

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 Website: www.stthomasmoredc.org
School: 202-561-1189

March 10, 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

First Sunday In Lent

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Dt 26:4-10 ~The Israelites bowed down in worship before God, offering the "first fruits" of the "land flowing with milk and honey" to which God had brought them.

Responsorial: Psalm 91 ~Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Reading II: Rom 10:8-13 ~St. Paul feels unworthy of his calling, referring to himself as "the least of the apostles."

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13 ~The devil offers Jesus much more than first fruits if he would bow down and worship him. All temptation confronts us with a choice about whom we want to serve and who we want to be. What do we choose? Whom do we choose? Do we choose God who fills us with grace to stand in the face of temptation?

Readings for Next Sunday

Gen 15:5-12, 17-18 Phil 3:17-4:1 Luke 9:28b-36

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18	Matt 25:31-46
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11	Matt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10	Luke 11:29-32
Thursday:	Es C:12, 14-16, 23-25	Matt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28	Matt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19	Matt 5:43-48

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am	In loving memory of Constance Berry
11:30am	In loving memory of Harold Holmes
Monday	In loving memory of Carolyn Adalan
Tuesday	Health of Bertha Williams
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	Victims/Survivors of Abuse
Friday	Our Dedicated Volunteers
Saturday	Intentions of STM Parishioners

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, Francess 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 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 ~

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 **March 3, 2019** amounted to **\$9,497.00. Maintenance-\$4,176.00. Youth-\$2.00.**

Attendance	5:00pm	18
	8:45am	130
	11:30am	<u>78</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** to enroll securely on line. **Our parish code is DCC773.**

ENLISTING WITNESSES FOR JESUS CHRIST

Youth Religious Education: Our Religious Education Program is for children in pre-kindergarten through Confirmation. 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 at 7:30pm in the rectory. *All are welcome!*

YOU'RE INVITED!!

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

PASTORAL REFLECTION

DIGGING DEEPER INTO TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Following his baptism Jesus is led into the desert for forty days of fasting and prayer. Two heroes of the Old Testament underwent similar experiences. Before receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, Moses went without food and water for forty days. The prophet Elijah also fasted for forty days before travelling to Mount Horeb (another name for Mt. Sinai), where God came to him in a whispering breeze. Moses, Elijah and Jesus all fast in preparation for an event—for Moses and Elijah it is their personal encounter with God, while for Jesus it is an encounter with temptation. In Lent we fast for similar encounters, our struggles to overcome temptations and to be prepared to celebrate the Resurrection on Easter.

When the devil tempts Jesus to turn stone into bread, Jesus responds, "It is written that one does not live on bread alone." These words come from the Book of Deuteronomy where Moses tells the people, "God let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna...so that you may know that it is not by bread alone that people live, but by all that comes forth from the mouth of the Lord." (Deuteronomy 8:3). By taking up the spiritual practice of fasting during Lent we open up space and time within our lives for the gift of grace that provides us with both nourishment and strength.

The example of Jesus' temptation in the desert reminds us that we are not alone when we face our own temptations. Let us invite God into our own experiences of temptation, so that filled with the Holy Spirit we might be strengthened to follow the path to personal growth in holiness as we prepare for Easter.

ARCHDIOCESAN APPEAL 2019

We have begun the annual Archdiocesan Appeal. There is a fresh theme this year: "Our Faith. Our Hope. Our Mission." Each Sunday during the appeal we will make pledge forms and envelopes available for you to complete and turn in before you leave church. We will make sure that your pledges are delivered to the Appeal office.

You can also support the Appeal online at adw.org or text "Give" to 301-231-1816. *Last year our generosity provided \$31,543 in pledges.*

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 and the Merrick Center and many others that touch and improve the lives of thousands of people.

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.



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 AND Good Friday!

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES DURING LENT!

~NCW MORNING PRAYER~

All are welcome to join the NCW Communities for Morning Prayer during Lent, 5:30am each weekday in the Church.

~STATIONS OF THE CROSS~

Please join us for Stations of the Cross on WEDNESDAYS, Noon-1:00pm in the Rectory Chapel.

SECURITY AWARENESS AND BRIEFING!

We are all responsible for the safety and well-being of one another here in our church. Our security plan consists of three responses to danger. *These 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!"

2019 ANNUAL JUBILARIAN MASS!

The Annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 & 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 she may register you on-line per the AOW registration procedure.

