

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
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July 8, 2018



***Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ-
Answering the Call to Missionary Discipleship***

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	(Rectorly Chapel)
Sunday	8:45 am	Youth Choir
	11:30 am	Gospel Choir
Weekdays	8:00 am	(Rectorly 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 Rectorly.

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 Rectorly.
CCD Classes: Every Sunday at 10:30am
Bible Study: Every Tuesday at 7:30pm



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Ez 2:2-5~God calls Ezekiel to be a prophet.

Responsorial: Psalm 123~Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

Reading II: 2 Cor 12:7-10~Despite his weakness, Paul is called to be an apostle.

Gospel: Mark 6:1-6~Jesus is rejected in the synagogue.

Readings for Next Sunday

Am 7:12-15 Eph 1:3-14 Mark 6:7-13

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Hos 2:16, 18, 21-22	Matt 9:18-26
Tuesday	Hos 8:4-7, 11-13	Matt 9:32-38
Wednesday	Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12	Matt 10:1-7
Thursday:	Hos 11:1-4, 8e-9	Matt 10:7-15
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10	Matt 10:16-23
Saturday:	Is 6:1-8	Matt 10:24-33

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am	Health of Lucille Rivas
11:30am	Health of Hilda Best
Monday	Health of Priscilla Fuller
Tuesday	Kennedi Price-Birthday
Wednesday	In loving memory of Brenda Chube
Thursday	Margaret Chambers-Birthday
Friday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Saturday	Health of Earl Hamilton

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, Dixie Clark, Shertia Clark, Odessa Curtis, Dcn. Ralph Cyrus, Frances Davies, Viola Davies, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Renee Felio, Diane Finley, Eric & Priscilla Fuller, Craig Fulmer, Betty Furr, Tasha Gant, David Garner, Tyrone Garrison, Brenda Green, Zynae Green, Emmanuel Greene, William Gunn, Earl Hamilton, Andre Harris, Margaret Harris, Vance Harris II, June Harrison, Shant'e Hawkins, Maximillion 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, Lucille Rivas, 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 prayers are asked for the health and well-being of Shirley Adams, Hilda Best, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey & Roland Caldwell, Vi Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Zynae Green, Earl Hamilton, Elizabeth Holmes, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Lucille Rivas, 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 & 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, July 1, 2018** amounted to **\$13,684.00; Maintenance-\$4,188.00.**

Attendance	5:00pm	10
	8:45am	132
	11:30am	<u>85</u>
		227

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**.

ENLISTING WITNESSES FOR JESUS- ANSWERING THE CALL TO MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 16, 2018!

Adult Faith Formation And RCIA

This program is for adults wishing to become Catholic or desiring to increase their knowledge of Catholicism. We will be meeting in the Red Room on Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 beginning September 16. **Adults seeking a closer relationship with Jesus Christ are encouraged to participate.**

Youth Religious Education

This program is for children preparing for the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. We have classes for children from Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. Our classes will meet in the school on Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 starting September 16. **All families are encouraged to participate.**

Youth Group

The Youth Group is for high school age youth, who have received the sacrament of Confirmation. This ministry provides ongoing formation in faith, ministry, community service and positive Christian peer fellowship. Youth Group meets on Sunday morning from 10:30 to 11:30 in the rectory living room. **All youth are invited to get involved.**

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

Today's focus is on the power of prophesy, the strength of the prophet to enter into the circumstances and situations that we find in life. The role of the prophet is to embrace and understand the suffering and pain of this life.

In our Old Testament reading we encounter the prophet Ezekiel. God spoke to him, saying, "I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day." God claimed the people were "impudent and stubborn" but that they would know that a prophet had been sent to them.

But the hard hearts and crooked ways are not just something of the past. What Ezekiel found in his own day is precisely what we find today in our own hearts.

In this empathy, the prophet accompanies those who are sorrowful and mourning.

Again, we turn to Pope Francis and his insights found in his letter entitled, *Rejoice and Be Glad (Gaudete Et Exultate)*. This week we focus on the Beatitude, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted:

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. The world tells us exactly the opposite: entertainment, pleasure, diversion, and escape make for the good life. The worldly person ignores problems of sickness, or sorrow in the family or all around him; he averts his gaze. The world has no desire to mourn; it would rather disregard painful situations, cover them up or hide them. Much energy is expended on fleeing from situations of suffering in the belief that reality can be concealed. But the cross can never be absent.

A person who sees things as they truly are and sympathizes with the pain and sorrow is capable of touching life's depths and finding authentic happiness. He or she is consoled, not by the world but by Jesus. Such persons are unafraid to share in the suffering of others; they do not flee from painful situations. They discover the meaning of life by coming to the aid of those who suffer, understanding their anguish and bringing relief. They sense that the other is flesh of our flesh, and not afraid to draw near, even to touch their wounds. They feel compassion in such a way that all distance vanishes. In this way they can embrace St. Paul's exhortation: "weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15.)

Knowing how to mourn with others: that is holiness.

THANK YOU, PLASKETT FAMILY!

*We are very grateful to the family of John Anthony Plaskett for the generous donation of new laminated prayer cards for our church. These worship aids are now in the pews along with our new *Lead Me Guide Me* hymnals.*

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.



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.*

CARDINAL'S APPEAL JUNE UPDATE:

As of June 22, 2018, we have increased participation from 56.9% to 66%. We have pledged \$24,433.00 from a total of 94 pledges, with an average pledge of \$260.00!

Let's all do our part to reach this goal. 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". Thanks to all who have sown the seeds of generosity by supporting this year's appeal

FIVE WAYS WE CAN BETTER SERVE YOU:

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 *Faith Direct* (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 church ministry, please receive our invitation to get involved and serve. Complete and turn in a sign-up form. (Available in the back of church.)
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.

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.

