

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: HOLY FAMILY

Singing Schedule:

First Mass:

Second Mass:

Third Mass:

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: Besohwɔ!

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 made pledges during 2017 Harvest are kindly reminded to redeem them. Pledges can be redeemed 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. Accra West Grand Knights of St. John International and Ladies Auxiliary is organizing a pilgrimage to Israel, Portugal, France and Italy. Date: 5th May to 24th May 2019. All interested persons should contact the following numbers for further details 0202967181/0244275558 it is open to all parishioners and registration ends on 11th February 2019.

QUIZ

Last week: What is the major theme for the third Sunday in Advent?

Ans: Rejoice

This Week: What is the symbolism of the fourth candle of Advent?

QUOTE

*Hope is patience with the lamp
lit
- Tertullian*

SS. THOMAS MORE & JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH, ACHIMOTA

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

Rev. Fr. Bright Elorm Fumey (Assistant Priest) Tel: 0245904620

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

23RD DECEMBER, 2018: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THEME FOR THE WEEK: *DOING GOD'S WILL*

TODAY'S READINGS

1st Reading: Micah 5:2-5

The prophet tells of the salvation coming from the little and insignificant town of Bethlehem, to unite the nations under God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 80:2,3,15-16,18-19
O! God, bring us back let your face shine on us, and we shall be saved.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Abolishing the old order, Christ, the High priest brings reconciliation between humanity and God, of his own will.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Elizabeth recognizes the unique child and the favour of God that Mary carries within her.

Reflection

The readings remind us that Jesus is reborn every day in ordinary people, living ordinary lives, who have the willingness to respond to God's call and the openness to do God's will. The little town of Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah gave us the Saviour of the world because the lowly handmaid of the Lord, living an ordinary life was willing and ready in obedience to do the will of God. The old and barren Elizabeth conceived and gave birth to the forerunner of Jesus Christ because she was ready to do the will of her maker. We were reconciled to God because Jesus offered the perfect sacrifice of obedience that liberated us from sin. We may be ordinary, from some obscure corner of Ghana, but God will be able to do great things with us and be born again in our hearts if we are ready and willing to respond to his call. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity this season. God bless you.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- ❖ **Mon 24TH DECEMBER, 2018**
2Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16
Ps 89:2-5,27,29
Lk 1:67-79
 - ❖ **Tues 25TH DECEMBER, 2018**
(Christmas Day)
Is 52:7-10
Ps 98:1-6
Heb 1:1-6
 - ❖ **Wed 26TH DECEMBER, 2018**
Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59
Ps 31:3-4,6,8,17-18
Mt 10:17-22
 - ❖ **Thu 27TH DECEMBER, 2018**
1Jn 1:1-4
Ps 97:1-2,5-6,12-13
Jn 20:2-8
 - ❖ **Fri 28TH DECEMBER, 2018**
1Jn 1:5-2:2
Ps 124:2-5,7-8
Mt 2:13-18
 - ❖ **Sat 29TH DECEMBER, 2018**
1Jn 2:3-11
Ps 95:1-3,5-6
Lk 2:22-35
- 30TH DECEMBER, 2018**
HOLY FAMILY

1st Reading: 1Sam 1:20-22,24-28
Resp. Ps: Ps 83:2-3,5-6,9-10
2nd Reading: 1Jn 3:1-2,21-24
Gospel: 1Jn 3:1-2,21-24

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

Practice Regarding Names

It would be only natural that the assumption, of any such new name should take place formally at baptism, in which the catechumen, then probably as now, had to be addressed by some distinctive appellation. On the other hand it seems likely that the imposition of a new name at baptism had become general. Every child had necessarily to receive some name or other, and when baptism followed soon after birth, this must have offered a very suitable opportunity for the public recognition of the choice made.

No doubt the thirtieth of the supposed Arabian Canons of Nicaea: "Of giving only names of Christians in baptism" is not authentic, even though it is of early date; but the sermons of St. John Chrysostom seem to assume in many different places that the conferring of a name, presumably at baptism, ought to be regulated by some idea of Christian edification, and he implies though this does not seem to be borne out by the evidence now available, that such had been the practice of earlier generations.

For example he says: "When it comes to giving the infant a name, caring not to call it after the saints, as the ancients at first did, people light lamps and give them names and so name the child after the one which continues burning the longest, from thence conjecturing that he will live a long time." Similarly he commends the practice of the parents of Antioch in calling their children after the martyr Meletius and again he urges his hearers not to give their children the first name that occurs, nor to seek to gratify fathers or grandfathers or other family connections by giving *their* names, but rather to choose the names of holy men conspicuous for virtue and for their courage before God.

History preserves sundry examples of such a change of name in adult converts. Socrates tells us of Athenais who married the Emperor Theodosius the Younger, and who previously to marriage was baptized (A.D. 421) receiving the name Eudoxia.

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

Again Bede tells us of the case of King Caedwalla who went to Rome and was baptized by the Pope Sergius who gave him the name of Peter. Dying soon afterwards he was buried in Rome and his epitaph beginning "Hic depositus est Caedwalla qui est Petrus" was long pointed out. Later we have the well-known instance of Guthrum the Danish leader in England who after his long contest with King Alfred was eventually defeated and consenting to accept Christianity was baptized in 878 by the Æthelstan.

But while various Fathers and spiritual writers, and here and there a synodal decree, have exhorted the faithful to give no names to their children in baptism but those of canonized saints or of the angels of God, it must be confessed that there has never been a time in the history of the Church when these injunctions have been at all strictly attended to. The point however cannot be dwelt on here.

We may note on the other hand that a rubric in the official "Rituale Romanum" enjoins that the priest ought to see that unbecoming or ridiculous names of deities or of godless pagans are not given in baptism (*curet ne obscœna, fabulosa aut ridicula vel inanum deorum vel impiorum ethnicorum hominum nomina imponantur*).

Some of the seventeenth century French rituals have gone further than this. For example that of Bourges (1666) addressing parents and godparents urges: "Let them give to boys the names of male saints and to girls those of women saints as right order requires, and let them avoid the names of festivals like Easter (Pâques), Christmas (Noël), All Saints (Toussaint) and others that are sometimes chosen." Despite such injunctions "Toussaint" has become a not uncommon French Christian name and "Noël" has spread even to England. The addition of Marie, especially in the form Jean-Marie, for boys, and of Joseph for girls is of everyday occurrence.

To be continued.....

2018 CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

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

ADVERT

1. Is your child having difficulty in science. Do you want him/her to be a science terror? Integrated Science/Elective Chemistry. Let's talk at your convenience. 0209024393.
2. Fully equipped hospital/Clinic for lease or rental to medical officer. 8 Bedded inpatient and outpatient facilities. For viewing only call 0302916442/0236313067. Ward assistants needed for immediate employment. Interested persons should contact the above numbers.
3. Contact Chris farms 0202500170, 0207013949 and 0545988000 this festive season for all your poultry needs at affordable prices. Delivery services are available.

FINANCE CORNER

Thank You All for Your Generosity. May God Bless You

WEEK DAY	1 ST WK	2 ND WK	3 RD WK
SUNDAY	1,282.50	95.00	225.00
MONDAY	2,195.40	1,805.00	1,260.00
TUESDAY	831.00	210.00	11,594.00
WEDNESDAY	1,147.00	74.00	65.00
THURSDAY	1,516.50	441.00	240.00
FRIDAY	8,627.40	351.00	62.00
SATURDAY	1,307.80	743.00	674.00
DECEMBER BORN	122.00
TOTAL	17,029.60	3,719.00	14,120.00

DETAILS OF LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION;

WEEK 3	FIRST MASS (SJF)	SECOND MASS (STM)	THIRD MASS (SJF)
MAIN COLLECTION	678.30	2,022.40	2,010.30
SECOND COLLECTION	345.30	967.90	1,181.80
TITHE	248.00
TOTAL	1,023.60	3,238.30	3,192.10