

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy

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December 3, 2017



**Let the favor of the Lord be upon us.
Give success to the work of our Hands! (Psalm 90)**

Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Raymond Moore, Pastor, x12
Ms. Patricia Hamilton, Pastoral Administrator, x11
Mrs. Mary Waters, Office Assistant, x10
Ms. Bridget Coates, 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 12:00 pm 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 Advent

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7~ *Israel stumbles when they do not actively seek the Lord and keep his commands. Instead of blaming God for letting them wander and have hard hearts, they needed to open their ears and eyes to recognizing the great deeds God was doing "for those who wait for him."*

Responsorial: Psalm 80~ *Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9~ *God is faithful as we await Jesus' return.*

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37~ *Jesus foretells a day when the world will be radically changed by the advent the power of God in its fullness. "Therefore, keep awake," warns Jesus.*

Readings for Next Sunday

Is 40: 1-5, 9-11 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Is 2:1-5	Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10	Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Is 25: 6-10	Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6	Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24	Mt 9: 27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26	Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am	Our Dedicated Parish Volunteers
11:30am	Health of Roland Caldwell
Monday	Intentions of STM Parishioners
Tuesday	Fr. Raymond Moore, Sr. Ellen Hagar-Birthday
Wednesday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday	Peace Throughout Our Nation/World
Friday	Alice Proctor-Birthday
Saturday	Safekeeping of our Youth

PLEASE KEEP THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Kayla Adams, Shirley Adams, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Viola Barnes, Betty Beatty, Marie Brown, Shirley Brown, Francillia Browne, Cynthia Bruce, Felicia V. Bush, John Bush, Mary Agnes Bush, Jane Cannon, Dixie Clark, Shertia Clark, Odessa Curtis, Den. Ralph Cyrus, Frances Davies, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Renee Feliu, Diane Finley, , Eric Fuller, Craig Fulmer, Betty Furr, Tasha Gant, David Garner, Tyrone Garrison, Brenda Green, Emmanuel Greene, William Gunn, Earl Hamilton, Andre Harris, Margaret Harris, Vance Harris II, June Harrison, Shant'e Hawkins, James Hilton, Maximillon Holland, Elizabeth Holmes, Darryl Jackson, Jimmie Jackson, Ivy John, Carolyn Johnson, Sarah Jones, Seymour & Patrick Jones, David Larison, Dennis Lucas, Gloria & William McCaskill, Emma McEntyre, Robert Milner, Betty Moeller, Gloria Morgan, Dorothy Myrtle, Angela Neal, Tammy Peterson, Charles Queen, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Arthur Robinson, Jean, Leroy & Robert Robinson, Daja Rogers, Thelma Sawyer, Robin Sescoc, Ciara Shields, Brenda Smith, Claudell St. Julien, Edsel Swann, Jane Thomas, Kristine Vivican, Kayla Warren, Paul Waters, Marilyn Denise Whetstone, Anita Williams, Bertha Williams, Kobe M. Williams, David Wilson, Jean Wright, Marianne Young, and all who are Sick/Shut-In.

~ PRAYER REQUESTS ~

Thank you for lifting Fr. Moore in prayer on his birthday this week! We ask God's continued blessings upon our Pastor as he serves the people of St. Thomas More Church, and beyond!

Please remember to lift up those for whom the holiday season may be met with a myriad of emotions.

Please also pray for the health and well-being of Kayla Adams, Shirley Adams, Roland Caldwell, Elizabeth Holmes, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Robert Robinson, Daja Rogers, all of our members who are on the road to recovery, sick, shut-in or grieving; and

Pope Francis, Fr. Moore, Fr. Casimir & Ed Poindexter

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP

Give and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall be given to you. For with the same measure that you measure it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38)

Lord, let us not be guilty of withholding the best parts of life, even our money, for ourselves. Instead, enable us to give all we can so others can know the victory we have found through Jesus Christ. Receive our gifts as grateful representations of our devotion and service to the Gospel. 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 **November 26, 2017** amounted to **\$6,649.00; Faith Direct-\$1,965.51; Maintenance-\$75.00; Youth-\$8.00.**

Attendance	5:00pm	12
	8:45am	121
	11:30am	78
		216

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: **Fall Into e-Giving with Faith Direct!**

This is the most convenient and secure way for you to make your tithes and offerings to St. Thomas More. Your automatic contributions through Faith Direct will save for you. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code, **DC773**.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY: Our Bible Study for Adults meets on Tuesday evenings, 7:30pm in the rectory living room. All are invited and encouraged to be a part of our instruction and lively discussions!

2017-2018 FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM: Adults seeking a closer walk with Jesus are invited to join our Faith Formation Program for Adults. We meet on Sunday morning at 10:30 in the Red Room.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION! Classes are now in progress! However, Registrations are still being accepted, **SO DON'T DELAY!** Classes take place from 10:30 to 11:30am in the school. Please see Ms. Wanda Brooks for more information.

WE'RE ON TIME FOR THE NEW YEAR! Maybe you've noticed that we are making every effort to begin Mass on time--**at 8:45 and 11:30.** **Thanks for cooperating with our efforts to be punctual!**

SODALITY: Today, December 3~Sodality Christmas Pot Luck after a short meeting.

OUTREACH ANGEL TREE!!

Our **Angel Tree** is now on display in the Church and waiting for your support! Please be an 'angel' and choose a little one from the tree to buy gifts for this year. After making your selection, please remember to sign your name, and add your telephone number to the list. **Thank you for returning all gifts by Sunday, December 10, 2017!** We appreciate your generous support!

God bless you! The STM Outreach Committee.

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Church Family,

Advent is here, but it won't be here long. This year is as short as it can be. The fourth week of Advent will be less than one full day! So let's make the most of the three full weeks that we have.

Please take note of the changes that happen with the arrival of Advent. Our colors change from green to violet. We bless the Advent wreath that marks the four weeks of this season. And though very different from Lent, there are some marked similarities. Both use the color violet, and both are periods of spiritual preparation.

Today's first reading and Gospel remind us that Advent is a time of repentance and new beginnings. Advent does not have the deep, penitential character of Lent, but it does call us to prepare for the second coming of the Lord. This should prompt us to ask how ready we are if he comes during this season of longing for his return in glory.

The first reading is a strong call to renewal. "Why do you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?" "Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind." But Isaiah gives us hope when he writes, "We are the clay and you are the potter: we are all the work of your hands!"

That reminds us that God is always ready to forgive and invites us to spiritual transformation. The Gospel issues a warning, too: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. This First Sunday of Advent issues forth a clear call to repentance and reform in our lives.

Father Moore

2017 CARDINAL'S APPEAL UPDATE

*It is not too late--*if you have not yet made your pledge or outright gift to the Cardinal's Appeal there is still time. We need everyone's support to reach our goal of \$ 37,045. So far, this year we have pledged \$26,561.00. Last year, at this time, 132 persons pledged while this year only 92 have pledged. We are short of our goal by \$10,484.00. Let's try and close this gap. Please visit the Appeal's secure website at <http://appeal.adw.org> to make a pledge. On behalf of those who benefit from your support, thank you for your gift to assist the many ministries of the Church of Washington.

ALL HANDS ON DECK, PLEASE!

Your help is needed to unload and shelve food donations for our STM Food Pantry. We expect another delivery at the rectory TOMORROW, Monday, December 4, at 9:00am.

Your help is greatly appreciated!

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

~ Friday, December 8, 2017! ~

~Mass Times~

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

WELCOME VISITORS!

*We warmly welcome our visitors to
St. Thomas More Church.
Please sign our Visitors' Book!*

*We invite all who are seeking a
church home to join our church family.
Please encourage all visitors to sign our Guest Book.*

65TH ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS!

~NEXT Sunday, December 10, 2017~

~ Christmas Concert, STM Church, 3:00pm ~

*Liturgical Dance, Christian Comedy Guest, Gospel
Choirs, Glorify Praise Team, Youth Choir, Men's Choir.
Tickets-\$15.00*

Please Save The Date!

~Saturday, February 10, 2018~

Ministers of Hospitality Valentine's Dance

STM Cedar Room ~ 9:00pm. Details forthcoming!



2017 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

~MASS~

**Please note the Special Mass Schedule
this Christmas and New Year!**

Saturday, December 23

***Vigil Mass for Fourth Sunday of Advent ~5:00pm
(There will be NO 8:45 & 11:30 Mass
the morning of December 24, 2017!)***

Christmas Eve

**Sunday, December 24 ~ 7:30pm
*(Mass immediately follows Carols and Narration)***

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25 ~ 10:00am

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

**Saturday, December 30 ~ 5:00pm (Rectory Chapel)
Sunday, December 31 ~ 8:45 & 11:30am**

Solemnity of Mary Holy Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2018 ~ 10:00am



