

## 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: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### Singing Schedule:

First Mass: Main Choir  
Second Mass: Youth Choir  
Third Mass: Ave Maria

### Offertory and Bidding Prayers:

First Mass: March Borns  
Second Mass: March Borns  
Third Mass: March Borns

## 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

- Parishioners are remembered to redeem their harvest pledges. Pledges can be redeemed through Mobile Money Number 0558362191. Receipts for such payments will be issued later for collection.
- 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.
- Parishioners with last year's Palm Sunday fronds should send them to the office for preparation of ashes for Ash Wednesday.
- 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 @6:15am & SJF @7pm.
- Stations of the Cross:** We begin our Stations of the Cross and Mass at both STM and SJF on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 @ 7p.m.

## QUESTIONS FOR BIBLE SHARING

Text: Matthew 4:1-11

- What lessons do we learn from the Temptations of Jesus in today's text"?
- How do we overcome temptations when they come our way?

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

## ADVERT

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

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

P.O. BOX AH 283, ACHIMOTA-ACCRA

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Rev. Fr. George Obeng - Appah (*Priest-in-charge*) 020-8592020

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

**030-3939862(SJF)**

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**23RD FEBRUARY, 2020: SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**THEME FOR THE WEEK: THAT SPECIAL KIND OF LOVE!!!**

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

## TODAY'S READINGS

**1st Reading:** Leviticus 19:1–2, 17–18

The Lord speaks to the people of Israel through Moses to "Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy."

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 103:1-2,3-4,8,10,12-13  
THE LORD IS COMPASSIONATE AND  
GRACIOUS.**

**2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 3:16–23

Paul tells his audience, "Are you not aware that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

**Gospel:** Matthew 5:38–48

Jesus gives us a new commandment: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors.

## Reflection

God calls on us to be perfect as He is perfect. The way we show this is to love our neighbours and go further to love those who offend and hurt us.

Jesus instructs in the Gospel of today to show that we are a people of peace and love by loving our neighbours and praying for those who persecute us. This is the extra mile we are called to go – not just loving those who love us and saving our greetings for our brothers. Following this new instruction will sound and look absurd to others because they would be expecting us to follow the status quo of hating those who hate us and praying against those who persecute us. To the worldly, to show that we are wise would be to preserve our lives by plotting against our enemies and those who want to hurt us. However, we are to be like the Lord who is Compassion and Love.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

❖ **Mon 24<sup>TH</sup> FEB. 2020**

Jas 3:13-18  
Ps 19:8-11,16  
Mk 9:14-29

❖ **Tues 25<sup>TH</sup> FEB. 2020**

Jas 4:1-10  
Ps 55:7-12,24  
Mk 9:30-37

❖ **Wed 26<sup>TH</sup> FEB. 2020 (ASH WED.)**

Joel 2:12-18  
Ps 51:3-6,13-15,18  
II Cor 5:20-6:2  
Mt 6:1-6,16-18

❖ **Thu 27<sup>TH</sup> FEB. 2020**

Deut 30:15-20  
Ps 1:1-4,6  
Lk 9:22-25

❖ **Fri 28<sup>TH</sup> FEB. 2020**

Isa 58:1-9  
Ps 51:3-6,19-20  
Mt 9:14-15

❖ **Sat 29<sup>TH</sup> FEB. 2020**

Is 58:9-14  
Ps 86:1-6  
Lk 5:27-32

**1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2020**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Gen 2:7-9;3:1-7

**Resp. Ps:** Ps. 51:3-6,13-15,18

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Rom 5:12-19

**Gospel:** Mt 4:1-11

**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.**

To advance this teaching, Pope Benedict XVI convoked an Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in 2008 on "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church", and then issued the Apostolic Exhortation Verbum Domini, whose teaching remains fundamental for our communities.

1. That document emphasizes in particular the performative character of the Word of God, especially in the context of the liturgy, in which its distinctively sacramental character comes to the fore.
2. It is fitting, then that the life of our people be constantly marked by this decisive relationship with the living word that the Lord never tires of speaking to his Bride, that she may grow in love and faithful witness.
3. Consequently, I hereby declare that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God. This Sunday of the Word of God will thus be a fitting part of that time of the year when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity.

This is more than a temporal coincidence: the celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God has ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity.

The various communities will find their own ways to mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity. It is important, however, that in the Eucharistic celebration the sacred text be enthroned, in order to focus the attention of the assembly on the normative value of God's word.

**KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH**

On this Sunday, it would be particularly appropriate to highlight the proclamation of the word of the Lord and to emphasize in the homily the honor that it is due. Bishops could celebrate the Rite of Installation of Lectors or a similar commissioning of readers, in order to bring out the importance of the proclamation of God's word in the liturgy.

In this regard, renewed efforts should be made to provide members of the faithful with the training needed to be genuine proclaimers of the word, as is already the practice in the case of acolytes or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

Pastors can also find ways of giving a Bible, or one of its books, to the entire assembly as a way of showing the importance of learning how to read, appreciate and pray daily with sacred Scripture, especially through the practice of lectio divina.

4. The return of the people of Israel to their homeland after the Babylonian exile was marked by the public reading of the book of the Law. In the book of Nehemiah, the Bible gives us a moving description of that moment. The people assembled in Jerusalem, in the square before the Water Gate, to listen to the Law. They had been scattered in exile, but now they found themselves gathered "as one" around the sacred Scripture (Neh 8:1). The people lent "attentive ears" (Neh 8:3) to the reading of the sacred book, realizing that in its words they would discover the meaning of their lived experience.

The reaction to the proclamation of was one of great emotion and tears: "[The Levites] read from the book, from the law of God, clearly; and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep'. For all the people wept when they heard.

To be Continued.....

**HARVEST CONTRIBUTIONS**

<b>HARVEST CONTRIBUTIONS BY SOCIETIES &amp; COMMUNITIES</b>	
<b>Society/Community</b>	<b>Amount (GHC)</b>
Christian Mothers	1,000.00
Marshallans Association	1,500.00
Amalgamated	5,000.00
YCW	1,000.00
Knights of St. John	1,000.00
Christian Village	700.00
Youth	
Legion of Mary	1,000.00
Nigerian Community	500.00
Ave Maria	
New	600.00
Achimota/Kopevi/Akwet.	
Kisseiman	500.00
Main Choir	700.00
Akan Kuo	1,000.00
Charismatic Renewal	
Francophone Community	727.00
St. Theresa	1,000.00
Achimota/East-West/Abofu	
Alogboshie	
Achimota Town	160.00
Northern Union	1,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17, 387.00</b>

**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