

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
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February 24, 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

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Preparing to Hear God's Word**

Reading I: 1 Sam 26: 2, 7-9, 12-12, 22-23 ~No harm shall come to the Lord's anointed one.

Responsorial: Psalm 103~The Lord is kind and merciful.

Reading II: 1 Cor 15: 45-49 ~We shall bear the image of the heavenly one.

Gospel: Luke Lk 6: 27-38~We are called to do unto others as we would have them do unto ourselves, to love our enemies and to forgive one another.

Readings for Next Sunday

Sir 27:4-7 1 Cor 15: 54-58 Lk 6: 39-45

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Sir 1:1-10	Mark 9:14-29
Tuesday:	Sir 2:1-11	Mark 9:30-37
Wednesday:	Sir 4:11-19	Mark 9:38-40
Thursday:	Sir 5:1-8	Mark 9:41-50
Friday:	Sir 6:5-17	Mark 10:1-12
Saturday:	Sir 17:1-15	Mark 10:1-16

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

- Sunday 8:45am In loving memory of Doris Martin
- 11:30am In loving memory of Earl Hamilton, 6-mos
- Monday Intentions of STM Parishioners
- Tuesday In loving memory of Jackie Greene Deckard
- Wednesday Brenda Green-Birthday
- Thursday Abani Hamilton Nefekara-Birthday
- Friday In memory of Doris & Dcn. Martin-Prayer Gp
- Saturday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones

PLEASE KEEP THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Shirley Adams, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Viola Barnes, Betty Beatty, 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 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 peaceful repose of the soul of **Lady Jackie Greene Deckard**, (Court 364-St. Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary and AWMC founding choir member.) **Services will be held at St. Augustine Church on Tuesday, February 26: Visitation-10am, Memorial Mass-12pm.** Your prayers for the consolation of her loved ones are very much appreciated.*

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

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 **February 17, 2019** amounted to **\$6,878.15. Youth-\$2.00. Maintenance-\$950.00.**

<i>Attendance</i>	5:00pm	18
	8:45am	155
	11:30am	<u>105</u>
		278

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. "Flock Notes" will also permit us to communicate directly with individual ministries and organizations.

PASTORAL REFLECTION

DIGGING DEEPER INTO TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

As human beings we are often caught up in the question of fairness. We want to be fair to one another. And we want others to be fair to us. In our gospel today Jesus teaches us that we are to love without limit, to go beyond being fair, for "if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?" As Beatitude Disciples we are called to radically trust in the power of love that goes beyond the limits of fairness.

When we love the way Jesus loves we might be surprised at what happens. But then again we might not. People will continue to be people in spite of how loving we are. But is this a reason to love less or stop loving all together? St. Teresa of Calcutta inscribed these words on the wall of her children's house: "People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. Love them anyway." These words can easily apply to the heroes of Black Catholic History we have examined this month—Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange and the Oblate Sisters of Providence, Father Augustus Tolton and Harriet Tubman.

As Christian witnesses, we are tasked with being "Christ-bearers" in this world. To love as Jesus himself loves. We are to respond to hate with compassion, empathy, and mercy. We are to share with others expecting nothing in return. We are to forgive others, even as the "other" persecutes and hates us. Adopting this way of living is not easy. Perhaps this week we might begin by taking one area of our lives where we have been focused on fairness, on loving others with the same amount of love they show us, and instead strive to personify the abundant, illogical, joyful love of Christ. *Let's try it and see what happens.*

ARCHDIOCESAN APPEAL 2019

This is Commitment Weekend for the 50th Anniversary Archdiocesan Appeal. There is a fresh theme this year: "*Our Faith. Our Hope. Our Mission.*" At each of our Masses this weekend you will be given an opportunity to pledge your support for this year's appeal. Pledge forms and envelopes will be available for you to complete and turn in. Contributions to the Annual Appeal are 100% designated to ministries and the mission of the Church. The Appeal offers each of us the opportunity to respond to the needs of others by enabling ministries and services such as Catholic Charities, our school, the Merrick Center and many others that touch and improve the lives of thousands of people.

This year, you can support the Appeal in several different ways. Many of us have already received a mailing last month that you can respond to. You can also contribute online at adw.org or text "Give" to 301-231-1816. *Last year our generosity provided \$31,543.00 in pledges.*

YOU'RE INVITED!!

You are invited to join with other members of our church family each morning at 8:00am for Mass. We celebrate the Eucharist daily together and extend a gracious invitation for others to join us. Mass is in the rectory chapel and lasts only about 30 minutes.

A WORD OF GRATITUDE TO AN ANONYMOUS DONOR:

We are indeed grateful for an anonymous donation through the Fidelity Charitable Trust in the amount of **\$2,000.00**, which was given in memory of the late **Leslie L. Lewis**.

We are most grateful for this generous gift.



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 feel free to sign our Guest Book!*

THE STM PARISH ACTION COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH



2019 Theme: Black Migration

*~TODAY, February 24~
SOUL FOOD SUNDAY!*

Enjoy great food & fun during our Annual Family Soul Food Sunday Meal from **2:00pm-4:00pm** in the Cedar Room. PAC invites all parishioners to Participate in this final event as we conclude Black History Month. We encourage you to bring & share your

favorite dish. Please see any PAC member for more info.

~ SODALITY NEWS ~

Saturday, March 2, 2019: Sodality Union Mass/Meeting at St. Thomas More Church. Rosary-8:30am, Mass-9:00am; meeting immediately follows in the Cedar Room. Please bring your lunch. Continental breakfast, juice, coffee and tea will be provided.

Sunday, March 3rd: STM General Meeting, immediately after the 8:45am Mass. Rosary at 8:15am. Sodalists are asked to help set up the hall on Friday evening ahead of Saturday's meeting.

SCHOLARSHIPS!

Attention STM High School Seniors and STM Academy 8th Graders. The STM Sodality will be awarding scholarships in the amount of **\$300 for seniors, and \$150 for 8th graders**. Detailed information may be found on the table near the main entrance of the church. ***Due date*** is on/before **May 19, 2019**. Please contact Ms. Judy Kenner, 301-839-3012, if you have any questions.

THANK YOU FROM OUR STM YOUTH GROUP!!

The STM Youth Group would like to THANK ALL who supported our *Serving the Homeless Effort* on February 17, 2019. Your contributions - including donations of money, prepared lunches, chips, lunch meat, bread, snacks, drinks, help in preparing lunches, and help with transportation - allowed us to serve more than 375 lunches to those less fortunate! St. Thomas More Parish is an Awesome Church serving an Awesome God!

2019 ANNUAL JUBILARIAN MASS!

The annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married **25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years** will be held Sunday, **June 23, 2019** at 2:00pm at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Please contact Pattie Hamilton in the Church Office (x11) **by Wednesday, April 10, 2019** so that she may register you online per the AOW registration procedure.

