

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
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School: 202-561-1189

May 5, 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

CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!!



Third Sunday of Easter Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 ~ True disciples must obey God and not be swayed by human ideas.

Responsorial: Psalm 30 ~I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Reading II: Rev 5:11-14 ~John shares his vision of heaven.

Gospel: John 21:1-19 ~The risen Lord stands on the shore, invites the disciples who had gone fishing to have breakfast with him, and challenges them to follow him

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Acts 6:8-15	John 6:22-29
Tuesday:	Acts 7:51-8:1a	John 6:30-35
Wednesday:	Acts 8:1b-8	John 6:35-40
Thursday:	Acts 8:26-40	John 6:44-51
Friday:	Acts 9:1-20	John 6:52-59
Saturday:	Acts 9:31-42	John 6:60-69

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am	Archbishop Wilton Gregory
11:30am	Vi Davis-Birthday
Monday	Mary Toomer, Joy Garnett-Birthday
Tuesday	Health of Francess Davies
Wednesday	In memory of Sr. Clarice Proctor, OSP
Thursday	Health of Audrey Caldwell
Friday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Saturday	Victims and Survivors of Violence

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, Francess Davies, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Renee Felii, 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, 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, Francess 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 **April 28, 2019** amounted to **\$5,133.00**. Youth=\$1.00 Maintenance=\$140.00.

Attendance	5:00pm	24
	8:45am	107
	11:30am	<u>83</u>
		214

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!*

2019 GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

We will honor and bless our graduates on **Sunday, May 19, 2019!** TODAY, is the final day to please add the name of your graduate(s) to the sign-up sheet found in the back of the church.

STM SODALITY

General Meeting: *Today, Sunday, May 5, 2019*, after 8:45 a.m. Mass. Rosary at 8:15 a.m. Sodalists will process in for the May Crowning.

PASTORAL REFLECTION

COUNTDOWN TO PENTECOST

On this Third Sunday of Easter, John's Gospel (Chapter 21:1-19) takes us to the shores of the Lake of Galilee. Peter and six other disciples go fishing. They fish all night, come up empty and are about to quit for the day. A stranger calls out to them and asks that they cast their nets one more time. They do and their reward is an abundant catch—153 large fish. Much has been made of the number 153. This is the number of fish they caught that day—so great a catch that they were unable to haul the net in, instead dragging it to the shore. And yet the net did not tear. What is the meaning behind the number 153? St Jerome theorized that this number represented the 153 species of fish in the world.

By including all 153 within the net we see the "radical inclusivity" of the New Covenant of Jesus Christ. For the building up of the church the invitation was to everyone. All the people of the world are invited into the net of the Church. And even if it seems the net might tear, it will hold; we need not fear inviting everyone.

Today's lesson is one of empowerment and encouragement. Like Peter and his friends, we are to minister out of the abundance of God's grace and without fear. A church that ministers out of fear will find excuses for why certain people (whether individuals or entire classes or races) cannot be included within its walls. They fear that diversity will stress the net and it will break. We hear that our fears have no place within the vision of God that all people be saved. The net stands for the church, which is meant to hold every kind of fish, every kind of person.

This Gospel sends an important message to us today in a world that is wounded and broken by racism, hatred and the non-acceptance of others. Who do you welcome? Who do you reject? Remember Jesus' powerful commission to preach the Gospel to all nations. As Christians we are all called to carry the mission and message of Jesus to the world. And he loves us so much that he has blessed us with the Holy Spirit. Out of love, we, like St. Peter, are to feed Jesus' lambs and to tend his sheep. All the lambs and all the sheep.

So, we call upon the Holy Spirit of Pentecost today:

Loving Lord,

here I am, just as I am.

I trust that you have incredible plans for me.

So transform me. Empower me. Use me!

Everything is on the table.

Take what you want to take.

And give what you want to give

so that I may live the life you envision for me.

I hold nothing back.

I am 100% available.

So, dear God, send your Holy Spirit upon me

that I may build your Kingdom in my words and work.

Through Christ our Lord. AMEN!

(Please pray this prayer daily until Pentecost Sunday, June 9!)

ARCHBISHOP JAMES P. LYKE CONFERENCE!!

Meeting the Liturgical Needs of the Black Catholic Community, this year's Lyke Conference will be held at the Gaylord Hotel, National Harbor, July 2-6, 2019!

Please consider taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity to join with other adults and youth from across the nation for praise and worship, workshops, fellowship and much more!

For detailed information and/or
to obtain registration materials please visit:

www.lykeconference.com.

Early bird registration ends May 31, 2019!

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. Please sign our Guest Book located near the Main Entrance.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

~ EASTER BAPTISMS ~

We warmly welcome our newest Catholics who received the grace of New Life in the Waters of Baptism at the Easter Vigil Mass on April 20, 2019!

Zaviera Raine Bush

Zahava Antoinette Akia Bush

Ariel Marie Collins

Steven Benjamin Collins, Jr.

Emmanuel Paul Robert Collins

Christian M. Collins

Renee T. Douglas

Allison Gordon

Ashwin Walde Gordon

Janiyah Kamara

Isis Isobella Elizabeth Jarvis-Washington

Aurora Sophia Evangeline Jarvis Washington

Jaiden Wilson

Zahria Tara-Marie Woody

~ FLOCK NOTES TECHNOLOGY ~

So far 89 of you have signed up for this new communications tool that will provide you the latest information, schedules and important church events through text messages or email. Here is how you sign up:

For those who are "tech savvy", you may self-register for "Flock Notes" by following these easy steps:

- 1. Go to your cell phone and create a new text message.*
- 2. Put 84576 in the field.*
- 3. Put stm4265 (all lower case) in the body of text.*
- 4. Hit "Send."*
- 5. Click the link in the reply message*
- 6. Complete the name page, hit save.*
- 7. Choose your groups, hit next*
- 8. Complete the rest of the fields, hit save.*
- 9. You will receive an email to verify your email address, click verify my email*
- 10. You will receive another email to create a password, click create password*
- 11. Once your password is set it will log you into Flock Notes.*

If this does not work for you, please complete the "Joining Flock Notes" form and we will assist you.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE!

From time to time our members inquire about the efforts of the Parish Council. The council, which serves in advisory capacity to the pastor, meets regularly and offers suggestions and insight for the life of our parish. The council is responsible for the "Flock Notes" Program, the Senior Driver Training Course, and they are collecting information regarding a new outdoor sign in the front of the Church.



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