



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

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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

12TH DECEMBER, 2021:THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT OR GAUDETE  
SUNDAY, YEAR C

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **"REPENTANCE MUST BE  
EVIDENT IN ACTION."**

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/  
030-2436199

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading: Zeph 3:14-18**

A savior is promised to Israel.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps Is 12:2-6**

**SHOUT, AND SING FOR JOY, FOR GREAT IN  
YOUR MIST IS THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL.**

**Second Reading: Phil 4:4-7**

Rejoice always because the Lord is near.

**Gospel Reading: Lk 3:10-18**

John the Baptist teaches the path of repentance and announces Christ.

### REFLECTION

In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. John the Baptist challenges the crowds who came to him and calls upon them to show evidence of their repentance. He tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Repentance must be evident in actions.

### WEEKLY READINGS

<b>Mon 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021</b> <b>St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr</b> <b>Num 24:2-7,15-17a</b> Ps 25:4-9 Mt 21:23-27	<b>Tue 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021</b> <b>St. John of the Cross</b> Zep 3:1-2,9-13 Ps 34:2-3,6-7,17-19,23 Mt 21:28-32
<b>Wed 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021</b> Is 45:6b-8,18,21b-25 Ps 85:9-14 Lk 7:19-23	<b>Thu 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021</b> Is 54:1-10 Ps 30:3,4-6,11-13b Lk 7:24-30
<b>Fri 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021</b> Gen 49:2,8-10 Ps 72:1-4,7-8,17 Mt 1:1-17	<b>Sat 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021</b> Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19 Mt 1:18-25

### Readings for Next Sunday

<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Mic 5:1-4</b>
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Ps 79:2-3,15-16,18-19</b>
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Heb 10:5-10</b>
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Lk 1:39-45</b>

### Mass Schedule

<b>St. Thomas More</b>	<b>St. John Fisher</b>
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

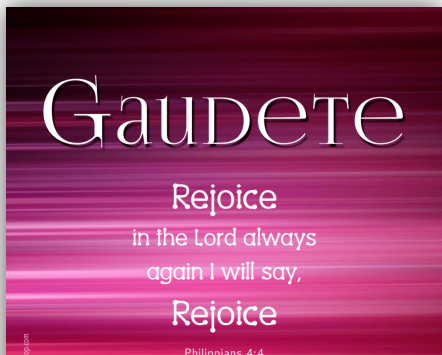
### WHAT IS GAUDETE SUNDAY IN ADVENT?

What is special about the Third Sunday of Advent? For much of the Church's history, this Sunday had a special name: "Gaudete" Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, since it used to begin on November 12 (just after the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours), it was called "St. Martin's Lent." "Gaudete Sunday" was the Advent counterpart to "Laetare Sunday," which marks the midpoint in Lent.

On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation.

Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, or if you prefer, pink.

The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.



## 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 payer 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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME 2021

SS THOMAS MORE & JOHN FISHER PARISH  
CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

Date	Program	Venue	Time
Sat. 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	First Advent Vespers	STM	6.00pm
Wed. 8 <sup>th</sup> - Fri. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Retreat	STM	6.30pm
Sun. 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Carol Service	SJF	5.00pm
Fri. 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Christmas Vigil	STM	8.00pm
		SJF	8.00pm
Sat. 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Christmas Day	STM	7.30am
		SJF	8.30am
Sun. 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Holy Family	STM	7.00am
		SJF	9.00am
			6.30am
			8.30am
			10.30am
Sun. 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Christmas Concert	SJF	4.00pm
Mon. 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Mass for the Sick and Aged	STM	9.00am
Fri. 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec.	New Year Vigil	STM	9.00pm
		SJF	9.00pm
Sat. 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan.	New Year	STM	8.30am
		SJF	9.30am

STM: (GA-246-1294) | SJF: (GA-301-1234)

STM of youth | SS Thomas More And John Fisher | Thomasmoresjohnfisher.com

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

059 585 0922

Dail \*170#

Select Option 2

Select Option 1

Enter Merchant ID: **247834**

Enter Amt

Enter Reference: eg. *Dues*

Enter your Momo pin

Send



## MOTIVATION

### MOTIVATIONAL QUOTES

- ❖ "The distance between insanity and genius is measured only by success." - *Bruce Feirstein*
- ❖ "When you stop chasing the wrong things, you give the right things a chance to catch you." -- *Lolly Daskal*
- ❖ "I believe that the only courage anybody ever needs is the courage to follow your own dreams." -- *Oprah Winfrey*
- ❖ "No masterpiece was ever created by a lazy artist." -- *Anonymous*
- ❖ "Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you." -- *Nathaniel Hawthorne*
- ❖ "If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough." -- *Albert Einstein*
- ❖ "Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting." -- *Anonymous*
- ❖ "Do one thing every day that scares you." -- *Anonymous*
- ❖ "What's the point of being alive if you don't at least try to do something remarkable." -- *Anonymous*

## YOUTH CORNER

Ss Thomas More & John Fisher Youth Choir  
And  
The National Symphony Orchestra

PERFORMS

Part One of  
**G.F. Handel's  
Messiah**

26<sup>th</sup>  
Dec. 2021

4pm  
Venue: SS Thomas More &  
John Fisher Parish

ARE YOU UNEMPLOYED  
LOOKING TO GET A SKILL

**THE YOUTH  
SKILL UP  
PROJECT**

- SOAP MAKING
- BEAD MAKING
- FASCINATORS
- FASHION DESIGNING
- MUSHROOM FARMING

INTERESTED YOUTH TO PICK UP APPLICATION FORMS FROM  
STM OR SJF CHURCH OFFICES AFTER MASS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT  
PAUL - 0242614622 | EUGENE - 0202500170 | SELORM - 0544338487

## 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 **059 585 0922**. Receipts for such payments will be issued later for collection.
2. Children Service has resumed and all parents and guardians are reminded to bring their children to church and take them to the Children Service Classes.
3. **We are reminded and encouraged to redeem our pledges and pay our harvest levy of GHC100 per adult, GHC50 per working youth and GHC20 or more per child and other financial obligations of Church Dues, Welfare Dues, and Building Fund.**
4. **Our Carols Service comes off on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 at SJF at 5:00pm. Let's all come for an evening listening to amazing Christmas Carols.**
5. The 2021 Disbursement of Bursaries and Fundraising Event of the Archbishop Andoh Education Endowment Fund will take place as follows: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 at Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Medina at 9:30am. Invitation is open to the Beneficiaries, Friends of Fund, Priests, Religious and all who wish to contribute towards the Education of needy but brilliant young Catholics.
6. The STM Credit Union wishes to inform its members that our office at SJF will now be opened every Sunday after all Masses. Existing Members are encouraged to continue saving, while new members are warmly invited to join their happy family.
7. The death is reported of Mr. Larry Kofi Tandjie, father of Mr. Lawrence Tandjie. Funeral details is as follows: Burial and Thanksgiving Service: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, Dansoman (near SSNIT Flats) at 9:00am.

## 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 DEC. WEEK1
SUNDAY	340.00
MONDAY	615.20
TUESDAY	1292.00
WEDNESDAY	1225.00
THURSDAY	875.00
FRIDAY	1016.00
SATURDAY	954.00
DEC. BORN	128.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6445.20</b>

### Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM DEC. WEEK1
<b>MAIN COLLECTION</b>	1608.30
<b>TITHE</b>	800.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2408.00</b>



# FINANCE CORNER – ST. JOHN FISHER

## Details of Last Sunday's Collections

WEEKDAYS	SJF DEC. WEEK1
SUNDAY	1404.00
MONDAY	1505.00
TUESDAY	554.00
WEDNESDAY	630.00
THURSDAY	1431.00
FRIDAY	2953.50
SATURDAY	500.00
DEC. BORN	242.90
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9220.40</b>

SUNDAY	SJF DEC. WEEK1
MAIN COLLECTION	2445.70
TITHE	490.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2035.70</b>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.



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

MTN Mobile Money

Instagram: @Stm.sjf\_youth | Facebook: SS Thomas More And John Fisher



## Help Us Build

A new Children Service Block @ SS Thomas More & John Fisher Parish

St. Thomas More Catholic Church  
 Acc No. 1117000222801  
 Bank: NIB Branch Abeka  
 Mobile Money: 059 585 0922