

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

November 25, 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

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Dn 7:13-14 ~God's dominion is everlasting.

Responsorial: Psalm 93 ~The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

Reading II: Rev 1:5-8 ~Christ the King has made us into a kingdom.

Gospel: Jn 18:33b-37 ~Jesus says that his kingdom is not of this world.

Readings for Next Sunday

Jer 33:14-16 1Thes 3:12--4:2 Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Rev 14:1-3, 4b-5	Luke 21:1-4
Tuesday:	Rev 14:14-19	Luke 21:5-11
Wednesday:	Rev 15:1-4	Luke 21:12-19
Thursday:	Rev 18:1-2, 21-23, 19:1-3, 9a	Luke 20:20-28
Friday:	Rom 10:9-18	Matt 4:18-22
Saturday:	Rev 22:1-7	Luke 21:34-36

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am All impacted by the deadly fires in California
11:30am Health of Audrey Caldwell

Monday	Health of Alice Proctor
Tuesday	Health of George Hanna
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	Health of Marion & Ruth Richardson
Friday	Margarine Neal-Birthday
Saturday	In loving memory of Edith (Tee) Ellis

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 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, 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, and 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. Casimir, 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 2.

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 18, 2018** amounted to **\$5,619.00. Maintenance-225.00.**

Attendance	5:00pm	15
	8:45am	148
	11:30am	<u>91</u>
		254

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.

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Church Family,

Today we lift up Jesus Christ as our king. Today we acclaim Jesus as our king. In today's Gospel, Jesus is hanging on a cross. He is in pain and distress. He is being "sneered at." He is being "jeered at." He is being "reviled."

Along with Jesus, two others hang on crosses, suffering and dying. One mocks and reviles him while the other begs for mercy. To the one Jesus promises "Paradise." Indeed, there is only one who can promise paradise. There is only one who can promise salvation. Who but the Christ of God could make such a promise? Who but a divine King could reach beyond his own suffering and dying to bestow Life on another? Who but one totally innocent of evil could draw goodness out of one who is "condemned justly"? Three hang on crosses. One remains condemned. One is saved. One will rise from the dead: Jesus the Christ, the King of the Universe.

The cross is where we least expect a king to be. Yet, today, this is where we find Jesus. The cross is where we ourselves least want to be. Yet this is how God's Kingdom is established. It is also where our discipleship begins—allowing ourselves to be crucified on the cross of self-giving. Jesus shows his kingship not by saving himself but by saving others, including you and me; not by turning in on himself but by turning out toward others. Only by beginning here, on the cross, can our discipleship end like the repentant thief, hearing Jesus say to us, "Today you will be with men Paradise."

In our natural order, we have human leaders, kings or presidents. Let us continue to lift our leaders in prayer. ***Please pray this prayer each day:***

Almighty ever-living God, in whose hand lies every human heart and the rights of peoples, look with favor, we pray, on those who govern with authority over us, that throughout the whole world the prosperity of peoples, the assurance of peace, and the freedom of religion may, through your gift, be made secure.

This we ask through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

May God bless our country in a spirit of peace, justice and mutual respect!

Father Moore

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!

NFL TEAM SUNDAY!

Back by popular demand, are celebrating our favorite teams ***TODAY, November 25, 2018!***

So with team pride, we hope you have come to church wearing your favorite team colors/paraphernalia!

SODALITY

The STM Sodality extends sincere "Thanks" to all parishioners who supported our ***Annual Bake Sale*** on November 18, 2018!

Sodality Union/Mass Meeting: December 1, 2018.

St. Gabriel Church, 26 Grant Circle, NW, DC. Time-TBD

"WOMEN OF THE SPIRIT" CONCERT

Special Thanks to all who helped support this blessed event! We are grateful to the groups who participated, our STM Ministers of Hospitality, our volunteers-especially Billy Hawkins, Herbert Meredith, Pamela Meredith & Karen Coles, and Fr. Moore, Charnetta Dobbins and Anthony Brown!

2018 CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Presented by the Glorify Praise and Worship Team!

An Afternoon of

Fellowship & Praising His Holy Name!

St. Thomas More Church

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Time ~3:00pm Tickets ~\$15.00

Please see Denese Clay, Vanessa Barnard or Ignacio Washington for tickets.

**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

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 Adult Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm-Church)
Friday AA (8:00pm-Old Library)
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~ Today, and 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!