

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: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Singing Schedule:

First Mass: Youth Choir
Second Mass: Akan Kuo
Third Mass: Main Choir

Offertory and Bidding Prayers:

First Mass: April Borns
Second Mass: April Borns
Third Mass: April Borns

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 and Truth!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. 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.

2. "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

3. The final funeral rite of the late Madam Agnes Akorkor Sobo of Christian Village community is as follows; Friday 12th April family gathering at her residence Christian Village, Saturday 13th burial mass at SJF at 8am, Sunday 14th Thanksgiving mass at STM at 7am.

4. The final funeral rite of Mr. Joseph Eklu Kwabla of Alogboshie Community is as follows; Friday 12th April family gathering at 7pm at his residence, Saturday 13th burial mass at SJF at 8am and internment at Achimota cemetery, Sunday 14th Thanksgiving Mass at SJF at 9.30am

All couples who registered to be part of the mass wedding should wait behind after mass for their first session.

QUIZ

Last week: Who were the two people with Jesus at his transfiguration?

Ans: Moses and Elijah

This Week: Which sacrament is best indicative of the season of Lent?

QUOTE

He who has not looked on sorrow will never see joy.

- Kahlil Gibran

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

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

31ST MARCH, 2019: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THEME FOR THE WEEK: REJOICE IN LOVE THAT FORGIVES

TODAY'S READINGS

1st Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

The Israelites, set free from slavery in Egypt, enter the promise land and observe the Passover.

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

TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Christ's aim and mission was to reconcile us to God, and everyone begotten in Christ is a new creation.

Gospel: Gospel: Luke 15:1-3; 11-32

Jesus tells of the mercy and love of God in the parable of the prodigal son.

Reflection

What is found after forgiveness, a freedom from slavery to sin, is joy in the love that sets free. The Israelites having entered the promised land, after years of slavery in Egypt, celebrate the Passover, a feast of rejoicing in the Lord's mercy and faithfulness. Today the church reminds us that our sins are not huge and can be forgiven. Hence already in the fourth Sunday of Lent, the church calls for joy in anticipation of the forgiveness given us. Jesus expresses this point more fervently in the gospel. God rejoices and celebrates when we make a return to him. His love beckons us even in our darkest nights, he doesn't wait for us to come closer, but he makes the first move of love. God's love finds its fulfillment in Jesus's mission of reconciliation. A mission that begets us anew, not counting our past but the fact that we have been found.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- ❖ Mon 1ST APRIL, 2019
Is 65:17-21
Ps 30:2,4-6,12-14
Jn 4:43-54
- ❖ Tues 2ND APRIL, 2019
Ez 47:1-9,12
Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9
Jn 5:1-16
- ❖ Wed 3RD APRIL, 2019
Is 49:8-15
Ps 145:8-9,14-15,18-19
Jn 5:17-30
- ❖ Thu 4TH APRIL, 2019
Ex 32:7-14
Ps 106:20-24
Jn 5:31-47
- ❖ Fri 5TH APRIL, 2019
Wis 2:1,12-22
Ps 34:18-22,24
Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30
- ❖ Sat 6TH APRIL, 2019
Jer 11:18-20
Ps 7:2-3,9-13
Jn 7:40-53

7TH APRIL, 2019
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

1st Reading: Is 43:16-21
Resp. Ps: Ps 126:1-6
2nd Reading: Phil 3:8-14
Gospel: Jn 8:1-11

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

TEACHING OF THE CHURCH ON PENANCE

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The minister (i.e., the confessor)

From the judicial character of this sacrament it follows that not every member of the Church is qualified to forgive sins; the administration of penance is reserved to those who are invested with authority.

That this power does not belong to the laity is evident from the Bull of Martin V "Inter cunctas" (1418) which among other questions to be answered by the followers of Wycliffe and Huss, has this: "whether he believes that the Christian . . . is bound as a necessary means of salvation to confess to a priest only and not to a layman or to laymen however good and devout".

Luther's proposition, that "any Christian, even a woman or a child" could in the absence of a priest absolve as well as pope or bishop, was condemned (1520) by Leo X in the Bull "Exurge Domine".

The Council of Trent condemns as "false and as at variance with the truth of the Gospel all doctrines which extend the ministry of the keys to any others than bishops and priests, imagining that the words of the Lord (Matthew 18:18; John 20:23) were, contrary to the institution of this sacrament, addressed to all the faithful of Christ in such wise that each and every one has the power of remitting sin". The Catholic doctrine, therefore, is that only bishops and priests can exercise the power.

These decrees moreover put an end, practically, to the usage, which had sprung up and lasted for some time in the Middle Ages, of confessing to a layman in case of necessity. This custom originated in the conviction that he who had sinned was obliged to make known his sin to some one — to a priest if possible, otherwise to a layman.

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

In the work "On true penance and false", erroneously ascribed to St. Augustine, the counsel is given: "So great is the power of confession that if a priest be not at hand, let him (the person desiring to confess) confess to his neighbour.

" But in the same place the explanation is given: "although he to whom the confession is made has no power to absolve, nevertheless he who confesses to his fellow (socio) becomes worthy of pardon through his desire of confessing to a priest".

Lea, who cites the assertion of the Pseudo-Augustine about confession to one's neighbour, passes over the explanation. He consequently sets in a wrong light a series of incidents illustrating the practice and gives but an imperfect idea of the theological discussion which it aroused.

Though Albertus Magnus regarded as sacramental the absolution granted by a layman while St. Thomas speaks of it as "quodammodo sacramentalis", other great theologians took a quite different view. Alexander of Hales says that it is an "imploring of absolution"; St. Bonaventure that such a confession even in cases of necessity is not obligatory, but merely a sign of contrition;

Scotus that there is no precept obliging one to confess to a layman and that this practice may be very detrimental; Durandus of St. Pourcain that in the absence of a priest, who alone can absolve in the tribunal of penance, there is no obligation to confess; Prierias that if absolution is given by a layman, the confession must be repeated whenever possible; this in fact was the general opinion.

It is not then surprising that Dominicus Soto, writing in 1564, should find it difficult to believe that such a custom ever existed: "since (in confession to a layman) there was no sacrament.

To be continued.....

MOTIVATION

15 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF TO STAY MOTIVATED DURING TOUGH TIMES BY BRIAN TRACY

5. What am most I grateful for?

We are motivated by the things that we are grateful for. When we give thanks to others we break patterns of negative thinking that block us.

"Develop an attitude of gratitude, and give thanks for everything that happens to you, knowing that every step forward is a step toward achieving something bigger and better than your current situation."— Brian Tracy

6. What is my biggest goal?

What is the most important thing that you want to accomplish that you haven't been able to thus far in your life? Write down this goal. Look at it every day and do something to work towards it *every day*.

7. How would I feel inside if I achieved my goal today?

Imagine how you would feel had you already achieved your goal. Whenever you're not feeling motivated, think of how you will feel when you've achieved what you want.

To be continued....

ADVERT

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DEANERY CONFESSIONS

Date	Parish	Time
20/03	St. Dominic, Taifa	7.00pm
21/03	St. Joseph, Medie	7.00pm
26/03	St. Kizito, Nima	6.30pm
27/03	St. Sylvanus, Pokuase	6.30pm
28/03	St. Francis Xavier, Kotobabi	6.30pm
02/04	St. Thomas Aquinas, Legon	6.30pm
03/04	St. Paul, Kpehe	6.30pm
04/04	Thomas More & John Fisher, Achimota	6.30pm

FINANCE CORNER

Thank You All for Your Generosity. May God Bless You