

PASTORAL CARE

Sacrament of Confession: Every Saturday from 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Sacrament of Baptism of Infants: *First Saturday of every month. Please call at the Church's office for a baptismal form. Instructions: Thursday preceding the date for baptism @ 5pm*

Visitation to the Sick and Aged: *Thursdays at 7.00 am. Contact the office if you have a sick or aged Person(s) to be visited.*

Sacrament of Marriage: Arrangements must be made **at least six months to a year** with the priests. The couple or one of them must be a registered member of the Church for **at least 6 months**.

Consultation of Priests: (STM) Monday, Tuesday and Fridays (In the Evenings) Time: 6.30 - 8.00 pm. **(SJF) Wednesdays at 5:00pm.** In case of an emergency, call on the Priest.

Church office hours: STM - Mon. to Fri: 8am -1pm & 2 pm - 4pm: Sun: 9 am -1.30pm: SJF – Monday & Wednesday 10am – 6pm; Sat 4pm-6pm; Sunday 12pm- 2pm

SUNDAY MASS

FIRST MASS - 6:30AM AT SJF

SECOND MASS: 7:00 AM- STM

THIRD MASS: 9:30AM AT SJF

NEXT SUNDAY: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Singing Schedule:

First Mass: Youth Choir

Second Mass: Main Choir

Third Mass: Ave Maria

Offertory and Bidding Prayers:

First Mass: All Parishioners

Second Mass: All Parishioners

Third Mass: All Parishioners

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 6:15am

Wednesday 6:15am (STM) & 7:00pm (SJF)

Thursday 6:15am

SLOGAN: Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher: Besohw!

Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher.: Justice and Truth!!

Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher: Pray for us!

**THANKS FOR WORSHIPPING WITH
US.**

HAVE A BLESSED WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. There is Bible sharing and discussion within the Wednesday evening Mass at SJF. Come and deepen your knowledge in the Holy Scripture.

2. All societies are to submit their 2019 program to the church office.

3. Are you celebrating an anniversary or birthday and wants to make a donation to your church? Make a donation towards the rectory project. All cheques should be written in the name of St. Thomas More Catholic Church.

4. Accra West Grand Knights and Ladies International of St. John is organizing a pilgrimage to Israel, Portugal and Italy. Date: 5th May to 18th May 2019 Contact the following numbers for further details. 0202967181 0244275558 Registration end on 11th February 2019

5. Parcel of land extending to 0.89 acres at Achimota is available for sale. The property is located close to Guinness Breweries Achimota retail centre and has high redevelopment potential for residential or commercial use. Contact 0209973060/0501695472

QUIZ

Last week: The mass is made up of two main parts, what is the name of the second part.

Ans: Liturgy of the Eucharist

This Week: What is most significant about the four weeks' preparation in Advent?

QUOTE

Anticipation lifts the heart. Desire is created to be fulfilled - perhaps not all at once, more likely in slow stages.

- *Luci Shaw*

SS. THOMAS MORE & JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH ACHIMOTA

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030-3939862(SJF)

Rev. Fr. George Obeng - Appah (*Priest-in-charge*) Tel: 020-8592020

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

2ND DECEMBER, 2018: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THEME FOR THE WEEK: COME LORD, DO NOT DELAY

TODAY'S READINGS

1st Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The son of David, the Messiah will soon visit his people and he will bring them wisdom, justice and integrity.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10, 14
TO YOU, O LORD, I LIFT UP MY SOUL**

2nd Reading: 1Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Paul prays and exhorts the Christians in Thessalonica to grow in fervour and holiness, following their instructions.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus speaks of the nearness of redemption, but we must be ready for that final day, not weighed down with the worries of life.

Reflection

A new liturgical year opens with a call to be steadfast in faith and holiness and not weighed down by the worries of life. The hindrance to 'waiting' is impatience and worries, which we go through every moment of our lives. However, the first reading calls us to patience and the awareness of the coming of the righteous one who will establish peace. So near is our redemption that we need to be ready for the coming of the upright branch of the house of David. Today, Jesus tells us to await his coming, but we must also come into his presence with patient endurance and fervor. May God help us keep our faith to the end.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

❖ **Mon 3RD DECEMBER, 2018**

Is. 2:1-5

Ps 122:1-9

Mt 8:5-11

❖ **Tues 4TH DECEMBER, 2018**

Is. 11:1-10

Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17

Lk 10:21-24

❖ **Wed 5TH DECEMBER, 2018**

Is 25:6-10

Ps 23:1-6

Mt 15:29-37

❖ **Thu 6TH DECEMBER, 2018**

Is 26:1-6

Ps 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27

Mt 7:21,24-27

❖ **Fri 7TH DECEMBER, 2018**

Is 29:17-24

Ps 27:1,4,13-14

Mt 9:27-31

❖ **Sat 8TH DECEMBER, 2018
(Immaculate Conception)**

Gen 3:9-15,20

Ps 98:1-4

Eph 1:3-6,11-12

Lk 1:26-38

9TH DECEMBER, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1st Reading: Bar 5:1-9

Resp. Ps: Ps 126:1-6

2nd Reading: Ph 1:4-6,8-11

Gospel: Lk 3:1-6

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

THE SACRAMENTS AND ITS ELEMENTS EXPLAINED

Origin (cause) Of the sacraments

It might now be asked: in how far was it necessary that the matter and form of the sacraments should have been determined by Christ?

Power of God

The Council of Trent defined that the seven sacraments of the New Law were instituted by Christ. This settles the question of fact for all Catholics. Reason tells us that all sacraments must come originally from God. Since they are the signs of sacred things in so far as by these sacred things men are sanctified; since the external rite (matter and form) of itself cannot give grace, it is evident that all sacraments properly so called must originate in Divine appointment. "Since the sanctification of man is in the power of God who sanctifies", writes St. Thomas, "it is not in the competency of man to choose the things by which he is to be sanctified, but this must be determined by Divine institution". Add to this that grace is, in some sense, a participation of the Divine nature and our doctrine becomes unassailable: God alone can decree that by exterior ceremonies men shall be partakers of His nature.

In fact, our dispositions do not **cause** the grace; they simply remove the obstacles to the freer flow of grace and, in a sense, make more room for grace. We might illustrate this by saying that the more sand we empty out of the pail, the more water the pail will hold.

We can, of course, by a positive act of the will prevent the grace of the sacrament from entering our soul: for example, by positively not wanting to receive it or by not being truly repentant for mortal sin. But, unless we interpose an outright barrier, when we receive a sacrament we receive grace; the sacrament itself gives grace.

The dispositions of the one who administers the sacrament do **not** influence the effect of a sacrament. It would be very wrong for a priest to administer a sacrament if he had mortal sin on his soul, but it wouldn't diminish the grace the sacrament gave one bit. The person receiving the sacrament would receive the same amount of grace, regardless of whether the priest was a saint or a sinner.

If you assume a receiver who does not put any obstacles to grace and a giver who is qualified to administer the sacrament, then always and infallibly a sacrament will confer grace.

FINANCE CORNER

Thank You All for Your Generosity. May God Bless You

WEEK DAY	1 ST WK	2 ND WK	3 RD WK	TOTAL	
SUNDAY	1,979.20	95.00	142.00	2207.20	5th
MONDAY	2,349.00	3,160.00	405.00	5914.00	3rd
TUESDAY	1,181.50	5,574.00	811.00	7566.50	1st
WEDNESDAY	1,864.80	820.00	115.00	2798.80	4th
THURSDAY	1,675.60	125.00	211.00	2011.60	6th
FRIDAY	3,629.30	197.00	2,302.00	6128.30	2nd
SATURDAY	1,355.50	107.00	120.00	1582.50	7th
NOVEMBER BORN	233.20		233.20	
TOTAL	14,268.10	10,078.00	4106.00	28442.10	

DETAILS OF LAST TWO WEEKS SUNDAY COLLECTION (Nov. 18, 2018)

WEEK 3	1 ST MASS (SJF)	2 ND MASS (STM)	3 RD MASS (SJF)
MAIN COLLECTION	744.70	1642.40	1332.00
SECOND COLLECTION	531.30	870.85	744.50
TITHE		350.00	40.00
TOTAL	1276.00	2862.25	2116.50