

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy

4275 Fourth Street, Southeast

Washington, D.C. 20032

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School: 202-561-1189

December 17, 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

Third Sunday of Advent

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: *Is 61:1-2a, 10-11~ God will bring justice and glad tidings to the poor.*

Responsorial: *Is 61:10b~ My soul rejoices in my God.*

Reading II: *1 Thes 6:16-24~ Pray, rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances.*

Gospel: *Jn 1:6-8, 19-28~ John was sent to prepare the way for Jesus.*

Readings for Next Sunday

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Rom 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Jer 23:5-8	Matt 1:18-25
Tuesday:	Jdgs 13:2-7, 24-25a	Luke 1:5-25
Wednesday:	Is 7:10-14	Luke 1:26-38
Thursday:	Songs 2:8-14	Luke 1:39-45
Friday:	1 Sam 24-28	Luke 1:46-56
Saturday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24	Luke 1:57-66

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am	In memory of Jason Dantley
11:30am	Health of Roland Caldwell
Monday	In memory of Baby Michael Green
Tuesday	Intentions of STM Parishioners
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	In memory of Thomas Proctor-Birthday
Friday	Yvonne Hanna-Birthday
Saturday	In loving memory of Rev. Deborah Lee

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, Dcn. 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 SESCOE, 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. Casimir & 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 10, 2017** amounted to **\$5,651.00; Maintenance-\$239.00; Youth-\$10.00.**

Attendance	5:00pm	15
	8:45am	113
	11:30am	<u>103</u>
		231

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 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.

~ ADVENT PRAYER ~

All are welcome to join the STM Neo-Catechumenal Community for Morning Prayer, **Monday through Friday, 5:30-6:30am**, in the church, until December 22. Please consider attending this special time of prayer move through these final days of Advent.

65TH ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS!

Please Save The Date!

~Saturday, February 10, 2018~

Ministers of Hospitality Valentine's Dance

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

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Church Family,

As we know God has always been intruding and interrupting our lives with new possibilities and bigger and better blessings. We need only to be open and accept this invitation and allow His will to be done in our lives. Today, the invitation is also an exhortation, as John the Baptist prepares the way of the Lord by preaching repentance and conversion.

True repentance is more than just telling God we are sorry and true conversion is more than a one-time encounter with God.

True repentance requires us to "bear fruit." True conversion requires us recommit ourselves on a daily basis in our prayer, celebration of the sacraments and stewardship.

Let me encourage you during this third week of Advent to experience both repentance and conversion:

*Focus on daily prayer with the scriptures and sacraments, especially the Eucharist.

*Demonstrate repentance in the sacrament of penance (confession).

*Reach out to an inactive family member or friend and invite them to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Christmas Eve Mass will be at 7:30pm, and on Christmas Day will be at 10:00am.

These are three ways of making your Advent and Christmas meaningful!

**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!

**Thank you 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.**

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)**

Sunday, December 31~ 8:45am & 11:30am

Solemnity of Mary Holy Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2018 ~ 10:00am

CCD/YOUTH GROUP

On break December 24 & 31, 2017

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

On break December 19, 26 & January 2, 2018

PARISH OFFICE CLOSINGS

Christmas Holiday

New Year's Holiday

December 25, 26 & 27

January 1 & 2, 2018

**ST. THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC ACADEMY**

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

OF GREATNESS!

Serving Students in Grades Pre-K3-8!



Catholic Environment ~Academically Excellent

Before and After School Care Provided!

Tuition Assistance is Available!

Registrations are still being accepted

for the current school year.

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL 202-561-1189.

**STM FOOD PANTRY
DONATIONS APPRECIATED!**

**PLEASE HELP US DO OUR BEST TO
PROVIDE NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES!**

**PLEASE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN
TO HELP KEEP OUR PANTRY STOCKED.**

We are seeking the following items:

~DRY GOODS~



Rice/Pasta/Beans/Hot & Cold Cereal

~CANNED GOODS~

Meat/Tuna/Soup/Fruit/Vegetables

***STM has served as a REFUGE OF RELIEF for many!
Food/Monetary donations will help keep our pantry viable!***

Thank You! God Bless!

SHARE INFORMATION

**Sign-up takes place on the 2nd & 3rd Sunday of
each month. Value Package price: \$22.00**

**Schedule for
JANUARY 2018:**

Sign-up: January 14 & 21, 2018

Pick-up~ Sat., January 27, 9-10am.

Please plan accordingly!

Unclaimed packages will be donated to the STM Food Pantry.

*Please consider making a monetary donation of \$22.00 to
provide a SHARE Package to a family in need.*

If interested please see any member of our SHARE Team.

Thank you!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday Religious Ed Classes-(10:30am-Classrooms)
Second Chance (3:30pm-Old Library)
- Monday Youth Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm-Church)
NCW 2nd Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
- Tuesday Bible Study (7:30pm-Rectory Living Rm)
NCW 2nd Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
- Wednesday NCW 1st Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
- Thursday Adult Choir Rehearsal (7:30pm-Church)
- Friday AA (8:00pm-Old Library)
- Saturday NCW Communities (8:00pm-Church)

**SPECIAL HOLIDAY TIMELINE FOR
BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS!!**

**Please note that announcements for the December 24 &
December 31 Sunday Bulletins must be submitted**

BY 9:00AM MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017!

Thank you!

NOTES FOR TODAY
