

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

***March 31, 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

**Fourth Sunday In Lent**  
**Preparing to Hear God's Word**

**Reading I:** Josh 5:9a, 10-12 ~God has mercy on his people.  
**Responsorial:** Psalm 34 ~Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.  
**Reading II:** 2 Cor 5:17-21 ~Whoever is in Christ is a new creation.  
**Gospel:** Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 ~We hear the parable of the prodigal son. "Whoever is in Christ is a new creation." Our work now is to make all things new through the "ministry of reconciliation" which has been given to us by God. We are to follow the example of the father in this story who reaches out, embraces and offers new life to his wayward son. This demonstrates the power of mercy.

**Readings for Next Sunday**  
**Is 43:16-21 Phil 3:8-14 John 8:1-11**

**DAILY MASS READINGS**

Monday:	Is 65:17-21	John 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12	John 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Is 49:8-15	John 5:17-30
Thursday:	Ex 32:7-14	John 5:31-47
Friday:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22	John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday:	Jer 11:18-20	John 7:40-53

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:**

Sunday 8:45am In loving memory of Lenora Lancaster  
11:30am In loving memory of William Kemp  
Monday Marie Edelin-Birthday  
Tuesday Health of Elizabeth Holmes  
Wednesday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones  
Thursday In memory of Rev. Dr. M.L. King  
Friday Dcn. Nerus & Doris Martin-STM Prayer Gp  
Saturday Safekeeping of Our Children and Youth

**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, Maximillon 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 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 our devoted parishioner, **Lenora Lancaster**, and her 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 24, 2019** amounted to **\$6,335.00.** Faith Direct-\$4,142.99. Maintenance-\$90.00.

Attendance	5:00pm	20
	8:45am	145
	11:30am	<u>170</u>
		335

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

In today's Gospel, the parable of the Prodigal Son, we are reminded of some of the most painful aspects of our human condition. On this Fourth Sunday of Lent we are compelled by this parable to take an honest look at our own lives and our need to repent. If we listen to the story carefully, we will recognize ourselves in the two brothers. We also recognize the great love the Father has for his children.

For believers, the Prodigal Son is a humbling reminder of who we are and how much we owe to God's grace.

For those who are conscious of their own guilt but still unrepentant, the Prodigal's life is a searing reminder of the wages of sin, the duty of the sinner to repent, and the goodness of God that accompanies authentic repentance.

For sinners coming to repentance, the father's eager welcome and costly generosity are reminders that God's grace and goodness are both extreme and inexhaustible. For those like the scribes and Pharisees, who use external righteousness as a mask covering their unrighteous hearts, the older brother is a reminder that neither a show of religion nor the pretense of respectability is a valid substitute for redemption.

For all of us, the elder brother's attitude is a powerful warning, showing how easily and how subtly self-righteousness can masquerade as faithfulness. Regardless of which of those categories you fall into, let us pray that as you reflect on this parable, the Lord will minister grace to your heart. If your heart is filled with repentance, may you bask in the Father's joy over the salvation of the lost. May you gain a new appreciation for the beauty and glory of God's plan of redemption. And, also, may you be encouraged and better equipped to participate in the work of spreading Gospel joy.

May all of us be awakened to the reality of our own sin and courageously turn from sin and return to the loving arms of the Father.

## 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.

## SPECIAL 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.



## WELCOME VISITORS!

We warmly welcome our visitors to St. Thomas More Church! We invite all who are seeking a church home to join our Church Family!

### ~ 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 will FAST/ABSTAIN again on Good Friday.**

## 2019 HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

**April 14- Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord:**

*Blessing and Distribution of Palms*

*Mass at 5:00pm (Vigil), 8:45am & 11:30am*



**\*PASCAL TRIDUUM\***

*(7:30pm each evening)*

**April 18- Holy Thursday**

*Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of Feet*

**April 19- Good Friday**

*Service of the Lord's Passion*

**April 20- Great Easter Vigil**

*Mass, Baptisms and Reception into the Church*

**\*EASTER\***

**April 21- Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection**

*Mass at 8:45am & 11:30am*

### ~ 2019 HOLIDAY SCHEDULES ~

Pastor's Bible Study will be on Break April 16 & 23, 2019.

Religious Ed Classes will not meet on Easter Sunday.

Office Closures: The church office will be closed Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Monday.

## 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!"**

