

**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 23, 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

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



**Reading I: Micah 5:1-4a** ~The Messiah of God will come from the little town of Bethlehem.

**Responsorial: Psalm 80** ~Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**Reading II: Heb 10:5-10** ~The son of God comes to do the Father's will.

**Gospel: Luke 1:39-45** ~The gospel discloses Mary and Elizabeth's willingness to do God's will.

**Readings for Next Sunday**  
**Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 Lk 2:41-52**

**DAILY MASS READINGS**

Monday:	Is 62:1-5	Acts 13:16-17, 22-25	Matt 1:1-25
Tuesday:	Is 52:7-10	Heb 1:1-6	John 1:1-5, 9-14
Wednesday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59		Matt 10:17-22
Thursday:	1 John 1:1-4		John 20:1a, 2-8
Friday:	1 John 1:5—2:2		Matt 2:13-18
Saturday:	1 John 2:3-11		Luke 2:22-35

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:**

Sunday 8:45am DaVaughn Moody-Continued Success  
 11:30am In memory of Clifford (CJ) Jackson  
 Monday In memory of Sharron Willis-Birthday  
 Tuesday Gratitude for the Birth of Christ  
 Wednesday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones  
 Thursday In memory of Natalie Ebb & Bernice Sescoe  
 Friday In loving memory of James Butler  
 Saturday Peace in our Community/Nation

**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, Fracness 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 Sescoe, 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 **Clifford (CJ) Jackson** (Hamilton family) and the consolation of the 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 16, 2018** amounted to **\$7,028.00. Youth-\$4.00. Maintenance-\$115.00.**

Attendance	5:00pm	16
	8:45am	120
	11:30am	<u>90</u>
		226

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.*

**CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR HOMEBOUND!**

As in past years, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will provide Christmas Meals for homebound persons in DC and surrounding areas on Christmas Day, December 25, 2018! **To sign up to receive a dinner, or to VOLUNTEER to deliver dinners, please call 202-526-8300.**

## ***Against the Background of the Year*** ***Dr. Howard Thurman***

*Our Father, another Christmas has moved within our ken and our minds linger over many moments that stand stark against the background of the year—*

*Moments that filled our cup of fear to the brim, spilling over into the byways of our mind until there was no longer room even to know that we were afraid—*

*Moments of decision, when all that we were seemed to hang in the balance, waiting for a gentle nudging of Thy spirit to break the tie and send us on with a new direction, a new desire, a new way of life—*

*Moments of sadness, brought on by the violent collapse or quiet sagging of a lifetime of dream-building upon which our hopes and aspirations rested in sure integrity—*

*Moments of awareness, when our whole landscape was invaded by the glow of Thy spirit, making dead things come to newness of life and old accepted ways turn into radiant shafts of beautiful light—*

*Moments of joy mingled with the deadly round of daily living, when all our inward parts clapped their hands and a new song was born in our heart—*

*Moments of peace amid the noisy clang of many conflicts with and without—*

*Moments of reassurance, when we discovered that our searching anxieties were groundless without foundation—*

*Moments of reconciliation, made possible by a deeper understanding and a greater wisdom—*

*Moments of renewal, without which life would have been utterly impossible and for us this day there would be no Christmas and no day—*

*Moments of praise and thanksgiving when, in one grand sweep, the sheer wonder and beauty of living overwhelmed us—*

*Our Father, another Christmas has moved into our ken and our minds linger over many moments that stand stark against the background of the year.*

### **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.*

### **CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATE!!**

**DaVaughn Moody** received his Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Maryland Baltimore County on December 20, 2018! We also applaud his devoted mom, **Nichelle Moore**, whose tireless efforts helped him attain this great achievement! Please lift both mom and son in your prayers as DaVaughn 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!*

### **AN EVENING OF JAZZ**

#### **SPONSORED BY**

**ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC ACADEMY**

*~ Saturday, February 9, 2019 ~  
7:00pm*

***Music, Fun, Spoken Word,  
Raffle Tickets, Awesome Prizes...and More!***

#### **Special Guest:**

***Jazz Saxophonist Keith Kool-K Wilson  
and  
STM Alumni Students***

**~TICKETS~**

**VIP~\$40.00**

**Regular~\$25.00**

***For more information please visit  
[stm@catholicacademies.org](mailto:stm@catholicacademies.org)***

### **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*

