

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
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March 11, 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

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23 ~ The exiled Israelites are returned from Babylon to Jerusalem.

Responsorial: Psalm 137 ~ Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

Reading II: Eph 2:4-10 ~ We are saved by God's grace.

Gospel: John 3:14-21 ~ God so loved the world that he sent his Son, the Light, to cast out the darkness of this world.

Readings for Next Sunday

Jer 31:31-34 Heb 5:7-9 John 12:20-33

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Isa 65:17-21	John 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12	John 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Is 49:8-15	John 5:17-30
Thursday:	Ex 32:7-14	John 5:31-47
Friday:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22	John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday:	Jer 11:18-20	John 7:40-53

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am	Health of Audrey & Roland Caldwell
11:30am	In loving memory of Carolyn Adalan
Monday	STM Food Pantry Volunteers and Donors
Tuesday	Health of Vi Davies
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	Health of Ronald Johnson
Friday	Health of Betty Beatty
Saturday	Intentions of STM Parishioners

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, Dcn. 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, 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 and/or Shut-In.

~ PRAYER REQUESTS ~

Please pray for the health and well-being of **Audrey & Roland Caldwell, and Ronald Johnson, brother of Barbara Elliott.** Your continued prayers are also asked for the health and well-being of **Kayla Adams, Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Lisa Chinn, Andre Cooper, Vi Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Elizabeth Holmes, Lindora Owens, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Robert Robinson, Mary Waters,** 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 & Deacon Ralph Cyrus

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP

So, then, each one of us will be accountable to God!
(Romans 14:12)

Not only our money, O God, but all that we have and are is a gift from you. Help us to find the joy of sharing our blessings with others through our stewardship of time, talent and treasure. May we one day hear the Lord's words, *Well, done good and faithful servants!* 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 **March 4, 2018** amounted to **\$9,284.03**; Faith Direct-\$3,241.74; Maintenance-\$3,923.00; Youth-\$3.00.

Attendance	5:00pm	12
	8:45am	134
	11:30am	<u>97</u>
		243

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 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. Contact Ms. Wanda Brooks.

NEO CATECHUMENAL MORNING PRAYER: All are invited to join the NCW Community for **Morning Prayer during Lent**, Monday-Friday, 5:30am, in the church.



2018 ANNUAL JUBILARIAN MASS!

Cardinal Donald Wuerl will celebrate the annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married **25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years** at 2:00pm, on Sunday, **June 17, 2018**. Mass will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Please contact Pattie Hamilton in the Church Office (x11) **by Wednesday, April 11**, so that she may register you online per the AOW registration procedure.

PASTOR'S PEN

POPE FRANCIS ON FASTING

Fasting weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth. On the one hand, it allows us to experience what the destitute and the starving have to endure. On the other hand, it expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbor. It revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger.

With regards to our fasting, Pope Francis suggests that we

*Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.*

In the Love of Jesus,

Rev. Raymond Moore

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. In our solicitation on Commitment Sunday, January 28, 50 members made pledges. Your pledges help to support our Catholic Charities programs as well as tuition assistance for Catholic schools, including St. Thomas More. You can donate today by simply completing a pledge form which is available in the church.

Thanks to all who have pledged so far!

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

Food Pantry Delivery **TOMORROW, Monday, March 12!** **Team Fellowship begins at 9:30am.** Join with other volunteers for refreshments and fellowship while awaiting the delivery trucks. Thank you for your assistance!

THANK YOU, MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY!

Many thanks to the Ministers of Hospitality who raised **\$2,678.00** from their recent Valentine's Dance. A great time was had by all who attended. We are all grateful for your commitment to ministry and service to the parish.

FISH FRY FRIDAYS!

Remaining Date: March 23 2018!

11:00am to 3:00pm ~ STM Cedar Room

Pre-order forms are available in the church.

Sponsored by the STM B.O.L.D. Committee



WELCOME VISITORS!

We warmly welcome our visitors to St. Thomas More! We invite all who are seeking a church home to join our church family.

Please sign our Guest Book!

~ LENTEN GUIDELINES ~

The Discipline for fasting and abstinence were introduced by Pope Paul VI in 1966. Here is a breakdown of what the Church asks of us:

-Fasting means eating a lesser amount of food. While fasting, only one full meal is taken. Two other smaller meals are usually eaten. While fasting, we do not snack between meals!!

-Catholics who are 18 years of age and not yet 60 years old are asked to observe the fast days of the Church. There are only two days of fasting: **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.**

-Abstinence means not eating any meat. Dairy products as well as fish and seafood may be eaten.

-The church has established ASH WEDNESDAY and ALL THE FRIDAYS OF LENT AS DAYS OF ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT! We must FAST again on GOOD FRIDAY!

**** SPECIAL LENTEN SCHEDULE****

Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, Noon-1pm, Rectory Chapel

Confession

Tuesday, Noon-1:00pm & 6:30-7:30pm, Rectory Chapel

Saturday, February 24 & March 24, 10-11am, Church

Remaining Scrutiny

March 18, 2018~ Presentation of the Our Father

2018 HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

March 25- Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord:

Blessing and Distribution of Palms

Mass at 5:00pm (Vigil), 8:45am & 11:30am



****PASCHAL TRIDUUM****

(7:30pm each evening)

March 29- Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of Feet

March 30- Good Friday

Service of the Lord's Passion

March 31- Great Easter Vigil

Mass, Baptisms and Reception into the Church

****EASTER****

April 1- Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection

Mass at 8:45am & 11:30 am

LENTEN PRESENTATION!

Join us for important information sharing for all ages:
Achievement, Attitude, Fitness, Motivation...

TODAY, March 11, 2-4pm ~ STM Cedar Room

Speaker: George Banker

Veteran, Author and Marathon Runner

Donation: Canned Goods for the STM Food Pantry!

Sponsored by the STM Religious Ed Team

