

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

~ December 22, 2019 ~



*As Generous Distributors of God's Manifold Grace,
Put Your Gifts at the Service of One Another (1 Pet 4:10)*

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 12:00pm 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 of Advent



Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: *Is 7: 10-14~ Isaiah describes the coming of the kingdom of God in terms of restoration, healing and reversals.*

Responsorial: *Psalm 24: Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.*

Reading II: *Rom 1:1-7 ~St. James tells us to be patient as we await the coming of the Kingdom of God.*

Gospel: *Mt 1:18-24~ The works to which Jesus points are a new restoration and reveal Jesus to be the Savior who has come into the world.*

Readings for Next Sunday

Sir 3:2-6 Col 3:12-21 Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24	Luke 1:57-66
Tuesday:	Is 9:1-6 Ti 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14
Wednesday:	Isa 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6	John 1:1-18
Thursday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-5	Matt 10:17-22
Friday:	1 Jn 1:1-4	John 20:1a, 2-8
Saturday:	1 Jn 1:4-2:2	Matt 2:13-18

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
11:30am	Yvonne Hanna-Birthday
Monday	Health of Audrey Caldwell
Tuesday	In memory of Sharron Willis-Birthday
Wednesday	Gratitude for the Birth of Christ
Thursday	Our Dedicated Parish Volunteers
Friday	In memory of Natalie Ebb & Bernice Sescoc
Saturday	In loving memory of James Butler

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, Shertia Clark, Odessa Curtis, Frances Davies, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Renee Felu, 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, Yolanda Rollins, Thelma Sawyer, Robin Sescoc, Ciara Shields, Brenda Smith, Edsel Swann, Jane Thomas, Mary Travers, Kristine Vivican, Rev. Raymond Wadas, Kayla Warren, Paul Waters, Marilyn Denise Whetstone, Anita Williams, Kobe M. Williams, David Wilson, Jean Wright, Marianne Young, *and all who are Sick/ Shut-In.*

~ PRAYER REQUESTS ~

Your continued prayers are also requested for Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey Caldwell, Frances Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Elizabeth Holmes, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Robert Robinson, Yolanda Rollins, Margaret Spencer, Mary Travers (mother of Renee Coles), our members who are on the road to recovery, sick, shut-in or grieving; *and Pope Francis, Archbishop Gregory, Fr. Moore, Fr. Casmir, Ed Poindexter & Dcn. Ralph Cyrus.*

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 in the rectory chapel. Mass only lasts 30 minutes.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP

When someone is given a great deal, a great deal will be demanded of that person, when someone is entrusted with a great deal, of that person, more will be expected. (Lk 12:48b)

Father, we bring our offerings now to be joined with those of many others as we cooperate to accomplish your purpose in this world. May every tithe, every gift, and all offerings be magnified by power that they may ably serve your purpose in Christ, Jesus, our Lord. May our generosity be a blessing to others. 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 **December 15, 2019** amounted to **\$7,205.00**; Faith Direct- **\$2,777.29**. Maintenance-**\$220.00**. Youth-**\$6.00**.

Attendance	5:00pm	16
	8:45am	105
	11:30am	139
		260

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: *Attendance is paramount to all that we teach and learn about Jesus.* Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30am. Parents desiring their children to receive the sacraments of *Baptism, First Communion, Confession or Confirmation* should enroll their children in our Sunday School Program.

Youth Ministry: Our Youth Ministry Program, for youth who have received the sacrament of Confirmation through the twelfth grade, *meets during the school year on Sunday mornings at 10:30 in the rectory living room. All youth are encouraged to participate.*

Adult Faith Formation Class Forming: *We are presently enrolling adult candidates for Baptism and reception into the Catholic Church.* Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church, please complete the registration form in the back of the church and turn in to ushers.

Adult Bible Study: Our Adult Bible Study meets each *Tuesday evening at 7:30pm* in the rectory. *All are welcome to join in our study of God's word.*

CHRISTMAS DINNER!!

Once again, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is sponsoring Christmas Dinner in the National Shrine Cafeteria on **December 25, 12:15 to 2:30 pm.** **For Home Delivery requests please call (202) 526-8300 x101.** **Driver volunteers please call (202) 526-8300.**

~ **ELDERS' PRAYER FOR OUR YOUNG** ~

*Creator God,
Jesus, our Savior,
Holy Spirit of Wisdom, knowledge and understanding:
Bless our young with
Minds eager to learn,
Memories strong to remember,
Hearts ready to love,
And lives committed to Jesus Christ.
Keep them safe this week under the protection of
Your Grace and Mercy.
This we pray through Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

PASTOR'S PEN

*Against the Background of the Year
Dr. Howard Thurman*

Our Father, another Christmas has moved within our ken and our minds linger over many moments that stand stark against the background of the year—

Moments that filled our cup of fear to the brim, spilling over into the byways of our mind until there was no longer room even to know that we were afraid—

Moments of decision, when all that we were seemed to hang in the balance, waiting for a gentle nudging of Thy spirit to break the tie and send us on with a new direction, a new desire, a new way of life—

Moments of sadness, brought on by the violent collapse or quiet sagging of a lifetime of dream-building upon which our hopes and aspirations rested in sure integrity—

Moments of awareness, when our whole landscape was invaded by the glow of Thy spirit, making dead things come to newness of life and old accepted ways turn into radiant shafts of beautiful light—

Moments of joy mingled with the deadly round of daily living, when all our inward parts clapped their hands and a new song was born in our heart—

Moments of peace amid the noisy clang of many conflicts with and without—

Moments of reassurance, when we discovered that our searching anxieties were groundless without foundation—

Moments of reconciliation, made possible by a deeper understanding and a greater wisdom—

Moments of renewal, without which life would have been utterly impossible and for us this day there would be no Christmas and no day—

Moments of praise and thanksgiving when, in one grand sweep, the sheer wonder and beauty of living overwhelmed us—

Our Father, another Christmas has moved into our ken and our minds linger over many moments that stand stark against the background of the year.

*In His Love,
Father Moore*

ARCHDIOCESAN APPEAL 2019!

Let's all get behind the 2019 Archdiocese of Washington Annual Appeal! Thus far we have pledged \$21,672 toward our goal of \$37,045 with only 76 gifts. **This is 58.6% of our goal.** Our generous support will help drive efforts of faith, hope and mission in the Church of Washington. **Appeal pledge forms are available in the back of the church.**



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.
Please sign our Guest Book located near the entrance.*

NEW MEMBERS PLEASE REGISTER!

We welcome all new members and kindly ask that you formally register by completing a Registration Form, which you may obtain from one of our ushers.

*Please keep in your prayers
our young people who are preparing for
Confirmation and First Holy Communion:*



~ Confirmation ~

<i>Ariana Brooks</i>	<i>Tyrone Jones</i>
<i>Renee' Douglas</i>	<i>Journee Logan</i>
<i>Dionni Gillis</i>	<i>Aysha May</i>
<i>Brianna Jean-Charles</i>	<i>James M. Morton III</i>
<i>Gabriel Jean-Charles</i>	<i>DaMarcus Moore</i>
<i>Tyree Jones</i>	<i>Kennedi Price</i>



~ First Communion ~

<i>Dominique Brooks</i>	<i>Penelope Hawkins</i>
<i>Ashwin Gordon</i>	<i>Jonah Kamara</i>
<i>Terrence Tyer, Jr.</i>	



**2019 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
Schedule for Advent/Christmas and
The New Year of 2020**

Advent Confessions:

Each weekend following Masses

MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Mass at **7:30pm**
(With Blessing of the Cross Over 4th Street)

Christmas Day Mass at **10:00am**

New Year's Eve Mass at **10:00am** in Rectory Chapel
New Year's Day Mass at **10:00am** in Rectory Chapel

CCD/Youth Group/Adult Faith Formation

On break December 29, 2019

Adult Bible Study

On break December 24 & 31, 2019

Parish Office Closings

<u>Christmas Holiday</u>	<u>New Year's Holiday</u>
December 24, 25 & 26	Dec. 31, 2019/ Jan 1 & 2, 2020

**No Bulletin Submissions received again until
Monday, January 6, 2020, due to the holidays.**

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC ACADEMY NEWS!



*St. Thomas More Catholic Academy
Serving Students in Grades Pre-K3-8
Catholic Environment ~ Academically Excellent*

****LIBRARY DRIVE****

STM ACADEMY IS BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF READERS!

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. The Academy is also in need of gently used picture books, grade-level readers, chapter books or young adult level books to restock the library's sharing shelves. If you are able to donate books, please speak to Sharie Wood! *Thanks for your support of this effort!!*

STM FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS APPRECIATED! PLEASE HELP US PROVIDE NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR FAMILIES!

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- \$22.00.

Schedule for JANUARY 2020:

Sign-up~ January 5 & 12, 2020

Pick-up ~ Sat., January 25, 2019, 9-10am

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!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday	Religious Ed Classes-(10:30am-Classrooms) Second Chance (3:30pm-Old Library)
Monday	Youth Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm-Church)
Tuesday	Christmas Eve-7:30pm Mass
Wednesday	Christmas Day-10:00am Mass
Thursday	Adult Choir Rehearsal-(On Break)
Friday	AA (8:00pm-Old Library)
Saturday	NCW Communities (8:00pm-Church)

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE IMPORTANT 2020 DATES!

WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE:

It's time to sign up for the 2020 Challenge. THIS is your year to change, to stay focused and disciplined. We are doing bigger and better things for 2020. Join and see the new challenge for 2020! Please see Vi Davies for more information.

WORKSHOP FOR LECTORS:

We are holding a Lector Workshop on Saturday, January 11, 2020, at 10:00am, in the church. All new and seasoned lectors are encouraged to participate.

LIFELINE HEALTH SCREENING RETURNS:

Lifeline Screening will be here on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, offering various health screenings. This important health event is sponsored by our Parish Council. Please mark this date on your calendars now. More details to come!

~ FLOCK NOTES TECHNOLOGY ~

So far *126* of you have signed up for this new communications tool. Flock Notes has been a very valuable tool for spreading important information about recent events and activities around STM! *Here is how you sign up:*

For those who are "tech savvy", you may self-register for "Flock Notes" by following these easy steps:

1. Go to your cell phone and create a new text message.
2. Put 84576 in the field.
3. Put stm4265 (all lower case) in the body of text.
4. Hit "Send."
5. Click the link in the reply message
6. Complete the name page, hit save.
7. Choose your groups, hit next
8. Complete the rest of the fields, hit save.
9. You will receive an email to verify your email address, click verify my email
10. You will receive another email to create a password, click create password
11. Once your password is set it will log you into Flock Notes.

If this does not work for you, please complete the "Joining Flock Notes" form and we will assist you.

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 Sunday Bulletin.

PLEASE REMEMBER: "Be alert. Be safe!"