

# Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy

4275 Fourth Street, Southeast

Washington, D.C. 20032

Telephone: 202-562-0431 Fax: 202-563-7347

E-mail: [stmchurch@comcast.net](mailto:stmchurch@comcast.net) Website: [www.stthomasmoredc.org](http://www.stthomasmoredc.org)

School: 202-561-1189

## *December 10, 2017*



**Let the favor of the Lord be upon us.  
Give success to the work of our Hands! (Psalm 90)**

### **Pastoral Staff:**

Rev. Raymond Moore, Pastor, x12  
Ms. Patricia Hamilton, Pastoral Administrator, x11  
Mrs. Mary Waters, Office Assistant, x10  
Ms. Bridget Coates, Academy Principal  
Ms. Wanda Brooks, Coordinator of Religious Education, x31  
Mr. Henry Herrera, Gospel Choir Director  
Mrs. Charnetta Dobbins, Youth Choir Director  
Mrs. Denese Clay, Glorify Praise Team Director  
Mrs. Barbara Elliott, Parish Council Chair  
Ms. Diana Brown, Finance Council Chair

### **Mass Schedule:**

Saturday	5:00 pm	(Rectory Chapel)
Sunday	8:45 am	Youth Choir
	11:30 am	Gospel Choir
Weekdays	8:00 am	(Rectory Chapel)

**Bulletin Deadline:** Items for Sunday's Bulletin must be received via email **by 12:00 pm 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.

**Confession:** After Sunday Masses, by appointment, or on *Saturday afternoon at 4:00 pm in the Rectory.*

**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 at 10:30am  
Bible Study: Every Tuesday at 7:30pm

## Second Sunday of Advent

### Preparing to Hear God's Word

**Reading I: Is 40: 1-5, 9-11** ~ "Comfort, give comfort to my people."

**Responsorial: Psalm 85** ~ Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**Reading II: 2 Pt 3:8-14** ~ The "Day of the Lord" will be unexpected.

**Gospel: Mk 1:1-8** ~ John the Baptist foretells the Messiah's coming. John the Baptist appears in the beginning of Mark's Gospel. Mark's description of John recalls the simple, even austere dress of the great prophet Elijah in the Old Testament. In John's proclamation of Jesus as the Messiah, the age of the prophets closes, and the age of the Messiah begins.

#### Readings for Next Sunday

**Is 61:1-2A. 10-11 1 Thes 6:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28**

#### DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday: Gn 3:19-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38  
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11 Mt. 18:12-14  
Wednesday: Is 40: 25-31 Mt 11:28-30  
Thursday: Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15  
Friday: Zech 2:14-17 Lk 1:26-38  
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13

#### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am STM Christmas Concert Participants  
11:30am STM Angel Tree Donors  
Monday Earl P. Hamilton-90<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Tuesday Health of Roland Caldwell  
Wednesday In memory of Andre Lyles-Birthday  
Thursday Intentions of STM Parishioners  
Friday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones  
Saturday STM Outreach Committee and Volunteers

#### PLEASE KEEP THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Kayla Adams, Shirley Adams, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Viola Barnes, Betty Beatty, Marie Brown, Shirley Brown, Francillia Browne, Cynthia Bruce, Felicia V. Bush, John Bush, Mary Agnes Bush, Jane Cannon, Dixie Clark, Shertia Clark, Odessa Curtis, Den. Ralph Cyrus, Frances Davies, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Renee Feliu, Diane Finley, , Eric Fuller, Craig Fulmer, Betty Furr, Tasha Gant, David Garner, Tyrone Garrison, Brenda Green, Emmanuel Greene, William Gunn, Earl Hamilton, Andre Harris, Margaret Harris, Vance Harris II, June Harrison, Shant'e Hawkins, James Hilton, Maximillon Holland, Elizabeth Holmes, Darryl Jackson, Jimmie Jackson, Ivy John, Carolyn Johnson, Sarah Jones, Seymour & Patrick Jones, David Larison, Dennis Lucas, Gloria & William McCaskill, Emma McEntyre, Robert Milner, Betty Moeller, Gloria Morgan, Dorothy Myrtle, Angela Neal, Tammy Peterson, Charles Queen, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Arthur Robinson, Jean, Leroy & Robert Robinson, Daja Rogers, Thelma Sawyer, Robin Sescoc, Ciara Shields, Brenda Smith, Claudell St. Julien, Edsel Swann, Jane Thomas, Kristine Vivican, Kayla Warren, Paul Waters, Marilyn Denise Whetstone, Anita Williams, Bertha Williams, Kobe M. Williams, David Wilson, Jean Wright, Marianne Young, and all who are Sick/Shut-In.

#### ~ PRAYER REQUESTS ~

Please remember to lift up those for whom the holiday season may be met with a myriad of emotions.

Please also pray for the health and well-being of Kayla Adams, Shirley Adams, Roland Caldwell, Elizabeth Holmes, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Robert Robinson, Daja Rogers, all of our members who are on the road to recovery, sick, shut-in or grieving; and

**Pope Francis, Fr. Moore, Fr. Casmir & Ed Poindexter**

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP

Give and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall be given to you. For with the same measure that you measure it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38)

Lord, let us not be guilty of withholding the best parts of life, even our money, for ourselves. Instead, enable us to give all we can so others can know the victory we have found through Jesus Christ. Receive our gifts as grateful representations of our devotion and service to the Gospel. AMEN!

**Stewardship Thought:** "You never seem to have more money than when you are giving it away to someone who has less."

Tithes and offerings for **December 3, 2017** amounted to **\$8,808.12; Maintenance-\$3,216.00; Youth-\$10.00.**

Attendance	5:00pm	14
	8:45am	153
	11:30am	116
		283

Thanks to all who have so well supported our Growing One Step stewardship program. Because of the strong commitment of many of us, we are blessed with good success thus far. May we be blessed as we bless our ministry and commitment to the Lord!

**Your on-going contributions are most appreciated!**

#### FAITH DIRECT: **Fall Into e-Giving with Faith Direct!**

This is the most convenient and secure way for you to make your tithes and offerings to St. Thomas More. Your automatic contributions through Faith Direct will save for you. Visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and use our church code, **DC773**.

**PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY:** Our Bible Study for Adults meets on Tuesday evenings, 7:30pm in the rectory living room. All are invited and encouraged to be a part of our instruction and lively discussions!

**2017-2018 FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM:** Adults seeking a closer walk with Jesus are invited to join our Faith Formation Program for Adults. We meet on Sunday morning at 10:30 in the Red Room.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION! *Classes are now in progress!*** Registrations are still being accepted, **SO DON'T DELAY!** Classes take place from 10:30 to 11:30am in the school. Please see Ms. Wanda Brooks for more information.

## WONDERFUL SMILES OF CHILDREN!

### ANGEL TREE GIFTS...

*Thank you for returning gifts today, December 10, 2017!  
We appreciate your generous support!*

We are seeking **many volunteers** to assist with our yearly **Wonderful Smiles of Children Christmas Program!!**

**Help is needed throughout this week (Dec. 11-15)** to pack gifts for the many, many children on our list of recipients!

**Volunteers are also needed to assist on the actual day of the program, Saturday, December 16, 2017!**

A sign-up sheet is located in the church. Please add your name to the list of volunteers, or speak with any member of the committee. *Thank you!*

**God bless you! The STM Outreach Committee.**

## PASTOR'S PEN

**Dear Church Family,**

What a great week we have been blessed with here at St. Thomas More as we get closer and closer to celebrating the coming of our savior Jesus Christ, Emmanuel--God with us! Remember that Jesus came to us 2017 years ago in Bethlehem and that now he comes to others through us. John the Baptist announced the coming of the Lord by preaching a baptism of repentance, and the people asked, "What ought we to do?" Later, when the Apostle Peter cried out, "Jesus is risen," the people asked, "What ought we to do?" Now, as Jesus calls us to repentance RIGHT NOW, we should ask ourselves NOT "What ought we to do?" but "WHEN ARE WE GOING TO DO IT?"

I am so grateful to all who responded to the Lord's bidding in so generously supporting the Harold Holmes Food Drive and those who came out and assisted with the THREE huge deliveries of food over the past month through the John S. Mulholland Foundation. In the coming days many of you will assist in providing Christmas gifts. This is a great response to the call of the Lord to show forth his grace and mercy!

***We know what Jesus said in the Gospel:***

*Bless those who curse you, pray for those who persecute you. (Lk 6:28).*

*Give to those who beg from you. (Lk 6:39)*

*Treat others with compassion. (Lk 6:36)*

*When we see a person in need, we must see Jesus in that person. (Matt 26:31-46)*

*Forgive, not seven times but seventy times seven. (Matt 18:22)*

*Love one another as I have loved you.*

Jesus calls us to build his Kingdom by rebuilding our own lives, to free ourselves from pride, from self-interest--to put aside our preoccupation with acquiring property, possessions, and positions of power. When we let go of these things, our minds and hearts are freed to receive God's greatest blessing--His Son and our Savior--who is Emmanuel that is God with us.

***Let your light shine well before others this week!***

***In His peace,  
Father Moore***

### **2017 CARDINAL'S APPEAL UPDATE**

***It is not too late--*** if you have not yet made your pledge or outright gift to the Cardinal's Appeal there is still time. We need everyone's support to reach our goal of \$ 37,045. So far, this year we have pledged \$26,561.00. Last year, at this time, 132 persons pledged while this year only 92 have pledged. We are short of our goal by \$10,484.00. Let's try and close this gap. Please visit the Appeal's secure website at <http://appeal.adw.org> to make a pledge. On behalf of those who benefit from your support, thank you for your gift to assist the many ministries of the Church of Washington.

### **WE'RE ON TIME FOR THE NEW YEAR!**

Maybe you have noticed that we are making every effort to ***begin Mass on time--at 8:45 and 11:30.***  
***Thanks for cooperating with our efforts to be punctual!***

## WELCOME VISITORS!

*We warmly welcome our visitors to  
St. Thomas More Church.*

*Please sign our Visitors' Book!*

*We invite all who are seeking a  
church home to join our church family.*

*Please encourage all visitors to sign our  
Guest Book.*



## 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS!

***~TODAY, December 10, 2017~***

***~ Christmas Concert, STM Church, 3:00pm ~***

*Liturgical Dance, Christian Comedy Guest, Gospel  
Choirs, Glorify Praise Team, Youth Choir, Men's Choir.  
Tickets-\$15.00*

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***Please Save The Date!***

***~Saturday, February 10, 2018~***

***Ministers of Hospitality Valentine's Dance***

*STM Cedar Room ~ 9:00pm. Details forthcoming!*



## 2017 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

***~MASS~***

***Please note the Special Mass Schedule  
this Christmas and New Year!***

***Saturday, December 23***

***Vigil Mass for Fourth Sunday of Advent ~5:00pm  
(There will be NO 8:45 & 11:30 Mass  
the morning of December 24, 2017!)***

***\*Christmas Eve\****

***Sunday, December 24 ~ 7:30pm  
(Mass immediately follows Carols and Narration)***

***\*Christmas Day\****

***Monday, December 25 ~ 10:00am***

***\*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph\*  
Saturday, December 30 ~ 5:00pm (Rectory Chapel)***



