

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
4275 Fourth Street, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20032
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School: 202-561-1189

December 2, 2018



Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

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

First Sunday of Advent



Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Jer 33:14-16 ~The prophet declares the advent of the coming of the day of the Lord, a time of justice and peace.

Responsorial: Psalm 25 ~To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Reading II: 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 ~Live as to please the Lord when he comes again. May the Lord strengthen your hearts for his coming.

Gospel: Lk 21:25-28, 34-36 ~Be vigilant and ready to stand before the Lord when he comes.

Readings for Next Sunday

Bar 5:1-9 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Is 2:1-5	Matt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10	Luke 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a	Matt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6	Matt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24	Matt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12	Luke 1:26-38

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am	Health of Aaron Young
11:30am	Well-being of Julie Robinson
Monday	In memory of Sylvester Brandon
Tuesday	Health of Audrey Caldwell
Wednesday	Fr. Raymond Moore-Birthday
Thursday	Health of Alice Proctor
Friday	In memory of Doris & Dcn. Martin-Prayer Gp
Saturday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones

PLEASE KEEP THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Shirley Adams, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Viola Barnes, Betty Beatty, Marie Brown, Shirley Brown, Francillia 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, Julie 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, 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 the comfort of **Renee Coles' sister, Julie Robinson**, who has entered hospice care; and Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey Caldwell, Priscilla Fuller, Zynae Green, George Hanna, Elizabeth Holmes, Alice Proctor, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Robert Robinson, Yolanda Rollins, Aaron Young, 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.*

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS

Saturday, December 8th ~ 10:00am ~ Rectory Chapel

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 25, 2018** amounted to **\$5,880.00. Faith Direct-\$3283.00**

Attendance	5:00pm	15
	8:45am	119
	11:30am	<u>94</u>
		228

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 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.*

HAPPY, BIRTHDAY, FR. MOORE!!

Thank you for lifting our pastor, Rev. Raymond Moore, in prayer especially on his birthday this week! We ask God's continued blessings upon you, Fr. Moore, as you serve the people of St. Thomas More Church, and beyond.

Your Church Family Appreciates YOU!

PASTORAL REFLECTION: ADVENT



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!*

Today, we begin the season of Advent. This short season starts with the fourth Sunday before Christmas, which is the Sunday nearest to November 30, and continues to Christmas Eve. The season looks both backward to Jesus' first coming at Bethlehem and forward to his coming again at the End Time. The central message of this season is expressed in the words of John's Gospel: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). We learn from Church history that the original focus of this season was Epiphany and not Christmas. Epiphany was the day for celebrating the manifestation (epiphany) of God's light and power in Christ. Along with Easter and Pentecost, it was the third great celebration of the Christian calendar, for the Church beginning around the fifth century.

Advent is a season of preparation. We prepare our hearts and homes to celebrate the coming of Christ at Christmas. We prepare spiritually to greet Christ when he comes again. And we also look to how we can prepare our world to become more and more like the Kingdom of God where love and justice rule. Advent is a time when we live this preparation in an intentional manner, but waiting and preparing are always constant parts of our Christian lives.

Writing in *1 Thessalonians*, St. Paul reminds us, today, that our preparation is never complete. He encourages the Thessalonian church that even as they are conducting themselves in a way pleasing to God, that they do so even more. The conduct he is calling them to is one that "has abounding love" as its foundation and guide. As Christians, we never have a reason to be bored or complacent. Our work is never finished as we strive in our actions to build Christ's Kingdom of love and peace.

We begin this new Church Year with a Gospel that shocks us out of any complacency as Jesus reminds us to be aware of our surroundings and the signs of our times. These are signs that are so terrifying that "people will die of fright," and yet, in the midst of it, we hear a word of hope: though these calamities may occur, "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." To prepare for this redemption Jesus counsels us to be vigilant in waiting and in prayer. We are reminded the light is stronger than darkness, love is stronger than hate and life is stronger than death. We are called to be signs of hope in a world at times overcome with fear. As we begin our preparations for Christmas by lighting our Advent wreaths, buying gifts, planning our celebrations and parties, let us also consider how we might prepare ourselves to be light, love and life to those around us.

Make the most of this First Week of Advent and reflect on this: *Advent is a time of preparation and a time of waiting. What spiritual practices make waiting fruitful for you?*

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. Follow the link provided. Many thanks for supporting the 2018 Appeal.

2018 CHRISTMAS CONCERT!!

*Presented by the Glorify Praise and Worship Team!
An Afternoon of Fellowship & Praising God!*

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.*

CHURCH ON THE MOVE RETURNS IN JANUARY!

*Are you ready to get fit? Are you ready to get healthy?
Are you already fit & healthy, and want to stay there?*

JOIN THE MOVEMENT: Men, women, seniors & juniors-
all are welcome! There's something for everyone!

The MOVEMENT Levels Include: I-Seated Saints;
II-Praise Pushers; III-Enthusiastic Evangelists. *So, you have
no excuse!*

**Registration will take place after BOTH MASSES on
December 9, and in between Masses on December 16.**

Six-month weight loss challenge-\$10.00.

Liturgical exercise movement-\$4.00/week.

Group Wilson Bridge walk/run/bike-FREE.

Group Henson Creek walk/run/bike-FREE.

Church on the Move Shirts \$15.00-\$20.00.

Questions/Need More Information...Please see Vi Davies!

2018 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

~MASS~

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24 ~ 7:30pm

(Mass immediately follows Carols and Narration)

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25 ~ 10:00am

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday, December 29~ 5:00pm Vigil

Sunday, December 30~ 8:45am & 11:30am

New Year's Eve

Monday, December 31~ 7:30pm

Solemnity of Mary Holy Mother of God

Tuesday, January 1, 2019~ 10:00am

CCD/Youth Group/Adult Faith Formation

On break December 23 & 30, 2018

Adult Bible Study

On break December 18, 25 & January 1, 2019

Parish Office Closings

Christmas Holiday

December 24, 25 & 26

New Year's Holiday

Dec. 31, 2018/ Jan 1 & 2, 2019

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC ACADEMY NEWS!



****LIBRARY DRIVE****

STM ACADEMY IS BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF READERS!

In order to keep the momentum going we are seeking your help to provide *NEW and EXCITING BOOKS* for our *SCHOLARS*. If you are able to make a Monetary Donation to purchase books for the STMCA Scholars, please see Sharie Wood or Liz Berry. *No donation is too small!*

The Academy is also in need of "gently used" picture books, grade-level readers, chapter books or young adult level books to restock the 'sharing shelves' in the library. If you are able to donate books, please speak to Sharie!

Thanks for your support of this effort!!

*St. Thomas More Catholic Academy
Serving Students in Grades Pre-K3-8*

Catholic Environment ~ Academically Excellent

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 2 nd Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
Tuesday	Bible Study (7:30pm-Rectory Living Rm) NCW 2 nd Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
Wednesday	NCW 1 st Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
Thursday	Adult Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm-Church)
Friday	AA (8:00pm-Old Library)
Saturday	<i>Immaculate Conception Mass 10am-Rectory</i> NCW Communities (8:00pm-Church)

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/AlmostChristmas.

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, December 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!