



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

7TH MAY, 2023: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: "LET NOT YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED"

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: Acts 6:1-7: The early Christian community chooses seven people to serve at table so that the Twelve can devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19.

MAY YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE BE UPON US, WE HOPE IN YOU, O LORD

Second Reading: 1Pt 2:4-9: Those who have faith are chosen in Christ to be a holy priesthood.

Gospel Reading: Jn 14:1-12: Jesus tells his disciples, "I am the way and the truth and the life."

REFLECTION

The readings of today explain to us the difficult path of faith that we must all walk before we get to our final destination. Our challenges will not only come from outside but also from among our brethren. This is the challenge the Apostles dealt with in the First reading. But then, it is through our perseverance in faith and by making Jesus our fundamental option in life that we will be able to stand when trouble grows. This is the message of the Second reading. The Gospel is Jesus's assurance to us that when our heart quakes in troubles, he is always there to console us and to fill us with the hope of looking ahead to the Eternal Home he has prepared for us in the house of the Father. Thus, the challenges in this life cannot stop those who have placed their focus on Christ; the Way, the Truth and the Life.

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 8TH MAY, 2023 Easter Weekday Acts 14:5-18 Ps 114B:1-4,15-16 Jn 14:21-26	Tue 9TH MAY, 2023 Easter Weekday Acts 14:19-28 Ps 145:10-13,21 Jn 14:27-31a
Wed 10TH MAY, 2023 Easter Weekday Acts 15:1-6 Ps 122:1-5 Jn 15:1-8	Thurs 11TH MAY, 2023 Easter Weekday Acts 15:7-21 Ps 96:1-3,10 Jn 15:9-11
Fri 12TH MAY, 2023 Easter Weekday Acts 15:22-31 Ps 57:6812 Jn 15:12-17	Sat 13TH MAY, 2023 Our Lady of Fatima Acts 16:1-10 Ps 100:1-3,5 Jn 15:18-21

Readings for Next Sunday

First Reading	Acts 8:5-8,14-17
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 66:1-7,16,20
Second Reading	1Pt 3:15-18
Gospel	Jn 14:15-21

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

THE CHURCH'S TEACHING ON HOMOSEXUALITY

Homosexuality refers to relations between men or between women who experience an exclusive or predominant sexual attraction towards persons of the same sex. As first used, the term referred to women as well as men, though more recently terms such as "gay" or "lesbian" have been increasingly used to describe specific identities organized around homosexual desires. A distinction is made in contemporary science and ethical literature between homosexual tendencies of an occasional or temporary nature which might exist in an otherwise heterosexual person and the deeply ingrained and substantially irreversible orientation of a homosexual person.

The Bible and Homosexuality

What is the position of the Bible on homosexuality? In the Old Testament it was seen as a perversion and a pagan abomination. In Lev. 18:22 we read; "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination." Similarly, in Lev. 20:13 we read, "If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall be put to death, their blood is upon them." Another passage dealing with homosexuality is Gen 19:1-28 (the sin of Sodom). Most of the references to homosexuality in the New Testament occur in the letters of Paul.

The clearest is Romans 1:26-27. In the context, Paul is portraying the moral disorder that accompanies the rejection of the knowledge of God in the pagan world. He says, "For this reason God gave them up to dishonourable passions.

Their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural, and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error." Romans 1:26 is the only biblical text that addresses the particular issue of homosexual behaviour between consenting females. Rom. 1:27 is the clearest statement in the New Testament regarding the issue of homosexual behaviour between consenting adult males.

Some interpreters suggest that Paul has in mind here sexual relations between men and boys in particular; however, Paul's indictment seems to include all kinds of homosexual practice, female as well as male, and was not directed against one kind of homosexual practice in distinction from another

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

1 Cor. 6:9; 1 Tim. 1:10 Paul speaks of homosexuality. These two verses may be discussed together. In 1 Cor. 6:9 Paul says, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor sexual perverts." In 1 Tim. 1:10 he speaks of "immoral persons, sodomites, kidnapers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine."

The terms "sexual perverts" and "sodomites" in the two passages translate the same Greek word and denote homosexuality. However, it needs to be added that Paul does not single out same-sex intercourse as specially perverted or monstrous. He lists it alongside theft, drunkenness and perjury, as well as adultery and murder. It is nevertheless a safe conclusion that, whatever might be said about individual orientations or dispositions, Paul could only have regarded all homosexual erotic and genital behaviour as contrary to the creator's plan for human life, to be abandoned on conversion (cf. 1 Cor 6:11).

To be continued.....

UPCOMING PROGRAM

HAPPY EASTER
from the Besohwe Family

May this Easter be a time for us to come together, love one another, and share our blessings. May the spirit of Easter fill our hearts with love and joy, and encourage us to reach out to those in need with open arms.

Twitter: @stmsf_youth Instagram: @stmsf_youth Facebook: Thomasmoreofthefish.com YouTube: SS Thomas More And John Fisher

UPCOMING PROGRAM

**THIS YEAR'S PENTECOST NOVENA
WILL BEGIN FROM
THURSDAY 18TH MAY TO FRIDAY 26TH
MAY, 2023 AT ST. THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC CHURCH FROM 6:30PM TO
8:00PM EACH EVENING. LET'S ALL KEEP
THE DATE OPEN AND PARTICIPATE
FULLY.**



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MOTIVATION

THE TWO WOLVES

An old Cherokee chief sat down to teach his grandson about life.

"There's a fight going on inside me," he tells the young boy, "a fight between two wolves."

"One wolf is evil. It's full of malice, anger, greed, self-pity and false pride. The other is good. It's full of peace, love, joy, kindness, and humility."

"This same fight is going on inside you and everyone else on the face of the earth."

The grandson was quiet, pondering this revelation for a moment before asking, "Grandfather, which wolf will win?"

The old man smiled and replied, "The one you feed."

Moral of the story: *Good and evil exist within each of us. It's our responsibility to own that reality and do whatever we can to nurture the good.*

YOUTH CORNER

SETTING AND ACHIEVING GOALS THE RIGHT WAY

1. **Decide:** Determine the goal you want to attain and start working on it. It must be attainable and should have a time limit.
2. **Show commitment:** After deciding on the goal show commitment and dedication to it. This will make it easier for you to be devoted.
3. **Make a plan:** The plan should include when you want to start, how to attain it, challenges you might face and when you expect to finish.
4. **Write it down:** Putting your goals on paper is beneficial because it lets you know how far you've come and what's left to accomplish.
5. **Tell someone:** Telling your goals will make it harder for you to back out. It should be someone you trust.
6. **Be positive:** Why set goals and be negative about them. Be your number one fan. Motivate yourself into successfully completing them.
7. **Take action:** After all these just begin moving toward your goal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. We are reminded to pay our Church Dues, Welfare Dues and Building Fund. Kindly check the notice board for more details. Those in arrears of Harvest Levy and pledges are entreated to redeem them.
2. St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to remind the St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Society of their visitation to **10** Wards in Kissehman this month, and to CCR, **10** Wards in June. Parishioners are to check the SSVF Gallery notice boards to see pictures of visitations.
3. **May is the month of the Rosary. We are being reminded and encouraged to pray the Rosary.**
4. Catechism Class resumes today 7th May, 2023. Parents are reminded to pick up forms from the Parish offices for their children for the Sacraments of Baptism & First Communion.
5. The death is reported of Mr. Michael D. Beduori, son of Mr. & Mrs. Beduori of the Kissehman Community. Funeral details will be announced later.
6. **Funeral Arrangements: Mr. Clement T. Zuolo** a member of the Amalgamated Community and Knights and Ladies of Marshall is as follows:
 - **Saturday 13th May, 2023:** Pre-burial Mass: at 8:00am at St. John Fisher Catholic Church, New Achimota.
 - **Friday 19th May, 2023:** Laying In state at Lawra-Tongoh, Upper West Region.
 - **Saturday 20th May, 2023:** Traditional Morning, burial and funeral rites at Lawra-Tongoh.
 - **Sunday 21st May, 2023:** Thanksgiving Mass at 9:00am at St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church at Babile-Lawra.
 - **Sunday 11th June, 2023:** Final Thanksgiving Mass at 9:30am at St. John Fisher Catholic Church, New Achimota.

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 APR. WEEK1	STM APR. WEEK2	STM APR. WEEK3	STM APR. WEEK4	STM APR. WEEK5	GRAND TOTAL	POSI- TIONS
SUNDAY	902.50	-----	1.00	201.00	0.50	1105.00	3 RD
MONDAY	1041.50	-----	20.50	-----	-----	1062.00	4 TH
TUESDAY	1469.00	10.00	-----	20.00	510.00	2009.00	1 ST
WEDNESDAY	763.00	-----	-----	195.00	505.00	1463.00	2 ND
THURSDAY	341.00	-----	100.00	-----	-----	441.00	7 TH
FRIDAY	775.00	220.00	40.00	-----	-----	1035.00	5 TH
SATURDAY	444.00	20.00	-----	-----	-----	464.00	6 TH
APR. BORN	329.00	-----	-----	-----	-----	329.00	
TOTAL	6065.00	250.00	161.50	416.00	1015.50	7908.00	

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM APR. WEEK5
MAIN COLLECTION	2213.70
SECOND COLLECTION	1430.70
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	300.00
TITHE	2095.00
TOTAL	6039.40

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER


WEEKDAYS	SJF APR. WEEK1	SJF APR. WEEK2	SJF APR. WEEK3	SJF APR. WEEK4	SJF APR. WEEK5	GRAND TOTAL	POSITIONS
SUNDAY	1493.00	40.00	500.00	-----	20.00	2053.00	4 TH
MONDAY	3643.50	-----	-----	-----	-----	3643.50	3 RD
TUESDAY	1053.00	-----	-----	100.00	-----	1153.00	7 TH
WEDNESDAY	1277.00	-----	211.00	-----	-----	1488.00	5 TH
THURSDAY	1361.50	115.00	-----	10.00	-----	1486.50	6 TH
FRIDAY	2219.5+ 500CFA	4650.00	50.00	-----	20.00	6949.00	1 ST
SATURDAY	1467.00	1600.00	50.00	200.00	843.00	4160.00	2 ND
APR. BORNS	724.00	-----	-----	-----	-----	724.00	
TOTAL	13248.0	6405.00	811.00	310.00	883.00	21657.0	

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF APR. WEEK5
MAIN COLLECTION	3316.80
SECOND COLLECTION	1817.70
TITHE	250.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	250.00
TOTAL	5634.50

All Foreign Currencies have been changed into cedis.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE MONTH OF APRIL.



SS Thomas More & John Fisher Parish, Achimota

Help Us Build

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

"LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME AND DO NOT HINDER THEM FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE "

Matthew 19: 14

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

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