Lucas, Ronald McCants (son of Houston & Linda Roberson), Gloria & William McCaskill, Herb Meredith, Beverly Miller, Dorothy Myrtle, Angela Neal, Mamie Outlaw, Tammy Peterson, Charles Queen, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Arthur Robinson, Leroy Robinson, Yolanda Rollins, Robin Sescoc, Ciara Shields, Brenda Smith, Margaret Spencer, Edsel Swann, Jan Thelin, Jane Thomas, Antoinette (Toni) Torain, Mary Travers, Chandra Upsher-Harris, Kristine Vivican, Kayla Warren, Paul Waters, Marilyn Denise Whetstone, Monei Williams, William Wims, Kobe M. Williams, Jane Willis, David Wilson, Gloria Wilson, Jean Wright, Marianne Young.



**Memorial Service for Renard Steel**  
(brother of Alexa Steel)  
**Saturday, August 23rd at 12:00 PM**  
**Martin's Home For Service Inc.**  
**48 Elm Street, Montclair, NJ 07042**

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to New York Public Radio, THIRTEEN (New York Public Television); The New York Public Library; The Bloomfield Public Library Foundation.

*Please Pray For Our Recently Deceased And Their Families:*

*Mrs. Nellie Hadley (sister of Dr. Jimmie Jackson, maternal aunt of Chandrai Jackson-Saunders)*

*Renard Steele (family/friend of Patricia Caldwell)*

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*



St. Thomas More Catholic Academy needs your help to provide a Catholic education at an affordable cost to families. Currently, plans are being formulated to launch a fundraising campaign that will keep our school affordable for present

and future generations. Many in our Parish know the value of a good Catholic education. Families, past and present, have been blessed by our school. Let's work together to make this a blessing for present and future families.

Details on how you may support this effort will be presented on Sunday, September 7.

## ST. THOMAS MORE



## CATHOLIC ACADEMY

**We Are Currently Accepting Registrations for the 2025-2026 School Year!!**

*Catholic education has always been a strong pillar of faith and knowledge, especially in the African American community.*

**Parents are encouraged to check out our great Academy!**

**Please Visit Our Website: [stmhc.org](http://stmhc.org)**

**School Office: 202-561-1189**

***We thank you for your continued support!***

# HELP NEEDED

On Monday, September 1 (Labor Day), at 9am, we are being blessed with a truckload of food to feed the needy in our community. We are asking for as many volunteers as possible to unload the truck at the Rectory. The more hands helping, the sooner we finish and enjoy the rest of the Labor Day Holiday!

***Please help us help the community!***

## The Hospitality Ministry of STM is welcoming new members!

Please contact Bridget Govan (301-752-0401) or [bjbj914@yahoo.com](mailto:bjbj914@yahoo.com) if you are willing and able to serve as a greeter and servant of God, in the spirit of His Son, Jesus.

Peace and Blessings, Bridget

## PLEASE KEEP THOSE PREPARING FOR SACRAMENTS IN YOUR PRAYERS

*~Preparing for Confirmation~*

*Terral Lewis, Jr. Karter Martin  
Marleigh Campbell Tylia Pilgrim  
Damari Dozier Terrance Tyer  
Ashwin Gordon*



## Religious Education News

Religious Education is on summer break. Classes will resume on **Sunday, September 21, 2025**, after the 10 o'clock Mass. We appreciate the support of Father Moore, our parents and parishioners. Special thanks go to some members of Our Lady's Sodality for donating art supplies, devotional materials and gifts for the catechists and educators in the academy.

**Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will take place after the 10 o'clock Mass on August 24th, September 7<sup>th</sup>, and September 14th.**

STM Catechists participated in a "Boot Camp" workshop, offered by the ADW, to begin preparing for the 2025-2026 school year. We are looking forward to continuing to support families in the faith formation of their children.

Parents, please be mindful of the fact that ***we are required to provide at least 32 sessions of instruction each year***, and try not to enroll your children in activities that require their presence on Sunday mornings. Classes only last an hour. Continuity in instruction is better achieved with consistent attendance. We lose instructional time when we have to continuously restart lessons due to absenteeism.

We hope everyone continues to enjoy summer, and look forward to seeing you in September!

**The Religious Education Team of Saint Thomas More Catholic Church**

*Join us for some plant talk!*

**PLANT CARE CLINIC  
Sunday, 8/24/25  
After Mass in the Cedar Room**



**There'll be information on how to care for your precious "plant babies," as well as a variety of plants to take home!!!**

**Dr. Daisy Ogene and The Plant Team**

