

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy

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School: 202-561-1189

December 31, 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

**The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Reading I: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14~ We are to honor our parents, and shall endure forever.

Responsorial: Psalm 128~ Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Reading II: Col 3:12~ Live in love and at peace with one another in Jesus' name.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40~ The favor of God is upon Jesus, presented in the Temple.

Readings for Next Sunday

Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	Num 6:22-27	Gal 4:4-7	Luke 2:16-21
Tuesday:	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13		Matt 23:8-12
Wednesday:	1 John 2:2-29—3:6		John 1:29-34
Thursday:	1 John 3:7-10		John 1:35-42
Friday:	1 John 3:11-21		John 1:43-51
Saturday:	1 John 5:5-13		Mark 1:7-11

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am Our Dedicated STM Volunteers
11:30am Gratitude for Our Blessings to Come in 2018
Monday
Alexus Bridgers-Birthday
In loving memory of Juanita Mercer
Tuesday
Health of Andre Cooper
Wednesday
Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones
Thursday
Frances Davies-Birthday
Friday
In loving memory of Lum Garnett-10 years
Dcn Nerus & Doris Martin-STM Prayer Gp
Saturday
Intentions of STM Parishioners

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 SESCOE, 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 24, 2017 will appear in next Sunday's Bulletin. Thank you!

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

A REFLECTION ON FAMILY

Saint Paul writes today in Colossians chapter 3:

"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. ...And over all these put on love that is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts."

Pope Francis writes:

As when a mother takes her child upon her knee and caresses him or her: so the Lord will do and does with us. This is the cascade of tenderness which gives us much consolation. "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you. (Isaiah 66:13)

Every Christian, and especially you and I, is called to be a bearer of this message of hope that gives serenity and joy: God's consolation, his tenderness towards all. But if we first experience the joy of being consoled by him, of being loved by him, then we can bring that joy to others. This is important if our mission is to be fruitful: to feel God's consolation and pass it on to others.

*May the Lord bless our families
that we will grow stronger
in our faith and love for God
and each other.*

Let us join together in this prayer of family blessing:

*Almighty and eternal God,
your fatherly tenderness never
ceases to provide for our needs.
We ask you to bestow on our
families and homes the riches of
your blessing. With your grace
make us holy, so that faithful to
your commandments, we will
care for one another, ennoble the
world, and reach the home you
have prepared for us all in heaven.*

**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.*



Happy New Year!

2017 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



~MASS~

**Please note the
Special Mass Schedule
throughout the holidays!**



***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***

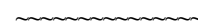
Monday, January 1, 2018

~ 10:00am

CCD/YOUTH GROUP

On break

December 24 & 31, 2017



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

