

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
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~ March 15, 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

Third Sunday of Lent
Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Ex 17:3-7~God gives Moses life-giving water.
Responsorial: Ps 95: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
Reading II: Rom 5:1-2, 5-8~God's love for us is freely given in Christ.
Gospel: John 4:5-42~Jesus reveals himself to the outcast woman at Jacob's well. This encounter transforms her life.

Readings for Next Sunday

Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	2 Kings 5:1-15ab	Luke 4:24-30
Tuesday:	Dan 3: 25, 34-43	Matt 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1, 5-9	Matt 5:17-19
Thursday:	2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a Rom 4:13,16-18, 22	Matt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10	Mark 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6	Luke 18:9-14

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am Intentions of STM Parishioners
11:30am All impacted by the Coronavirus
Monday Well-being of Mary Travers
Tuesday Health of Suzanne Chandler
Wednesday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday In loving memory of Alice Baruwa
Friday In memory of Jackie Greene Deckard-Birthday
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, Francess 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, Maximillion 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 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 requested for Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey Caldwell, Suzanne Chandler, 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.**

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 **March 8, 2020** amounted to **\$6339; plus Faith Direct-\$ 3,257.50. Maintenance-\$165.**

Attendance	5:00pm	16
	8:45am	103
	11:30am	<u>111</u>
		230

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.*

FISH FRY FRIDAYS!

Please come out and support our next Fish Fry on **March 20th 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.

Our final Fish Fry will take place on April 3rd.

~ **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,

On this Third Sunday in Lent, we find ourselves with Jesus with the woman at the well in Samaria. Over the past three weeks, we have journeyed with Jesus from the wilderness of temptation, to the glory of the Transfiguration and now we find ourselves thirsty at the well of transformation.

The Samaritan woman comes to the well to draw water for the day, just like any and every other day. She meets a stranger, a Jewish man who asks her for a drink. Knowing that Jews and Samaritans hate one another, she tries to evade his request for a drink. This conversation begins with Jesus asking for a drink, but the reality is that Jesus wants to give her a drink of water—living water that will change her life! At first, she does not understand that “living water” is not the same as the H₂O she has been getting from that well all her life. By contrast, the water Jesus gives quenches spiritual thirst in such a way that she will never thirst again. This water is really eternal life, and eternal life “just keeps on giving.” In the story, the well becomes “a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” She understands what Jesus is saying to her and she requests that Jesus “give me this water so that I won’t have to keep coming to this well to draw water.”

With this living water she is empowered by Jesus and goes forth spreading the Good News that Jesus brings to her neighbors. Like her, we are thirsting for this water and Jesus is anxious to provide this water, this living water of eternal life. So, as we worry and wonder about our politics, the Coronavirus, global warming and many more things, let us enter seriously into our Lenten Observance through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving

This Gospel speaks to us of our ultimate destiny, which is to be with Jesus in heavenly glory. This Gospel event describes Jesus as fulfilling the Law and the Prophets of Judaism. Like Jesus, both Moses and Elijah, the two great figures of the Old Testament, received revelation from God on this mountain. The three disciples will hear the words that accompanied Jesus at his own Baptism: “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.” Only now the phrase “listen to him” is added. At this the disciples are overcome with fear and fall prostrate in worship. Only by the touch of Jesus’ hand are they raised up again to discover that they are alone with him. This remarkable experience of the glory of God most certainly encouraged and emboldened their faith, while it also seized them with fear. This mountaintop experience would mean even more to them after Easter and the Lord’s Resurrection from the grave.

Like Peter, James and John, Matthew gives us a glimpse of what is to come after the Resurrection. Jesus appears before them with face shining like the sun and clothes “as white as light.” At first, they are delighted by the sight, but when that voice speaks to them from out of the cloud, they fall in fear. Jesus reaches out, touches them and reassures them with the words “Rise and do not be afraid.” Soon they will follow Jesus to Jerusalem where he will undergo suffering and death on the cross. And yet that is not the end. What Jesus spoke on the mountain remains true for them and for us, too—do not be afraid, even in the face of death, for life is stronger than death! The disciples are blessed with a fresh vision. The man they have known as friend and teacher is now radiant, his face shining like the sun. Like the three disciples we experience “something new and wonderful” in Jesus who still reveals himself to us today.

Peace and blessing to all!

Father Moore



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 all those
preparing to receive the following Sacraments:*

~ **Baptism** ~

*Dominique Brooks Tylia Pilgrim
Taj Lee Tolliver*

~ **First Holy Communion** ~

*Dominique Brooks Penelope Hawkins
Ashwin Gordon Jonah Kamara
Terrence Tyer, Jr.*

~ **Confirmation** ~

*Ariana Brooks Tyree Jones
Renee' Douglas Tyrone Jones
Dionni Gillis Journee Logan
Brianna Jean-Charles Aysha May
Gabriel Jean-Charles James M. Morton III
Nahsaan Curtis DeMarcus Moore*

~ **Full Communion** ~

Njeri Jarvis Washington

**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 the Rectory

April 5- Palm Sunday

*Blessing and Distribution of Palms
Mass at 5:00pm (Vigil), 8:45am & 11:30am*



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

