

## 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 any emergency call on the Priest.

**Church office hours:** STM - Mon. to Thur.: 8am -1pm & 2 pm - 4pm: 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: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Singing: First Mass: Ave Maria

Second Mass: Youth Choir

## Offertory and Bidding Prayers:

First Mass: Achimota Town

Second Mass: Christian Village

## WEEKDAY MASS

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

## UPCOMING EVENT

18<sup>th</sup> March : Road to the Cross

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. All those who were baptised from the 7th March, 2015 to 5th September, 2015 should kindly pick their cards from the church office.

2. The Harvest Committee reminds all parishioners who made pledges during the 2015 Harvest to kindly redeem them.

3. Bible's are available at the office for Ghc 26.

4. All those who were confirmed last year Nov 29<sup>th</sup> should see the secretary with an amount of Ghc 10 for stole fee and collect their baptismal cards.

5. The NYC in collaboration with QIC is organizing a one day fully sponsored prayer retreat for all Catholic Health workers at Saltpond on Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Call QIC on 0501409463 for registration.

6. The book for meditation this week is the book of Amos

## ADVERT

### L'Ange piano school

For tutorials on how to play the piano or how to read and interpret music, pick a form from any of the church offices at STM AND SJF. For enquiries call L'Ange music school on 0271555200 or 0555527927

## QUIZ

**Last Week :** How did the ship's crew find out that Jonah was the cause of the storm?

**Ans:** They drew lots

**This Week:** After his misadventure at sea, God sent Jonah to the great Assyrian capital of Nineveh. What was the message Jonah gave to the Ninevites?

## QUOTE

Pain is inevitable. Suffering is optional.  
- M. Kathleen Casey

## HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

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

P.O. BOX AH 283, ACHIMOTA-ACCRA

Website: [www.thomasmoreachimota.com](http://www.thomasmoreachimota.com) E-mail: [besohwe@yahoo.com](mailto:besohwe@yahoo.com) Office Tel: 030-3931800 (STM)  
Rev. Fr. George Obeng-Appah (Priest-in-charge) Tel: 020-8592020 0303939862(SJF)

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



MARCH 6TH 2016: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THEME FOR THE WEEK: "REMEMBER"



## TODAY'S READINGS

**1st Reading:** Jos 5:9-12 2.

The Israelites, free at last from slavery and humiliation in Egypt, enter the land of promise. Possession of the land becomes a reality when they eat the fruits of the new land.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 34:2-3,4-5,6-7

**Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

**2nd Reading:** Cor 5:17-21.

Christ's whole aim and mission was to bring about a reconciliation between God and humanity. It is a task of the Church to bring the benefits of grace to all people.

**GOSPEL:** Lk 15:1-3, 11-32.

In the immortal parable of the Prodigal Son, we learn the Father's infinitely patient love.

## Reflection

The Prodigal Son was protected in the beautiful home of his father but he thought he could be happy elsewhere. He had it all wrong. This boy had really hit bottom, and, in human terms, there was no hope or future for him. There was one thing that saved him. He remembered. He remembered what it used to be like. This set in motion a whole line of thought that brought him to his senses. In other words, he opened his eyes and saw, he opened his ears and heard, he reached out his hand and touched his surroundings, and he smelt the stench of the situation in which he was. In other words, he came to his senses. He headed for home, for the only place where he had ever experienced love.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

❖ **Mon 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2016**  
2 Kgs 5:1-15/Ps 42:2-3,42:3-4/  
Lk 4:24-30

❖ **Tues 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2016**  
Dan 3:25,34-43/  
Ps 25:4-9/  
Mt 18:21-35

❖ **Wed 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2016**  
Deut 4:1,5-9/  
Ps 148:13-14,16-17,20-21/  
Mt 5:17-19

❖ **Thu 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2016**  
Jer 7:23-28/ Ps 95:1-2,6-9/  
Lk 11:14-23

❖ **Fri 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2016**  
Hos 14:2-10/  
Ps 81:6,8-12,15,18/  
Mk 12:28-34

❖ **Sat 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2016**  
Hos 6:1-6/ Ps 51:3-4,18-21/  
Lk 18:9-14

13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2016  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Josh 5:9,10-12

**Resp. Ps :** Ps 34:2-7

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 2 Cor 5:17-21

**Gospel :** Lk 15:1-3,11-32

**KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH**

**BULL OF INDICTION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY**  
By Pope Francis

21. Mercy is not opposed to justice but rather expresses God’s way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert, and believe. The experience of the prophet Hosea can help us see the way in which mercy surpasses justice. The era in which the prophet lived was one of the most dramatic in the history of the Jewish people. The kingdom was tottering on the edge of destruction; the people had not remained faithful to the covenant; they had wandered from God and lost the faith of their forefathers.

According to human logic, it seems reasonable for God to think of rejecting an unfaithful people; they had not observed their pact with God and therefore deserved just punishment: in other words, exile. The prophet’s words attest to this: “They shall not return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me” (Hos 11:5). And yet, after this invocation of justice, the prophet radically changes his speech and reveals the true face of God: “How can I give you up, O Ephraim! How can I hand you over, O Israel! How can I make you like Admah! How can I treat you like Zebaiim! My heart recoils within me, my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger, I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come to destroy” (11:8-9).

Saint Augustine, almost as if he were commenting on these words of the prophet, says: “It is easier for God to hold back anger than mercy.”[13] And so it is. God’s anger lasts but a moment, his mercy forever. If God limited himself to only justice, he would cease to be God, and would instead be like human beings who ask merely that the law be respected. But mere justice is not enough. Experience shows that an appeal to justice alone will result in its destruction.

**KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH**

This is why God goes beyond justice with his mercy and forgiveness. Yet this does not mean that justice should be devalued or rendered superfluous. On the contrary: anyone who makes a mistake must pay the price. However, this is just the beginning of conversion, not its end, because one begins to feel the tenderness and mercy of God. God does not deny justice. He rather envelopes it and surpasses it with an even greater event in which we experience love as the foundation of true justice. We must pay close attention to what Saint Paul says if we want to avoid making the same mistake for which he reproaches the Jews of his time: For, “being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness.

For Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified” (Rom 10:3-4). God’s justice is his mercy given to everyone as a grace that flows from the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thus the Cross of Christ is God’s judgement on all of us and on the whole world, because through it he offers us the certitude of love and new life.

22. A Jubilee also entails the granting of indulgences. This practice will acquire an even more important meaning in the Holy Year of Mercy. God’s forgiveness knows no bounds. In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God makes even more evident his love and its power to destroy all human sin. Reconciliation with God is made possible through the paschal mystery and the mediation of the Church.

Thus God is always ready to forgive, and he never tires of forgiving in ways that are continually new and surprising. Nevertheless, all of us know well the experience of sin. We know that we are called to perfection (cf. Mt 5:48), yet we feel the heavy burden of sin. Though we feel the transforming power of grace, we also feel the effects of sin typical of our fallen state.

Despite being forgiven, the conflicting consequences of our sins remain. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God forgives our sins, which he truly blots out; and yet sin leaves a negative effect on the way we think and act.

To be continued.....

**PRAYER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: “If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

Amen.

**FINANCE CORNER**

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

WEEK DAY	1 <sup>st</sup> WK	2 <sup>ND</sup> WK	3 <sup>rd</sup> WK	4 <sup>th</sup> WK	TOTAL	POSITION
SUNDAY	1,904.50	5.00	310.00	215.00	2,434.50	5 <sup>th</sup>
MONDAY	1,814.65	2,340.00	290.00	132.00	4,576.65	2 <sup>ND</sup>
TUESDAY	1,112.10	60.00	10.00	435.00	1,617.10	7 <sup>th</sup>
WEDNESDAY	1,998.10	545.00	40.00	-----	2,583.10	4 <sup>th</sup>
THURSDAY	1,521.50	20.00	16.00	69.00	1,626.50	6 <sup>th</sup>
FRIDAY	3,270.30	692.00	30.00	5.00	3,997.30	3 <sup>RD</sup>
SATURDAY	999.40	550.00	-----	3050.00	4,599.40	1 <sup>st</sup>
FEBRUARY BORN	84.00	-----	-----	-----	84.00	
Total	12,669.55	4,212.00	826.10	3,906.00	21,518.55	

**DETAILS OF LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION**

WEEK 4	FIRST MASS	SECOND MASS
SUNDAY COLLECTION	1,821.20	1,550.20
TITHE	35.00	433.00
2ND COLLECTION	934.80	787.20
TOTAL	2,791.00	2,770.40