



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

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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

18TH DECEMBER, 2022: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT,  
YEAR A

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **"GOD WITH US"**

Rev. Fr. George Obeng Appah (*Parish Priest*) 020-8592020  
Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Kwofie (*Assistant Priest*) 020-6355610

St. Thomas More Catholic Church - 030-3931800  
SS. Thomas More and John Fisher Catholic Church - 030-3939862/  
030-2436199

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading:** *Is 7:10-14:* Ahaz proclaims the sign that the Lord will give: a virgin shall give birth to a son, Emmanuel.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7c.10b*

**LET THE LORD ENTER, HE IS THE KING OF GLORY.**

**Second Reading:** *Rom 1:1-7:* Paul greets the community at Rome and declares himself a servant of Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Reading:** *Mt 1:18-24:* An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

### REFLECTION

Today's gospel is a revelation of the mystery of the incarnation. The readings point to the fact that the nativity is a mystery beyond human comprehension. The prophesy – *the virgin shall conceive and bear a son* – was given by the Prophet Isaiah. But today the readings emphasize the difficulty in comprehension even for the righteous. Joseph and Mary, though righteous in the sight of God, were unable to comprehend the mystery of 'conception by the Holy Spirit'. It took the intervention of the angel of the Lord for Joseph to take Mary home as his wife. According to Paul, this mystery calls us to the obedience of faith. The obedience of faith is what will connect us to *EMMANUEL*, the God that is with us! (Fr. Anthony Ekpunobi)

### WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022  
*Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a*  
*Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17*  
*Lk 1:5-25*

Tue 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022  
*Is 7:10-14*  
*Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6*  
*Lk 1:26-38*

Wed 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2022  
*St. Peter Canisius*  
*Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a*  
*Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21*  
*Lk 1:39-45*

Thurs 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER, 2022  
*1Sam 1:24-28*  
*Ps 1Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8*  
*Lk 1:46-56*

Fri 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 2022  
*Mal 3:1-4, 23-24*  
*Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10, 14*  
*Lk 1:57-66*

Sat 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022  
*2Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16*  
*Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27*  
*Lk 1:67-79*

#### Readings for Next Sunday **The Nativity of the Lord**

First Reading	<i>Is 52:7-10</i>
Responsorial Psalm	<i>Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6</i>
Second Reading	<i>Heb 1:1-6</i>
Gospel	<i>Mt 1:1-18</i>

#### Mass Schedule

<i>St. Thomas More</i>	<i>St. John Fisher</i>
One Mass: 7:00 AM	First Mass: 6:30 AM
	Second Mass: 9:30 AM



## KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

### 10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ADVENT SEASON - Contd

#### 7. How Are Churches Decorated During Advent?

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal notes: **During Advent the floral decoration of the altar should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of this time of year, without expressing in anticipation the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord.** During Lent it is forbidden for the altar to be decorated with flowers. Exceptions, however, are *Laetare* Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), Solemnities, and Feasts.

#### 8. How Is Music Performed During Advent?

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal notes: **In Advent the use of the organ and other musical instruments should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of this time of year, without expressing in anticipation the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord.** In Lent the playing of the organ and musical instruments is allowed only in order to support the singing. Exceptions, however, are *Laetare* Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), Solemnities, and Feasts.

#### 9. Is the Gloria Said or Sung During Advent?

Neither. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal provides: [The *Gloria* or "Glory to God in the highest"] is sung or said on Sundays **outside Advent** and Lent, and also on Solemnities and Feasts, and at particular celebrations of a more solemn character.

#### 10. What Private Devotions Can We Use to Grow Closer to God During Advent?

There are a variety of private devotions that the Church has recognized for use during Advent. The most famous is the Advent Wreath.

## 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

## ADVENT SEASON – A TIME TO PREPARE

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT *Be Love*

TO BE LOVE AS WE MOVE INTO THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS TO EMBRACE THE EXAMPLE THAT JESUS GAVE US. IT IS BECAUSE GOD LOVED US FIRST THAT WE BECAME CAPABLE OF LOVING OTHERS. WE WILL CHOOSE TO GO BEYOND OUR COMFORT ZONE AND SPREAD GOD'S LOVE ABUNDANTLY.



## SS THOMAS MORE & JOHN FISHER CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2022

DATE	PROGRAM	VENUE	TIME
Sun. 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Carol Service/Chorale Night	SJF	4:00pm
Sat. 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Christmas Vigil	STM	8:00pm
		SJF	7:00pm
Sun. 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Christmas Day	STM	7:00am
		SJF	6:30am 9:30am
Mon. 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Mass for the Sick & Aged	STM	8:30am
Fri. 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Holy Family	STM	7:00pm
Sat. 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec.	Aseda Night/New Year Vigil	STM	8:00pm
		SJF	8:00pm
Sun. 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan.	New Year	STM	7:00am
		SJF	7:00am 9:30am



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

### FOCUS ON THE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE

“Two friends were walking through the desert. At one stage in their journey, they had an argument and one friend slapped the other one in the face.

The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything he wrote in the sand, ‘Today my best friend slapped me in the face.’

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to have a wash. The one who had been slapped got stuck in a mire and started drowning, but his friend saved him. After he had recovered from his shock, he wrote on a stone, ‘Today my best friend saved my life.’

The friend who slapped and saved his best friend asked him, ‘After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write in stone, why?’

The other friend replied, ‘When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it.’”

## YOUTH CORNER

### THE MONEY SERIES - Contd

(Written by the Gadfly Tales)

**6. Set financial goals:** Decide what you are saving for, the timeline involved and how to spread the cost. For example, if you want to have ghc2000 by the end of the year for Christmas celebrations. We have three more months to go. So, that's 2000/3. That will give you 670 cedis a month. So, you have to save from now till Dec, ghc670.

Use this method to plan for the future.

**7. Try the 70:20:10 principle:** Some financial advisors advise using 70% of your savings to cover your expenses, while you Save 20% and use the 10% as tithe (if you believe in it) or investments (if you prefer this option). That is a simple way of proportioning your money. But will require financial discipline to contain your expenses.

**8. Try Investments:** While we can work now and earn money, what about the future? We need to plan for the future. One way to do that is to invest wisely. Take time to research the different investment offers on the market, and choose one that best fits you and is safe.

**9. Pay yourself:** Yes, pay yourself. That is most useful for those running businesses. Learn how to pay yourself every month. That helps you separate business funds from personal funds. Also, to take good care of yourself.

**10. Subscribe to an Insurance package:** This is very beneficial during disasters, health failures, deaths or accidents. You can use the money you will receive from the claims to satisfy a lot of the expenses. And this will go

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We are reminded and entreated to pay our harvest levy of GH¢100 per adult, GH¢50 per working youth, GH¢20 per child or more, redeem our pledges and other financial obligations.
- Marriage Banns:**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Publication between: Robert Parfait Tchio Mbonga, son of Etienne Mbonga and Memouna Moundo AND Joyce Anchang Mafor, daughter of John Ngong Anchang and Juliana Njombe.
- Our Nine Lessons & Carols Service come off today, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 at SJF at 4:00pm. We are all encouraged to come and participate fully.
- The funeral arrangements of Mrs. Judith Ernestina Ayorkor Wilson, a member of the Knights and Ladies of Marshal and the Amalgamated Community is as follows:
  - Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December: Filing Past at 8.00am and Burial Mass at 9.00am at SJF. Attire: Black.
  - Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December: Thanksgiving Mass at SJF at 9.30am.
- Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December, we shall have mass at STM at 8.00pm. SJF will begin with the children 24<sup>th</sup> performance at 7.00pm and continue with mass at 8.00pm
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 is Christmas Sunday. There will be one mass at STM at 7.00am and the usual 6:30am & 9:30am masses at SJF.

## PASTORAL CARE

**Sacrament of Confession:** Every Saturday from 5.00pm at SJF and from 6.30pm at STM.

**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 @ STM.*

**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	STM DEC. WEEK2
SUNDAY	1089.50	10.00
MONDAY	2760.20	-----
TUESDAY	1137.50	140.00
WEDNESDAY	697.00	20.00
THURSDAY	1184.00	-----
FRIDAY	979.10	-----
SATURDAY	1316.00	-----
DEC. BORNES	83.00	-----
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9246.30</b>	<b>170.00</b>

Details of Last Sunday's  
Collections

SUNDAY	STM DEC. WEEK2
MAIN COLLECTION	2183.80
SECOND COLLECTION	1279.00
TITHE	2240.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5702.80</b>



# FINANCE CORNER – ST. JOHN FISHER

## Details of Last Sunday's Collections

WEEKDAYS	SJF DEC. WEEK1	SJF DEC. WEEK2
SUNDAY	930.00	-----
MONDAY	2413.00	30.00
TUESDAY	619.00	10000.00
WEDNESDAY	1122.50	300.00
THURSDAY	1570.00	290.00
FRIDAY	1356.00	5000.00
SATURDAY	906.00	100.00
DEC. BORNES	311.00	-----
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9227.50</b>	<b>15720.00</b>

SUNDAY	SJF DEC. WEEK2
MAIN COLLECTION	3861.60
SECOND COLLECTION	2836.30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6697.90</b>

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.**



SS THOMAS MORE & JOHN FISHER PARISH

## Have You Paid Your Harvest Levy



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

Adult	-	<b>100.00</b>
Youth	-	<b>50.00</b>
Kids	-	<b>20.00</b> or more



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## Help Us Build

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

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