

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

February 11, 2018



***Let the favor of the Lord be upon us.
Give success to the work of our Hands! (Psalm 90)***

Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Raymond Moore, Pastor, x12
Ms. Patricia Hamilton, Pastoral Administrator, x11
Mrs. Mary Waters, Office Assistant, x10
Ms. Bridget Coates, 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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Lev 13:1-2, 44-46 ~This is an outline of the legal prescriptions regarding the treatment of lepers.

Responsorial: Psalm 32 ~I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Reading II: 1 Cor 10:31-11:1 ~We are to do everything to the glory of God.

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45 ~Jesus heals the leper. Because of the leper's willingness to go beyond the law, the leper receives healing at the touch of Jesus.

Readings for Next Sunday

Gen 9:8-15 1 Pet 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Jas 1:1-11	Mark 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Jas 1:12-18	Mark 8:14-21
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 Youth Group
11:30am	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Monday	Health of Roland Caldwell
Tuesday	Health of Vi Davies
Wednesday	In memory of Devin Clay-Birthday
Thursday	In memory of Michael Barnes
Friday	In memory of Jakari Butler
Saturday	Misha Hubbard-Birthday

PLEASE KEEP THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Kayla Adams, Shirley Adams, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Viola Barnes, Betty Beatty, Marie Brown, Shirley Brown, Francillia Browne, Cynthia Bruce, Felicia V. Bush, John Bush, Mary Agnes Bush, Roland Caldwell, Jane Cannon, Dixie Clark, Shertia Clark, Odessa Curtis, Dcn. Ralph Cyrus, Frances Davies, Viola Davies, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Renee Feliu, Diane Finley, Eric Fuller, Priscilla Fuller, Craig Fulmer, Betty Furr, Tasha Gant, David Garner, Tyrone Garrison, Brenda Green, Emmanuel Greene, William Gunn, Earl Hamilton, Andre Harris, Margaret Harris, Vance Harris II, June Harrison, Shant'e Hawkins, James Hilton, Maximillon Holland, Elizabeth Holmes, Darryl Jackson, Jimmie Jackson, Ivy John, Carolyn Johnson, Sarah Jones, Seymour & Patrick Jones, David Larison, Dennis Lucas, Gloria & William McCaskill, Emma McEntyre, Robert Milner, Betty Moeller, Gloria Morgan, Dorothy Myrtle, Angela Neal, Tammy Peterson, Charles Queen, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Arthur Robinson, Jean, Leroy & Robert Robinson, Daja Rogers, Thelma Sawyer, Robin Sescoc, Ciara Shields, Brenda Smith, Claudell St. Julien, Edsel Swann, Jane Thomas, Kristine Vivican, 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 and/or Shut-In.

~ PRAYER REQUESTS ~

Please pray for the health of **Sheila D. Brown**, daughter of our Stewardship Team Volunteer, Elizabeth Brown.

Prayers are requested for the health of **Roland Caldwell, Vi Davies** and **Lindora Owens**.

Please pray for the health and well-being of, **Kayla Adams, Shirley Adams, Andre Cooper, Priscilla Fuller, Elizabeth Holmes, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Robert Robinson**, all of 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

So, then, each one of us will be accountable to God!
(Romans 14:12)

Not only our money, O God, but all that we have and are is a gift from you. Help us to find the joy of sharing our blessings with others through our stewardship of time, talent and treasure. May we one day hear the Lord's words, *Well, done good and faithful servants!* 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 4, 2018** amounted to **\$8,921.00; Maintenance-\$2,696.00; Youth-\$2.00.**

Attendance	5:00pm	11
	8:45am	153
	11:30am	<u>76</u>
		240

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: **Fall Into e-Giving with Faith Direct!**

This is the most convenient and secure way for you to make your tithes and offerings to St. Thomas More. Your automatic contributions through Faith Direct will save for you. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code, **DC773**.

PASTOR'S BIBLE: Our Adult Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the rectory. The current topic is, "What Was Adam Doing When Eve Was Eating The Apple?" Why not come and find out? All are welcome.

2017-2018 FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM: Adults seeking a closer walk with Jesus are invited to join our Faith Formation Program for Adults. We meet on Sunday morning at 10:30 in the Red Room.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION! Classes are now in progress! Registrations are still being accepted! Classes take place from 10:30 to 11:30am in the school. Please see Ms. Wanda Brooks for more information.

SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION FOR 8TH GRADE STUDENTS:

The Lucinda L. Jasper Scholarship Fund, Inc. (LLJSF) announces the 2018 Scholarship Competition. This competition is open to all 8th grade students attending a Catholic Elementary School in the Archdiocese of Washington who will be attending a Catholic High School in the AOW next school year! Interested students may apply online at <http://www.lljsf.org/>. Details are posted on the website. Submissions will be accepted **online only until March 31, 2018**. For more info, please contact **Charmene Alston, 301-780-5313, or lljsf@aol.com**.

~APPRECIATION~

My family and I thank you so much, St. Thomas More Church Family, for your prayers and comforting calls at the time of my mother's passing. *May God continue to bless you!*

Iona Garvey

ASH WEDNESDAY ~ February 14, 2018!!

~ Schedule of Masses ~

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

PASTOR'S PEN

FORMING STRONG SPIRITUAL PRACTICES THIS LENT

Dear Church Family,

Wednesday, February 14, begins the Season of Lent. Once again, we join with our brothers and sisters in faith throughout the world in preparation for Easter, 2018 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,

Rev. Raymond Moore

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, March 11, 2018 ~ 2:00-4:00pm!

Lenten Presentation

by our own George Banker, Author, Marathon Runner!!

More info forthcoming soon!

Sponsored by the STM Religious Ed Team.

FISH FRY FRIDAYS ARE BACK AGAIN!

Dates: February 23, March 9 & 23!

11:00am to 3:00pm ~ STM Cedar Room

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



WELCOME VISITORS!

*We warmly welcome our visitors to
St. Thomas More Church.*

Please sign our Visitors' Book!

We invite all who are seeking a

church home to join our church family.

Please encourage all visitors to sign our Guest Book.

THE STM PARISH ACTION COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH



2018 Theme:

"African Americans in Times of War"

This year commemorates the centennial of the end of the First World War in 1918 and explores the complex meanings and implications of this international struggle and its aftermath. The First World War was initially termed by many as "The Great War,"

"The War to End All Wars," and the war "to make the world safe for democracy.

February 11: Youth Sunday

In celebration of our youth and young adults, the STM Youth Group will lead the celebration.

February 18: Celebrating Our Veterans

Acknowledgement of all who served in World War II, Viet Nam, Desert Storm and the Iraq/Afghanistan Wars. Please join us for Coffee & Donuts Fellowship after each Mass.

February 25: Soul Food Sunday

Enjoy great food & fun during our Annual Family Soul Food Sunday Meal from 2:00pm-5:00pm in the Cedar Room. PAC invites all parishioners to participate.

We encourage you to bring your favorite dish.

A short program will also take place!

~ 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

