

**Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy**  
**4275 Fourth Street, Southeast**  
**Washington, D.C. 20032**  
Telephone: 202-562-0431 Fax: 202-563-7347  
E-mail: [stmchurch@comcast.net](mailto:stmchurch@comcast.net) Website: [www.stthomasmoredc.org](http://www.stthomasmoredc.org)  
School: 202-561-1189

**March 24, 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

## Third Sunday In Lent

### Preparing to Hear God's Word

**Reading I:** Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 ~Moses encounters God in the burning bush.

**Responsorial:** Psalm 103 ~The Lord is kind and merciful.

**Reading II:** 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 ~We learn from other's mistakes.

**Gospel:** Luke 13:1-9 ~Repent or perish! Jesus and St. Paul warn us that our sinful actions bear dire consequences. There is an urgency about repentance. We cannot put it off.

#### Readings for Next Sunday

Josh 5:9a, 10-12 2 Cor 5:17-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

### DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Is7:10-14, 8:10	Heb 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Dan 3:25, 34-43		Matt 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Deut 4:1, 5-9		Matt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28		Luke 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10		Mark 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6		Luke 18:9-14

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am Well-being of Ed Poindexter

11:30am In loving memory of Leo Brown

Monday In loving memory of Alice Baruwa-Birthday

Tuesday In loving memory of Sandra Barron

Wednesday In loving memory of Edith F. Ellis-Birthday

Thursday In loving memory of Lum Garnett, Jr.

Friday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones

Saturday In loving memory of Sr. Thea Bowman

### PLEASE KEEP THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Shirley Adams, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Viola Barnes, Betty Beatty, 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, Maximillion Holland, Elizabeth Holmes, Darryl Jackson, Jimmie Jackson, Ivy John, 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 Sescio, 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 Elma Garnett's stepson, **Lum Garnett, Jr.**, and his family's comfort.

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

**YOU'RE INVITED!!** You are invited to join with other members of our church family for **Mass at 8:00am weekdays.** We celebrate the Eucharist together daily and extend a gracious invitation for others to join us. **Mass is in the rectory chapel and lasts only about 30 minutes.**

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP

Dear God, these gifts, our tithes and offerings of love, express our gratitude for your outpouring of love in Christ Jesus and your generous provision for all our needs. We dedicate our offerings for use in fields that are ripe for harvest. May our stewardship be a blessing to our church and the building up of your Kingdom.

**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 **March 17, 2019** amounted to **\$5,461.47.** Maintenance-\$115.00.

Attendance	5:00pm	20
	8:45am	143
	11:30am	<u>106</u>
		269

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](http://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 is for children in pre-kindergarten through Confirmation. 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 will focus on the **Passion of Jesus.** We will prayerfully examine the events of the last week of his life. All are invited to walk the way of the cross as we prepare for Easter. We meet on Tuesday at 7:30pm in the rectory. *All are welcome!*

### ~ FISH FRY FRIDAYS ~

**Remaining Date: April 12, 2019!**

11:00am to 3:00pm

St. Thomas More Cedar Room

Dinners-\$13.00 ~ Sandwiches-\$8.00

**Sponsored by the STM B.O.L.D. Committee**

## PASTORAL REFLECTION

### DIGGING DEEPER INTO TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

On this Third Sunday of Lent, Jesus makes it quite clear we must "repent or perish." He is focusing on the reality of spiritual death rather than a physical one. Yet the good news of this parable (the barren fig tree) is a call to be fruitful disciples. Applying the story of the unfruitful fig tree to our lives we must cultivate and fertilize the garden of our lives through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Jesus' encouragement to fruitfulness is echoed in the warning of St. Paul in his first letter to the church in Corinth. He warns this community against the scourge of over confidence: "Whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall."

Each year during the season of Lent we heed the gospel call to repent. This season helps us to protect ourselves against the overconfidence St. Paul warns of. Instead of spending our spiritual lives in a self-satisfied bubble, we are asked to place our lives under a microscope and to see where we are in need of God's grace and forgiveness. Let us use wisely the remaining 23 days of Lent in our prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

### ARCHDIOCESAN APPEAL 2019

We have begun the annual Archdiocesan Appeal. There is a fresh theme this year: "Our Faith. Our Hope. Our Mission." Each Sunday during the appeal we will make pledge forms and envelopes available for you to complete and turn in before you leave church. We will make sure that your pledges are delivered to the Appeal office.

You can also support the Appeal online at [adw.org](http://adw.org) or text "Give" to 301-231-1816. *Last year our generosity provided \$31,54.00 in pledges.*

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.

### **SURVIVORS OF ABUSE RETREAT!**

As the Church continues to minister to all survivors of abuse, the Archdiocese of Washington is sponsoring retreats for survivors. There will be a *Men's Retreat on April 5-7*, and a *Women's Retreat on April 12-14, 2019*. These retreats are an occasion for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives and for healing through prayer and the sacraments. For more information and to register visit: <https://adw.org/the-way-retreat>, or call Deborah McDonald at 301-853-4466.

### **PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!!**

*Outreach Committee's Annual Senior Luncheon  
for those 62 years of age and older.*

*Saturday, May 18, 2019, STM Cedar Room.*

*Open to the first 100 seniors who sign the list. The sign-up sheet will be available in the church on April 7, 2019.*

*More details coming soon.*



## 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 sign our Guest Book.*

### ~ 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!*

### SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES DURING LENT!

#### ~NCW MORNING PRAYER~

*All are welcome to join the NCW Communities for Morning Prayer during Lent, 5:30am each weekday in the Church.*

#### ~STATIONS OF THE CROSS~

*Please join us for Stations of the Cross on WEDNESDAYS, 12:00pm-1:00pm in the Rectory Chapel.*

### SECURITY AWARENESS AND BRIEFING!

We are all responsible for the safety and well-being of one another here in our church. Our security plan consists of three responses to danger. *These are:*

- 1. Be aware of your surroundings.*
- 2. Report suspicious behavior to Minister of Hospitality.*
- 3. Recommended Response:*
  - a) Run away from danger.*
  - b) Hide by falling to the FLOOR & under a pew.*
  - c) Fight the attacker.*

We will be conducting periodic safety training and publishing our procedures in the bulletin.

**PLEASE REMEMBER: "Be alert and Be safe!"**

### SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM MR. BILLY HAWKINS!

**S.O.S...**

*Would the person who made the marvelous rice pudding for Soul Food Sunday the end of February please, please speak to me. I (and many others) would really like to know who you are as soon as possible! Thank you!*

