

**Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy**  
**4275 Fourth Street, Southeast**  
**Washington, D.C. 20032**  
Telephone: 202-562-0431 Fax: 202-563-7347  
E-mail: [stmchurch@comcast.net](mailto:stmchurch@comcast.net) Website: [www.stthomasmoredc.org](http://www.stthomasmoredc.org)  
School: 202-561-1189

*December 16, 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



**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Preparing to Hear God's Word**

**Reading I: Zep 3:14-18a** ~God is with his faithful people.

**Responsorial: Psalm Is 12** ~Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

**Reading II: Phil 4:4-7** ~Rejoice always for God is near.

**Gospel: Lk 3:10-18** ~John prepares the way for Jesus. Each of these readings makes clear for us what is at the basis of our relationships with each other and of the good news that John preached: because the Lord God is in your midst, a mighty savior (first reading), your kindness should be known to all (second reading).

**Readings for Next Sunday**

**Micah 5:1-4a    Heb 10:5-10    Luke 1:39-45**

**DAILY MASS READINGS**

Monday:	Gen 49:2, 8-10	Matt 1:1-17
Tuesday:	Jer 23:5-8	Matt 1:18-25
Wednesday:	Jdgs 13:2-7, 24-25a	Luke 1:5-25
Thursday:	Is 7:10-14	Luke 1:26-38
Friday:	Zep 3:14-18a	Luke 1:39-45
Saturday:	1 Sam 1:24-28	Luke 1:46-56

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:**

- Sunday 8:45am Christmas Concert Participants
- 11:30am In memory of Fredrick Matthew Holton
- Monday In memory of Jason Dantley
- Tuesday In memory of Baby Michael Green
- Wednesday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
- Thursday Health of Robert Milner
- Friday In memory of Thomas Proctor-Birthday
- Saturday Yvonne Hanna-Birthday

**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 happy repose of the soul of **Fredrick Matthew Holton**, father of Bridget Gotay and Pamela Morris, and uncle of the Bush family.

*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 9, 2018** amounted to **\$12,179.00. Faith Direct-\$2,730.00. Maintenance-\$1,345.00.**

Attendance	5:00pm	22
	8:45am	135
	11:30am	78
		235

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](http://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 16<sup>th</sup>. 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**

## PASTORAL REFLECTION: Advent III

### Rejoice! Just Do It!

In today's Gospel the crowds ask John the Baptist, "What should we do?" John answers, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none." The tax collectors ask "What should we do?" he answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers asked, "And what is it that we should do?" He answered, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone and be satisfied with your wages." In other words, Repent and turn away from your sins and you will rejoice in the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord.

During the week ahead, reflect on these thoughts as you rejoice and just do it!

Here is what Mahatma Gandhi observed:

In the world there are seven sins

Wealth without work.

Pleasure without conscience.

Commerce without morality.

Science without humanity

Worship without sacrifice.

Politics without principle.

Knowledge without character.

Saint Augustine offers these thoughts. "Sin arises when things that are a minor good are pursued as if they were the most important things in life. If money or affection or power are sought in disproportionate, obsessive ways, then sin occurs. And that sin is magnified when for these lesser goals we fail to pursue the highest good and the finest goals."

Think on these things as we prepare to receive Jesus this Christmas. Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

## 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](http://www.appeal.adw.org), or text "Give" to (301) 231-1816. Follow the link provided.

*Many thanks for supporting the 2018 Appeal.*

## STM ACADEMY LIBRARY DRIVE!

*Our St. Thomas More Catholic Academy seeks your support as it strives to build a Community of Readers!  
Please see "STM Catholic Academy News" for more info!!*

## CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATE!!

Congratulations to **DaVaughn Moody** who will receive his Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Maryland Baltimore County on December 20, 2018!! The Russell family asks the STM Church Family to please keep DaVaughn in our prayers as he enters the next phase of God's plans for him!!



## 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!*

## 2018 CHRISTMAS CONCERT!!

*Presented by the Glorify Praise and Worship Team!*

*Please Join Us TODAY For*

*An Afternoon of Fellowship & Praising God!*

**St. Thomas More Church**

**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!*

**FINAL REGISTRATION will take place  
BETWEEN MASSES TODAY, 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!*

## 2018 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**~MASS~**

**\*Christmas Eve\***

**Monday, December 24 ~ 7:30pm**

*(Mass immediately follows Carols and Narration)*

**\*Christmas Day\***

**Tuesday, December 25 ~ 10:00am**

**\*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph\***

**Saturday, December 29~ 5:00pm Vigil**

**Sunday, December 30~ 8:45am & 11:30am**

**\*New Year's Eve\***

**Monday, December 31~ 7:30pm**

**\*Solemnity of Mary Holy Mother of God\***

**Tuesday, January 1, 2019~ 10:00am**

**CCD/Youth Group/Adult Faith Formation**

*On break December 30, 2018*

**Adult Bible Study**

*On break December 18, 25 & January 1, 2019*

**Parish Office Closings**

**Christmas Holiday**

December 24, 25 & 26

**New Year's Holiday**

Dec. 31, 2018/ Jan 1 & 2, 2019

