

**Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy**  
**4275 Fourth Street, Southeast**  
**Washington, D.C. 20032**

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School: 202-561-1189

***March 3, 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

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

**Reading I:** Sir 27:4-7 ~Praise no one before he speaks.

**Responsorial:** Psalm 92~Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

**Reading II:** 1 Cor 15: 54-58 ~We are called to be steadfast and fully devoted to the work of the Lord.

**Gospel:** Luke Lk 6: 39-45~Be mindful of your own shortcomings before calling out those of another.

**Readings for Next Sunday**

**Dt. 26:4-10 Rom 10:8-13 Luke 4:1-13**

**DAILY MASS READINGS**

Monday:	Sir 17:20-24	Mark 10:17-27
Tuesday:	Sir 35:1-12	Mark 10:28-31
Wednesday:	Jl 2:12-18 2 Cor 5-6:2	Matt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Dt 30:15-20	Luke 9:22-25
Friday:	Is 58:1-9a	Matt 9:14-15
Saturday:	Is 58:9b-14	Luke 5:27-32

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:**

Sunday 8:45am	STM Sodality
11:30am	In loving memory of Jeanne M. Hagar
Monday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Tuesday	In loving memory of LC Barnes
Wednesday	Our Lenten Intentions
Thursday	Health of Audrey Caldwell
Friday	Health of Marion & Ruth Richardson
Saturday	Peace in our Communities/Nation

**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, 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 Sescio, 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 **Jeanne M. Hagar**, mother of our parishioner and Elizabeth Seton H.S. President, Sr. Ellen Marie Hagar.*

*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.***

**ASH WEDNESDAY ~ March 6, 2019!!**

**~ Schedule of Masses ~**

**8:00am-Rectory 10:00am-Church 7:30pm-Church**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT!**

**Wednesdays, Noon-1:00pm in the Rectory Chapel beginning March 13, 2019!**

**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 24, 2019** amounted to **\$5,881.00.** Faith Direct-\$3,435.87. Maintenance-\$140.00. Youth-\$4.00.

Attendance	5:00pm	18
	8:45am	105
	11:30am	<u>108</u>
		231

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 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 will focus on the Passion of Jesus. We will prayerfully examine the events of the last week of his life. All are invited to walk the way of the cross as we prepare for Easter. We meet on Tuesday evening at 7:30 in the rectory. *All are welcome!*

**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.

## PASTOR'S PEN

### FORMING STRONG SPIRITUAL PRACTICES THIS LENT

Dear Church Family,

**Wednesday, March 6, 2019 begins the Season of Lent.** Once again, we join with our brothers and sisters in faith throughout the world in preparation for Easter, 2019 through our Lenten practices. Because Lent can become like many things we do in life—going through the motions, let's make this Lent different. Let's make this a season of personal conversion and good spiritual habit-forming through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving (sharing with others). On Ash Wednesday, we will "put on ashes" as an outward sign that we desire to **turn from** our sinfulness and **turn toward** a closer encounter with Jesus.

We take advantage this special gift the Church gives us to concentrate and focus ourselves not just on penance but on the whole process of conversion, of coming to new life. Penance and conversion take us to our center—our open hearts—so that we can find God there and the graciousness, mercy, and kindness that can only be ours when we turn toward God. There is much at stake during Lent—nothing less than encountering God in new ways. "Now is a very acceptable time" says the second reading for Ash Wednesday, for us to begin the process of forming new and good habits that can be so much a part of us that we are constantly connected to God and oriented toward good works.

Why do we perform Lenten deeds of penance prayer, almsgiving and fasting? We engage in these practices to obtain the everlasting rewards of God's grace. Our penance is "rewarded" by a refreshed "personal encounter with Christ."

In our Gospel for Ash Wednesday Jesus tells us what others ought not see in us: for example, wearing ashes to be noticed. What should other people notice in our prayer, and fasting? They should notice a deeper caring for others through our "secret" almsgiving, our deep love for God through our "secret" prayer, a persistent self-emptying through our "secret" fasting. Lent is about developing these habits of a heart seeking conversion, these habits of a life turned away from sin and turned toward God and one another.

Lent is for the sole purpose of coming to New Life in the God who is "gracious and merciful...slow to anger, rich in kindness and relenting in punishment. Let's resolve together, starting on Ash Wednesday, to form the good spiritual habits that lead us to new encounters with God and closer relationships with him and one another.

*In the Love of Jesus,*

*Fr. Moore*

### ARCHDIOCESAN APPEAL 2019

This is Commitment Weekend for the 50<sup>th</sup> 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](http://adw.org) or text "Give" to 301-231-1816. Last year our generosity provided \$31,543.00 in pledges.

**STM SODALITY: Today, Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.** STM General Meeting, immediately after the 8:45am Mass. Rosary at 8:15am.



## 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!*

### ~ LENTEN GUIDELINES ~

*The Discipline for fasting and abstinence were introduced by Pope Paul VI in 1966. Here is a breakdown of what the Church asks of us:*

*-Fasting* means eating a lesser amount of food. While fasting, only one full meal is taken. Two other smaller meals are usually eaten. While fasting, we do not snack between meals!!

*-Catholics who are 18 years of age and not yet 60 years old* are asked to observe the fast days of the Church. There are only two days of fasting: *Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.*

*-Abstinence* means not eating any meat. Dairy products as well as fish and seafood may be eaten.

*-The church has established ASH WEDNESDAY and ALL THE FRIDAYS OF LENT AS DAYS OF ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT.*

*We both FAST and ABSTAIN on Ash Wednesday (March 6, 2019) AND Good Friday!*

### SURVIVORS OF ABUSE RETREAT!

As the Church continues to minister to all survivors of abuse, the Archdiocese of Washington is sponsoring retreats for survivors. There will be a *Men's Retreat* on April 5-7, and a *Women's Retreat* on April 12-14, 2019. These retreats are an occasion for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives and for healing through prayer and the sacraments. For more information and to register visit: <https://adw.org/the-way-retreat/> or call Deborah McDonald at 301-853-4466.

### SECURITY AWARENESS AND BRIEFING!

Last Sunday, we conducted our first congregational training regarding church security.

*Three main points to remember are:*

- 1. Be aware of your surroundings.*
- 2. Report suspicious behavior to Minister of Hospitality.*
- 3. Recommended Response:*
  - a) Run away from danger*
  - b) Hide by falling to the FLOOR & under a pew.*
  - c) Fight the attacker.*

We will be conducting periodic safety training and publishing our procedures in the bulletin. Remember, "Be alert and Be safe!"

### APPRECIATION!!

*The STM Parish Action Committee (PAC) would like to THANK EVERYONE for making Black History Month 2019 a huge success. Thank you to all organizations for their contributions, and to Fr. Moore for his continued support!*

# ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC ACADEMY NEWS!



## **\*\*LIBRARY DRIVE\*\***

### **STM ACADEMY IS BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF READERS!**

In order to keep the momentum going we are seeking your help to provide **NEW and EXCITING BOOKS** for our SCHOLARS. If you are able to make a Monetary Donation to purchase books for the STMCA Scholars, please see Sharie Wood or Liz Berry. **No donation is too small!** The Academy is also in need of “**gently used**” picture books, grade-level readers, chapter books or young adult level books to restock the library’s ‘sharing shelves’. If you are able to donate books, please speak to Sharie!

***Thanks for your support of this effort!!***

*St. Thomas More Catholic Academy  
Serving Students in Grades Pre-K3-8*

*Catholic Environment ~ Academically Excellent*

### **SODALITY SCHOLARSHIPS!!**

ATTENTION, **STM High School Seniors and Academy 8<sup>th</sup> Graders:** The St. Thomas More Sodality will be awarding scholarships in the amount of \$300 for seniors, and \$150 for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Detailed information may be found on the table near the main entrance of the church. **Due date** is on/before **May 19, 2019.** Questions: Please contact Ms. Judy Kenner, 301-839-3012.

## **\*\*CHURCH ON THE MOVE NEWS\*\***

**Monthly Weigh-ins will take place TODAY after both Masses in the Teachers’ Lounge of the school.**

All updates/info may now be found online at:  
[achurchonthemove.blogspot.com](http://achurchonthemove.blogspot.com)

*Please check this site for schedules and/or cancellations.*

### **CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Sunday	Religious Ed Classes (10:30am-Classrooms) Second Chance (3:30pm-Old Library)
Monday	Youth Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm-Church) NCW 2 <sup>nd</sup> Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
Tuesday	Bible Study (7:30pm-Rectory Living Rm) NCW 2 <sup>nd</sup> Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
Wednesday	<b>Ash Wednesday (Mass @ 8:00am-Rectory, 10:00am-Church, 7:30pm-Church)</b> NCW 1 <sup>st</sup> Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
Thursday	Adult Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm-Church)
Friday	AA (8:00pm-Old Library)
Saturday	NCW Communities (8:00pm-Church)

### **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.**

**SUNDAY BULLETIN:** The Bulletin may be viewed on-line @[www.stthomasmoredc.org](http://www.stthomasmoredc.org). (Click on the “Bulletin” link.)

### **NOTES FOR TODAY**


### **STM FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS APPRECIATED!**

**PLEASE HELP US PROVIDE  
NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR FAMILIES!**

**We are seeking the following items:**

**~DRY GOODS~**

**Rice/Pasta/Beans/Hot & Cold Cereal**

**~CANNED GOODS~**

**Meat/Tuna/Soup/Fruit/Vegetables**

*STM has served as a REFUGE OF RELIEF for many!  
Food/Monetary donations will help keep our pantry viable!*

***Thank You! God Bless!***

### **SHARE INFORMATION!**

**Value Package- \$22.00.**

**-Schedule for MARCH-**

**Sign-up ~Today, & March 10, 2019**

**Pick-up ~Sat., March 16, 2019, 9-10am**

*Unclaimed packages will be donated to the STM Food Pantry.  
Please also consider making a monetary donation of \$22.00 to provide a SHARE Package to a family in need. If interested, please see any member of our SHARE Team. **Thank you!***

