

## 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: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Singing Schedule:

First Mass: Main Choir

Second Mass: Ave Maria

Third Mass: Chari SM

### 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: Besohwǫ!

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 within mass this and every Wednesday evening at SJF at 7.00pm. Come and deepen your knowledge in the Holy Scriptures.

2. Parishioners who want to redeem their harvest pledges can do after mass at the harvest desk outside or through Mobile Money Number 0558362191 with the name St. Thomas More. Receipts for such payments will be issued later for collection.

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. The Archbishop of Cape Coast and Administrator of the Archdiocese of Accra will be dedicating our new rectory on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018. In view of the dedication, there will be one mass at 8.30am.

Attire: Parish cloth.

5. All Societies are to submit their 2019 programme to the church office.

## QUIZ

**Last week:** What is most significant about the four weeks' preparation in Advent?

**Ans:** Anticipation of the Coming of Jesus

**This Week:** In advent, we anticipate two comings of Jesus, what are they?

## QUOTE

*Everything that is worthwhile  
must be waited for.*

- Carlo Carretto

## SS. THOMAS MORE & JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH ACHIMOTA

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

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

9TH DECEMBER, 2018: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
THEME FOR THE WEEK: **MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS**

## TODAY'S READINGS

### 1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem can forget the sufferings of the past, in the joy of seeing her exiled children coming home. God will level out a highway to enable them return from their long exile

### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 26:1-6

**WHAT GREAT DEEDS THE LORD HAS WORKED FOR US! INDEED, WE WERE GLAD**

### 2nd Reading: Philippians 1:4-6; 8-11

Paul prays in thanksgiving for the partnership of the Philippians in the Gospel, admonishing them to be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

### Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

The coming of Jesus is anticipated by his precursor, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

### Reflection

One thing that characterizes the season of advent is 'Preparation.' This is what the Gospel and the second reading call us to; a preparation of not only our bodies and soul, but also a smoothening and straightening of the paths of the Lord, who comes in glory and majesty. Paul calls us to purity and blamelessness, that at His coming he would find no guile in us, not implying sinlessness, but rather a renewal of vows and vocation daily before God who leads his people in his joy, mercy and righteousness. John anticipates His coming by preaching a baptism of repentance and dutiful service to him. With what effort and duty do you anticipate Jesus' coming? John calls us to make his paths straight, the paths leading to the homes of our hearts. May He come to meet us with pure and blameless heart, and on guard in dutiful service.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

❖ Mon 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018  
Is. 35:1-10  
Ps 85:9-10,11-12,13-14  
Lk 5:17-26

❖ Tues 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018  
Is. 40:1-11  
Ps 96:1-3,10-13  
Mt 18:12-14

❖ Wed 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018  
Is 40:25-31  
Ps 103:1-4,8,10  
Mt 11:28-30

❖ Thu 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018  
Is 41:13-20  
Ps 145:1,9-13  
Mt 11:11-15

❖ Fri 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018  
Is 48:17-19  
Ps 1:1-4,6  
Mt 11:16-19

❖ Sat 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018  
Sir 48:1-4,9-11  
Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19  
Mt 17:10-13

16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Zeph 3:14-18  
Resp. Ps: Ps (Is) 12:2-6  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ph 4:4-7  
Gospel: Lk 3:10-18

## KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

### WHAT IS ADVENT

Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical year for the Catholic Church. The date for the beginning of Advent falls each year on the Sunday closest to November 30th – the feast day of Saint Andrew the Apostle. Advent means ‘to come to’ and it is a call to readiness for the coming of Jesus Christ.

### WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF ADVENT

Originally, Advent was celebrated over forty days, just like the Lenten season. This has now been shortened to four weeks, but the symbolism remains. You may notice another similarity to Lent when you attend Mass; although we still sing the Alleluia before the Gospel reading, we no longer sing the song of the angels – the Gloria. We will sing this song anew with the angels on Christmas day – just as they did over 2000 years ago.

The Scripture readings during Mass remind us of all the prophecies that point to the Lord’s coming. We are called to keep watch and to leave behind our sinful ways. We also hear the recurring theme of a light shining through darkness. In Isaiah 60:19 we are reminded of this promise:

“The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.”

### WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE ADVENT WREATH?

Since circles have no beginning and no end, the circular shape of the Advent Wreath is used to symbolize God the Father and eternal life. The wreath holds four candles which are lit over the four weeks of Advent. The light of the flame is a visual reminder that Christ is “The Light of the World” (John 8:12). There are three violet (purple) candles and one rose candle, each representing 1,000 years. Added together, the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the Savior.

## KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

### WHY ARE ADVENT CANDLES PURPLE AND PINK

Violet is a liturgical color that is used to signify a time of penance, sacrifice, and prayer. During the first, second, and the fourth weeks of Advent we light violet candles. The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day we celebrate that our waiting for Christmas is almost over. Rose is a liturgical color that is used to signify joy, so we light the rose candle on the third Sunday of Advent.

### The 4 Weeks of Advent

Traditionally, each of the four candles on an Advent wreath has their own meaning. These meanings are simply illustrated in The Four Weeks of Advent Pewter Advent Wreath.

The first Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the Prophet’s Candle reminding us that Jesus is coming. The second Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the Bethlehem Candle reminding us of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem. The third Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy with the Shepherd’s Candle reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus. The fourth Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the Angel’s Candle reminding us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

When Advent Wreaths are decorated the materials often have symbolic meaning. The use of evergreens reminds us of our eternal life with Christ, holly represents the crown of thorns from the Passion of Jesus, and pinecones symbolize Christ’s Resurrection.

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

Date	Programme	Time	Venue
Wed. 10 <sup>th</sup> - Fri. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Retreat	6.30pm	STM
Fri. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Carol Service	7.00pm	SJF
Mon. 24 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup> Night	7.30pm	SJF
Tues. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day Mass	7.00am	STM
		9.30am	SJF
Wed. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Mass for Sick & Aged	8.30am	STM
Thur. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Feast of St John	6.15am	STM
Fri. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Innocents	6.15am	STM
Sun. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Family	6.30am	SJF
		7.00am	STM
		9.30am	SJF
Mon. 31 <sup>st</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup> Night	8.00pm	SJF
Tues. 1 <sup>st</sup>	New Year Day	7.00am	STM
		9.30am	SJF

## KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH



## FINANCE CORNER

Thank You All for Your Generosity. May God Bless You

WEEK DAY	1 <sup>ST</sup> WK
SUNDAY	
MONDAY	
TUESDAY	
WEDNESDAY	
THURSDAY	
FRIDAY	
SATURDAY	
DECEMBER BORN	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

DETAILS OF LAST SUNDAY COLLECTION;

<b>WEEK 1</b>	
MAIN COLLECTION	
SECOND COLLECTION	
TITHE	
<b>TOTAL</b>	