

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy

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February 4, 2018



**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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Job 7:1-4, 6-7 ~Job's lament deepens our awareness of how much the human condition needs healing, and at this point in his miserable life he sees "an end without hope."

Responsorial: Ps 147~Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

Reading II: 1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23 ~St. Paul declares, "I have become all things to all, to save at least some."

Gospel: Mk 1:29-39~Jesus's ministry of preaching the Good News brings hope to all people by revealing that the present state of the human condition is not the end—salvation is!

Readings for Next Sunday

Lev 13:1-2, 44-46 1 Cor 10:31-11:1 Mk 1:40-45

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13	Mark 6:53-56
Tuesday:	1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30	Mark 7:1-13
Wednesday:	1 Kgs 10: 1-10	Mark 7:14-23
Thursday:	1 Kgs 11:4-13	Mark 7:24-30
Friday:	1 Kgs 11: 29-32, 12:19	Mark 7:31-37
Saturday:	1 Kgs 12:26-32, 13:33-34	Mark 8:1-10

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am In loving memory of Our Ancestors
11:30am William Wood-Birthday
Monday Blondinia Brown-Birthday
Tuesday Health of Vi Davies
Wednesday Health of Lindora Owens
Thursday In memory of Margaret Slye
Friday Health of Roland Caldwell
Saturday STM Ministers of Hospitality

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, Roland Caldwell, Jane Cannon, Dixie Clark, Shertia Clark, Odessa Curtis, Den. Ralph Cyrus, Frances Davies, Viola Davies, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Renee Feliu, Diane Finley, Eric Fuller, Priscilla 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, Maximillion 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 and/or Shut-In.*

~ PRAYER REQUESTS ~

Please pray for the health of **Sheila D. Brown**, daughter of our Stewardship Team Volunteer, Elizabeth Brown.

Prayers are requested for the health of **Roland Caldwell, Dcn. Ralph Cyrus, Vi Davies** and **Lindora Owens**.

Please pray for the health and well-being of, **Kayla Adams, Shirley Adams, Andre Cooper, Priscilla Fuller, Elizabeth Holmes, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Robert Robinson**, 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 & Dcn. Ralph Cyrus

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 **January 28, 2018** amounted to **\$5,728.00; Maintenance-\$30.00. Youth-\$3.00.**

Attendance	5:00pm	12
	8:45am	239
	11:30am	98
		349

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: Our Adult Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the rectory. The current topic is, "What Was Adam Doing When Eve Was Eating The Apple?" Why not come and find out? All are welcome.

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! Classes take place from 10:30 to 11:30am in the school. Please see Ms. Wanda Brooks for more information.

STM SODALITY: General Meeting immediately following the 8:45am Mass today. Sodality Union Raffle money is due in March.

SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION FOR 8TH GRADE STUDENTS: The Lucinda L. Jasper Scholarship Fund, Inc. (LLJSF) announces the 2018 Scholarship Competition. This competition is open to all 8th grade students attending a Catholic Elementary School in the Archdiocese of Washington who will be attending a Catholic High School in the AOW next school year! Interested students may apply online at <http://www.lljsf.org/>. Details are posted on the website. Submissions will be accepted **online only until March 31, 2018**. For more info, please contact **Charmene Alston, 301-780-5313, or lljsf@aol.com**.

WE'RE ON TIME THIS 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!**

PASTOR'S PEN

2018 CARDINAL'S APPEAL!

The 2018 Cardinal's Appeal has begun. You should have received a letter from the Cardinal asking for your support. Last year, we were able to contribute \$24,090 to the appeal. This past week's

Commitment Sunday kicked off the 2018 Appeal and 50 members made pledges from our in-pew solicitation!

The appeal is a great opportunity to express our gratitude for God's blessings through our generosity. We benefit here in our parish and community through the appeal's funding of Catholic Charities and Tuition Assistance for our school. Thanks to all who have made pledges so far!

A Reflection on Gratitude

*To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything He has given us-and He has given us everything.
Every breath we draw is a gift of His Love,
Every moment of existence is a grace
for it brings with it immense graces from Him.
Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted,
is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder.
For the grateful person knows that God is good,
not by hearsay but by experience
And that is what makes all the difference.*

Thomas Merton

**Please pledge this year to the Appeal
and make a difference in someone else's life.
PLEDGE FORMS ARE AVAILABE TODAY!!**

-The Sacraments of Healing-

The Church offers us two sacraments of healing: Penance (Confession) and the Anointing of the Sick. The practice of anointing the sick with oil signifies healing, strengthening and the presence of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel of Mark, the disciples were sent out by the Lord to continue his healing ministry: "They anointed many sick people with oil and cured them" (Mark 6:13). And St. James witnesses to the fact that the Church continued to anoint the sick with oil as both a means and a sign of healing (James 5:14). The Church's use of oil for healing is closely related to its remedial use in soothing and comforting the sick and in restoring the tired and the weak. Thus, the sick person is strengthened to fight against the physically and spiritually debilitating effects of illness. The prayer for blessing the oil of the sick reminds us that the oil of the anointing is the sacramental sign of the presence, power and grace of the Holy Spirit. We celebrate this sacrament upon request and recommend people undergoing treatment, surgery or suffering from illness let us know, and we will provide the anointing either in the liturgy or privately.

***In the Love of Jesus,
Rev. Raymond Moore***

2017 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS!

2017 Contribution Statements totaling \$100.00 or more have been mailed. Your statement's format may look different from those you have received in past years, as we have converted to a recordkeeping program implemented by our Archdiocese.

***You will want to be most attentive to your
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT.***

In the event that you have any ***questions and/or clarifications***, please direct them to ***Pattie Hamilton, stmchurch@comcast.net***. Our goal is to ensure that all statements are in alignment.

Thank you for your continued, generous stewardship!

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.***



65TH ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS!

~ NEXT Saturday, February 10, 2018 ~

Ministers of Hospitality Valentine's Dance

STM Cedar Room ~ 9:00pm.

Tickets are still available!

Please see an Adult Minister of Hospitality for more info.

THE STM PARISH ACTION COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH



2018 Theme:

"African Americans in Times of War"

This year commemorates the centennial of the end of the First World War in 1918 and explores the complex meanings and implications of this international struggle and its aftermath. The First World War was initially termed by many as "The Great War," "The War to End All Wars," and the war "to make the world safe for democracy."

February 4: Super Soul Sunday...

Calling of the Ancestors

We encourage everyone to wear African Attire as we celebrate our ancestors.

February 11: Youth Sunday

In celebration of our youth and young adults, the STM Youth Group will lead the celebration.

February 18: Celebration of Veterans

Acknowledgement of all who served in World War II, Viet Nam, Desert Storm and the Iraq/Afghanistan Wars. Please join us for Coffee & Donuts Fellowship after each Mass.

February 25: Soul Food Sunday

Enjoy great food & fun during our Annual Family Soul Food Sunday Meal from 2:00pm-5:00pm in the Cedar Room. PAC invites all parishioners to participate.

We encourage you to bring your favorite dish.

A short program will also take place!

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, March 11, 2018 ~ 2:00-4:00pm!

Lenten Presentation

***by our own George Banker,
Author, Marathon Runner!!
More info forthcoming soon!***

