

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 Website: www.stthomasmoredc.org
School: 202-561-1189

~ February 23, 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	(Rectorry Chapel)
Sunday	8:45 am	Youth Choir
	11:30 am	Gospel Choir
Weekdays	8:00 am	(Rectorry 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 Rectorry.

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 Rectorry.

CCD Classes: Every Sunday at 10:30am

Bible Study: Every Tuesday at 7:30pm

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: *Lv 19:1-2, 17-18~Love your neighbor as yourself. Release all grudges held against another.*

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

Reading II: *1 Cor 3:16-23~The spirit of God dwells in each one of us.*

Gospel: *Mt 5:38-48~We are called to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.*

Readings for Next Sunday

Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7 Rom 5:12-19 Matt 4:1-11

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday	Jas 3:13-18	Mark 9:14-29
Tuesday	Jas 4:1-10	Mark 9:30-37
Wednesday:	Jl 2:12-18 2 Cor 5:6-2	Matt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Dt 30:15-20	Luke 9:22-25
Friday:	Is 58:1-9a	Matt 9:14-15
Saturday:	Is 58:9b-14	Luke 5:27-32

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am	In memory of Jackie Green-Deckard
11:30am	In memory of Jason Plaskett, Jr.-Birthday (2/22)
Monday	In memory of Doris Martin
Tuesday	In memory of Mikki Colmes
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	Health of Suzanne Chandler
Friday	Abani H. Neferkara-18 th Birthday
Saturday	Health of Audrey Caldwell

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, Francess Davies, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Renee Felieu, 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 ~

Please pray for the speedy recovery of our dedicated volunteer, Suzanne Chandler, as she recovers following knee surgery.

Your continued prayers are requested for Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey Caldwell, Francess 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. Casmir, Ed Poindexter & Dcn. Ralph Cyrus.

~ ASH WEDNESDAY ~

February 26, 2020!

~ Schedule of Masses ~

8:00am-Chapel 10:00am-Church 7:30pm-Chapel

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 16, 2020** amounted to **\$7,843.00. Maintenance-\$5.00. Youth-\$6.00.**

Attendance	5:00pm	18
	8:45am	137
	11:30am	<u>105</u>
		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.*

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,

The first line of today's first reading and the last line of the gospel contain two very similar commandments. God tells Moses, "Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them: Be holy, for I the Lord, your God, am holy." The Gospel reading concludes with Jesus' words: Be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect." What powerful and insightful readings for the final Sunday before we begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday (February 26).

Both of these readings seem to guard against the divisions and factions that can happen within a community where revenge, anger, and bitterness take root. God tells the people in Leviticus, "Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people." Jesus goes even farther by urging his disciples to "love your enemies and pray for your persecutors." To be holy and perfect requires us to be concerned about the whole of humankind.

In his exhortation to the world, *Rejoice and Be Glad*, Pope Francis writes "We are never completely ourselves unless to other people. That is why no one is saved alone, as an isolated individual. Sometimes when we consider the path to holiness. We think of personal piety and devotion. While these can be important aspects of individual spirituality, they are not our primary calling as Christians. Rather, as a people, together, we strive to be the Body of Christ in the world, offering love, compassion, and inclusion to all we meet. In our preparation for Lent today we might reflect, how can our prayer, almsgiving and fasting be directed to making our community more whole, holy and perfect.

Peace and blessing to all!

Father Moore

WELCOME, NEWEST MEMBERS!

Please extend a warm welcome to *Felix and Immaculata Akudike* and their children *Kendra, Kyla and Karen*. We are happy to have you as members of our STM Church family.

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.

SODALITY!

Saturday, March 7: Union Mass/meeting, St. Hugh of Grenoble Church, 135 Crescent Rd, Greenbelt, MD.

Sunday, March 8: STM General meeting after 8:45am Mass; Rosary-8:15am. **Please turn in all SU raffle ticket stubs.**



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 WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE NEWS!

Congratulations to our January weigh-in winner,

Tracey Jean-Charles!

Honorable mentions went to *Andrea McClendon*-most inches lost, and *Renee Coles* who drank the most water!

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.

TODAY, February 23...Soul Food Sunday!

All are invited to wear African attire.

