**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

* **Mon 19th January , 2015**

Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1-4;

 Mt 2:18-22

* **Tues 20th January**,2015

Heb 6:10-20; Ps 101:1-2,4-5,9-10;

Mk 2:23-28

* **Wed 21ST January, 2015**

Heb 7:1-3,15-17; Ps 110:1-4;

Mk 3:1-6

* **Thu 22ND January, 2015**

Heb 7:25-8:6; Ps 40:7-10,18;

Mk 3:7-12,

* **Fri 23RD January, 2015**

Heb 8:6-13; Ps 85:8,10-15;

Mk 3:13-19

* **Sat 24th January, 2015**

Heb 9:2-3,11-14; Ps 47:2-3,6-9;

Mk 3:20-21

**25TH JANUARY, 2015**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR B**

**1st Reading: Jon 3:1-5**

**Resp. Ps : Ps 25:4-9**

**2nd Reading: 1Cor 7:29-31**

**Gospel : Mk 1:14-20**

**TODAY’S READINGS**

**1st Reading:** 1 Sam 3:3-10.

The vocation of the boy Samuel to be a prophet is one of the great Old Testament stories. His response, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening' is an inspiration for all to follow.

**Responsorial: Ps 40:2,4,7-10**

**SEE, I HAVE COME, LORD, TO DO YOUR WILL.**

**2nd Reading:** 1 Cor 6:13-20.

Since our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, we will not abuse them in sinful ways, but do all for the glory of God.

**Gospel** Jn 1:35-42.

In John's account of the call of the first disciples, we have the Lord's quiet invitation to them, "Come and see." Like Andrew and Peter, that is how we too can encounter Jesus.

***Reflection***

God knows each individual by name, intimately, always. None of us is ever ignored by Him; like the birds of the air, and all created things, we are forever in God’s mind, under his care. Even the person of no particular significance in his neighbour’s eyes, the born loser who lives in the shadows of depression most of the time- even he or she is precious in the eyes of God, perhaps, more precious than anyone can suspect. God is constantly calling each of us personally by name. He wants us to seek him in love and to564 long for His Word.

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**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

***January 18, 2014:* SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDIARY TIME.YEAR-B**

**THEME FOR THE WEEK**: CALLED BY NAME

Acts 2:14, 36-41. Jesus, who has been rejected, now offers salvation to those who are willing to repent and believe in him. Faith in him as Lord brings with it forgiveness and the gift of the Spirit.

1 Pt 2:20-25. The Christian is called to share in the sufferings of Christ. The pattern of Christians living is to prefer Christ to oneself.

Jn 10:1-10. Jesus is a shepherd leading his followers to salvation. He personally invites them to a life of companionship with him.

Reflection

Jesus wants us to know he is: the Good Shepherd who protects and cares for the people of God just as a shepherd does his sheep. Shepherds always want their sheep to be healthy and happy. They want them to have the best grass, fresh water, and safety, so that they can grow and multiply as much as possible. A sheep has no greater friend than a good shepherd, and we have no greater friend than Christ. He invented life, he gave us life, and he came so that, in him, we might learn to live it “more abundantly”. As Christians, we actually don’t have just a good shepherd, but the perfect shepherd. All we need is to be sensible sheep and listen to the voice of the One we know- the Perfect Shepherd.

Quiz

Ans to last week's : Brazil, it has more than 120 million Catholics.

What city is home to the largest collection of holy relics outside the Vatican?

Ans: Pittsburgh. St. Anthony’s chapel in Pittsburgh is home to a collection of 4000 to 5000 relics, including a tooth of the chapel’s patron, St. Anthony of Padua.

Quote

Everyone is a genius, but if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.

Albert Eistein

**Vatican releases guidelines on promoting vocations**

In an effort to respond to a “clear and pressing” need for priests, the Vatican has released a set of guidelines to help bishops and Church communities promote, recruit and educate a new generation of men for the priesthood.

The Church needs “suitable” candidates and must avoid men who “show signs of being profoundly fragile personalities”, while helping others heal from any possible “individual deviations” from their vocations, the document said.

“The witness of Christian communities giving account of the faith that is in them becomes even more necessary,” because it’s a community of believers committed to passing on God’s love that “prepares the Lord’s call that invites people to consecration and mission,” it said.

Based on responses to a questionnaire sent to bishops’ conferences and directors of national vocations offices around the world in 2008, the Congregation for Catholic Education sought to address a widespread demand for pastoral guidelines for fostering vocations “based on clear and well-founded theology of vocation and of the identity of the ministerial priesthood”.

Entitled “Pastoral Guidelines for Fostering Vocations to Priestly Ministry”, the 29-page document was released today. It also marked the 70th anniversary of the inauguration of the congregation’s Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations.

The challenge of attracting men to the priesthood is made more difficult by declining birthrates in the developed world and a materialist, secular culture in which people are less likely to make “courageous and demanding Gospel choices” in their lives, the document said.

“In the West, there is a prevailing culture of indifference to the Christian faith, a culture unable to understand the value of vocations to a special consecration,” it said.

Key to turning things around isn’t just setting up new programmes and initiatives, but building a vibrant, active and dedicated community of Catholics, united in prayer and with Christ, it said.

Some reasons men say “no” to or ignore a call to the priesthood, it said, include:

- having parents who are reluctant about their son’s choice because they have different hopes for their child’s future;

- living in a society that marginalises priests and considers them irrelevant;

- misunderstanding the gift of celibacy;

- being disillusioned by the scandal of priests who abused minors;

- and seeing priests who are too overwhelmed by their pastoral duties to the detriment of their spiritual life.

Vocations are fostered when boys and young men have an uplifting and transformative Christian experience, it said. That experience can be found in family life, at school, in the parish, as an altar boy, in Catholic groups and associations or in volunteer work, all of which allow them to “know first-hand the reality of God himself, in communion with their brothers and in Gospel mission”, it said.

During a Vatican news conference presenting the guidelines, Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, prefect of the education congregation, said that, paradoxically, “experience teaches us that the strongest candidates grow in hostile environments”.

In places where there is open hostility to the Church, he said, vocations are “very healthy, very strong and [priests are] very aware that we have a mission”.

Mgr Vincenzo Zani, undersecretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education, said the aftermath of the sex abuse crisis in the US has had some positive results, specifically in Boston, where the seminary is now filled thanks to an aggressive effort, led by the archbishop, to search for serious vocations.

While dioceses and seminaries bear most of the responsibility of determining the suitability of a candidate, vocations offices, too, must be consistent in attracting and forming people who display a healthy “integration and maturing of the affections”, the document said.

Men who “show signs of being profoundly fragile personalities” should not be encouraged to consider a vocation, it said.

The educational setting must support a candidate’s authentic reasons to be a priest and contribute “to healing any possible individual deviations from his vocation”.

Cardinal Grocholewski said determining “a fragile personality” at the early stages of a candidate’s journey is a question of discretion by trained professionals from the diocesan vocations office.

“There are some people whose fragility is easily seen, while others hide themselves, sometimes just because they want to seem like good people,” he said. “It’s a question of fundamental human maturity. We are looking for a person who is responsible, someone who can be trusted, a person who can control himself” and his impulses, he added.

“A more serious, mature judgment should come in the seminary, where in speaking and observing a candidate, his maturity can be better determined,” the cardinal said.

A priest represents Christ the shepherd, the document said, and as such, he must draw his strength from and base his vocation on loving and serving Christ and his church.

All Catholics, including parents, coaches, catechists and group leaders, should help their young charges to see the priestly vocation as a gift.

Boys and young men should be taught the value of prayer and meditation on God’s word, the document said, so that they learn to hear what God is calling them to do with their lives.

The congregation’s guidelines also called for diocesan vocation offices to organise a so-called “invisible monastery” where large numbers of people are dedicated to providing non-stop prayer for priestly vocations.

The Parable of the Pencil

The Pencil Maker took the pencil aside, just before putting him into the box.

“There are 5 things you need to know,” he told the pencil, “Before I send you out into the world. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best pencil you can be.”

One: “You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in someone’s hand.”

Two: “You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you’ll need it to become a better pencil.”

Three: “You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.”

Four: “The most important part of you will always be what's inside.”

And Five: “On every surface you are used on, you must leave your mark. No matter what the condition, you must continue to write.”

The pencil understood and promised to remember, and went into the box with purpose in its heart.

Now replacing the place of the pencil with you. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best person you can be.

One: “You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in God’s hand. And allow other human beings to access you for the many gifts you possess.”

Two: “You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, by going through various problems in life, but you’ll need it to become a stronger person.”

Three: “You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.”

Four: “The most important part of you will always be what’s on the inside.”

And Five: “On every surface you walk through, you must leave your mark. No matter what the situation, you must continue to do your duties.”

Allow this parable on the pencil to encourage you to know that you are a special person and only you can fulfill the purpose to which you were born to accomplish.

Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and cannot make a change.

Motivation

**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 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: (STM)** Monday, Tuesday Wednesdays (In the Evenings) Time: 6.30 - 8.00 pm**. (SJF) Wednesdays at 5:30pm.** In case of any emergency call on the Priest.

**Church office hours: STM - Mon. to Thur.: 10am -2pm & 5 pm - 8pm: Sat. 4 pm to 8pm: Sun: 9 am -1.30pm: SJF – Monday &Wednesday 10am – 6pm; Sat 4pm-6pm; Sunday 12pm- 2pm**

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

NEXT SUNDAY: THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDIARY TIME

Singing: First Mass: Youth Choir

Second Mass: Main Choir

***Offertory and Bidding Prayers:***

 First Mass: Christian Mothers

Second Mass: Marshall

**WEEKDAY MASS**

**Tuesday 6:15am**

**Wednesday 6:15am**

**Thursday 6:15am**

UPCOMING EVENT

1. 18th - 25th January, 2015: Prayer for Christian unity.
2. 25th January, Feast of the Convention of St. Paul the Apostle**????????????????**

**SLOGAN: St. Thomas More: Besohwξ! St. Thomas More: Justice and Truth!! St Thomas More: Pray for us!!**

**SLOGAN: St John Fisher: Besohwξ! St John Fisher: Justice and Truth!! St John Fisher: Pray For Us!!!**

**THANKS FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US. HAVE A BLESSED WEEK.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. There is Bible sharing this and every Wednesday at 7:00pm at STM.
2. All parishioners having their dues or baptismal cards at the office should please endeavour to visit the office during working hours and collect them.
3. There will be priestly consultations on Wednesdays at SJF at 5:30pm followed by Mass at 7:00pm
4. New Achimota/Akweteman/kopevi community will meet after the second mass at SJF. New members are welcome.
5. All the Francophone’s will be meeting brother Stephane after mass.
6. A parishioner is looking for a single room self contain apartment. Please call this number if you can be of help. 0546861959
7. The new Church cloth is on sale at the following prices. Full piece(12 yards) - GHC 140, Half piece(6 yards) - GHC 70, 4 yards – GHC 48, 2 yards – GHC 24
8. “Your Guide to Marriage” by Mr. John Boakye are still available in the office for sale at GH¢25

ADVERTISEMENT

1. In need of professional photography services for your Corporate Events, Weddings, Engagement, Baby Christening, Birthday Parties or Graduation Ceremonies? Call 0242172169, 0504569340.
2. **Couleurs de Paris Language Course** holds English and French Language courses for the youth and adults **contact: Eliza Ayele Bruce on** Tel: **02442860 28/0507326845** Email:ayele.couleurs@gmail.com

QUIZ

**Answer to Last weeks’:** In river Jordan and by John the baptizer.

**This week’s:** How many types of baptism does the Church have?

QUOTE

“It is better to be hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not.”

― [André Gide](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7617.Andr_Gide)

PRAYER INTENTION

PRAYER FOR GOD’S INTERVENTION IN OUR LAND CASE

True light of the World, Lord Jesus, we thank you for our faith and for the gift of our church community. We thank you for how far you have brought us as a parish. You have been our refuge in times past and our hope for years to come.

We humbly beseech you to help us win back our Land in this dispute. Save us from violence, discord, confusion and indecision; from pride and arrogance and from every snare of the evil one.

For the Court of Justice we pray that you will give them the spirit of Wisdom and Understanding that they may discern the truth and impartially administer the law in the fear of you alone.

May your Mother Mary intercede for us and may the Archangel Michael defend us in battle. We make our payer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Thomas More………. Pray for us

St. John Fisher………….. Pray for us

All you Angels and Saints …… Pray for us

**FINANCE CORNER**

 **Thank You All For Your Generosity. May God Bless You.**

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 ***DETAILS OF LAST SUNDAY’S COLLECTION***

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**MOTIVATIONS**

[**SPOKEN WORDS CAN'T BE RETRIEVED**](http://great-motivational-stories.blogspot.com/2008/05/spoken-words-cant-be-retrieved.html)

A farmer insulted his neighbor. Realizing his mistake, he went to the preacher to ask for forgiveness. The preacher told him to take a bag of feathers and drop them in the center of town.

The farmer did as he was told. Then the preacher asked him to go and collect the feathers and put them back in the bag. The farmer tried but couldn't as the feathers had all blown away.

 When he returned with the empty bag, the preacher said, "The same thing is true about your words. You dropped them rather easily but you cannot retrieve them, so be very careful in choosing your words.

**The following facilities at SJF are rented at the following rates:**

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| FACILITY | PARISHIONERS | OUTSIDERS |
| CHILDREN’S SERVICE HALL(3 HRS MAX) | 100.00 | 200.00 |
| CHURCH GROUNDS(6 HOURS MAX) | 200.00 | 500.00 |
| CAR PARKING(6 HOURS MAX) | 100.00 | 200.00 |

**KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH**

**The Minister of the Sacrament of Baptism**

Since the form of baptism requires just the water and the words, the sacrament, like the Sacrament of Marriage, does not require a priest; any baptized person can baptize another.

In fact, when the life of a person is in danger, even a non-baptized person—including someone who does not himself believe in Christ—can baptize, provided that the person [performing the baptism](http://catholicism.about.com/od/baltimorecatechism/f/Question_156_BC.htm) follows the form of baptism and intends, by the baptism, to do what the Church does—in other words, to bring the person being baptized into the fullness of the Church.

In certain cases where a baptism has been performed by an extraordinary minister—that is, someone other than a priest, the ordinary minister of the sacrament—a priest may later perform a conditional baptism.

A conditional baptism, however, would only be performed if there were grave doubt about the validity of the original application of the sacrament—for instance, if a non Trinitarian formula were used, or if the baptism had been performed by a non-baptized person who later admitted that he did not have the proper intention.

A conditional baptism is not a "rebaptism"; the sacrament can only be received once.

And a conditional baptism cannot be performed for any reason other than grave doubt about the validity of the original application—for instance, if a valid baptism has been performed, a priest cannot perform a conditional baptism so that family and friends can be present.

 **Infant Baptism**

In the Catholic Church today, baptism is most commonly administered to infants.

**KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH**

While some other Christians strenuously object to infant baptism, believing that baptism requires assent on the part of the person being baptized, the [Eastern Orthodox](http://christianity.about.com/od/easternorthodoxy/p/orthodoxprofile.htm), Anglicans, Lutherans, and other mainline Protestants also practice infant baptism, and there is evidence that it was practiced from the earliest days of the Church.

Since baptism removes both the guilt and the punishment due to [Original Sin](http://catholicism.about.com/od/baltimorecatechism/f/Question_47_BC.htm), delaying baptism until a child can understand the sacrament may put the child's salvation in danger, should he die unbaptized.

 **Adult Baptism**

Adult converts to Catholicism also receive the sacrament, unless they have already received a [Christian baptism](http://catholicism.about.com/od/confirmationcatechism/tp/Lesson_Fourteenth.htm). (If there is any doubt about whether an adult has already been baptized, the priest will perform a conditional baptism.)

A person can only be baptized once as a Christian—if, say, he was baptized as a Lutheran, he cannot be rebaptized when he converts to Catholicism.

While an adult can be baptized after proper instruction in the Faith, adult baptism normally occurs today as part of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and is immediately followed by Confirmation and Communion.

**The Effects of the Sacrament of Baptism**

Baptism has six primary effects, which are all supernatural graces:

1. The removal of the guilt of both Original Sin (the sin imparted to all mankind by the Fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden) and personal sin (the sins that we have committed ourselves).
2. The remission of all punishment that we owe because of sin, both temporal (in this world and in [Purgatory](http://catholicism.about.com/od/baltimorecatechism/f/Question_414_BC.htm)) and eternal (the punishment that we would suffer in hell).

**To be continued………………….**