

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
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Washington, D.C. 20032
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School: 202-561-1189

November 18, 2018



***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	(Rectorry Chapel)
Sunday	8:45 am	Youth Choir
	11:30 am	Gospel Choir
Weekdays	8:00 am	(Rectorry 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 Rectorry.

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 Rectorry.
CCD Classes: Every Sunday at 10:30am
Bible Study: Every Tuesday at 7:30pm

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Dn 12:1-3 ~The promise of God's coming and of eternal life.

Responsorial: Psalm 16 ~You are my inheritance, oh Lord!

Reading II: Heb 10:11-14 ~Jesus makes the perfect priestly sacrifice—himself.

Gospel: Mk 13:24-32 ~Here are the signs of the Messiah's coming.

Readings for Next Sunday

Dn 7:13-14 Rev 1:5-8 Jn 18:33b-37

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Rev 1:1-4, 2:1-5	Luke 18:35-43
Tuesday:	Rev 3:1-6, 14-22	Luke 19:1-10
Wednesday:	Rev 4:1-11	Luke 19:11-28
Thursday:	Sir 50:22-24 1 Cor 1:3-9	Luke 17:11-19
Friday	Rev 10:8-11	Luke 19:45-48
Saturday:	Rev 11:4-12	Luke 20:27-40

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am In Gratitude to STM Parishioners
11:30am In Gratitude to Flippo Construction Co.
& STM Parishioners

Monday	Lennox Coles III-Belated Birthday
Tuesday	In memory of Jakari Butler
Wednesday	In loving memory of James Ligon, Sr.
Thursday	Gratitude for Our Many Blessings In loving memory of Yvonne K. Wilson
Friday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Saturday	Peace Throughout Our Nation/World

PLEASE KEEP THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Shirley Adams, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Viola Barnes, Betty Beatty, Marie Brown, Shirley Brown, Francilla 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 Felieu, 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, Carolyn Johnson, Sarah Jones, Seymour & Patrick Jones, David Larison, Dennis Lucas, James Makle, Jr., 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, Yolanda Rollins, Thelma Sawyer, Robin Sescoc, Ciara Shields, Brenda Smith, Claudell St. Julien, Edsel Swann, Jane Thomas, Kristine Vivican, Rev. Raymond Wadas, Kayla Warren, Paul Waters, Marilyn Denise Whetstone, Yvonne White, 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 all impacted by the deadly fires in California! Your continued prayers are asked for *Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey Caldwell, Bob & Priscilla Fuller, Zynae Green, George Hanna, Elizabeth Holmes, Alice Proctor, 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.*

2019 LECTOR WORKBOOKS NOW AVAILABLE:

All lectors are reminded that the workbooks for 2019 are available in the usher room in the rear of the church. The new church liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent, December 2nd.

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 **Sunday, November 11, 2018** amounted to **\$6,493.00**. Faith Direct-\$2,273.00. Maintenance-445.00.

Attendance	5:00pm	20
	8:45am	116
	11:30am	116
		252

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**.

ENLISTING WITNESSES FOR JESUS CHRIST

Youth Religious Education: Our Religious Education Program for children in pre-kindergarten through Confirmation formally began September 16th. It is not too late to register students. 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 meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm in the rectory living room. *All adults are invited to participate in our lively and interesting discussions.*

BEST ADVENT EVER! 'Tis the Season to rediscover the joy of Christmas with BEST ADVENT EVER, a free email program that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during the busy holiday season. Each day of Advent you'll receive: short inspirational videos, practical tips, real-life encouraging stories...**BestAdventEver.com/Almost Christmas.**

CHURCH SECURITY TASK FORCE FORMED: In an effort to better secure our facilities, a Security Task Force has been formed. Rodney Hollins and Kim Mason, both law enforcement officers, are heading this effort. The plan is being developed. Our ushers have undergone training, and the congregation will be informed of our security plan.

PASTORAL REFLECTION

Our scriptures for this week focus on the meaning of Christian living in the end time. Our life here on earth is part of the Easter (Paschal) mystery, the dying and rising of Christ. All of creation is wrapped up in this paschal mystery. There is a natural cycle to life and death. And I know that my life is but a small part of the grand story of the creation, cosmos, the earth, evolution and life itself. Creatures have been on this earth for hundreds of millions of years, and they will continue to live on this earth far beyond the time of my passing. My time here is a grace. It is God's free gift. Nothing I did or will do earned my own existence, and nothing I do can guarantee my number of days. My time on this earth is limited. My life will come to an end; of that I can be sure. But the paschal mystery continues. The cycle of life, death, and new life will continue. Since our time is limited, it seems best to make the most of it, to enjoy the life-giving relationships we share, to acknowledge and love those we care about, and to grow into a deeper communion with our God who is the source of all goodness and life.

Life is a journey of change--sometimes frightening, often traumatic, many times rewarding and joyful. But when our heavens and earths pass away, the promise of God's life and the gospel values remain constant. The unsettling images Jesus references (various trials and tribulations), confront us with the reality that the things we give our lives to will one day be no more. While these losses in life might leave us bitter and disillusioned, the gospel message calls us to embrace not the passing things of this world, but the things of God: the eternal treasures of love and mercy, the joy that comes from selfless giving, the satisfaction that comes from lifting up the hopes and dreams of others.

Jesus prophesies that he will send out the angels to gather the elect. No effort will be spared; the angels will scour the earth and the sky so no one is left behind; all will be embraced by the Father's love. But the angels' work to lift up the unacknowledged "saints" in our midst begins here and now. We can be like the angels, who exalt the humble servant, who give hope to the persevering, who pick up the stumbling, and heal those broken in body or spirit. By virtue of the grace of our own baptisms, Jesus empowers us to continue the Father's work of Kingdom building by "gathering" his elect into the immeasurable love of God through our own acts of compassion, reconciliation and justice. Next Sunday we will gather one more time to bring to conclusion this Church year as we proclaim Christ our King.

ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE:

The **Annual Appeal** supports many of the ministries and service organizations of the Archdiocese of Washington. For example, our school is funded in part from the appeal through direct support to the Consortium of Catholic Academies and the tuition assistance program that provides tuition subsidies to our families. The Merrick Center, which we worked so hard to build, is not self-sustaining and relies on the Archdiocese for help. Both our school and the Merrick Center provide great services to our community. Our goal for this year remains \$37,045. Thus far 106 of our members have pledged \$27,793. We just need \$9,252 to reach our goal. This represents 75% total parishioner participation. The average pledge is \$262. If you have yet to pledge, please consider even a small gift. Every penny counts. There are three convenient ways to make your gift: Complete pledge form found in the back of the church, on-line by visiting www.appeal.adw.org, or text "Give" to (301) 231-1816 and follow link provided. Many thanks for supporting the 2018 Appeal.



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
encourage visitors to sign our Guest Book!*

A PRAYER FOR HARD TIMES, AND GOOD

Recently, we have experienced a number of losses through death and sickness, and other life disappointments. To help those who are grieving, the following prayer might be helpful.

Father, there is never a good time for Sorrow,
or the pain of uncertainty that comes with tomorrow.
We pray for your goodness to see us through,
when life is the hardest, and when times are good.

Father, we pray for all those in need,
All my friends and my family.

We pray for your strength to see us through,
when life is the hardest, and when times are good.

Father, when life seems to throw us a curve,
when we are unsettled, upset, unnerved and cannot pray.

We pray for your wisdom to get us through,
when life is the hardest, and when times are good.

Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I thank you for Jesus who showed us he cared.

We pray for your Spirit to see us through,
when life is the hardest, and when times are good.

We pray, AMEN!



~MASS OF THANKSGIVING~

*Our Annual Mass for Thanksgiving Day
will take place at 7:30pm on
Wednesday, November 21, 2018!
Please join with your church family as we
Thank God for the
many blessings we have received.*

*The Church Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday
on Thursday and Friday, November 21-22, 2018.*

20TH YEAR OF CHRISTMAS GIVING!

In celebration of the *Wonderful Smiles of Children's 20th Year of Christmas Celebration* for local children and their parents, the St. Thomas More Outreach Committee is grateful to STM Parishioners, Flippo Construction Company and our other partners for their exceptional generosity and support. Last June, a Mass was said in Rome by Cardinal Wuerl on the Feast of St. Thomas More for the intentions of all.

A "Thank-You Reception" of coffee, donuts and a picture slide show of prior year celebrations is being held in the Cedar Room after each Mass. **All are welcome!** (Today's Mass Intentions are offered on behalf of the STM Outreach Committee.)

**ST. THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC ACADEMY**

**CELEBRATING DECADES OF
PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION!**

Serving Students in Grades Pre-K3-8!



Catholic Environment

Academically Excellent

Before and After School Care Provided!

Tuition Assistance is Available!

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL 202-561-1189.

Mr. Gerald Smith, Principal

“TEAM COLORS” SUNDAY RETURNS!
Show your team spirit by wearing your favorite team colors to Mass NEXT Sunday, Nov. 25th!!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday Religious Ed Classes (10:30am-Classrooms)
 Second Chance (3:30pm-Old Library)
- Monday Youth Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm-Church)
 NCW 2nd Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
- Tuesday Bible Study (7:30pm-Rectory Living Rm)
 NCW 2nd Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
- Wednesday NCW 1st Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
- Thursday ***Office Closed-Happy Thanksgiving***
- Friday ***Office Closed-Thanksgiving Break***
- Saturday NCW Communities (8:00pm-Church)

STM FOOD PANTRY IS IN NEED: Our members are showing forth a huge commitment to restocking our Food Pantry. Many thanks to the Holmes family for supporting the Food Pantry through the *Annual Harold Holmes Food Drive*, which is underway right now. *We would like to invite all our members to support this effort to feed the hungry in our community.*

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR HOMEBOUND: As in past years, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will provide Christmas Meals for homebound persons in DC and surrounding areas on Christmas Day, December 25. To sign up to receive a dinner, or to VOLUNTEER to deliver dinners, please call 202-526-8300.

NOTES FOR TODAY

***STM FOOD PANTRY
DONATIONS APPRECIATED!***
***PLEASE HELP US DO OUR BEST TO
PROVIDE NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES!***



***PLEASE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN
TO HELP KEEP OUR PANTRY STOCKED.***

We are seeking the following items:

~DRY GOODS~

Rice/Pasta/Beans/Hot & Cold Cereal

~CANNED GOODS~

Meat/Tuna/Soup/Fruit/Vegetables

*STM has served as a REFUGE OF RELIEF for many!
Food/Monetary donations will help keep our pantry viable!*

Thank You! God Bless!

SHARE INFORMATION

Value Package price: \$22.00

Schedule for DECEMBER 2018:

Sign-up~Nov. 25 & Dec. 2, 2018

Pick-up~ Sat., December 15, 2018, 9-10am

*Unclaimed packages will be donated to the
STM Food Pantry.*

*Please also consider making a monetary donation of
\$22.00 to provide a SHARE Package to a family in need.
If interested, please see any member of our SHARE
Team. Thank you!*