

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

December 24, 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16~ God reveals through the prophet Nathan to King David that his kingdom shall endure forever. It is from David's offspring and lineage that the Savior will be born.

Responsorial: Ps 89~ Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Reading II: Rom 16:25-27~ St. Paul gives glory to God through Christ, the Promised One.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38~ From the beginning of salvation history God's revelation has prepared us for the great announcement-the Word will become flesh and dwell among us.

~Christmas Eve Vigil Mass~

Is 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25

Readings for Next Sunday

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 Luke 2:22-40

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Is 52:7-10	Heb 1:1-6	John 1:1-5, 9-14
Tuesday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59		Matt 10:17-22
Wednesday:	1 John 1:1-4		John 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday:	1 John 1:5—2:2		Matt 2:13-18
Friday:	1 John 2:3-11		Luke 2:22-35
Saturday:	1 John 2:12-17		Luke 2:36-40

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday	In memory of Sharron Willis-Birthday
Monday	Gratitude for the Birth of Christ
Tuesday	Health of Andre Cooper
Wednesday	In memory of Natalie Ebb & Bernice Sescoc
Thursday	In memory of James Butler
Friday	Health of Roland Caldwell
Saturday	Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones

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, Dcn. 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 ~

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 **Andre Cooper, 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. Casmir & 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 **December 17, 2017** amounted to **\$7,082.00; Faith Direct \$1,319.00; Maintenance-\$304.00; Youth-\$2.00.**

Attendance	5:00pm	23
	8:45am	128
	11:30am	103
		254

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: Bible Study is on break until January 9, 2018. When we resume we will meet 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! 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.

65TH ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS!

Please Save The Date: Saturday, February 10, 2018

Ministers of Hospitality Valentine's Dance

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

WE'RE ON TIME FOR THE NEW YEAR!

Maybe you have 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!

WONDERFUL SMILES!!

MANY THANKS to all who helped put many 'wonderful smiles' in the hearts and on the faces of **close to 450 children** this year! You are deeply appreciated!

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Church Family,

Today we round out the season of Advent—in the dark and gloom of the world the Christ shines forth as God with us (Emmanuel) and the Light of the World. For four Sundays we have lit another candle on our Advent wreath. The candles represent the four themes of the season: hope, peace, joy and love.

Jesus brings the light of hope. Light brings hope. When dawn breaks and darkness flees hope refreshes the human spirit. By his birth Jesus reminds us that there is hope for the world. His birth reminds us that he brings the hope of salvation. His birth reminds us that he offers the gift of eternal life. His birth reminds us that in our bleakest hour, he is close beside us. *We lift the light of hope, O God, your presence burning bright. In praise we sing the gift you bring; our hope complete in Christ. In praise we sing the gift you bring; our hope complete in Christ.*

Jesus brings the light of peace. Isaiah yearns for a king who will push back the darkness. The kingdom of peace comes through a child, and freedom comes through people who become as little children: disarmingly defenseless, disarming through their defenselessness and making others defenseless because they themselves are so disarming. *We lift the light of peace, O God, the Lord of truth and right. In your domain let justice reign and bring us peace in Christ. In your domain let justice reign and bring us peace in Christ.*

Jesus brings the light of joy. When Jesus was born, everything changed. But it is not only important that Jesus was born into the world, but that Jesus is born in us! When we follow Jesus, when Jesus abides in us, we, too, can experience the deeply satisfying joy that he brings. *We lift up the light of joy, O God. Your praise is our delight! Your blessings flow that all may know unbounded joy in Christ.*

Jesus brings the light of love. We all know that when you have love in your life, you have light; when you don't, you feel as though you are in darkness. Jesus is the light of the world. That light is love. His very birth is occasioned by the love of God. *We lift the light of love, O God, your candle in our night. You come to give and help us live the mighty love of Christ. You come to give and help us live the mighty love of Christ.*

Advent gives birth to Christmas and Christmas is the coming of Jesus. This Christmas let us recall, remember and reflect on the God who so loved us that he became one of us because:

*This is the time of forgiveness for injuries past,
The sacrament of sharing without balancing the deed,
Moments of remembrance of graces forgotten,
The poem of joy making light the spirit,
The sense of renewal restoring the soul
The day of thanksgiving for the goodness of God.*

CHRISTMAS IS THE SEASON OF THE HEART
(Howard Thurman)

In His peace,

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.

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.*

2017 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



~MASS~

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

~Christmas Eve Morning~

**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 ~ 8:45am & 11:30am

Solemnity of Mary Holy Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2018 ~ 10:00am

CCD/YOUTH GROUP
On break December 24 & 31, 2017

~~~~~  
**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**  
**On break December 19, 26 & January 2, 2018**

\*\*\*\*\*



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---