

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 LENT

Singing Schedule:

First Mass: Akan Kuo
Second Mass: Ave Maria
Third Mass: Chari SM

Offertory and Bidding Prayers:

First Mass: Legion of Mary
Second Mass: St. Francis of Assisi Society
Third Mass: Knight and Ladies of St. John

WEEKDAY MASS

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

SLOGAN: Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher: Besohwɛ!
Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher.: Justice

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. "THE WORD IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON" a book written by Rev. Fr. John Kobina Louis is on sale, a copy goes for Ghc20.00

4. Morning mass will be celebrated at SJF on Saturdays at 6.15am starting from the 9th of March.

5. Marriage Banns: (2) Raymond Uche Ajah and Cordelia C. Nnebedum.

6. The funeral arrangement of Madam Afia Gyamfua mother of Nana Yaw Aboagye a member of YCW is as follows; Saturday 30th March; burial mass at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Nyinahin Ashanti at 9.00am. Sunday 31st March; Thanksgiving mass at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Nynahin Ashanti at 8.30am

7. The Council 74 and Court 67, Accra-Central of the Knights and Ladies of Marshall will be celebrating St. Joseph feast day at 7pm at SJF on March 19, 2019.

QUIZ

Last week: How many days of Lent are there?

Ans: 40 days

This Week: Which days are excluded from the Lenten count of days?

QUOTE

Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy

- **Pope Francis**

SS. THOMAS MORE & JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH, ACHIMOTA

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

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

17TH MARCH, 2019: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

THEME FOR THE WEEK: LISTENING TO JESUS

TODAY'S READINGS

1st Reading: Genesis 15:5-12; 17-18

God reckons the faith of Abram to him as righteousness, making a covenant with him.

Responsorial Psalm: 27:1,7-8,9,13-14
THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Paul admonishes the people to stand firm in the way of the Lord, hopeful for a commonwealth in heaven.

Gospel: Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

Jesus is transfigured before the disciples and a voice demands of them to listen to Jesus.

Reflection

The gospel shows us one of the most important moments in the life of Jesus, when he comes to understand his mission, and realizes he will carry it through humiliation and defeat. Jesus wants his disciples to accept the plan of the Father for him. They come to understand that the way of the cross is the way of life. The second reading calls on all of us to die in Christ. This death is a destruction of our selfishness. Paul invites us to establish firm foundations in the way of the Lord, looking to a place in heaven, dependent on our ability to listen to Jesus. Listening also implies trust, and the first reading presents us with a man who placed his trust in God. Trust is but the little part of man's covenant relationship with God. God takes the unilateral covenant, but requires man's trust. Christians who have the courage to place their trust in God will in reality be blessed by God.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

❖ **Mon 18TH MARCH, 2019**

Dan 9:4-10
Ps 79:8-9,12,14
Lk 6:36-38

❖ **Tues 19TH MARCH, 2019**

2Sam 7:4-5,12-14,16
Ps 89:2-5,28,30
Mt 1:16,18-21,24

❖ **Wed 20TH MARCH, 2019**

Jer 18:18-20
Ps 31:5-6,14-16
Mt 20:17-28

❖ **Thu 21ST MARCH, 2019**

Jer 17:5-10
Ps 1:1-4,6
Lk 16:19-31

❖ **Fri 22ND MARCH, 2019**

Gen 37:3-4,12-13,17-28
Ps 105:17-22
Mt 21:33-43,45-46

❖ **Sat 23RD MARCH, 2019**

Mic 7:14-15,18-20
Ps 103:1-4,9-13
Lk 15:1-3,11-32

24TH MARCH, 2019
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

1st Reading: Ex 3:1-8,13-15
Resp. Ps: Ps 103:1-4,6-8,12
2nd Reading: 1Cor 10:1-6,10-1'2
Gospel: Lk 13:1-9

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

TEACHING OF THE CHURCH ON PENANCE

Power to forgive sins

It is noteworthy that the fundamental objection so often urged against the Sacrament of Penance was first thought of by the Scribes when Christ said to the sick man of the palsy: "Thy sins are forgiven thee." "And there were some of the scribes sitting there, and thinking in their hearts: Why doth this man speak thus? he blasphemeth. Who can forgive sins but God only?" But Jesus seeing their thoughts, said to them: "Which is easier to say to the sick of the palsy: Thy sins are forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, take up thy bed and walk?"

But that you may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he said to the sick of the palsy,) I say to thee: Arise, take up thy bed, and go into thy house" (Mark 2:5-11; Matthew 9:2-7). Christ wrought a miracle to show that He had power to forgive sins and that this power could be exerted not only in heaven but also on earth.

This power, moreover, He transmitted to Peter and the other Apostles. To Peter He says: "And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven" (Matthew 16:19). Later He says to all the Apostles: "Amen I say to you, whatsoever you shall bind upon earth, shall be bound also in heaven; and whatsoever you shall loose upon earth, shall be loosed also in heaven" (Matthew 18:18).

As to the meaning of these texts, it should be noted: that the "binding" and "loosing" refers not to physical but to spiritual or moral bonds among which sin is certainly included; the more so because the power here granted is unlimited — "whatsoever you shall bind, . . . whatsoever you shall loose"; the power is judicial, i.e., the Apostles are authorized to bind and to loose;

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

whether they bind or loose, their action is ratified in heaven. In healing the palsied man Christ declared that "the Son of man has power on earth to forgive sins"; here He promises that what these men, the Apostles, bind or loose on earth, God in heaven will likewise bind or loose. But as the Council of Trent declares, Christ principally instituted the Sacrament of Penance after His Resurrection, a miracle greater than that of healing the sick.

"As the Father hath sent me, I also send you. When he had said this, he breathed on them; and he said to them: Receive ye the Holy Ghost. Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained" (John 20:21-23). While the sense of these words is quite obvious, the following points are to be considered:

Christ here reiterates in the plainest terms — "sins", "forgive", "retain" — what He had previously stated in figurative language, "bind" and "loose", so that this text specifies and distinctly applies to sin the power of losing and binding. He prefaces this grant of power by declaring that the mission of the Apostles is similar to that which He had received from the Father and which He had fulfilled: "As the Father hath sent me".

Now it is beyond doubt that He came into the world to destroy sin and that on various occasions He explicitly forgave sin (Matthew 9:2-8; Luke 5:20; 7:47; Revelation 1:5), hence the forgiving of sin is to be included in the mission of the Apostles.

Christ not only declared that sins were forgiven, but really and actually forgave them; hence, the Apostles are empowered not merely to announce to the sinner that his sins are forgiven but to grant him forgiveness—"whose sins you shall forgive". If their power were limited to the declaration "God pardons you", they would need a special revelation in each case to make the declaration valid.

To be continued.....

MOTIVATION

QUOTES ON GOAL ACHIEVEMENT BY BRIAN TRACY

"An average person with average talent, ambition, and education, can outstrip the most brilliant genius in our society, if that person has clear, focused goals."

"Committing your goals to paper increases the likelihood of your achieving them by one-thousand percent!"

"Success equals goals; all else is commentary."

Goals in writing dreams with deadlines.

"Rewrite your major goals every day, in the present tense, exactly as if they already existed."

"Your success will be largely determined by your ability to concentrate single-mindedly on one thing at a time."

It is not what you say, or wish, or hope or intend, it is only what you do that counts.

PILLARS OF LENT

Prayer

Try to pray a little more often, go to Mass more often, maybe attend a daily Mass. During Lent the Stations of the Cross might be something to attend.

Abstinence

To abstain means to go without something; in terms of Lent we do not eat meat. Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen (14) years of age or older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting

To fast, we go without food or eat less. It can also mean giving up a certain foods or treats. Fasting is to be observed by all Catholics who are age 18 to 59 on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted, if necessary, to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid food between meals is not permitted.

Almsgiving

Do good things for others. For example, this can be giving gifts of money or help to others. Think about your time, talent and treasure. What can you do to help others?
(stannesoughtborough.org)

FINANCE CORNER

Thank You All for Your Generosity. May God Bless You