

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

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School: 202-561-1189

***March 17, 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

**Second Sunday In Lent**  
**Preparing to Hear God's Word**

**Reading I:** Gen 15:5-12, 17-18 ~ The Lord makes a covenant with Abraham.

**Responsorial:** Psalm 27 ~The Lord is my light and my salvation.

**Reading II:** Phil 3:17-4:1 ~We are to imitate Paul's faith in Christ.

**Gospel:** Luke 9:28b-36 ~ Jesus is transfigured on the mountain, appearing with Moses and Elijah in the presence Peter, James and John.

**Readings for Next Sunday**

**Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 Lk 13:1-9**

**DAILY MASS READINGS**

Monday:	Dan 9:4b-10	Luke 6:36-38
Tuesday:	Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16	Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22
	Lk 2:41-51a	
Wednesday:	Jer 18:18-20	Matt 20:17-28
Thursday:	Jer 17:5-10	Luke 16:19-31
Friday:	Gen 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a	Matt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday:	Mic 7:14-15, 18-20	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:**

Sunday 8:45am Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones  
11:30am Intentions of STM Parishioners

Monday	Health of Yolanda Rollins
Tuesday	In loving memory of Alice Baruwa-1 yr.
Wednesday	In memory of Jackie Greene Deckard-Birthday
Thursday	Health of Marion & Ruth Richardson
Friday	Health of Priscilla Fuller
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, 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, 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.**

**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.**

**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 10, 2019** amounted to **\$7,833.00.** Faith Direct-\$2,674.35. Maintenance-\$761.00.

Attendance	5:00pm	15
	8:45am	114
	11:30am	<u>95</u>
		224

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 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!*

**~ FISH FRY FRIDAYS ~**  
**March 22 & April 8, 2019!**

11:00am to 3:00pm

St. Thomas More Cedar Room

Dinners-\$13.00 ~ Sandwiches-\$8.00

**Sponsored by the STM B.O.L.D. Committee**

## PASTORAL REFLECTION

### DIGGING DEEPER INTO TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

For the Second Sunday of Lent the church gives us the reading of the transfiguration of Jesus. The presence of Elijah and Moses indicates Jesus as the fulfillment of the prophets (Elijah) and the Law (Moses). Only three disciples are there to witness the spectacular encounter, and they, too, are covered in the cloud, which itself is another image from the Old Testament. In particular, during the wandering in the wilderness, the Lord preceded the Hebrew people by means of a column of cloud by day and a column of fire by night. There, too, the cloud covered the meeting tent, and in doing so the glory of the Lord filled the place. Even in the time of Solomon we hear about the presence of the Lord in a cloud filling the house of the Lord. Suffice it to say, there are many instances in the Old Testament where the presence of the Lord is indicated by a cloud and that is the case here on the mountain of transfiguration.

More symbolism is present in the face of Jesus changing in appearance and his clothes becoming "dazzling white." Then Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus and speak of "his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem." With the first exodus, God saves the people of Israel from slavery, forms them into his people and delivers them into the promised land. With Jesus' exodus (his death and resurrection) we are freed from slavery to sin, formed as the Body of Christ, and made citizens of the Kingdom of God.

In the second reading for today (Philippians 3:17-4:1) St. Paul reminds us of our Christian identity that defines us: "Our citizenship is in heaven." As we continue with our Lenten journey, let us reflect on how we might show in both word and deed that we are Christ's. Even when we fail, our merciful God invites us to continue living in his covenant of love.

## 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](http://adw.org) or text "Give" to 301-231-1816. **Last year our generosity provided \$31,54.00 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.

### ~LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION~

All parishioners are invited to join the STM Sodality in a Lenten Day of Reflection, **Saturday, March 23, 2019, 9:00am-1:00pm**, in the Cedar Room. Guest speaker: Dcn. Richard Walker. Topic: Missionary Discipleship. Continental Breakfast. Please bring your own brown bag lunch. Anyone planning to attend is asked to please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the church. Thank you!

## 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.

**PLEASE REMEMBER: "Be alert and Be safe!"**

