

## 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: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

### Singing Schedule:

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

### 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.
- LENTEN CHARITY TO MATTHEW 25:** 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.
- Stations of the Cross and Mass comes off every Friday at both STM and SJF at 7pm.
- Knights and Ladies of St. John International anniversary upcoming programmes:  
**Friday** 6<sup>th</sup> March: Health Walk at SJF  
**Saturday**, 7<sup>th</sup> March, donation to Matthew 25 Koforidua  
**Sunday** 8<sup>th</sup> March, health screening at STM.
- All Legionaries and Marian Devotees are kindly reminded of Edel Quinn Function that comes off on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at St. Paul's Catholic Seminary, Sowutuom.

## QUESTIONS FOR BIBLE SHARING

Text: Matthew 17:1-9

- What lessons do we learn from the Transfiguration episode?
- What do you think the statement, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him'?

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

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

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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: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**THEME FOR THE WEEK: BY BREAD ALONE?**

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

## TODAY'S READINGS

**1st Reading: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7**

Eve and Adam eat from the forbidden tree.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 51:3-4,5-6,12-13,14,17  
HAVE MERCY, O LORD, FOR WE HAVE SINNED**

**2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-19**

Through the obedience of Jesus, many will be made righteous.

**Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11**

Jesus fasts for 40 days in the desert and is tempted by the devil.

## Reflection

Lent is here. The forty day journey to remember the Holy Night of our Salvation has begun. This journey will not be easy as the Gospel of today tells us. We will be tempted of the things we want to let go. However, as it is, we need to be like Jesus who overcame the devil. He did so with the Word of God.

Failure to rely on the Word of God, makes us like our progenitors – Adam And Eve who lost the gift of grace and were alienated from the Lord. Our best bet to survive this journey of Lent will be to dwell on God's Word and meditate upon it Day and Night.

Let the words, "Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" be our guide on this journey.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

❖ **Mon 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH, 2020**

Lev 19:1-2,11-18

Ps 19:8-11,16

Mt 25:31-46

❖ **Tues 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH, 2020**

Is 55:10-11

Ps 34:4-7,17-20

Mt 6:7-15

❖ **Wed 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2020**

Jon 3:1-10

Ps 51:3-4,13-14,19-20

Lk 11:29-32

❖ **Thu 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2020**

Est 4:1,3-5:12-15

Ps 138:1-3,7-8

Mt 7:7-12

❖ **Fri 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020**

Ez 18:21-28

Ps 130:1-8

Mt 5:20-26

❖ **Sat 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2020**

Deut 26:16-19

Ps 119:1-2,4-5,7-8

Mt 5:43-48

**8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2020**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Gen 12:1-4

**Resp. Ps:** Ps. 33:4-5,19-21,23

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 2 Tim 1:8-10

**Gospel:** Mt 17:1-9

**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.**

the words of the law. Then he said to them, ‘Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Neh 8:8-10).

These words contain a great teaching. The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, much less a collection of books for the benefit of a privileged few. It belongs above all to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words. At times, there can be a tendency to monopolize the sacred text by restricting it to certain circles or to select groups.

It cannot be that way. The Bible is the book of the Lord’s people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division towards unity. The word of God unites believers and makes them one people.

5. In this unity born of listening, pastors are primarily responsible for explaining sacred Scripture and helping everyone to understand it. Since it is the people’s book, those called to be ministers of the word must feel an urgent need to make it accessible to their community.

The homily, in particular, has a distinctive function, for it possesses “a quasi-sacramental character” (Evangelii Gaudium, 142).

Helping people to enter more deeply into the word of God through simple and suitable language will allow priests themselves to discover the “beauty of the images used by the Lord to encourage the practice of the good” (ibid.). This is a pastoral opportunity that should not be wasted!

**KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH**

For many of our faithful, in fact, this is the only opportunity they have to grasp the beauty of God’s word and to see it applied to their daily lives. Consequently, sufficient time must be devoted to the preparation of the homily. A commentary on the sacred readings cannot be improvised.

Those of us who are preachers should not give long, pedantic homilies or wander off into unrelated topics. When we take time to pray and meditate on the sacred text, we can speak from the heart and thus reach the hearts of those who hear us, conveying what is essential and capable of bearing fruit. May we never tire of devoting time and prayer to Scripture, so that it may be received “not as a human word but as what it really is, the word of God” (1 Thess 2:13).

Catechists, too, in their ministry of helping people to grow in their faith, ought to feel an urgent need for personal renewal through familiarity with, and study of, the sacred Scriptures. This will help them foster in their hearers a true dialogue with the word of God.

6. Before encountering his disciples, gathered behind closed doors, and opening their minds to the understanding of the Scriptures (cf. Lk 24:44-45), the risen Lord appeared to two of them on the road to Emmaus from Jerusalem (cf. Lk 24:13-35).

Saint Luke’s account notes that this happened on the very day of his resurrection, a Sunday. The two disciples were discussing the recent events concerning Jesus’ passion and death. Their journey was marked by sorrow and disappointment at his tragic death.

They had hoped that he would be the Messiah who would set them free, but they found themselves instead confronted with the scandal of the cross. The risen Lord himself gently draws near and walks with them, yet they do not recognize him (cf. v. 16).

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 YCW	5,000.00
Knights of St. John	1,000.00
Christian Village Youth	700.00
Legion of Mary	1,000.00
Nigerian Community	500.00
Ave Maria	
New Achimota/Kopevi/Akwet.	600.00
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**