

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
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~ January 5, 2020 ~



*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

The Feast of the Epiphany of Jesus Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Isa 60:1-6~ Raise your eyes and see the goodness of God. All people are invited to God's saving grace and merciful love.

Responsorial: Psalm 72~ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Reading II: Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6~ As the light of Christ shines on in us, we are invited to see what lies deep within our own hearts, to bring forth what is good, and then spend ourselves for others.

Gospel: Matt 2:1-12~ As the light of Christ shines on in us, we are invited to see what lies deep within our own hearts, to bring forth what is good, and then spend ourselves for others.

Readings for Next Sunday

1 Sam 3:3b-10, 19 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 Jn 1:35-42

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	1 John 3:22-4:6	Matt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday:	1 John 4:7-10	Mark 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 John 4:11-18	Mark 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 John 4:19-5:4	Luke 4:14-22
Friday:	1 John 5:5-13	Luke 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 John 5:14-21	John 3:22-30

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am	Intentions of STM Parishioners
11:30am	In loving memory of Lum Garnett
Monday	Health of Audrey Caldwell
Tuesday	In memory of Richard Tyer
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	Health of Frances Davies
Friday	Health of Mary Travers
Saturday	Safekeeping of our 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, Shertia Clark, Odessa Curtis, 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, Yolanda Rollins, Thelma Sawyer, Robin SESCOE, 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
Sunday, December 29, 2019
will be posted in the Bulletin**

**on
January 12, 2020.
Thank you.**

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.*

2019 CHRISTMAS CONCERT A HUGE SUCCESS!

The *Christmas Concert* raised **\$3,000** thanks to your support! Many thanks to **Denese Clay and the Praise Team** for their efforts in securing the financial stability of our parish.

~ **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.*

~ **PASTORAL REFLECTION** ~
Living As Holy Families

The following serves as a great reminder for us as we move through this New Year of 2020!

1. Make up your mind to be happy. Learn to find pleasure in the simple things in life.
2. Make the best of your circumstances. No one has everything, and everyone has something of sorrow intermingled with gladness in life. The trick is to make the laughter to outweigh the tears.
3. Don't take yourself too seriously. Don't think that somehow you should be protected from the misfortunes that befall others.
4. You can't please everyone. So, don't let criticism worry you.
5. Don't let others set your standards. Make up your mind to do what is right and be yourself.
6. Do the things you enjoy doing but stay out of debt.
7. Don't borrow trouble. Imaginary burdens are harder to bear than the actual ones.
8. Since hate poisons the soul do not hold fast to grudges and meanness. Go out of your way to avoid negative people.
9. Don't spend your time replaying sorrows and mistakes from the past. Make up your mind not to be the person who doesn't get over things.
10. Have many interests. Be open to doing new things. Read as many books as you can. And travel to new places.
11. Do what you can for those who are less fortunate than yourself.
12. Keep busy at something. A busy person has less time to be unhappy.

"The New Year means for many people a time of making resolutions, the time for deciding that the present and the future will be lived more intentionally than in the past, and it is important, this matter of making resolutions, because it organizes the formal intent of the personality in a given direction; it is a commitment of the individual to a performance in the future based upon an intention in the present. And this is important. Whether the individual is able to carry out in detail the resolution—whether you are able to fulfill the thing that you intend to do—there is a clear gain in being able to bring together all of one's self in a point of focus and say this is the thing that I intend to do tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow."
Dr. Howard Thurman



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>Bianna 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>	

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 soon to come!**

