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**St. Thomas More  
Society**

# Press Release

## **St. Thomas More Society - Red Mass**

**Wilmington, DE, October 7, 2019:** The 2019 Red Mass, sponsored by the St. Thomas More Society, will be held at 6:00 PM on Monday, October 7, 2019 at St. Joseph's on the Brandywine Church, 10 Old Church Road, Greenville, Delaware. A complimentary dinner provided by Morris James, LLP will follow in the Church Hall.

The Most Reverend W. Francis Malooly, Bishop of Wilmington, who will preside over the Mass, said "the Red Mass reminds our lawyers and justices – and all of us – that we are to clearly live out our faith and its values in the public forum. Our public service is a direct imitation of Jesus, who was the Servant of all. I look forward to recommitting myself as we celebrate this year's Red Mass."

The Red Mass refers to a Mass celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church for judges, prosecutors, attorneys, law school professors, students and government officials. The Mass requests guidance from the Holy Spirit for all who seek justice and offers them the opportunity to reflect upon their God-given power and responsibility in the legal profession. The Red Mass is celebrated annually throughout the United States, including the District of Columbia.

The term "Red Mass" refers not only to the red vestments worn by Royal Judges, participating in the Pope's tribunal, but also to the traditional use of the color, red, as representation of the Holy Spirit. The history of the Red Mass dates to medieval France. Historians believe that the first Red Mass was celebrated around 1200; the first documented Red Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral of Paris in 1245. By 1310, the Red Mass had become a yearly tradition in England to commemorate the beginning of each new Court term. The tradition was adopted in the United States in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and the St. Thomas More Society of the Diocese of Wilmington has sponsored a Red Mass annually since 1988.

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