



SS. THOMAS MORE AND JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH, ACHIMOTA.

P.O. BOX AH 283, ACHIMOTA-ACCRA Website: www.thomasmorejohnfisher.com//Email: besohwe@yahoo.com

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

29TH AUGUST, 2021: TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B .

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **“CONCENTRATE ON THE
ESSENTIALS”**

Rev. Fr. George Obeng - Appah (*Parish Priest*) 020-8592020
Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Kwofie (Assistant Priest) 0206355610

St Thomas More Catholic Church - 030-3931800
SS Thomas More and John Fisher Catholic Church - 030-3939862

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Deut 4:1-2, 6-8

Moses tells the Israelites to observe the commandments that God gave them.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 15:2-3, 4-5

O LORD, WHO MAY ABIDE IN YOUR TENT?

Second Reading: Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27

James teaches that Christians should be doers of the Word.

Gospel Reading: Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Jesus teaches that it is that which comes from our hearts that defiles us.

REFLECTION

If we read today's Gospel carefully, we will see a pattern in Jesus' teaching method that will be repeated in the weeks ahead. Jesus' first teaching is directed to the Pharisees who questioned him. Jesus' words are then directed to the crowd, teaching that a person is defiled by his or her words and actions, not by the food that he or she eats. In verses omitted in today's reading, we learn that Jesus returned home with his disciples, who in turn questioned him about what he had taught. Jesus' words beloved challenges us. In our desire to show that we are holy, we might also give too much credence to externals, following rules without thinking about the intention behind them. *Jesus reminds us that we do not make ourselves holy by our actions. Rather, we become holy when we allow God's Spirit to transform us.*

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 30TH AUGUST, 2021 1Thes 4:13-18 Ps 96:1,3-5,11-13 Lk:16-30	Tue 31ST AUGUST, 2021 1Thes 5:1-6,9-11 Ps 27:1,4,13-14 Lk 4:31-37
Wed 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2021 Col 1:1-8 Ps 52:10-11 Lk 4:38-44	Thu 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2021 Col 1:9-14 Ps 98:2-6 Lk 5:1-11
Fri 3RD SEPTEMBER, 2021 St. Gregory the Great Col 1:15-20 Ps 100:2-5 Lk 5:33-39	Sat 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2021 Col 1:21-23 Ps 54:3-4,6,8 Lk 6:1-5

Readings for Next Sunday

First Reading	Is 35:4-7a
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 146:7,8-9,9-10
Second Reading	Jas 2:1-5
Gospel	Mk 7:31-37

Mass Schedule

<i>St. Thomas More</i>	<i>St. John Fisher</i>
First Mass: 7:00 am	First Mass: 6:30 am
Second Mass: 9:00 am	Second Mass: 8:30 am
	Third Mass: 10:30 am



KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

CATHOLIC SOCIAL DOCTRINE CARE FOR CREATION

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

Scripture

Genesis 1:1-31 God made the heavens and the earth and it was good.

Genesis 2:15 Humans are commanded to care for God's creation.

Lev 25:1-7 The land itself must be given a rest and not abused.

Deuteronomy 10:14 All of heaven and earth belong to the Lord.

Psalms 24:1-2 All the earth is the Lord's.

Daniel 3:56-82 Creation proclaims the glory of God.

Matthew 6:25-34 God loves and cares for all of creation.

Romans 1:20 Creation reveals the nature of God.

1 Corinthians 10:26 Creation and all created things are inherently good because they are of the Lord.

A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. . . . Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society. (Pope Francis, On Care for Our Common Home [Laudato Si'], nos. 49, 91)

The notion of the common good also extends to future generations. The global economic crises have made painfully obvious the detrimental effects of disregarding our common destiny, which cannot exclude those who come after us. We can no longer speak of sustainable development apart from intergenerational solidarity. Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit. Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us. (Pope Francis, On Care for Our Common Home [Laudato Si'], no. 159)

To be continued...

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

ORDINARY TIME

Ordinary Time

- Liturgical Color
 - Green
 - Growth, hope, and life
- Occurs twice in the year
 - Between Christmas and Lent
 - Between summer and the fall
 - Pentecost-Feast of Christ the King
- Purpose
 - To recall the life of Jesus
 - Reminded that God is always there to help us live as Christians



SS THOMAS MORE & JOHN FISHER PARISH

Have You Paid Your Harvest Levy

Payments can be made through **059 585 0922**

Adult	-	100.00
Youth	-	50.00
Kids	-	20.00 or more

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SS THOMAS MORE & JOHN FISHER PARISH

How to make all church statutory payments through MTN momo Ss Thomas more & John fisher 059 585 0922

Dial *170#
 Select Option 2
 Select Option 1
 Enter Merchant ID: **247834**
 Enter Amt
 Enter Reference: eg. *Dues*
 Enter your Momo pin
 Send

MOTIVATION

SEEKING HAPPINESS

There were 200 people attending a seminar on mental and physical health. At one point, the speaker told the group they were going to do an activity. He gave each attendee one balloon and told them to write their name on it. Then, the balloons were collected and moved into a very small room. The participants were then asked to go into the other room and were given 2 minutes to find their balloon.

It was chaos. People were searching frantically for their balloon, pushing each other and running into one another while they grabbed a balloon, looked at it, and inevitably tossed it to the side. At the end of the 2 minutes, no one had found the balloon that had their name on it. Then, the speaker asked the participants to go back in the room and pick up one balloon at random, look at the name, and return it to its owner. Within minutes, everyone had been reunited with their original balloon.

The speaker then told the group, "This is what it's like when people are frantically searching for their own happiness in life. People push others aside to get the things that they want that they believe will bring them happiness. However, our happiness actually lies in helping other people and working together as a community."

The Moral: You will get your happiness if you help other people find theirs. The Dalai Lama says, "If you want to be happy, practice compassion." Helping others makes us happy because it gives us a sense of purpose. In fact, a study from the London School of Economics found that the more you help other people, the happier you will be. The researchers compared the variance in happiness levels of people who don't help others on a regular basis to the happiness of weekly volunteers. They found that the participants had the same variance in happiness as those who make \$75,000 – \$100,000 annually vs \$20,000.

YOUTH CORNER

ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

THE PARISH YOUTH COUNCIL IS SETTING UP A MEDIA TEAM AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DEDICATED YOUTH ON BOARD AS WRITERS, EDITORS, COPYWRITERS, GRAPHIC DESIGNERS AND ALL OTHER MEDIA RELATED WORKS. INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD KINDLY CONTACT MARIUS BODAKPUI 0200296574 OR DORCAS ASARE 0573900118.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Parishioners who wish to redeem their harvest pledges, pay their church dues and other statutory payments can use the Church's Mobile Money Number **0595850922**. Receipts for such payments will be issued later for collection.

2. Due to the directive to register worshippers we encourage parishioners to follow the link to register for Mass <http://thomasmorejohnfisher.com/#ChurchAttendance>
You can also call the priests or send an SMS or WhatsApp with your details to be registered.

3. We are encouraged to adhere to all the covid protocols and directives namely: The Online or Manual Registrations, hand washing, checking of temperature, using of hand sanitizer and socially distancing during mass. Let us kindly cooperate with the ushers in keeping our church safe.

4. Marriage Banns: **2ND Publication** between
1. Samuel Brain Kwame Amuzu & Portia Asare.
2. Kwame Amuzu & Agnes Tofah

5. The St. Vincent de Paul Society has resumed the Community and Society visitations to their wards (Sick & Aged). The month of August's visitation will be done by the Charismatic Renewal and the month of September by the Northern Union.

6. The funeral details of Mr. John Baptist Tagtr is as follows:
Thursday 2nd September, 2021: Laying in state and Pre-Burial Mass at STM at 7:00am. Friday 3rd September, 2021: Burial Mass at St. Theresa's Minor Basilica, Nandom Kouyugang, Upper West Region. Thanksgiving Mass at St. Theresa's Minor Basilica, Nandom Kouyugang, Upper west Region.

7. The funeral details of the Mr. A. Y. Abebrese is as follows:
Thursday 2nd September, 2021: Laying in state and Pre-Burial Mass at SJF at 9:00am. Saturday 4th September, 2021: Burial Mass at St. Francis of Assisi, Catholic Church, Nkukua Buoho, Ashanti Region. Sunday 5th September, 2021: Thanksgiving Mass at St. Francis of Assisi, Nkukua Buoho, Ashanti Region. The Amalgamated Community is organizing a bus to the Ashanti Region for the funeral. Interested parishioners should contact Mrs. Edem Lemaire (**0506133470**) with GHC130.

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 Thursday (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: Monday to Thursday: 9am -1pm & 2 pm - 5pm: and Sunday: 9 am - 1.30pm

SLOGAN: Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher: Besohwɛ!
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.

FINANCE CORNER – ST. THOMAS MORE

WEEKDAYS	STM AUG. WEEK1	STM AUG. WEEK2	STM AUG. WEEK3	STM AUG. WEEK4
SUNDAY	377.00	-----	-----	-----
MONDAY	1035.50	40.00	20.00	-----
TUESDAY	397.00	50.00	1400.00	-----
WEDNESDAY	1064.30	20.00	20.00	5.00
THURSDAY	1089.90	-----	305.00	-----
FRIDAY	729.40	100.00	10.00	40.00
SATURDAY	1238.00	-----	360.00	-----
AUG. BORN	76.00	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL	6007.10	210.00	2115.00	45.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM AUG WEEK4
MAIN COLLECTION	2342.30
SECOND COLLECTION	1437.10
TITHE	70.00
TOTAL	3849.40

FINANCE CORNER – ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF AUG. WEEK1	SJF AUG. WEEK2	SJF AUG. WEEK3	SJF AUG. WEEK4
SUNDAY	1862.00+\$200	-----	-----	\$100
MONDAY	1355.00	1520.00	-----	-----
TUESDAY	703.00	5070.00	-----	-----
WEDNESDAY	1171.80	1020.00	-----	100.00
THURSDAY	1881.00+\$4	450.00	-----	20.00
FRIDAY	6344.00	110.00	102.00	-----
SATURDAY	735.00	205.00	5.00	150.00
AUG. BORN	174.00+\$100	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL	14226.50+\$304	8375.00	107.00	270.00+\$100

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF AUGUST WEEK4
MAIN COLLECTION	2595.40+\$5 +CFA500
SECOND COLLECTION	2022.00+\$3 +CFA500
TOTAL	4618.00+\$8 +CFA1000

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.