

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
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November 11, 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
Mr. Gerald Smith, 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	(Rectorry Chapel)
Sunday	8:45 am	Youth Choir
	11:30 am	Gospel Choir
Weekdays	8:00 am	(Rectorry 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 Rectorry.

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

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: 1 Kgs 17:10-16 ~God blesses the trust of the poor widow. The widow of Zarephath gives the last of what she has to the prophet Elijah.

Responsorial: Psalm 146 ~ Praise the Lord, my soul!

Reading II: Heb 9:24-28 ~Christ offers the ultimate sacrifice.

Gospel: Mk 12:38-33 ~The widow in the gospel gives all that she has. The widow in the gospel does not go unrewarded by God just as the widow in the gospel does not go unnoticed by Jesus.

Readings for Next Sunday

Dn 12:1-3 Heb 10:11-14, 18 Mk 12:32

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Ti 1:1-9	Luke 17:1-6
Tuesday:	Ti 2:1-8, 11-14	Luke 17:7-10
Wednesday:	Ti 3:1-7	Luke 17:11-19
Thursday:	Phlm 7-20	Luke 17:20-25
Friday:	2 John 4-9	Luke 17:26-37
Saturday:	3 John 5-8	Luke 18:1-8

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am In memory and honor of All U.S. Veterans.

11:30am Daisy Ogene-Birthday
Women of the Spirit Concert Participants

Monday In loving memory of Andre Lyles

Tuesday Sharie B. Wood-Birthday

Wednesday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones

Thursday In loving memory of Lydia Johnson-Birthday

Friday In loving memory of Delores Anne Dawson

Saturday In loving memory of Lydia Johnson

PLEASE KEEP THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Shirley Adams, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Viola Barnes, Betty Beatty, Marie Brown, Shirley Brown, Francillia Browne, Cynthia Bruce, Felicia V. Bush, John Bush, Audrey Caldwell, Jane Cannon, Dixie Clark, Elois Clark, Shertia Clark, Odessa Curtis, Den. Ralph Cyrus, Frances Davies, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Renee Felu, Diane Finley, Priscilla Fuller, Craig Fulmer, Betty Furr, Tasha Gant, David Garner, Tyrone Garrison, Brenda Green, Zynae Green, Emmanuel Greene, William Gunn, 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, Yolanda Rollins, Thelma Sawyer, Robin Sescoc, Ciara Shields, Brenda Smith, Claudell St. Julien, Edsel Swann, Jane Thomas, Kristine Vivican, Rev. Raymond Wadas, Kayla Warren, Paul Waters, Marilyn Denise Whetstone, Yvonne White, Anita Williams, Bertha Williams, Kobe M. Williams, David Wilson, Jean Wright, Marianne Young, **and all who are Sick/ Shut-In.**

~ PRAYER REQUESTS ~

Please pray for our U.S. Veterans, both living and deceased.

Your continued prayers are also asked for **and Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey Caldwell, Bob & Priscilla Fuller, Zynae Green, George Hanna, Elizabeth Holmes, Alice Proctor, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Robert Robinson, Yolanda Rollins**, 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.**

2019 LECTOR WORKBOOKS NOW AVAILABLE: All lectors are reminded that the workbooks for 2019 are available in the usher room in the rear of the church. The new church liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent, December 2.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP

Let us always offer praise to God as our sacrifice through Jesus, which is the offering presented by lips that confess him as Lord. Do not forget to do good and to help one another, because these are the sacrifices that please God. (Hebrews 13:15-16)

As our hearts are attuned to sing your praise, O God, may our hands be accustomed to giving, that the actions of our hands may reveal the song of our hearts and resound to the glory of God. 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, November 4, 2018** amounted to **\$8,255.00. Maintenance-3,275.00**

Attendance	5:00pm	13
	8:45am	145
	11:30am	<u>102</u>
		260

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 CHRIST

Youth Religious Education

Our Religious Education Program for children in pre-kindergarten through Confirmation formally began last Sunday. It is not too late to register students. Classes are held Sunday mornings in the school from 10:30 to 11:30.

All families are encouraged to participate.

Youth Ministry

Our Youth Ministry Program, for youth who have received the sacrament of Confirmation through the twelfth grade, meets on Sunday mornings at 10:30 in the rectory living room.

All youth are encouraged to participate.

Adult Faith Formation

Our Adult Faith Formation Program is designed for adults preparing to become Catholics, and for those Catholics who would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith. The group meets on Sunday morning at 10:30 in the Red Room.

All adults are welcome.

Adult Bible Study

Our Adult Bible Study will resume on Tuesday evening, October 9th at 7:30pm in the rectory living room. **All adults are invited to participate in our lively and interesting discussions.**

CHURCH SECURITY TASK FORCE FORMED

In an effort to better secure our facilities, a Security Task Force has been formed. Rodney Hollins and Kim Mason, both law enforcement officers, are heading this effort. The plan is being developed. Our ushers have undergone training, and the congregation will be informed of our security plan.



We warmly welcome
Our Visitors to St.

Thomas More Church! We invite all who are seeking a church home to join our church family. Please sign our Guest Book!

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Gospel this week focuses our attention our personal commitment to be generous in our discipleship. Over the past weeks we have seen the tremendous outpouring of your love in supporting our food pantry. In today's Gospel Jesus points out the generosity of a poor widow as an example of Christian giving. As he praises the widow's giving, Jesus makes us realize that numbers are not the true value of giving in the economy of God's Kingdom. It is what we give from our need, not from our excess or extra, that reveal what we truly value and what we want our lives and world to be. It is not the measure of the amount of the gift but the measure of the love that directs the gift that is great in the eyes of God. It is not the knowledge we have attained nor the wealth we command but our willingness to put those things at the service of others that gives meaning to our faith. It is not the size of what we give or the impact of what we do but the love and sacrifice in which we give that makes our gift holy in the eyes of God.

God's kingdom is made real in our world by the way we embrace Christ's servanthood that is centered in respect we show and share with others; that finds fulfillment in compassion and kindness we offer; that enables us to put the common good and the needs of others less fortunate than ourselves above our own wants and interests. Jesus asks the people in this gospel to look beyond titles, fashion, and position as well as places of honor and distinction and consider humble service as the heart and soul of those who would lead others. He calls us to honor the dignity of the servant over the power of the rich, seek generous humility over prominence, position and power and embrace the generous giving of this poor widow rather than the empty gestures of the scribe.

The widow's penny can take many forms: a warm coat given to the poor, time spent each week serving in church ministry, donations to the food bank or Wonderful Smiles or the Archdiocesan Appeal. The widow's penny accomplishes great things not because of the size of the gift but because of the love and compassion that compels her to give. The widow's "reckless" giving from her poverty challenges us to center our giving in the unconditional love that makes our sacrificial giving such a joy!

Thanks for your generosity and service to our church.

ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE:

The **Annual Appeal** supports many of the ministries and service organizations of the Archdiocese of Washington. For example, our school is funded in part from the appeal through direct support to the Consortium of Catholic Academies and the tuition assistance program that provides tuition subsidies to our families. The Merrick Center, which we worked so hard to build, is not self-sustaining and relies on the Archdiocese for help. Both our school and the Merrick Center provide great services to our community. Our goal for this year remains \$37,045. Thus far 106 of our members have pledged \$27,793. We just need \$9,252 to reach our goal. This represents 75% total parishioner participation. The average pledge is \$262. If you have yet to pledge, please consider even a small gift. Every penny counts. There are three convenient ways to make your gift: Complete pledge form found in the back of the church, on-line by visiting www.appeal.adw.org, or text "Give" to 301- 231-1816 and follow link provided. Many thanks for supporting the 2018 Appeal.

**HAPPY VETERAN'S DAY TO OUR MEMBERS WHO
HAVE SERVED AND PROTECTED OUR NATION!**



WE APPRECIATE YOU!!

A PRAYER FOR HARD TIMES, AND GOOD

Recently, we have experienced a number of losses through death and sickness, and other life disappointments. To help those who are grieving, the following prayer might be helpful.

Father, there is never a good time for Sorrow, or the pain of uncertainty that comes with tomorrow. We pray for your goodness to see us through, when life is the hardest, and when times are good.

Father, we pray for all those in need, All my friends and my family.

We pray for your strength to see us through, when life is the hardest, and when times are good.

Father, when life seems to throw us a curve, when we are unsettled, upset, unnerved and cannot pray. We pray for your wisdom to get us through, when life is the hardest, and when times are good.

Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I thank you for Jesus who showed us he cared.

We pray for your Spirit to see us through, when life is the hardest, and when times are good.

We pray, AMEN!

"WOMEN OF THE SPIRIT" Concert!

TODAY at 3:00pm ~ STM

Tickets~\$10.00...may still be purchased at the door!

~ Featuring~

St. Thomas More Women of the Spirit Choir, Aaron Young & Group, Jubilee Majestics, St. Theresa of Avila Dance Ministry & Choirs from St. James, St. Margaret of Scotland and St. Martin's
Come join us for an afternoon of Praising God in Song & Dance!

Proceeds will be given to support STM Church.

~ SODALITY BAKE SALE ~

STM Sodality invites you to place an order for baked goods for the upcoming holiday season.

**TODAY IS THE FINAL DAY TO PLACE
YOUR PRE-ORDERS!**

Pick-up date: November 18, 2018. Please see Laura Brown, Margaret Butler or Judy Kenner for a form.

Your support is greatly appreciated!



~MASS OF THANKSGIVING~

***Our Annual Mass for Thanksgiving Day
will take place at 7:30pm on Wednesday, November 21.***

***Please join with your church family as we
thank God for the many blessings we have received.***

