

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
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April 7, 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

Fifth Sunday In Lent
Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Is 43:16-21 ~God is doing a new thing.
Responsorial: Psalm 126 ~The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.
Reading II: Phil 3:8-14 ~Being one with Christ is worth everything.
Gospel: John 8:1-11 ~The parable of the woman caught in adultery.

Readings for Next Sunday (Palm Sunday)
Luke 19:28-40
Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Luke 22:14-23:56

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Dan 13:41c-62	John 8:12-20
Tuesday:	Num 21:4-9	John 8:21-30
Wednesday:	Dan 3:14-20, 91-92, 95	John 8:31-42
Thursday:	Gen 17:3-9	John 8:51-59
Friday:	Jer 20:10-13	John 10:31-42
Saturday:	Ez 37:21-28	John 11:45-56

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am Health of Frances Davies
11:30am In memory of Ronald Carroll
Monday Bertha Tucker-Birthday
Tuesday In loving memory of Fr. John Kinter
Wednesday Teneka Hollins, Maela Hamilton-Birthday
Thursday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Friday MieKayla Singleton-Birthday
Saturday Jo-Ann Hamilton-Birthday

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 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 ~

*Please pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of our parishioner, **Ronald Carroll**, brother of Melvin Hill, and the family's comfort.*
*Your continued prayers are requested for Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey Caldwell, Frances Davies, Priscilla Fuller, 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

Dear God, these gifts, our tithes and offerings of love, express our gratitude for your outpouring of love in Christ Jesus and your generous provision for all our needs. We dedicate our offerings for use in fields that are ripe for harvest. May our stewardship be a blessing to our church and the building up of your Kingdom.

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 31, 2019** amounted to **\$5,019.50. Youth-\$4.00. Maintenance-\$105.00.**

Attendance	5:00pm	21
	8:45am	90
	11:30am	<u>118</u>
		229

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!*

~ FINAL FISH FRY ~

Remaining Date: April 12, 2019!

11:00am to 3:00pm

St. Thomas More Cedar Room

Dinners-\$13.00 ~ Sandwiches-\$8.00

Proceeds will benefit St. Thomas More Church.

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

Let's all support this final Lenten Fish Fry.

PASTORAL REFLECTION

DIGGING DEEPER INTO TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

We are nearly finished with the Lenten season. We have enjoyed some very beautiful Sunday Masses with great music by all of our music ministries. Our Tuesday Adult Bible Study group has been very uplifting and engaging as we consider the last week of Jesus' life. A number of us have taken advantage of the Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays.

Over these weeks our Gospels have focused our attention on Jesus' instruction for us as disciples to bear good fruit. We witnessed the conversion and reconciliation of the Prodigal Son and the woman caught in adultery (today's gospel). Each of these gospels demonstrate the great love, confidence and compassion of our God who loves us so much.

A number of you have requested the following which was used in the homily a couple of weeks ago:

You are who you are for a reason.

You're part of an intricate plan.

You're a precious and perfect unique design,
called God's special woman or man.

You look like you look for a reason.

Our God made no mistake.

He knit you together within the womb,
You're just what he wanted to make.

The parents you had were the ones he chose
and no matter how you may feel,
they were custom designed with God's plan in mind
and they bear the Master's seal.

No, that trauma you faced was not easy,
and God wept that it hurt you so;
But it was allowed to shape your heart
so that into his likeness you'd grow.

You are who you are for a reason.
You've been formed by the Master's hand.

You are who you are, beloved,
because of God's perfect plan.

A BIG THANK YOU!

*Our church is deeply enriched by members like you who so lovingly supported the **Lancaster and Carroll families** as they funeralized their loved ones. You served as Hospitality Ministers, Choir and repast workers. Both families remain deeply appreciative of your support at this difficult time in their lives.*

We also express gratitude to those came and unloaded food for our pantry. This is what makes St. Thomas More such a great church family!

CONGRATULATIONS, TIAIRRA!

***Tiairra Williams**, an eighth grade scholar here at St. Thomas More Academy, was recently awarded a \$500.00 Scholarship from the DC Knights of Columbus. She is a member of the STM Class of 2019.*

FY 2018-2019 FUNDRAISING EFFORTS THUS FAR:

During the current fiscal year, we have been blessed with several very successful fundraising activities:

Women of the Spirit Concert- \$1,535

Praise Team Christmas Concert- \$2,105

Hospitality Ministry's Valentine Social- \$2,780

Thanks to these organizations and ministries, and everyone who supported their effort to support our church.



WELCOME VISITORS!

We warmly welcome our visitors to St. Thomas More Church! We invite all who are seeking a church home to join our Church Family!

~ 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 will both FAST/ABSTAIN again on GOOD FRIDAY!

SPECIAL 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, 12:00pm-1:00pm in the Rectory Chapel.

2019 HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

April 14- Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord:

Blessing and Distribution of Palms

Mass at 5:00pm (Vigil), 8:45am & 11:30am



PASCHAL TRIDUUM

(7:30pm each evening)

April 18- Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of Feet

April 19- Good Friday

Service of the Lord's Passion

April 20- Great Easter Vigil

Mass, Baptisms and Reception into the Church

EASTER

April 21- Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection

Mass at 8:45am & 11:30am

~ EASTER HOLIDAY SCHEDULES ~

Pastor's Bible Study

On break April 16 & 23, 2019.

Religious Education

Classes will not meet on Easter Sunday.

Office Closures

The church office will be closed Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Monday.

