

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: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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 2018 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 symbolism of the fourth candle of Advent?

Ans: Peace

This Week: When does the Christmas season begin?

QUOTE

He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.
- Roy L. Smith

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

30TH DECEMBER, 2018: THE HOLY FAMILY

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **BUILD YOUR 'HOLY' FAMILY IN LOVE**

TODAY'S READINGS

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Hannah conceives and bears her long awaited son, and keeps to the promise of consecrating him to God.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-11
BLESSED ARE THEY WHO DWELL IN YOUR HOUSE, O LORD**

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Made children of God, the proof of our son ship lies in obedience to the commands of God, to love one another.

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Mary and Joseph lose their child Jesus in Jerusalem, after fulfilling their duty required by the law.

Reflection

Today's feast calls us back to a reflection on our own families; our own states as fathers, mothers and children with a vivid example in Joseph, Mary and Jesus, the Holy family. St. Luke puts quite clearly not only what it means to be a family, but also what it means to be a father, a mother and a child. Being parents, our first duty is to teach in obedience, a practice every parent should be fervent in doing. Mary and Joseph do this, in obedience to the law, and being a child means to be submissive to our parents which Luke tells us about Jesus. However, in our activities, we may lose ourselves and even our children, but what makes us a family, what makes us true parents, is that we go back to find ourselves and our children and that is what the holy family calls us to. Let us endeavor to make our families complete by going back to find one another.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

❖ **Mon 31ST DECEMBER, 2018**
1Jn 2:18-21
Ps 96:1-2,12-14
Jn 1:1-18

❖ **Tues 1ST JANUARY, 2019**
Num 6:22-27
Ps 67:2-3,5-6,8
Lk 2:16-21

❖ **Wed 2ND JANUARY, 2019**
1Jn 2:22-28
Ps 98:1-4
Jn 1:19-28

❖ **Thu 3RD JANUARY, 2019**
1Jn 2:29-3:6
Ps 98:1,3-6
Jn 1:29-34

❖ **Fri 4TH JANUARY, 2019**
1Jn 3:7-10
Ps 98:1,7-9
Jn 1:35-42

❖ **Sat 5TH JANUARY, 2019**
1Jn 3:11-21
Ps 100:1-5
Jn 1:43-51

**6TH JANUARY, 2019
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

1st Reading: Is 60:1-6
Resp. Ps: Ps 71:1-2,7-8,11-14
2nd Reading: Eph 3:2-3, 5-6
Gospel: Mt 2:1-12

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

From the Greek *eucharistia*, meaning thanksgiving is the name given to the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar in its twofold aspect of sacrament and Sacrifice of Mass, and in which Jesus Christ is truly present under the bread and wine. Other titles are used, such as "Lord's Supper" (*Coena Domini*), "Table of the Lord" (*Mensa Domini*), the "Lord's Body" (*Corpus Domini*), and the "Holy of Holies" (*Sanctissimum*), to which may be added the following expressions, and somewhat altered from their primitive meaning: "Agape" (Love-Feast), "Eulogia" (Blessing), "Breaking of Bread", "Synaxis" (Assembly), etc.; but the ancient title "Eucharistia" appearing in writers as early as Ignatius, Justin, and Irenæus, has taken precedence in the technical terminology of the Church and her theologians.

The expression "Blessed Sacrament of the Altar", introduced by Augustine, is at the present day almost entirely restricted to catechetical and popular treatises.

The Church honors the Eucharist as one of her most exalted mysteries, since for sublimity and incomprehensibility it yields in nothing to the allied mysteries of the Trinity and Incarnation. These three mysteries constitute a wonderful triad, which causes the essential characteristic of Christianity, as a religion of mysteries far transcending the capabilities of reason, to shine forth in all its brilliance and splendor, and elevates Catholicism, the most faithful guardian and keeper of our Christian heritage, far above all pagan and non-Christian religions.

The organic connection of this mysterious triad is clearly discerned, if we consider Divine grace under the aspect of a personal communication of God.

Thus in the bosom of the Blessed Trinity, God the Father, by virtue of the eternal generation, communicates His Divine Nature to God the Son, "the only begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father" (John 1:18), while the Son of God, by virtue of the hypostatic union, communicates in turn the Divine Nature received from His Father to His human nature formed in the womb of the Virgin Mary (John 1:14), in order that thus as God-man, hidden under the Eucharistic Species, He might deliver Himself to

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

His Church, who, as a tender mother, mystically cares for and nurtures in her own bosom this, her greatest treasure, and daily places it before her children as the spiritual food of their souls. Thus the Trinity, Incarnation, and Eucharist are really welded together like a precious chain, which in a wonderful manner links heaven with earth, God with man, uniting them most intimately and keeping them thus united.

By the very fact that the Eucharistic mystery does transcend reason, no rationalistic explanation of it, based on a merely natural hypothesis and seeking to comprehend one of the sublimest truths of the Christian religion as the spontaneous conclusion of logical processes, may be attempted by a Catholic theologian.

The modern science of comparative religion is striving, wherever it can, to discover in pagan religions "religio-historical parallels", corresponding to the theoretical and practical elements of Christianity, and thus by means of the former to give a natural explanation of the latter. Even were an analogy discernible between the Eucharistic repast and the ambrosia and nectar of the ancient Greek gods, or the *haoma* of the Iranians, or the *soma* of the ancient Hindus, we should nevertheless be very cautious not to stretch a mere analogy to a parallelism strictly so called, since the Christian Eucharist has nothing at all in common with these pagan foods, whose origin is to be found in the crassest idol- and nature-worship.

What we do particularly discover is a new proof of the reasonableness of the Catholic religion, from the circumstance that Jesus Christ in a wonderfully condescending manner responds to the natural craving of the human heart after a food which nourishes unto immortality, a craving expressed in many pagan religions, by dispensing to mankind His own Flesh and Blood. All that is beautiful, all that is true in the religions of nature, Christianity has appropriated to itself, and like a concave mirror has collected the dispersed and not infrequently distorted rays of truth into their common focus and again sent them forth resplendently in perfect beams of light.

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	4 TH WK
SUNDAY	1,282.50	95.00	225.00	8.00
MONDAY	2,195.40	1,805.00	1,260.00	760.00
TUESDAY	831.00	210.00	11,594.00	5,122.00
WEDNESDAY	1,147.00	74.00	65.00	10.00
THURSDAY	1,516.50	441.00	240.00	140.00
FRIDAY	8,627.40	351.00	62.00	25.00
SATURDAY	1,307.80	743.00	674.00	120.00
DECEMBER BORN	122.00
TOTAL	17,029.60	3,719.00	14,120.00	6,185.00

DETAILS OF LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION;

WEEK 4	ONE MASS (SJF)
MAIN COLLECTION	4,495.35
SECOND COLLECTION	2,503.00
TITHE	998.00
TOTAL	7,996.35