

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
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February 18, 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

First Sunday of Sunday of Lent

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Gen 9:8-15 ~God enters into a covenant relationship with humankind after the Great Flood.

Responsorial: Psalm 25 ~Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Reading II: 1 Pet 3:18-22 ~Peter teaches us that we are saved through our covenant in Baptism. Noah went through the flood and we are immersed in the waters of Baptism.

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15 ~Temptation always presents us with a choice. Here Jesus' choice is to take up his saving mission of proclaiming the good news—the truth, hope and peace.

Readings for Next Sunday

Gen 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Rom 8:31b-34 Mark 9:2-10

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:	1Peter 5:1-4	Matt 16:13-19
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 Honor of Our U.S. Veterans
11:30am	Health of Roland Caldwell
Monday	Our Nation's Leaders
Tuesday	Health of Vi Davies
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	In memory of Mable Chambers
Friday	Peace Throughout Our Region/Nation/World
Saturday	In loving memory of Doris Martin

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 ~

Prayers are requested for the health of **Lisa (Powell) Chinn**.

Your continued prayers are asked for the health and well-being of **Kayla Adams, Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Roland Caldwell, Andre Cooper, Vi Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Elizabeth Holmes, Lindora Owens, 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 11, 2018** amounted to **\$5,904.00**; Faith Direct-\$2,199.48; Maintenance-\$465.00; Youth-\$2.00.

Attendance	5:00pm	16
	8:45am	123
	11:30am	104
		243

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 STUDY: 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.

2018 CARDINAL'S APPEAL!!

The 2018 Cardinal's Appeal has begun. You should have received a letter from the Cardinal asking for your support. Last year, we were able to contribute \$ 24,090 to the appeal. In our solicitation on Commitment Sunday, January 28, 50 members made pledges. Your pledges help to support our Catholic Charities programs as well as tuition assistance for Catholic schools, including St. Thomas More. You can donate today by simply completing a pledge form which is available in the church. **Thanks to all who have pledged so far!**

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

Pre-order forms are available in the church.

PASTOR'S PEN

REPENTANCE

Dear Church Family,

Someone once said, "You cannot keep walking down the wrong road and hope that it will eventually turn out right." That is a good picture of repentance. Repentance is realizing that you are on the wrong road and then turning around so you are going the right way. You can know you are on the wrong road and still not turn around. You can even be sorry that you are on the wrong road. But until you turn around and head in the right direction, you have not repented.

The Bible uses two words for repentance: *Niham* and *shub*. *Niham* is most frequently used of God in the Old Testament. It signifies a contemplated change in God's dealings with humanity. The word *shub* carries the meaning "to turn back, away from, or toward." It is confessing that you are on the wrong road, turning away from your current direction and turning toward the right way.

The great Biblical commentator William Barclay notes that confession must be made to three different people. First, we must confess to ourselves. We all want to justify our actions, to rationalize our sinful behavior. Sometimes we rationalize it based on physical characteristics that we have no control over like, "I can't help it that I get angry." At other times we justify ourselves by comparing ourselves to others. "At least I don't gossip like her." "At least I don't smoke." "At least I am not as lazy as other people. The sin of "at least" may be one of the biggest pointers to sin in our lives. Dr. Barclay comments, "There is no one in all the world harder to face than ourselves; and the first step to repentance and to a right relationship with God is to admit our sin to ourselves."

Second, we must confess to those whom we have wronged. Jesus said that we must clear away human barriers before we come to the Father. For most of us it is easier to confess that we are wrong to God than to another human being. After all, the other person may not forgive us. He or she may agree with us that we are wrong and then we will be tempted to justify or minimize our sin. Admitting our sin to another person has the wondrous effect of loosening sin's grip on us. Secret sins lose their power when they are not secret anymore.

Third, we must confess to God. Echoing the parable of the Tax Collector and Pharisee, Barclay notes, "It is not the person who desires to meet God equal terms who will discover forgiveness, but the one who kneels in humble contrition and whispers, "God be merciful to me a sinner."

A good example of a call to repentance is found in Isaiah 55:6-7, "Seek the Lord while he may be found, call on him while he is near." This repentance calls for a change of the entire person--physically, intellectually, morally, spiritually. So, take time this Lent to repent by taking advantage of the grace received in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

*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.

WELCOME VISITORS!

*We warmly welcome our visitors to St. Thomas More!
We invite all who are seeking a church home to join our church family. Please sign our Guest Book!*

WELCOME TO OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED!!

Please give a warm and prayer-filled welcome to our newest members who received the sacrament of Baptism last Sunday: *Gia Durham* is the daughter of Teneka Travers and Gladden Durham III, and *Kinsley Martin* is the daughter of Kelvin and Arnicia Martin.

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 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 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
Ash Wednesday AND Good Friday!*

