

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
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School: 202-561-1189

January 27, 2019



**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	(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 in Ordinary Time

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: *Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 ~The people respond to Ezra's proclamation of the law.*

Responsorial: *Psalm 19 ~Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.*

Reading II: *1 Cor 12:12-30 ~We are members of Christ's body.*

Gospel: *Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21 ~Jesus comes home to Nazareth.*

Readings for Next Sunday

Jer 1:4-5, 17-19 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 Luke 4:21-30

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Heb 9:15, 24-28	Mark 3:22-30
Tuesday:	Heb 10: 1-10	Mark 3:31-35
Wednesday:	Heb 10:11-18	Mark 4:1-20
Thursday:	Heb 10:19-25	Mark 4:21-25
Friday:	Heb 10:32-39	Mark 4:26-34
Saturday:	Mal 3:1-4 Heb 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am	STM Academy Staff, Students and Alumni
11:30am	All Impacted by the Government Shutdown
Monday	In memory of Ernest Adams-Birthday
Tuesday	Health of Priscilla Fuller
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	In memory of Robert Milner
Friday	In memory of Doris & Dcn. Martin-Prayer Gp
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, 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, 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 Sescocoe, 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 soul of **Robert Milner** (Caldwell family) and the consolation of his loved ones.*

Your continued prayers are appreciated for Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey Caldwell, Priscilla Fuller, Zynae Green, Elizabeth Holmes, Robert Milner, 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.

WEEKDAY MASS INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:

When Prince Georges County Public Schools are CLOSED or HAVE A DELAYED OPENING, STM will not have 8:00am Mass on that day.

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 **January 20, 2019** amounted to **\$8,488.00**. Faith Direct-\$3,283.67. Maintenance-\$195.00. Youth-\$2.00.

Attendance	5:00pm	18
	8:45am	106
	11:30am	<u>108</u>
		232

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 began last September. 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. We will continue our study of the Twelve Apostles. All adults are invited to participate in our lively and interesting discussions.

FLOCK NOTES IS COMING: In response to the need to better communicate with you, our members, we are implementing "Flock Notes" which will allow us to communicate with you directly by email, text or voice mail. Further details forthcoming soon. "Flock Notes" will also permit us to communicate directly with individual ministries and organizations.

PASTORAL REFLECTION

As we celebrate with our St. Thomas More Academy this week, we remember our patron, St. Thomas More-- A Saint for All Seasons, A Saint for This Season:

Public service was a big part of the More family tradition. Thomas's father had been a respected judge. His grandfather had been sheriff of London. But Thomas would climb higher than anyone could have predicted.

He is one of the most likable of the saints. A devoted husband and father, he and his wife Alice raised four children and took in orphans as well. He had a charming personality and, as a lawyer, his quick mind and eloquence made him a formidable opponent in the courtroom. His writings, especially *Utopia*, brought him international fame. And his wisdom won him the trust of King Henry VIII.

That was the Thomas More the world knew and loved. The other Thomas More spent part of each day at Mass and in prayer. His Catholic faith was the core of his life, and ultimately it was his faith that would get him into trouble.

In 1529 King Henry VIII appointed Thomas to be the Lord Chancellor of England. It was the second-highest office in England, after the king himself, and Thomas was the first lay person to hold it. King Henry had a problem that he expected his Lord Chancellor to fix: He wanted a son and the queen, Catherine of Aragon, was forty-four years old and unlikely to have any more children. She had given birth to several baby boys but they all died within a few days. One child, Princess Mary survived to adulthood. Yet her father did not consider Mary to be a suitable heir to the throne. First of all, Henry did not think a woman could govern, and so he wanted a male heir. But perhaps more to the point, he had been infatuated with twenty-three year old Anne Boleyn, whom he wanted as his wife--something that was possible only if the pope would annul his marriage to Catherine.

At first, Thomas was able to keep his distance from the king's suit. But in 1531 Henry got tired of waiting for the pope's decision. He ordered the Archbishop of Canterbury to declare his marriage to Catherine dissolved; then he married Anne and made an even bolder move by proclaiming himself "Protector and Supreme Head of the Church in England." From then on the King and not the Pope had ultimate spiritual authority in England. The people would no longer be members of the Roman Catholic Church but of the Church of England.

Unable to support Henry's decision, Thomas resigned his office as Lord Chancellor, taking care not to comment on the King's divorce or his claim to be supreme spiritual authority in England. It did not matter. He was still arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London. After fourteen months of confinement, he was brought to trial on a charge of treason. The trial was rigged, yet Thomas's skillful defense won the sympathy of the jurors, and spectators. Then a false witness stepped forward, claiming that Thomas had admitted he rejected the king's title as supreme head of the church in England. The perjured testimony reminded the jurors what they were supposed to do--find Thomas More guilty and sentence him to death.

The sentence was carried out on Tower Hill on July 7, 1535. On the scaffold, Thomas asked the large crowd to bear witness that he was giving his life "for the faith of the Holy Catholic Church" and to remember that he died "the king's good servant, but God's first." Then he knelt down and recited Psalm 51: *Have mercy on me, God, in accord with your merciful love.* The executioner beheaded him with a single blow of the ax. In 2000, Pope John Paul II, in recognition of St. Thomas More's integrity, faith and commitment to the truth, named him the patron of statesmen and politicians. The Church honors him on June 22.

CHURCH ON THE MOVE NEWS!

All updates/info may now be found online at:
achurchonthemove.blogspot.com

Please check this site for schedules and/or cancellations.



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 sign our Guest Book!

STM ACADEMY CELEBRATES CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK!!

January 27-February 2, 2019!

Sunday: Celebrating Our Parish

Opening Mass and Brunch

School Uniforms

Monday: Celebrating Our Community-Open House

Primary Grades-Tinkering and Creating Power: 10-11am

Intermediate Grades- Garden Design Project: 9-11am

Middle School: Service Project for S.O.M.E: 9-11am

White Shirt/Blue Jeans

Tuesday: Celebrating Vocations

Career Day: 9:30-11am

Saints Art Fair: 2-2:45pm

Dress to Impress

Wednesday: Celebrating Our Nation

Student Council Event--Intermediate and Middle School

Scholars' Writer's Workshop: Write Letters to Government

Officials on the Importance of Catholic Education

Show Us How You Dress!

Thursday: Celebrating Our Students

House Challenge: Friendly Competitions

Alumni/Students vs Parents Basketball Tournament: 6-7:30pm

Concession Fee-\$5.00

Class Colors

Friday: Celebrating Our Faculty, Staff and Volunteers

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon and Retreat 8am-4pm

Saturday: Celebrating Our Families

Family Day: 10am-12pm

Please come out and support our STM Academy Students and Teachers as they celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2019!

****AN EVENING OF JAZZ****

STM Catholic Academy, Saturday, February 9, 2019!

Music, Fun, Spoken Word,

Raffle Tickets, Awesome Prizes...and More!

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

Time: 7:00pm Tickets: VIP~\$40.00/Regular~\$25.00

For more information please visit

stm@catholicacademies.org

VALENTINE'S DANCE

STM Ministers of Hospitality invite you to a Valentine's Dance on **Saturday, February 16, 2019**, from 8:00pm to midnight in the Cedar Room. Music by DJ 3ELeven.

Ticket prices: \$20-per person or \$30-per couple.

Light refreshments will be served.

Please see any *Adult* Minister of Hospitality for tickets.

