



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

12TH MARCH, 2023: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **“JESUS, THE SAVIOUR AND GIVER OF LIFE”**

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: Ex 17:3-7: God tells Moses to bring forth water from the rock.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 95:1-2, 6-9

O THAT TODAY YOU WOULD LISTEN TO HIS VOICE! HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS.

Second Reading: Rom 5:1-2, 5-8: Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Reading: Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-16, 19-26, 39-42: Jesus reveals himself to the Samaritan woman at the well.

REFLECTION

Jesus was tired after his journey. He sat down by the well, thirsty, hungry and worn out. He was so thirsty that he skirted all social protocol and asked a Samaritan woman to give him a drink. But Jesus' thirst went much deeper. He was really thirsting to save her soul. But his tiredness doesn't hold back his love for a lost sheep that crosses his path. The Samaritan woman came to the well at noon, the hottest hour of the hot, middle-eastern day. She was a social outcast, avoiding contact with her peers. Jesus notices this, seeing in her eyes the anxiety that comes from an unstable life. Her wounded and suffering heart provides an opportunity for grace, and our Lord, forgetting about his own suffering, seizes it, changing her life forever. The Samaritan woman was so overcome with joy at encountering Christ, so eager to spread the news, that she left behind her empty water jar, the very reason she came to the well in the first place! Christ wants to make a real difference in our lives, to redeem us, to give us a fresh start. Invite him into your life.

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 13TH MARCH, 2023 2Kgs 5:1-15ab Ps 42:2-3,43:3-4 Lk 4:24-30	Tue 14TH MARCH, 2023 Dan 3:25,34-43 Ps 25:4-9 Mt 18:21-35
Wed 15TH MARCH, 2023 Deut 4:1,5-9 Ps 148:12-13,15-16,19-20 Mt 5:17-19	Thurs 16TH MARCH, 2023 Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2,6-9 Lk 11:14-23
Fri 17TH MARCH, 2023 St. Patrick Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6,8-11,14,17 Mk 12:28-34	Sat 18TH MARCH, 2023 St. Cyril of Jerusalem Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4,18-21 Lk 18:9-14

Readings for Next Sunday

First Reading	1 Sam 16:1,6-7,10-13
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 23:1-6
Second Reading	Eph 5:8-14
Gospel	Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38

Mass Schedule

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



KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

LAW AND GRACE (Final Part)

Ecclesiastical Law: When Jesus ascended into Heaven, He promised He would be with us always. The primary way this happens is through the Church. The Church, in the persons of the Apostles and their successors, is entrusted with the “Keys to the Kingdom.” This means that Jesus promises to lead us into all truth throughout time.

It’s the sacred role of the Church, especially the pope and bishops, to teach on matters of faith and morals throughout time. This is especially important as new moral questions arise in each day and age. It may be good to refer to the section on the Magisterium in Book One of this series for a clearer explanation. All that is said there refers, especially, to the way that God guides the Church in the ways of faith. However, the teaching authority of the Magisterium also equally applies to all matters of the moral life. It is the role of the Magisterium to teach and clarify the moral law for us in every day and age.

For example, Jesus never taught us about the morality of cloning or embryonic stem cell research. Therefore, it’s the responsibility of the Church to take the moral clarity given through the teaching of Jesus and apply it to all modern questions. Therefore, we can be certain that Jesus brings clarity to His revelation as new questions arise.

The Church is also given the authority and, therefore, the responsibility, to offer laws to guide our worship and life of faith. For example, the teaching on attending Mass on holy days of obligation is a divine law that is taught through the Church. It is a particular way in which we honor and keep the Third Commandment. Jesus wants us to be obedient to these laws.

Ecclesiastical laws govern the celebration of the Sacraments, the organization of parishes and dioceses; guide the responsibility of bishops and pastors; help those called to religious life, etc. The Church gives us what we call Canon Law to guide most parts of our activities, but there are also many other ways in which Church laws guide us. There are particular laws set up in each local church, diocese and country. There are laws that apply to each religious community and organization. There are more universal liturgical laws. And there are other moral laws taught by the Church. One specific ecclesiastical law given to us is called the Precepts of the Church. These Precepts are as follows:

- 1) Attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.
- 2) Confess your sins at least once a year.
- 3) Receive Holy Communion at least during the Easter season.
- 4) Keep holy the holy days of obligation.

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

Additionally, the faithful have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities.

These precepts are ecclesiastical laws that provide us with what we may call the “minimum requirements” for each person to grow in holiness and the moral life. These ecclesiastical laws are in perfect conformity with the divine law of God but are particular ways in which God manifests His law to us through the Church.

Civil Law: Civil laws are to be followed when they are in union with the mind and will of God. When a civil law is enacted by a legitimate authority for the common good of the people, it is a participation in the Divine Law of God and must be followed. However, if a civil law is in clear contradiction to the Divine Law and, therefore, contrary to our human reason, we are obliged not to follow it.

As a way of understanding how the moral law should work hand-in-hand with civil law and the common good of society, the next section looks more clearly at the way God’s law affects us as a human family.

SEASON OF RENEWAL



RETREAT! RETREAT!! RETREAT!!!

**OUR LENTEN RETREAT COMES
OFF ON THE 25TH MARCH, 2023
AT THE SOCIETY OF AFRICAN
MISSIONS (SMA) RETREAT
CENTRE, AMOMOLEY
AT 7:30AM.
DON'T BE LEFT OUT!!!**



**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

ENCOURAGING QUOTES FOR LENT

- Lent is the time to plant the seeds of faith for what is yet to come.
- Lent is a journey that brings us closer to the light of God.
- Lent is a journey to the reward of the Resurrection.
- Sacrifice is but a small price to pay for eternal salvation.
- Give yourself over to Lent; your soul will be stronger as a result of your sacrifice and devotion.
- From the darkness will come rejoicing; He will rise from the dead.
- Reflect and grow stronger in this season of renewed faith.
- Be patient and trust in the Lord.
- Be humble in the glory of what is to come.
- May you find renewal for your spirit and an awakening of your faith this Lenten season.

YOUTH CORNER

HOW TO APPROACH ANOTHER PHASE OF YOUR LIFE

One thing most of us find hard to do is moving on from one point of life to another so below are a few ways you can ease into a new phase

1. **Plan ahead:** The first thing to do is to make a plan for all you want to achieve and when you want to achieve them. This will help put things into perspective and make them easier for you.
2. **Prioritise:** Prioritisation is going to come in handy if you want things to go smoothly. Doing things in an orderly manner will make things easy and simple to accomplish.
3. **Know there will be challenges:** Like almost everything in life moving on to another phase is not going to be all rosy. So just try to be ready for what may come your way.
4. **Avoid negativity:** Negativity makes it difficult to move from one phase to another. It breeds fear and reduces confidence. So trust in your ability to be able to accomplish everything your new phase has to offer with no negativity.
5. **Put into consideration what you learnt earlier:** Experience they say is the best teacher so what else to teach you than your past. Make sure you try to avoid all past mistakes.
6. **Self-motivation:** Who else to be your motivation than you. Know that things might get hard and your family and friends won't always be around so make sure you pick yourself up and continue to fight for what you want to achieve regardless.
7. **Support:** How else can you approach a new phase without the support of your loved ones. Talk to them about the new step and let them help you out either in cash or kind.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. We are reminded to pay our Church Dues, Welfare Dues and Building Fund for this year. Kindly check the notice board for more details. Those in arrears of last year's Harvest Levy, and pledges are entreated to redeem them.
2. St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to remind the Parish Youth Council of their visitation to 8 Wards in Achimota group A in March and Akan Kuo to 8 Wards in Achimota group B in April.
3. Our Deanery Confession comes off on the 23rd March, 2023 at both STM & SJF at 7:00pm.
4. Road to the Cross comes off on the 31st March, 2023 at SJF at 7:00pm
5. Funeral Arrangements of Eng. Emmanuel Kwesi Baiden a former parishioner & Mrs. Dinah Amponsah Baiden are as follows:
 - **Friday 17th March, 2023:** Wake keeping & laying in state at their residence, point2, Kwabenya.
 - **Saturday 18th March, 2023:** Viewing & File past at the Pentecost International Worship Centre (PIWC) – Atomic at 7:00am and Burial Service at 8:00am.
 - **Sunday 19th March, 2023:** Thanksgiving Service at the Pentecost International Worship Centre (PIWC) – Atomic at 7:00am and Burial Service at 8:00am.

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 MAR. WEEK1
SUNDAY	887.00
MONDAY	1223.00
TUESDAY	1886.00
WEDNESDAY	991.00
THURSDAY	697.00
FRIDAY	1094.90
SATURDAY	1229.10
MAR. BORNS	142.00
TOTAL	8150.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM MAR. WEEK1
MAIN COLLECTION	2742.90
TITHE	274.00
TOTAL	3016 .90

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF MAR. WEEK1
SUNDAY	1283.10
MONDAY	2310.00
TUESDAY	2124.60
WEDNESDAY	770.20
THURSDAY	1683.00
FRIDAY	5557.90
SATURDAY	1059.00
MAR. BORNS	303.00
TOTAL	15090.80

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF MAR. WEEK1
MAIN COLLECTION	3380.50
TITHE	320.00
TOTAL	3700.50

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.



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**