

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
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June 24, 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. 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	(Rector's Chapel)
Sunday	8:45 am	Youth Choir
	11:30 am	Gospel Choir
Weekdays	8:00 am	(Rector's 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



The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: *Is 49:1-6~ I will make you a light to the nations.*

Responsorial: *Psalm 139~ I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.*

Reading II: *Acts 13:22-26~ John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance.*

Gospel: *Luke 1:57-66, 80~ John is his name.*

Readings for Next Sunday

Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24 2 Cor 8:7,9, 13-15 Mk 5:21-43

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a	Matt 7:1-5
Tuesday:	2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36	Matt 7:6,12-14
Wednesday:	2 Kgs 22:8-13, 23:1-3	Matt 7:15-20
Thursday:	2 Kgs 24:8-17	Matt 7:21-29
Friday:	Acts 12:1-11 2Tim4:6-8, 17-18	Matt 16:13-19
Saturday:	Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19	Matt 8:5-17

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

- Sunday 8:45am Health of Hilda Best
- 11:30am Health of Roland and Audrey Caldwell
- Monday Health of Shirley Adams
- Tuesday Health of Priscilla Fuller
- Wednesday Mary Waters-Birthday
- Thursday In memory of William Kemp-Birthday
- Friday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
- Saturday Safekeeping of our Children and Youth

PLEASE KEEP THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Shirley Adams, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Viola Barnes, Betty Beatty, Hilda Best, Marie Brown, Shirley Brown, Francillia Browne, Cynthia Bruce, Felicia V. Bush, John Bush, Roland Caldwell, Jane Cannon, Suzanne Chandler, Dixie Clark, Shertia Clark, Odessa Curtis, Dcn. Ralph Cyrus, Frances Davies, Viola Davies, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Renee Feliu, Diane Finley, Eric & 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, Maximillon Holland, Elizabeth Holmes, Darryl Jackson, Jimmie Jackson, Ivy John, Carolyn Johnson, Sarah Jones, Seymour & Patrick Jones, David Larison, Dennis Lucas, James Makle, Jr., 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 ~

Your continued prayers are asked for the health and well-being of *Shirley Adams, Hilda Best, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey & Roland Caldwell, Suzanne Chandler, Vi Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Earl Hamilton, 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. Casimir, Ed Poindexter & Deacon Ralph Cyrus

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP

"If it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:8)

We are always learning how to do better what we do in your service, O God. As we bring our offerings, teach us how to give with willing and generous hearts and discover the joy of stewardship. 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 **Sunday, June 17, 2018** amounted to **\$6,319.00; Maintenance-\$125.00.**

Attendance	5:00pm	17
	8:45am	136
	11:30am	<u>100</u>
		253

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**.

BIBLE STUDY ON SUMMER BREAK: The Tuesday evening Adult Bible Study will be on summer break and will resume in September with new, timely and exciting topics from the Old and New Testaments.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION! As we move into our summer break, we remind our families of the importance of Sunday worship. When our Religious Education classes break for the summer, we still are required to worship the Lord at Sunday Mass. **For more information regarding the Religious Ed Program at STM please speak to Ms. Wanda Brooks.**

CARDINAL'S APPEAL MAY UPDATE:

As of May 24, 2018, we have increased participation from 56.9% to 65%. We have pledged \$23,933.00 from a total of 90 pledges, with an average pledge of \$266.00!

Thanks for your generous support of the 2018 Appeal.

It is still not too late to participate. Simply fill out the appeal envelope in the back of the church and place in the collection or give to an usher. Be sure to make your checks payable to the "Cardinal's Appeal".

PRINCIPAL SEARCH UPDATE

The selection committee is in the process of interviewing candidates for principal of the Academy. We are now beginning our second round of candidate interviews. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide our process and a great leader will be selected.

**SOWING AND GROWING SEEDS OF BETTER
DISCIPLESHIP AND GREATER HOLINESS**

Today the church throughout the world celebrates the birth of John the Baptist, the last and great prophet who bridges the Old and New Testaments. On June 22, we celebrated the feast of St. Thomas More, our own patron saint. Both of these saints gave prophetic witness to the point of giving their lives as martyrs of our faith. In the midst of the trying, tough and turbulent issues that confront our nation and world, John the Baptist and Thomas More provide us with great role models as we strive to be better disciples ourselves.

Pope Francis gives us some contemporary wisdom as he reflects on the disciple's call to holiness. This is what he writes for our reflection in his letter to the church, *Rejoice and Be Glad (Gaudete Et Exultate)*:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God. The Gospel invites us to peer into the depths of our heart, to see where we find our security in life. Usually the rich feel secure in their wealth, and think that, if their wealth is threatened, the whole meaning of their earthly life can collapse. Jesus himself tells us this in the parable of the rich fool: he speaks of a man who was sure of himself, yet foolish, for it did not dawn on him that he might die that very day. (See Luke 12:16-21)

Wealth ensures nothing. Indeed, once we think we are rich, we can become so self-satisfied that we leave no room for God's Word, for the love of our brothers and sisters, or for the enjoyment of the most important things in life. In this way, we miss out on the greatest treasure of all. That is why Jesus calls blessed those who are poor in spirit, those who have a poor heart, for there the Lord can enter with his perennial newness.

This spiritual poverty is closely linked to what St. Ignatius of Loyola calls "holy indifference," which brings us to a radiant interior freedom: "We need to train ourselves to be indifferent in our attitude to all created things, in all that is permitted to our free will and not forbidden; so that on our part, we do not set our hearts on good health rather than bad, riches rather than poverty, honor rather than dishonor, a long life rather than a short one."

St. Luke, in his Gospel, does not speak of poverty "of spirit" but simply of those who are "poor". In this way, he too, invites us to live a plain and simple life. He calls us to share in the life of those most in need, the life lived by the Apostles, and ultimately to configure ourselves to Jesus who, though rich, "made himself poor."

Sowing and growing seeds of better discipleship requires us to grow in personal holiness. This is what the Gospel insists and what Pope Francis encourages us to become. Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God. Let us follow the examples of John the Baptist and St. Thomas More.

Being poor in spirit: that is holiness.

In an effort to better serve you, our members, please:

1. If you are new to our church, complete a registration form. (available in back of church.)
2. If your address has changed recently let us know by completing a change of address form (available in back of church.)
3. Consider using FaithDirect (e-giving) for your tithing and church support. It is easier and more efficient and saves paper as well. See announcement in this bulletin.
4. If you are not active in a parish ministry, please receive our invitation to get involved and serve. A complete and updated listing of ministries and organizations is available for your consideration.
5. Become a "Missionary Disciple" by sowing and growing the seeds of faith by inviting friends or family to be a part of our church.



WELCOME VISITORS!

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

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

*Please encourage all visitors to sign our
Guest Book located near the Main Entrance.*

**MONSIGNIOR MICHAEL FISHER
TO BE ORDAINED BISHOP**

Cardinal Donald Wuerl cordially invites the faithful of the Archdiocese of Washington to the ordination of Msgr. Michael Fisher as auxiliary bishop on **Friday, June 29** at 2:00pm at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. A reception will follow at the Basilica.

**STM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES
OBSERVE JUNETEENTH
WITH GARDENS OF LIFE!**

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Marking the date that the last enslaved people learned of their freedom, the month of June and the nineteenth day were combined to form the word *Juneteenth*. From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19 as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States. Under the guidance of Catechists *Christine Lee* and *Rochelle Ray*, our students have constructed "Gardens of Life." These "gardens" embody the traditional Catholic social teachings of justice, equality, and peace that are also reflected in the Juneteenth observance. Juneteenth is a holiday recognized in 43 states and the District of Columbia.

The students' projects are on display for you to enjoy today.

PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES!

**STM Outreach Committee's
Annual Crab Feast
Sunday, September 16, 2018, 2:00-5:00pm**

2018 East of the River Revival

***Theme: Jesus, Heal Our Land
Revivalist: Father Sidney Speaks***

Youth Rally: Saturday, September 29

St. Thomas More, 10:00am to 4:30pm
Mass with Bishop Dorsonville at 12:00pm

Revival: October 1-3, 2018

Holy Family Church, Hilcrest Heights
Praise and Worship starts at 7:00pm
Closing Mass with Bishop Roy Campbell
on Wednesday evening.

