

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
4275 Fourth Street, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20032
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School: 202-561-1189

December 9, 2018



Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

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	(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

Second Sunday of Advent

Preparing to Hear God's Word



Reading I: Bar 5:1-9 ~The exiles will be brought back to Jerusalem. The prophet shows us what the "salvation of God" is: a time of righteousness and glory, a time of splendor and peace, a time of holiness and rejoicing, a time of joy and light.

Responsorial: Psalm 126 ~The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Reading II: Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 ~Paul writes of hope to the Philippians.

Gospel: Lk 3:1-6 ~John proclaims a baptism of repentance. John and the gospel call us to repentance and forgiveness as a way of life.

Readings for Next Sunday

Zep 3:14-18a Phil 4:4-7 Luke 3:10-18

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Is 35:1-10	Luke 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11	Matt 18:12-24
Wednesday:	Zec 2:14-17	Luke 1:39-47
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20	Matt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19	Matt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11	Matt 17: 9a, 10-13

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am	In loving memory of Marie Celeste Brown
11:30am	Alice Proctor & Robin Dillard Harris-Birthday
Monday	In loving memory of Julie Robinson
Tuesday	In loving memory of Earl Hamilton-Birthday
Wednesday	In loving memory of Claudell W. St. Julien
Thursday	In loving memory of Andre Lyles-Birthday
Friday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Saturday	STM Outreach Committee and Volunteers

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, Dcn. Ralph Cyrus, Frances Davies, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Renee Feliu, 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, Edsel Swann, Jane Thomas, Kristine Vivican, Rev. Raymond Wadas, 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 ~

Please pray for the peaceful repose of the souls of **Julie Robinson**- sister of Renee Coles, **Marie Celeste Brown**-great-aunt of Wanda Brooks, and **Claudell (Bobby) St. Julien**-uncle of Pattie & Jo-Ann Hamilton. Please pray for the consolation of their family members.

Your continued prayers are appreciated for Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey Caldwell, Priscilla Fuller, Zynae Green, Elizabeth Holmes, Alice Proctor, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Robert Robinson, Yolanda Rollins, Aaron Young, 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

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, December 2, 2018** amounted to **\$10,147.00. Maintenance-\$1,986.00. Youth-\$4.00**

Attendance	5:00pm	10
	8:45am	134
	11:30am	<u>106</u>
		250

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! We all strive to be good stewards of our blessings. Over the past months, many of our members now use Faith Direct (e-giving) to fulfill their stewardship commitments to our church. Electronic giving is less expensive than the offertory envelopes. By switching to Faith Direct, we reduce our envelope and postage expenses. Consider joining Faith Direct and support St. Thomas More by using this secure and convenient program. It is simple to start. Enroll by visiting www.faithdirect.net to enroll securely on line. **Our parish code is DCC773.**

ENLISTING WITNESSES FOR JESUS CHRIST

Youth Religious Education: Our Religious Education Program for children in pre-kindergarten through Confirmation formally began September 16th. 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 meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm in the rectory living room. *All adults are invited to participate in our lively and interesting discussions.*

BEST ADVENT EVER! 'Tis the Season to rediscover the joy of Christmas with BEST ADVENT EVER, a **free email program** that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during the busy holiday season. Each day of Advent you'll receive: short inspirational videos, practical tips, real-life encouraging stories: **BestAdventEver.com/Almost Christmas**

LIBRARY DRIVE!

STM Academy is building a Community of Readers!
Please see "STM Catholic Academy News" for more info!!

PASTORAL REFLECTION: Advent II

Christ's Two Comings

"Prepare the way of the Lord!" This is the message that John the Baptist preached. John readied his people for the coming Messiah, Jesus. John preached a message of repentance and baptism for the forgiveness of sins. Advent, like Lent, is a season when we are given an opportunity to prepare for something greater in our lives. The four weeks of Advent is preparation for receiving the gift of salvation in the coming of Jesus. Throughout the ages the church has observed this time as we remember Jesus' first coming in Bethlehem and look forward to his Second Coming, while we reflect on the reality of his presence in the Word of God and in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist.

Here is what St. Cyril of Jerusalem said about Christ's two comings. *St. Cyril of Jerusalem*: "We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom.

In general, what relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future.

At the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In his first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming he will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels. We look beyond the first coming and await the second. At the first coming we said: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*. At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*.

The Savior will not come to be judged again, but to judge those by whom he was judged. At his own judgement he was silent; then he will address those who committed the outrages against him when they crucified him and he will remind them: You did these things, and I was silent.

His first coming was to fulfill his plan of love, to teach by gentle persuasion. This time, whether people like it or not, they will be subjects of his kingdom by necessity. Malachi the prophet speaks of the two comings. *And the Lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple*: that is one coming.

Again, he says of another coming: *Look, the Lord almighty will come, and who will endure the day of his entry, or who will stand in his sight? Because he comes like a refiner's fire, a fuller's herb, and he will sit refining and cleansing.*"

So, take some quiet time to prepare for both of these comings. *You are invited to use the on-line program, "Best Advent Yet" or the Word Among Us.*

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 AOW 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. Follow the link provided.

Many thanks for supporting the 2018 Appeal.



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 visitors to sign our Guest Book!*

WONDERFUL SMILES OF CHILDREN CHRISTMAS PROJECT!!

*It's that time of the year when we again reach out to
support many families during the holidays!!*

*Please consider supporting the STM Outreach Committee
by signing up on the lists provided in the back of the church
for one of more of the following activities:*

GIFT WRAPPING!

*Volunteers are needed to help us bag children's gifts THIS
WEEK, **December 10-14**, 10:30am-9:00pm, in the Red Room.*

CHRISTMAS PARTY!

*Help is very much needed with the Christmas Party next
Saturday, **December 15, 2018**. There are opportunities to
serve during one, or both time frames!*

ANGEL TREE!

*Gifts for the children on the Angel Tree are due today,
December 9, 2018!*

*Thank you for your continued support and involvement!
May God continue to bless you abundantly!!*

2018 CHRISTMAS CONCERT!!

Presented by the Glorify Praise and Worship Team!

Please Join Us for

An Afternoon of Fellowship & Praising God!

St. Thomas More Church

****NEXT Sunday, December 16, 2018****

Time ~3:00pm Tickets ~\$15.00

*Please see Denese Clay, Vanessa Barnard or
Ignacio Washington for tickets.*

CHURCH ON THE MOVE RETURNS IN JANUARY!

*Are you ready to get fit? Are you ready to get healthy?
Are you already fit & healthy, and want to stay there?*

JOIN THE MOVEMENT: Men, women, seniors & juniors-
all are welcome! There's something for everyone!

The MOVEMENT Levels Include: I-Seated Saints; II-Praise
Pushers; III-Enthusiastic Evangelists. *So, you have no excuse!*

**REGISTRATION will take place
AFTER BOTH MASSES TODAY, and
BETWEEN Masses next Sunday, December 16, 2018.**

Six-month weight loss challenge-\$10.00.

Liturgical exercise movement-\$4.00/week.

Group Wilson Bridge walk/run/bike-FREE.

Group Henson Creek walk/run/bike-FREE.

Church on the Move Shirts \$15.00-\$20.00.

Questions/Need More Information...Please see Vi Davies

