

## 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: Thursdays 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 & 2pm - 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: SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### Singing Schedule:

First Mass: Ave Maria  
Second Mass: Chari SM  
Third Mass: Main Choir

#### Offertory and Bidding Prayers:

First Mass: Lectors  
Second Mass: Achimota E/W/Abofu Community  
Third Mass: Achimota Town

### WEEKDAY MASS

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

**SLOGAN:** Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher: Besohw{!  
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. Pledges can be redeemed through Mobile Money Number 0558362191. Receipts for such payments will be issued later for collection.
2. There is morning mass at SJF on Saturdays at 6.30am
3. Parishioners are reminded to pay the 2019 Harvest levy of GHs 20.00 per adult, GHs 10 per youth and GHs 5.00 per child. All Harvest contributions should be paid at the harvest desk.
4. Bread and wine for offertory can be purchased at the church office.
5. Parishioners who attend mass at St. John Fisher are encouraged to use the parish office in the rectory for the payment of dues and other statutory levies.
6. **Marriage Banns(1<sup>st</sup>)** Joshua Agyekum and Edith Kouvena
7. The funeral arrangement for the late Elizabeth Awubawuni are as follows:  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2020: filing past and mass at SJF at 8.00am.  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2020: Thanksgiving mass at STM at 7.00am

### ADVERT

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### QUOTE

**The best of it all is, God is  
with us.  
John Wesley**

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

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**030-3931800 (STM)**  
Rev. Fr. George Obeng - Appah (*Priest-in-charge*) Tel: 020-8592020 **030-3939862(SJF)**

### WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**22ND DECEMBER, 2019: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**THEME FOR THE WEEK: EMMANUEL – GOD WITH US!!!**

### TODAY'S READINGS

#### 1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Isaiah proclaims the sign that the Lord will give: a virgin shall give birth to a son, the Emmanuel.

#### Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 24:1-2,3-4,5-6

**LET THE LORD ENTER; HE IS THE KING OF GLORY.**

#### 2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Paul greets the community at Rome and declares that they are part of the nations for whom Christ was born.

#### Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

### Reflection

Ahaz in a situation of intense pressure receives a prophesy from God through Isaiah. This prophesy is to Ahaz and the whole of Israel. It is to calm them down and make them know that God has thought of them.

God promises them the birth of a son who will be the nation's Saviour. He will not only save his people but all nations of which we are part.

He is the one to be born of the Virgin Mary. He will save us from our sins. He will really show us the face and glory of God. He will make us know that God is with us – Emmanuel.

As we bring our Advent journey to an end, let us create a place in our heart so that the Emmanuel will come and stay in.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

#### ❖ Mon 23<sup>RD</sup> DEC. 2019

Mal 3:1-4,23-24  
Ps 25:4-5,8-11  
Lk 1:57-66

#### ❖ Tues 24<sup>TH</sup> DEC. 2019

2Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16  
Ps 89:2-5,28,30  
Lk 1:67-79

#### ❖ Wed 25<sup>TH</sup> DEC. 2019(CHRISTMAS)

**VIGIL:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5,16, 17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25

**DAY:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

#### ❖ Thu 26<sup>TH</sup> DEC. 2019 (St. Stephen)

Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59  
Ps 31:3-4,6,8,17-18  
Mt 10:17-22

#### ❖ Fri 27<sup>TH</sup> DEC. 2019 (St. John)

1Jn 1:1: -4  
Ps 97:1-2,5-6,12-13  
Jn 20:2-8

#### ❖ Sat 28<sup>TH</sup> DEC. 2019(The Holy Innocents)

1Jn 1:5-2:2  
Ps 124:2-5,7-8  
Mt 2:13-18

**29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019**  
**HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY  
AND JOSEPH**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Sir 3:2-6,12-14

**Resp. Ps:** Ps. 128:1-5

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Col 3:12-21

**Gospel:** Matt 2:13-15,19-23

**KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH**

**THE ROLE OF THE LAITY IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

These orders, although distinct, are so connected in the singular plan of God that He Himself intends to raise up the whole world again in Christ and to make it a new creation, initially on earth and completely on the last day.

In both orders the layman, being simultaneously a believer and a citizen, should be continuously led by the same Christian conscience.

The mission of the Church pertains to the salvation of men, which is to be achieved by belief in Christ and by His grace.

The apostolate of the Church and of all its members is primarily designed to manifest Christ's message by words and deeds and to communicate His grace to the world.

This is done mainly through the ministry of the Word and the sacraments, entrusted in a special way to the clergy, wherein the laity also have their very important roles to fulfill if they are to be "fellow workers for the truth" (3 John 8).

It is especially on this level that the apostolate of the laity and the pastoral ministry are mutually complementary.

There are innumerable opportunities open to the laity for the exercise of their apostolate of evangelization and sanctification.

**KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH**

The very testimony of their Christian life and good works done in a supernatural spirit have the power to draw men to belief and to God; for the Lord says, "Even so let your light shine before men in order that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

However, an apostolate of this kind does not consist only in the witness of one's way of life; a true apostle looks for opportunities to announce Christ by words addressed either to non-believers with a view to leading them to faith, or to the faithful with a view to instructing, strengthening, and encouraging them to a more fervent life. "For the charity of Christ impels us" (2 Cor. 5:14).

The words of the Apostle should echo in all hearts, "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:16).

Since, in our own times, new problems are arising and very serious errors are circulating which tend to undermine the foundations of religion, the moral order, and human society itself, this sacred synod earnestly exhorts laymen-each according to his own gifts of intelligence and learning-to be more diligent in doing what they can to explain, defend, and properly apply Christian principles to the problems of our era in accordance with the mind of the Church.

To be continued.....

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME**

Date	Programme	Time	Venue
22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Carol Service	4.30pm	SJF
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Nativity of the Lord	7.00pm	SJF
		8.00pm	STM
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Day	7.00am	STM
		9.30am	SJF
26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Mass for the Sick/Aged	8.00am	STM
29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Holy Family	6.30am	SJF
		7.00am	STM
		9.30am	SJF
31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Vigil	9.00pm	SJF
1 <sup>st</sup> Jan.	New Year Day	7.00am	STM
		9.30am	SJF

**PRAYER FOR GOD'S INTERVENTION IN OUR LAND CASE**

Almighty and Merciful Father, we thank you for our faith and for the gift of our church community. We thank you for how far you have brought us as a parish. You have been our refuge in times past and our hope for years to come.

We humbly beseech you to help us win back our Land in this dispute. Save us from violence, discord and confusion and the evil plans of our adversaries.

For the Court of Justice, we pray that you will give them the spirit of Wisdom and Understanding that they may discern the truth and impartially administer the law in the fear of you alone. May they not yield to deceit and acts of bribery and corruption but uphold the truth and let justice prevail.

May your Mother Mary intercede for us and may the Archangel Michael defend us in battle. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

*St. Thomas More..... Pray for us*

*St. John Fisher..... Pray for us*

*All you Angels and Saints ..... Pray for us*

**FINANCE CORNER**

**Thank You All for Your Generosity. May God Bless You**