

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.*

Visitation of 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: Monday, Tuesday Wednesdays (In the Evenings) Time: 6.30 - 8.00 pm. In case of any emergency call on the Priest.

Church office hours: Mon. to Thur.:10am -2pm & 5 pm - 8pm: Sat. 6 pm to 8p: Sun: 9 am -1.30: Friday: Off Duty

SUNDAY MASS: FIRST MASS - 7:00AM AT STM, SECOND MASS - 9:30AM AT SJF

NEXT SUNDAY: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Singing: First Mass: Ave Maria

Second Mass: Youth Choir

Offertory: *First Mass: Ave Maria & X'tian mothers*

Second Mass: Youth Groups

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday	6:15am
Wednesday	6:15am
Thursday	6:15am

UPCOMING EVENT

- Talentfest
- Life in the Spirit Seminar

SLOGAN: St. Thomas More: Besohwe! St. Thomas More: Justice and Truth!!

St Thomas More: Pray for us!!!

SLOGAN: St John Fisher: Besohwe!

St John Fisher: Justice and Truth!!

St John Fisher: Pray For Us!!!

THANKS FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US. HAVE A BLESSED WEEK.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Parishioners who use the Churches' address should periodically check for their letters in the letter box.
2. There is Bible sharing this and every Wednesday at STM at 7:00pm
3. A parishioner needs a single room self contained in and around Achimota. Anybody who can be of help should please contact her on 0240723160
4. A fresh graduate of GIMPA with a BSc in Accounting is looking for a job as an accountant in any organisation. Anybody who can help should please contact 0207549129
5. The following are available in the church Office: Printing, Photocopy and Phone Cards.
6. Life in the spirit seminar begins this Sunday. The time is 3:30pm.
7. The Handmaids of the Divine Redeemer, Accra are organising a vocation rally in honour of the 120th anniversary celebration of Accra on the 3rd of August, 2013 at 11:00am at the Christ the King Parish Hall. The youth are being encouraged to attend in their numbers

QUIZ

Answer to last week's: Three sacraments. These are baptism, confirmation and Holy Orders

This week's: Why can't these sacraments be received more than once?

QUOTE

Changing one thing for the better is worth more than proving a thousand things wrong.

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH, ACHIMOTA & ST. JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH, NEW ACHIMOTA

P.O. BOX AH 283, ACHIMOTA-ACCRA

Website: www.thomasmoreachimota.com E-mail: besohwe@yahoo.com Office Tel: 0201-775453

Rev. Fr. George Obeng-Appah (Priest-in-charge) Tel: 0208-592020

Rev. Fr. Blaise Bobi-Attachie

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



7TH JULY, 2013: FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME- C

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **The Source of Christian Joy**



TODAY'S READINGS

1st Reading: Is 66:10-14c

Written after the return from Babylonian exile, the poem likens Jerusalem to a mother nursing her child at the breast.

Responsorial Psalm: 66:1-7, 16, 20

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth

2nd Reading: Gal 6: 14-18

Christian life is a new form of existence, conformed to Christ. Paul bears the marks of Christ's passion on his body.

Gospel: Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

"Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" When Jesus sent out his seventy-two disciples in pairs to spread the gospel, they shared in his powerful ministry.

Reflection

Jesus sends his 72 disciples out to preach the Gospel, and they come back rejoicing at the success of their mission. Those who trust in God and obey his call in their lives, as did the seventy-two, will experience God's power acting in and through their lives, which is exactly what Christ wants. A Christian's happiness doesn't arise from how great we are or how great our achievements have been. It comes from knowing that we matter to God, that God is our Father, Savior and Friend. It comes, as Jesus tells us, from having our "names written in heaven."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

❖ **Mon 8th July, 2013**

Gen 28:10-22; Ps 91:1-4, 14-15,; Mt. 9:18-26

❖ **Tues 9th July, 2013**

Gen 32:23-33; Ps 17:1-3, 6-8, 15; Mt 9:32-38

❖ **Wed 10th July, 2013**

Gen 41:55-57, 42:5-7, 17-24; Ps 33:2-3, 10-11, 18-19; Mt 10:1-7

❖ **Thur 11th July, 2013 (St. Benedict)**

Gen 44:18-21, 23-29, 45:1-5; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 10:7-15

❖ **Fri 12th July, 2013**

Gen 46:1-7, 28-30; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mt 10:16-23

❖ **Sat 13th July, 2013**

Gen 49: 29-32, 50:15-26; Ps 105:1-4, 6-7; Mt 10:24-33

14TH JULY, 2013

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Deut 30:10-14

Resp. Ps : 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36-37

2nd Reading: Col 1:15-20

Gospel : Lk 10:25-37

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

WHY DOES THE CHURCH ORDAIN PRIESTS?

In Leviticus, chapter 9, we read that God commands Moses, as part of the old covenant, to ordain a specialized, professional priesthood to offer sacrifices for the people. Later, as part of “the new covenant in [his] blood” (Lk 22:20), Jesus establishes a new ordained priesthood for the church and gives its members the authority and power to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass (see Lk 22:14-20).

All Christians share in a common “holy priesthood” offering “spiritual sacrifices” (1 Pt 2:5) such prayer, almsgiving (see Heb 13:15-16), and faith in Jesus (see Phil 2:7). But the special mission that Christ gave his apostle, their successor, and the Eucharist and administering the sacrament of reconciliation – was not to be shared by all of his followers. “For ... all the parts [of Christ’s body] do not have the same function” (Rom 12:4).

The New Testament refers to three types of permanent ordained offices in the Church: bishop (in Greek, *episkopos*), elder (*presbyteros*, from which we derive the English words “presbyter” and “priest”), and deacon (*diakonos*). The term *presbyteros*, usually translated “elder,” appears often in scripture (for example, Acts 15:2-6; 21:18; 1 Pt 5:1; 1 Tim 5:17). Nearly all Christians accepted this ordained ministry for the first sixteen centuries of the church’s history, though certain heretical groups, such as the Cathari (who taught Gnostic ideas), rejected it.

Non-Catholic Christians sometimes cite 1 Peter 2:5, 9 and Rev 1:6 to support their claim that if the Church is “a kingdom of priests,” it cannot have a special ministerial priesthood as well. Nevertheless, in these texts, 1 Peter is quoting - and Rev is echoing – the words of God to the ancient Hebrews recorded in Exodus 19:6. If the Lord could refer to that entire nation as priests, even though they had an ordained priesthood, then surely the same is true of the Church.

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

WHY IS CAHOLIC WORSHIP FULL OF RITUALS

Leviticus and other biblical books show that God himself prescribed numerous religious rituals for the ancient Israelites. Sacrifices and offerings, ordination ceremonies and priestly behavior, holidays and festivals- all had their designated rituals (see Lev 1:1-10:20; 16:1-34; 23:1-44). In addition devout customs grew up among the people, such as those for mourning the dead (see 1 Sam 31:11-13) and anointing kings (see 1 Sm 10:1).

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and the apostles were all faithful Jews, practicing the religious rituals of their people. Mary and Joseph “fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord” (Lk 2:39) with regard to the circumcision, purification, and presentation after Jesus’ birth (see Lk 2:21-39). The family took part in the temple rituals of the great holy days (see Lk 2:41-43), just as Jesus later did with his apostles (see Lk 22:1-13; Jn 2:13; 7:2-10; 10:22-23).

Our Lord also followed the weekly synagogue rituals (see Lk 4:16-20). At meals- including the last supper- he prayed the ritual blessings customary among the Jews (see Mk 14:22; Lk 22:19; 24:30). In fact, the words of the Catholic Church’s Eucharistic rite today still echo the ancient Jewish table blessing Jesus himself prayed.

The first Christians no longer practiced Jewish rituals that have been rendered unnecessary for Christ’s coming, such as temple sacrifices (see Heb 9:1-28). But they by no means abandoned all ritual, as New Testament passages indicate: “the breaking of the bread [the Eucharist] and ... the prayers” (Acts 2:42); the customary three o’clock prayers at the temple (see Acts 3:1; the laying on of and anointing with oil (see Acts 6:6; Jas 5:14); the apparent quotations from the liturgy (see also Col 1:15-20; Phil 2:6-11; Tim 3:16). When Acts says that the Church leaders at Antioch were “worshiping” (13:2), the Greek verb used is *leiturgeo* (the root of our English word “liturgy”), which refers to ritual worship.

Youth corner

So, Sex is Good, but Premarital Sex is Not?

Right. There is a lot of talk going on around you about sex. Sex is in just about every magazine, newspaper, television show, and movie. It is the point of a lot of music. Our world has gotten lax about sex, making it seem like premarital sex is okay because it feels good, but the Bible does not agree. God calls us all to control our passions and wait for marriage.

1 Corinthians 7:2-3 – “But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.” (NIV)

Hebrews 13:4 – “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.” (NIV)

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 – “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable” (NIV)

Youth corner

What if I’ve Already Had Sex?

Everyone falls to sin in some area or another. If your area happens to be sex, there is still hope. While you cannot become a virgin again, you can obtain God’s forgiveness. You just have to ask for it and try not to sin that way again. What truly angers God is willful sin, when you know you are sinning and keep on participating in that sin. While giving up sex may be difficult, God calls us to remain sexually pure until marriage.

Acts 13:38-39 – “Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.” (NIV)
Romans 1:24 – “Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.” (NIV) But It’s So Tempting!

As a Christian you fight off temptation every day. Being tempted is not the sin, but giving into the temptation is. So how do you fight off the temptation? The desire to have sex can be very strong, especially if you have already had sex. It is only by relying on God for strength that you can truly fight off the temptation to have sex. *1 Corinthians 10:13 – “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” (NIV)*

FINANCE CORNER

Thank you all for your generosity. May God bless you.

DETAILS OF LAST SUNDAY’S COLLECTION
