

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

February 17, 2019



**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	(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: Jer 17:5-8~Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord.

Responsorial: Psalm 1~Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

Reading II: 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20~If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain.

Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26~Blessed are the poor, for they shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Readings for Next Sunday

1 Sam 26: 2, 7-9, 12-12, 22-23 1 Cor 15: 45-49 Lk 6: 27-38

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Gen 4:1-15, 25	Mark 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Gen 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10	Mark 8:14-21
Wednesday:	Gen 8:6-13, 20-22	Mark 8:22-26
Thursday:	Gen 9:1-13	Mark 8:27-33
Friday:	1 Pet 5:1-4	Matt 16:13-19
Saturday:	Heb 11:1-7	Mark 9:2-23

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am	In loving memory of Mikki Colmes, 1-year
11:30am	Misha Hubbard-Birthday
Monday	Our U.S. Government Leaders
Tuesday	In loving memory of Jackie Green-Deckard
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	Health of Marion & Ruth Richardson
Friday	Health of Audrey Caldwell
Saturday	Health of Shirley Adams

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 Deale, 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, 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, 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 peaceful repose of the soul of **Lady Jackie Greene-Deckard**, (Court 364-St. Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary and AWMC founding choir member.) Your prayers for the consolation of her loved ones, friends and extended community are very much appreciated.*

Your continued prayers are requested for Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey Caldwell, Priscilla Fuller, Zynae Green, 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.

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 **February 10, 2019** amounted to **\$5,636.00**. Faith Direct-\$2,444.25. Youth-\$3.00. Maintenance-\$320.00.

Attendance	5:00pm	18
	8:45am	145
	11:30am	<u>121</u>
		284

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 began last September. 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. We will continue our study of the Twelve Apostles. All adults are invited to participate in our lively and interesting discussions.

FLOCK NOTES IS COMING: In response to the need to better communicate with you, our members, we are implementing "Flock Notes" which will allow us to communicate with you directly by email, text or voice mail. Further details forthcoming. "Flock Notes" will also permit us to communicate directly with individual ministries and organizations.

**PASTORAL REFLECTION
DIGGING DEEPER
INTO TODAY'S SCRIPTURE**

Today, our Scriptures offer us a choice: to trust in God or to trust in ourselves. In our first reading from the Book of Jeremiah, the prophet contrasts the way of the just and the way of the wicked. St. Paul, writing in his first letter to the Corinthians, contrasts belief and denial of Jesus' resurrection. In the gospel, St. Luke presents his Beatitudes in terms of blessings and curses. There is no middle ground. Instead, our decisions will define the course of our lives.

We learn from St. Paul in 1 Corinthians that as disciples we choose to trust God and believe that life is stronger than death in both Jesus of Nazareth and also in those who share his light and life in the fellowship of the Church. We, by our choice, make the decision to witness to Christ

This bond of faith and commitment is demonstrated in Beatitude Living. Jesus teaches us: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours." "Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied." "Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh."

We might be tempted to ask what's wrong with being well-off, having our fill of food and laughter, and being liked and spoken well of. This might even be the goal of the so-called prosperity gospel we hear about so often in our popular culture. But Jesus, according to St. Luke, sees things differently. Blessings are for those who are poor, hungry, weeping, and those who are hated. In his version of the Beatitudes, Luke echoes these introduced to us at the beginning of the gospel in Mary's Magnificat. The hungry are fed while the rich are turned away empty. Jesus' values are not the values of this world.

As we observe Black History Month we are challenged to embrace these Beatitudes, hear the cry of the poor, to attend to the needs of the homeless and hopeless, to fight for the immigrant and the outcast, and to invite everyone to the blessings of the Good Life in Jesus Christ. We are blessed with great heroes from the past who made the difference and changed the world. We are likewise called, inspired and sent to bring good news. Choose today to be blessed by God!

ARCHDIOCESAN APPEAL 2019

This is the 50th Anniversary of the Appeal and the new theme is "Our Faith. Our Hope. Our Mission." Contributions to the Annual Appeal are 100% designated to ministries and the mission of the Church. The Appeal offers each of us the opportunity to respond to the needs of others by enabling ministries and services such as Catholic Charities, our school and the Merrick Center and many others that touch and improve the lives of thousands of people. This year, you can support the Appeal in several different ways. Many of us have already received a mailing last month that you can respond to. **You can also contribute online at adw.org or text "Give" to 301-231-1816.** We will also be providing an opportunity to support the appeal at Mass over the next couple of weekends. Last year our generosity provided \$31,543 in pledges.

**A WORD OF GRATITUDE
TO THE HAMILTON FAMILY!**

Many of us lovingly remember the late *Mr. Earl P. Hamilton*, a longtime and very generous supporter of St. Thomas More. Mr. Hamilton was most supportive of our STM Food Pantry and School. In his memory, the Hamilton family and their many friends are continuing his legacy through their **donation of \$4,700.00 to our Food Pantry and School.**

We are most grateful for this generous gift.



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 feel free to sign our Guest Book!

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



2019 Theme: Black Migration

**February 17: Family & Friends
Coffee and Donuts Fellowship**

February 24: Soul Food Sunday!!

Enjoy great food & fun during our
Annual Family Soul Food Sunday Meal,
2:00pm-4:00pm in the Cedar Room.

**PAC invites all parishioners to
participate. We encourage you to
bring your favorite dish.**

*Please see any member of the
STM-PAC for more info, or if you have any questions.*

~ SODALITY NEWS ~

Saturday, March 2, 2019: Sodality Union Mass/Meeting at St. Thomas More Church. Rosary-8:30am, Mass-9:00am; meeting immediately follows in the Cedar Room. Please bring your lunch. Continental breakfast, juice, coffee and tea will be provided.

Sunday, March 3rd: STM General Meeting, immediately after the 8:45am Mass. Rosary at 8:15am. Sodalists are asked to help set up the hall on Friday evening ahead of Saturday's meeting.

SCHOLARSHIPS!

Attention STM High School Seniors and STM Academy 8th Graders. The STM Sodality will be awarding scholarships in the amount of **\$300 for seniors, and \$150 for 8th graders.** Detailed information may be found on the table near the main entrance of the church. **Due date** is on/before **May 19, 2019.** Please contact Ms. Judy Kenner, 301-839-3012, if you have any questions.

**STM YOUTH GROUP WILL BE SERVING
BAG LUNCHES TO THE HOMELESS!**

The STM YG will be serving bag lunches to the homeless **TODAY, February 17, 2019.** We are asking each family in the Parish to support our effort by preparing **at least 5 lunches**, including a sandwich (without condiments), a snack, chips and a drink, **and dropping them off in the back of the Church no later than 11:30am!** Monetary and bulk item donations will also be accepted. Please see Vanessa, Ignacio or Clint to make monetary donations, or if you have questions. **Your continued prayers and support for the STMYG are greatly appreciated!**

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING JAZZ NIGHT!

Many thanks are extended to all of those who supported our **STM Academy's First Annual Jazz Night!**

Thanks to your support the event was a huge success.

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	<i>Office Closed-Federal Holiday</i> 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	NCW Communities (8:00pm-Church)

WEEKDAY MASS INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:

When Prince Georges County Public Schools are
CLOSED or HAVE A DELAYED OPENING,
STM will not have 8:00am Mass on that day.

CHURCH ON THE MOVE NEWS!

All updates/info may now be found online at:

achurchonthemove.blogspot.com

Please check this site for schedules and/or cancellations.

SUNDAY BULLETIN: The Bulletin may be viewed on-line
@www.stthomasmoredc.org. (Click on the "Bulletin" link.)

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 MARCH 2019 Sign-up ~March 3 & 10, 2019 Pick-up ~Sat., March 16, 2019, 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!***