

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
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Washington, D.C. 20032
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School: 202-561-1189

~ February 16, 2020 ~



***Our Focus for 2020: With New Eyes,
A Fresh Vision and Pure Hearts.***

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

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Preparing to Hear God's Word**

Reading I: Sir 15:15-20~God has given us the freedom to act responsibly.

Responsorial: Ps 119~Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord.

Reading II: 1 Cor 2:6-10~God's wisdom is for the spiritually mature.

Gospel: Mt 5:17-37~Living the blessed and good life takes us beyond adhering to the letter of the law only.

Readings for Next Sunday

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18 1 Cor 3:16-23 Mt 5:38-48

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Jas 1:1-11	Mark 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Jas 1:12-18	Mark 8:14-21
Wednesday:	Jas 1:19-27	Mark 8:22-26
Thursday:	Jas :1-9	Mark 8:27-33
Friday:	Jas 2:14-24, 26	Mark 8:34—9:1
Saturday:	1 Pet 5:1-4	Matt 16:13-19

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am	In loving memory of Our Ancestors
11:30am	In memory of Jakari Butler
Monday	Health of Margaret Spencer
Tuesday	Health of Audrey Caldwell
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	Health of Frances Davies
Friday	Well-being 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, Dr. 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 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 our members who are on the road to recovery, sick, shut-in or grieving; **and Pope Francis, Archbishop Gregory, Fr. Moore, Fr. Casimir, 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 about 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 **February 9, 2020** amounted to **\$5,732; plus Faith Direct-\$2,851.98. Maintenance-\$155.**

Attendance	5:00pm	15
	8:45am	119
	11:30am	<u>122</u>
		256

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.*

PLEASE SUPPORT DEMARCUS MOORE!

DeMarcus will be traveling to France and England with his school **March 31-April 11, 2020.** It would mean a lot if you could help support him on his journey. Any amount would be appreciated. ***He is registered at this GoFundMe link:***
[https://gofundme/f/once-in-a-lifetime-dream-trip-abroad.](https://gofundme/f/once-in-a-lifetime-dream-trip-abroad)

~ **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

Dear Church Family,

We are all so grateful and blessed with our new school library which was recently dedicated and blessed by Bishop Roy Campbell. We also have other good news that I want to share with you this week.

As you may know, Chandrai Jackson Saunders was named School Psychologist of the Year. She will be formally presented with the award on Wednesday, February 19th at the Hilton Inner Harbor in Baltimore. Congratulations to Chandrai, Nathan and Dr. Jackson.

I also want to thank Henry and the choir for the powerful Black History Month reflections during the 11:30 Mass. We appreciate your commitment and efforts.

God has been blessing us mightily around here. Thanks to the generosity of Mack Kennedy our food pantry has been blessed with new shelves to store more food. I also want to let you know that in the next few days we will begin work on renovations in the Cedar Room, starting with the stage. And, when the rainy weather subsides, we will begin to repair the asphalt in the rear of the school. And finally, the Parish Council, through the efforts of Mr. Marion Richardson, is planning to raise funds to install a chair lift to facilitate access from the church to the Cedar Room.

These great improvements are made possible thanks to your generosity in your weekly tithes and support of our special fund-raising efforts. Thanks for your commitment and service to St. Thomas More.

Peace and blessing to all!

Father Moore

2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2019 Contribution Statements *totaling \$100.00 or more* have been mailed. If you have any **questions please contact Pattie Hamilton via EMAIL: HAMISINGS@MSN.COM**. You may also call the church office and leave a message on extension #11. Thank you for addressing your questions **ONLY to Pattie**, who is the best person to handle questions regarding your statements.

Thank you for your continued, generous stewardship!

FISH FRY FRIDAYS!

Once again, we will sponsor our ever-popular **Lenten Fish Fry Fridays** on the following dates: **March 6, 20, and April 3**. We are also in need of volunteers to serve on these dates. So, come on out and fellowship with your STM family. To volunteer, please see Mr. Billy Hawkins.

BLACK HISTORY CONCERT: Sunday, February 23,

Assumption Catholic Church- 3401 MLK Ave. S.E., DC.

Come and celebrate our heritage. Doors open @ **1:30 pm**. (Light refreshments will be served after the concert.)



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.

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



~ Confirmation ~

**Ariana Brooks
Renee' Douglas
Dionni Gillis
Brianna Jean-Charles
Gabriel Jean-Charles
Nahsaan Curtis**

**Tyree Jones
Tyrone Jones
Journee Logan
Aysha May
James M. Morton III
DeMarcus Moore**



~ First Communion ~

**Dominique Brooks
Ashwin Gordon**

**Penelope Hawkins
Jonah Kamara**

Terrence Tyer, Jr.

LIVING CATHOLIC DAY OF REFLECTION!

Soon we will be observing the **Season of Lent**. What better time to refresh and renew our knowledge of the faith? Join other Catholics for a session of prayer, reflection and sharing. The presentation is based on The Four Pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Profession of Faith, Celebration of the Christian Mystery, Life in Christ and Christian Prayer.

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2020, from 9am-4pm

Location: St. Thomas More Cedar Room

Presenter: Sarah Blauvelt, AOW Director for Catechesis.

The session is free and will be promoted throughout the AOW. Registration ceases at 50 participants. To register please contact:

Wanda Brooks @301-395-3442

Or electronically: (Living) Catholic@adw.org

STM-PAC PRESENTS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2020 AT STM!

The theme of the 2020 observance is "African Americans and the Vote." The theme highlights the sesquicentennial and centennial of the 15th and 19th Amendments to the US Constitution. The 15th Amendment, passed in 1870, gave black men the right to vote following the Civil War. (Specifically, it confirms the right to vote and lists conditions that are illegal to deny another person the right to vote. Any American cannot be denied the right to vote, based on race, color or being a former slave.) The 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote, prohibiting any U.S. citizen to be denied the right to vote based on sex. It was ratified on August 18, 1920, after a long struggle known as the Women's Suffrage Movement.

February 16: Calling of the Ancestors (both Masses)

Family & Friends Sunday

School Library Tours/Light Refreshments

February 23: Soul Food Sunday

All are invited to wear African attire.

