

## 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 & 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: SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Singing Schedule:

First Mass: Chari SM  
Second Mass: Youth Choir  
Third Mass: Main Choir

### Offertory and Bidding Prayers:

First Mass: Lectors  
Second Mass: Legion of Mary  
Third Mass: Knight and Ladies of Marshalls

## 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. Parishioners are remembered to redeem their harvest pledges. Pledges can be redeemed at the harvest desk or through Mobile Money Number 0558362191. Receipts for such payments will be issued later for collection.
2. 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.
3. KSJI in collaboration with the church will be making a donation to MATTHEW 25 in Koforidua as part of their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They appeal to all parishioners for any contribution in cash or in kind, charity boxes will be placed at the entrance of the church. For any further information and donation, please contact George on 0204060440 and Thelma 0244825108.
4. Parishioners with last year's Palm Sunday fronds should send them to the office for preparation of ashes for Ash Wednesday.

## ADVERT

1. Call us for all your pest control needs such as bedbugs, mosquitoes, snakes, termites etc. **MANADATT COMPANY LTD.** 0244877949/0249967906.

## QUOTE

If you can step over the bar... If you can reach and touch the bar... the bar is too low. Set goals that seem beyond your reach. Goals that challenge you.  
Ryan Boutin

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

P.O. BOX AH 283, ACHIMOTA-ACCRA  
**Website:** [www.thomasmorejohnfisher.com](http://www.thomasmorejohnfisher.com) E-mail: [besohwe@yahoo.com](mailto:besohwe@yahoo.com) Office Tel: **030-3931800 (STM)**

Rev. Fr. George Obeng - Appah (*Priest-in-charge*) 020-8592020  
Rev. Fr. Bright Elorm Fumey (*Assistant Priest*) 0245904620

**030-3939862(SJF)**

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**16TH FEBRUARY, 2020: SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**THEME FOR THE WEEK: OVER THE BAR!!!**

**THEME FOR THE YEAR: "EXPERIENCING GOD'S BLESSINGS IN CHRISTIAN UNITY" PS 133:1**

## TODAY'S READINGS

**1st Reading:** Sirach 15:15–20

Man has been given the choice to make between water and fire, life and death.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 119:1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34**  
**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO WALK IN THE  
LAW OF THE LORD!**

**2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 2:6–10

We have a hidden wisdom which surpasses that of the world. God has revealed this wisdom to us through the Spirit.

**Gospel:** Matthew 5:17–37

The commandments given through Moses still remain valid - though Jesus gives them a deeper interpretation.

## Reflection

In life we come across standards and expectations that we have to reach. Jesus tells his audience that these standards are what is in the Scriptures and not what the Pharisees and the Scribes did and taught. That was a lowered bar which had become the status quo. The twist is that we will have to go beyond and over the bar to make it to heaven. The choice is ours and ours alone. We will have to decide and then move to achieve it.

To make it into the kingdom, God has revealed to us what we have to do and know. The wisdom that we need is revealed to us through the Spirit. We will have to do more than the Pharisees and the Scribes – go over the lowered bar!

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

❖ **Mon 17<sup>TH</sup> FEB. 2020**

Jas 1:1-11  
Ps 119:68-69,72-73,76-77  
Mk 8;11-13

❖ **Tues 18<sup>TH</sup> FEB. 2020**

Jas 1:12-18  
Ps 94:13-16,19-20  
Mk 8:14-21

❖ **Wed 19<sup>TH</sup> FEB. 2020**

Jas 1:19-27  
Ps 15:2-5  
Mk 8:22-26

❖ **Thu 20<sup>TH</sup> FEB. 2020**

Jas 2:1-9  
Ps 34:2-7  
Mk 8;27-33

❖ **Fri 21<sup>ST</sup> FEB. 2020**

Jas 2:14-24,26  
Ps 112:1-6  
Mk 8:34-9:1

❖ **Sat 22<sup>ND</sup> FEB. 2020 (Chair of St. Peter, Feast)**

1Pt 5:1-4  
Ps 23:1-6  
Mt 16:13-19

**23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020  
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY  
TIME**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Lev 19:1-2,17-18  
**Resp. Ps:** Ps. 103:1-4,8,11,13-14  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Cor 3:16-23  
**Gospel:** Mt 5:38-48

**KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH**

**APOSTOLIC LETTER ISSUED "MOTU PROPRIO" BY THE SUPREME PONTIFF FRANCIS**

**APERUIT ILLIS INSTITUTING THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD ON MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019, THE MEMORIAL OF ST. JEROME**

1. "He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (Lk 24:45). This was one of the final acts of the risen Lord before his Ascension. Jesus appeared to the assembled disciples, broke bread with them and opened their minds to the understanding of the sacred Scriptures.

To them, amid their fear and bewilderment, he unveiled the meaning of the paschal mystery: that in accordance with the Father's eternal plan he had to suffer and rise from the dead, in order to bring repentance and the forgiveness of sins (cf. Lk 24:26.46-47). He then promised to send the Holy Spirit, who would give them strength to be witnesses of this saving mystery (cf. Lk 24:49).

The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth.

Yet the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible. Hence, Saint Jerome could rightly claim: "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ" (Commentary on the Book of Isaiah, Prologue: PL 24,17B).

2. At the conclusion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, I proposed setting aside "a Sunday given over entirely to the word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people" (Misericordia et Misera, 7).

**KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH**

Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world. Here, we are reminded of the teaching of Saint Ephrem: "Who is able to understand, Lord, all the richness of even one of your words?"

There is more that eludes us than what we can understand. We are like the thirsty drinking from a fountain. Your word has as many aspects as the perspectives of those who study it. The Lord has colored his word with diverse beauties, so that those who study it can contemplate what stirs them. He has hidden in his word all treasures, so that each of us may find a richness in what he or she contemplates" (Commentary on the Diatessaron, 1, 18). With this Letter, I wish to respond to the many requests I have received from the people of God that the entire Church celebrate, in unity of purpose, a Sunday of the Word of God. It is now common for the Christian community to set aside moments to reflect on the great importance of the word of God for everyday living.

The various local Churches have undertaken a wealth of initiatives to make the sacred Scripture more accessible to believers, to increase their gratitude for so great a gift, and to help them to strive daily to embody and bear witness to its teachings.

The Second Vatican Council gave great impulse to the rediscovery of the word of God, thanks to its Dogmatic Constitution Dei Verbum, a document that deserves to be read and appropriated ever anew. The Constitution clearly expounds the nature of sacred Scripture, its transmission from generation to generation (Chapter II), its divine inspiration (Chapter III) embracing the Old and New Testaments (Chapters IV and V), and the importance of Scripture for the life of the Church (Chapter VI)

To be Continued.....

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Parish Revival:** The first Parish Revival for 2020 comes off from **19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> February 2020 at STM at 6:30p.m.** Let us all take note and endeavour to be part.

**Ash Wednesday:** the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday which falls on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020. There will be two Masses: STM @6:15a.m & SJF @ 7p.m.

**QUESTIONS FOR BIBLE SHARING**

Text: Matthew 5:38-48

1. What makes it difficult to follow Jesus' statement: "offer the wicked man no resistance."?
2. In your opinion, how do you think we can love our enemies and pray for those who persecute in this era of self-preservation?

**NB:** Kindly prepare well, come with your Bible and join us to share the Word of God.

**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**