

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

~ March 1, 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

First Sunday of Lent

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7~Adam and Eve are tempted.

Responsorial: Ps 51~Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Reading II: Rom5:12-19~Jesus' obedience overcomes sin.

Gospel: Mt 4:1-11~ Jesus himself is tempted.

Readings for Next Sunday

Gn 12: 1-4a 2 Tim 1:8b-10 Mt 17:1-9

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18	Matt 25:31-46
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11	Matt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10	Luke 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25	Matt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28	Matt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19	Matt 5:43-48

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am	Health of Frances Davies
11:30am	Health of Suzanne Chandler
Monday	Well-being of Mary Travers
Tuesday	In memory of Joe Elliott
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	Well-being of Audrey Caldwell
Friday	In memory of Doris & Dcn. Martin-Prayer Gp
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, Suzanne Chandler, 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. 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 about 30 minutes.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT!

Wednesdays at 12 Noon in the Rectory 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 23, 2020** amounted to **\$6,220, plus Faith Direct-\$4,319.39 Maintenance-\$290.**

Youth-\$6.00.

Attendance	5:00pm	14
	8:45am	139
	11:30am	84
		227

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! Can't find your checkbook or envelope Sunday morning? Join the parishioners who are using *Faith Direct* for automated giving to St. Thomas More Church. It is secure, convenient and *Faith Direct* will provide you an Offertory Card to place in the basket during the collections. There is no cost to you, and the program provides a great benefit to our parish. **Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/DC773.**

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>.

STM SODALITY! Today, March 8: Meeting after 8:45am Mass; Rosary-8:15am. **Please turn in all SU raffle ticket stubs.**

~ **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,

Here we are, once again, embarking on our forty-day journey of faith in preparation for the holy day of Easter. One of the beautiful things about this season is that the church provides for us a variety of devotions and spiritual practices that help us to grow stronger in our relationship with Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

We began on last Wednesday as we observed Ash Wednesday. According to the ancient practice, ashes were placed on our foreheads and these words were spoken to each one of us: "Repent and believe the Gospel." The ashes represent our heartfelt desire to turn from sin and serve the Gospel as we serve one another. Ash Wednesday is also a day when we fast and abstain from eating meat. We deny our "flesh" as we feed our spirits.

Another Lenten observance that is popular among Catholics are the *Stations of the Cross*. St. Francis of Assisi gave us the stations as a means of reflecting and meditation on fourteen aspects of Jesus' passion and death. We invite you to join us in making the stations each *Wednesday at 12 Noon* in the rectory chapel. The service lasts about thirty minutes and is well worth the time in prayer.

You are also encouraged to avail yourselves of the literature that we have provided for you. The always popular *Word Among Us* is filled with inspiration and insight. This year we are also providing something new, a prayer journal, *It Is Finished, the last words of Jesus*. You are invited to take copies for yourself and your friends.

Finally, you are encouraged to deepen your spirituality in the sacraments of Eucharist and Confession. Many people join us for weekday Mass during Lent at 8:00am in the Rectory chapel. Some do it just one extra day in the week; others come each day. The important thing is that we take advantage of God's amazing grace through the sacraments. My last words are an invitation to the *Sacrament of Penance or Confession*. During Lent, I will be available for confession following the Sunday Masses and on *Tuesdays at 12 Noon and 6:30pm* in the rectory chapel. So, don't miss your blessing this Lent.

Peace and blessing to all!

Father Moore

APPRECIATION!

STM-PAC would like to thank everyone who participated in our Annual Soul Food Sunday and hope everyone enjoyed themselves. Special thanks to Freddie Colston for his presentation on "Voting," and our special guests from the DC Voting Commission. Please stay tuned for more information on voting, and the US Census.



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.

FISH FRY FRIDAYS!

Come out and support our Fish Fry on **March 6, from 11:00am to 3:00pm in the Cedar Room**. Dinners are \$12.00 and sandwiches are \$8.00. We are featuring both croakers and whiting filet. Proceeds will benefit our Cedar Room renovations. Save time and preorder. The next fish fry will be on March 20th.

2020 LENT/HOLY WEEK/EASTER SCHEDULE

Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays at 12 NOON in the Rectory Chapel.

Confessions

Sundays after both Masses

Tuesdays from Noon to 1:00pm & 6:30 to 7:30pm
in the Rectory Chapel.

Special Lenten Bible Study

Tuesdays at 7:30pm in Rectory



PASCHAL TRIDUUM

(7:30pm each evening)

April 9- Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of Feet

April 10- Good Friday

Service of the Lord's Passion (Youth Passion Play)

April 11- Great Easter Vigil

Mass, Baptisms and Reception into the Church

EASTER

April 12- Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection

Mass at 8:45am & 11:30am

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC ACADEMY



St. Thomas More Catholic Academy
Serving Students in Grades Pre-K3-8

Catholic Environment
Academically Excellent

Mr. Gerald Smith, Jr., Principal

202-561-1189

Before and After School Care Provided.

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 MARCH 2020:

Sign-up~ Today, and March 8, 2020

Pick-up ~ Sat., March 21, 2020, 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) Youth Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm-Church)
Tuesday	Bible Study (7:30pm-Rectory Living Rm) NCW 2 nd Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
Wednesday	Stations of the Cross (Noon-Rectory Chapel) NCW 1 st Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm) Praise Team Rehearsal (7:00pm-Church)
Thursday	Adult Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm-Church)
Friday	AA (8:00pm-Old Library)
Saturday	NCW Communities (8:00pm-Church)

LIVING CATHOLIC DAY OF REFLECTION!

We are now 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

~ 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 both FAST and ABSTAIN on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday!**

STM SODALITY TRIP!

Please join the Sodality for a trip to see "Queen Esther" at Sight & Sound Theater, Lancaster, PA on Wednesday, July 29, 2020. Cost: Adults-\$150; Children (2-12 yrs.) \$85. Payment schedule available on flyers posted in the church.

Contacts: Laura Brown, 301-899-8099; Margaret Butler, 202-549-1506; Margarine Neal, 202-438-1865.

~ FLOCK NOTES TECHNOLOGY ~

So far *127* 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.