

# Saint Thomas More Catholic Church & Academy

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Saint Thomas More Catholic Academy

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

## December 28, 2025

### Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



#### 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)

**New Year's Eve**      **December 31**      **6:00pm**      **Rectory Chapel**

#### SACRAMENTS

**Infant Baptisms:** Parents should contact Father Moore to arrange for preparation and scheduling.

**Matrimony:** Couples planning a Catholic wedding must contact the Pastor for instruction at least six months prior to the wedding.

**Reconciliation:** 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 for Children:** Sunday following 10:00am Holy Mass

**High School Youth Group:** Sunday after 10:00am Holy Mass

**Adult Faith Formation (OCIA):** This group is intended for adults who would like to become Catholics. Please contact the parish office.

~ 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>Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b> Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
<i>Monday</i>	<b>The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas</b> 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35
<i>Tuesday</i>	<b>The Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas</b> 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40
<i>Wednesday</i>	<b>The Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas</b> 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18
<i>Thursday</i>	<b>Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</b> Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21
<i>Friday</i>	<b>Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church</b> 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
<i>Saturday</i>	1 John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34
<i>Sunday</i>	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b> Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

## ~ HOMILY POINTS ~

- As Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish audience, the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt would seem somewhat natural. The Jewish people had previously found refuge in Egypt during trying times, most notably when Joseph, son of Jacob, was liberated from bondage and helped lead Egypt through famine into prosperity. The Holy Family would have encountered other Jews during their sojourn in Egypt, forming a community of refuge seekers. While seeking refuge in Egypt, Matthew even quotes Hosea's prophecy, noting, "*Out of Egypt I called my son.*"
- This story contains another significant parallel with Hebrew Scripture. The angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream, hearkening back to Joseph the dreamer in Genesis. God reveals Godself in many ways, even ways that may seem unconventional or unexpected. This is the beauty and challenge of the incarnation.
- Joseph's second dream included the instructions to depart Egypt for the region of Galilee. Ultimately, the Holy Family ended up in Nazareth. Again, Matthew uses the opportunity to show the fulfillment of Scripture in Jesus Christ. For Matthew—and Matthew's audience—Jesus is the fulfillment of God's long-established promises for Israel. As Christians, we too can take comfort that God fulfills God's promises.

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

### Christmas Gift

**We are pleased to present to you Matthew Kelly's new book entitled *Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy*. Enjoy!**

## Christmas Messages

### *From the Pastor and Staff*

May the rich blessings of Christmas, the joy and peace of the Lord's love, and the protection of the Holy Spirit be upon you all as we celebrate Christmas and welcome the New Year of 2026.

*Father Raymond Moore*

I want to wish everyone a happy Jesus Birthday. Faith makes all things possible, Hope makes all things work, Love makes all things beautiful. May you have all three this Christmas, and may your New Year be blessed with love and peace.

*Mary Waters*

I just want to wish every parishioner a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I thank all of you for your generosity and love for all of us here in the office. I thank you for your patience while Father Moore was healing. I pray that we continue to be strong as a community and church. Love, Barry.

*Barry Rhodes*

This Christmas, I thank all of you for welcoming me into the STM Family. I can truly say I have met some amazing people, *and* made quite a few friends along the way. You have helped and supported me, either in person, or by phone or e-mail, and I am grateful! Just know that I will always be here to help you in any way I can.

God gave His greatest gift to us on that first Christmas Day, and may the wonder of it always guide and light your way. May God bless you today and every day. Merry Christmas!

*Linda Clay Roberson*

### PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday	In loving memory of James Butler
Monday	In loving memory of Deacon Ralph Cyrus
Tuesday	Gratitude for Our Forthcoming Blessings in 2026
Wednesday	Gratitude to Our Many Dedicated Volunteers
Thursday	In loving memory of Juanita Mercer
Friday	In memory of Audrey Caldwell, Doris & Deacon Martin
Saturday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones

**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, Esmev Kosier (sister of Henry Herrera), David Larison, Erma Lewis, Dennis Lucas, Ronald McCants (Houston & Linda Roberson's son), 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 Torain, Mary Travers, Chandra Upsher-Harris, Kristine Vivican, Kayla Warren, Marilyn Denise Whetstone, Monei Williams, William Wims, Kobe M. Williams, Jane Willis, David Wilson, Gloria Wilson, Jean Wright, Marianne Young.

**PLEASE KEEP THOSE PREPARING FOR SACRAMENTS IN YOUR PRAYERS**

*~Preparing for Confirmation~*

*Aurelien Bolamba                      Claudien Bolamba*  
*Mike Bolamba                          Lorry Bolamba*  
*Marleigh Campbell                      Terral Lewis, Jr.*  
*Karter Martin      Aiden Lewis      Tylia Pilgrim*

*~Preparing for First Communion~*

*Addilyn Lewis*

**STM FOOD PANTRY**

**NEXT DISTRIBUTION:** *Friday, January 9, 10am-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 meat, 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.

**NEEDED: Non-perishable items such as Rice, Pasta, Dry Beans, Hot & Cold Cereal, Canned Goods such as Meat, Tuna, Beans, Soup, Vegetables, Fruits. (Also, items readily useful for those who are homeless are much appreciated.)**

**Thank you to our many generous members who donated to the pantry throughout the pandemic and have continued doing so!**

**SHARE INFORMATION**

**UPDATE: Value Package - \$30.00**

**Please contact Flo Gantt for Registration info.**

*Please also consider making a monetary donation of \$30.00 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 600+ SHARE PACKAGES that have been purchased to support those we serve from our STM Food Pantry! Thank you!***

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Tithes and offerings for last Sunday:

***In-church tithes and offerings totaled \$5,379.00, ParishSOFT contributions amounted to \$1,310.00, and \$142.00 for the Maintenance Fund.***

**In order to meet our weekly financial responsibilities, our tithes and offerings should amount to \$5,500.00 per week.**

<b><i>Our weekly goal:</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 5,500.00</i></b>
<b><i>This week's total tithes and offerings:</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 6,689.00</i></b>
<b><i>We exceeded our goal by:</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 1,189.00</i></b>

**Mass Attendance**

Saturday 4:00pm    **16** in Church  
Sunday 10:00am    **107** in Church  
**208** Livestream Views on YouTube

**You can contribute by scanning the QR code below:**



**or, by going to the website:**

**<https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Form/3eb75c49-3b4b-4c15-b869-3d076f4c4b41>**

**PLEASE NOTE!!** In order for your **2025 tithes** (and other contributions) to be reflected in your **2025 Contribution Statement**, please be sure they have been submitted by **December 31, 2025**. Offerings received *after December 31st* will be noted on your 2026 Statement. ***Thank you for your understanding, and generous spirit of giving.***

**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!***

