



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

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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

2ND JULY, 2023: THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME,  
YEAR A.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: "THE REWARD OF HOSPITALITY"

Rev. Fr. George Obeng Appah (*Parish Priest*) 020-8592020

St. Thomas More Catholic Church - 030-3931800

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

### Today's Readings

**First Reading:** 2Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a: Hospitality extended to Elisha will be rewarded.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 89:2-3, 16-19

**I WILL SING FOR EVER OF YOUR MERCIES, O LORD.**

**Second Reading:** Rom 6:3-4, 8-11: Through Christ we are dead to sin but alive in God.

**Gospel Reading:** Mt 10:37-42: Jesus outlines the costs and rewards of discipleship.

### Reflection

Today's Gospel is the conclusion of the instructions and consolations that we have heard Jesus offering to his disciples during the past few weeks. In this passage, Jesus summarizes both the costs of discipleship and its rewards. The conditions of discipleship outlined in Matthew's Gospel may appear harsh. Yet they underline for us a truth—choosing anything with one's whole heart has consequences. Choosing life with Christ means that every relationship we have must be understood from a new perspective. Matthew also outlines the reward of hospitality offered to Jesus' followers. In today's Gospel, Jesus explains the difficulties of discipleship, yet reveals that those who welcome the disciples have also welcomed him. We see also the importance of hospitality in the Christian life. **To welcome another in Jesus' name is to extend hospitality to Jesus himself. We have many opportunities in our daily life to reach out to others, to be a welcoming presence and a sign of God's love.**

### Weekly Readings

**Mon 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY, 2023**

**St. Thomas, Apostle**

Gen 12:1-9

Ps 117:1-2

Eph 2:19-22

Jn 20:24-29

**Tue 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023**

**St. Elizabeth of Portugal**

Gen 19:15-29

Ps 26:2-3,9-12

Mt 8:23-27

**Wed 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023**

**St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria**

Gen 21:5,8-20

Ps 34:7-8,10-13

Mt 8:28-34

**Thurs 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023**

**St. Maria Goretti, Virgin & Martyr**

Gen 22:1-19

Ps 115:1-6,8-9

Mt 9:1-8

**Fri 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023**

Gen 23:1-4,19;24:1-8,62-67

Ps 106:1-5

Mt 9:9-13

**Sat 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023**

Gen 27:1-5,15-29

Ps 135:1-6

Mt 9:14-17

### Readings for Next Sunday

|                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>First Reading</b>      | <b>Zec 9:9-10</b>            |
| <b>Responsorial Psalm</b> | <b>Ps 145:1-2,8-11,13-14</b> |
| <b>Second Reading</b>     | <b>Rom 8:9,14-17</b>         |
| <b>Gospel</b>             | <b>Mt 11:25-30</b>           |

### Mass Schedule

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



## KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

### THE FUNCTIONS OF THE SACRAMENTS - Continued from last week

#### 2. *The function of the sacrament as ecclesiological*

The understanding of the ecclesial function of the sacrament, can be seen in what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, that;

The sacraments are of the Church in a double sense that; they are “by her and for her.” They are “by the church” for she is the sacrament of Christ’s action at work in her through the mission of the Holy Spirit. They are “for the church” in the sense that, ‘the sacraments make the Church’ since they manifest and communicate to men, above all in the Eucharist, the mystery of communion with God, who is love, One in three persons.

The sense that the sacraments are “for the church”, reflects or affirms Augustine’s view that no people can be united without being brought together by the sharing of a sacrament. Without the sacraments, there can be no gathering of people, no faith, no unity. The Second Vatican Council explained rightly that the sacraments presuppose faith; calling individuals to faith, gathering them into one people, thus, building up the Body of Christ. The communion and unity of the Church is therefore derived from the sacraments. The sense that the sacraments are “by the church”, reflects the view that the church is the “fundamental sacrament” not in the sense that the church is the source of the sacraments and its effects, but that, it is only through the church that one participates in Christ’s redemption, which is the source of grace.

The sacraments therefore, function as event that calls men into an ecclesial community, and also, it is only through its salvific function that the church becomes an “effective community of salvation.”

#### CHRIST IS THE PURPOSE OF THE SACRAMENT (CHRISTOCENTRIC)

Critically analyzed, the sacraments have but one basic function, that is, to confer grace for the salvation of man, deducing first from the narratives of the institution of the Eucharist “this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins” (Matt.

## 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 II

### Ordinary Time 2

- After Pentecost we enter Ordinary Time again.
- During this period, the mystery of Christ in all its fullness is celebrated & reflected on.  
Special Sunday celebrations like Holy Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi & Christ the King, help accomplish this purpose.
- Solemnity of Christ the King marks the end of the Church Year, & a new cycle begins.
- Themes: Growth, journey in Christ
- Liturgical colour: Green



**JOIN US FOR BIBLE SHARING**

*Get to learn more about the holy scriptures with us!*

EVERY WEDNESDAY  
7PM-8PM  
ST. JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH,  
ACHIMOTA


You will gain a much deeper understanding of the word of God and apply these scriptural truths to your everyday life.

 Stmsjf\_youth  
  SS. Thomas More and John Fisher  
  Stm.sjf\_youth



**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**  
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Enter Reference: eg. *Dues*  
Enter your Momo pin  
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## MOTIVATION

### THE MOUNTAIN STORY

A son and his father were walking on the mountains. Suddenly, his son falls, hurts himself and screams: “AAAhhhhhhhhhhhh!”

To his surprise, he hears the voice repeating, somewhere in the mountain: “AAAhhhhhhhhhhhh!”

Curious, he yells: “Who are you?”

He receives the answer: “Who are you?”

And then he screams to the mountain: “I admire you!”

The voice answers: “I admire you!”

Angered at the response, he screams: “Coward!”

He receives the answer: “Coward!”

He looks to his father and asks: “What’s going on?”

The father smiles and says: “My son, pay attention.”

Again the man screams: “You are a champion!”

The voice answers: “You are a champion!”

The boy is surprised, but does not understand.

Then the father explains: “People call this ECHO, but really this is LIFE.” It gives you back everything you say or do.

*Our life is simply a reflection of our actions.*

*If you want more love in the world, create more love in your heart.*

*If you want more competence in your team, improve your competence. This relationship applies to everything, in all aspects of life; Life will give you back everything you have*

## YOUTH CORNER

### SHORT TERM GAIN CAN CAUSE LONG-TERM PAIN

There are two laws that you fall victim to when you fail to practice self-discipline.

The first Law is called the “**Law of Unintended Consequences.**” This law states that “the unintended consequences of an action can be far worse than the intended consequences of that behavior because of a lack of long-term thinking.”

The second is the “**Law of Perverse consequences,**” which says that “a short-term action aimed at immediate gratification can lead to perverse, or the opposite, consequences from those at which it was aimed.”

For example, you might make an investment of time, money or emotion with the desire and intent to be better off and happier as a result. But because you acted without carefully thinking or doing your homework, the consequences of your behavior turned out to be far worse than if you had done nothing at all. Every person has had this experience, and usually more than once.

Quoted from the book: *\_The power of Self-Discipline\_* by Brian Tracy\_

## 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. Catechism Class will resume at St. John Fisher on the 9th July, 2023 after the 9:30am Mass. Parents are reminded to pick up forms from the Parish office for their children for the Sacraments of Baptism & First Holy Communion.
3. St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to remind the Knights of St. John International of their visitation to 7 Wards in Alogboshie **Group A** this Month and Knights and Ladies of Marshall to 8 Wards in Alogboshie **Group B** in August. Parishioners are to check the SSVF Gallery notice boards to see pictures of visit.
4. **Funeral Arrangements:**  
**Mr. El-Simon Bakuyeya** a parishioner is as follows:
  - ❖ Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2023: Wake keeping at the family house at Vakpo in the Volta Region at 7:00pm.
  - ❖ Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2023: Burial Mass at the St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Vakpo in the V/R at 9:00am.
  - ❖ Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2023: Thanksgiving Mass at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Vakpo in the V/R at 9:00am.
  - ❖ Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2023: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thanksgiving Mass at STM at 9:30am.

## 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 JUNE WEEK1 | STM JUNE WEEK2 | STM JUNE WEEK3 | STM JUNE WEEK4 | GRAND TOTAL    | POSITIONS       |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| SUNDAY       | 880.40         | 1.50           | 1.00           | -----          | 882.90         | 6 <sup>TH</sup> |
| MONDAY       | 3424.50        | 210.00         | -----          | -----          | 3634.50        | 1 <sup>ST</sup> |
| TUESDAY      | 1598.00        | -----          | 5.00           | -----          | 1603.00        | 2 <sup>ND</sup> |
| WEDNESDAY    | 992.00         | -----          | 20.00          | -----          | 1012.00        | 4 <sup>TH</sup> |
| THURSDAY     | 404.80         | -----          | -----          | -----          | 404.80         | 7 <sup>TH</sup> |
| FRIDAY       | 1034.50        | 20.00          | -----          | -----          | 1054.50        | 3 <sup>RD</sup> |
| SATURDAY     | 930.00         | 5.00           | 20.00          | -----          | 955.00         | 5 <sup>TH</sup> |
| JUNE BORN    | 143.00         | -----          | -----          | -----          | 143.00         |                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>9407.20</b> | <b>236.50</b>  | <b>46.00</b>   | <b>-----</b>   | <b>9689.70</b> |                 |

### Details of Last Sunday's Collections

| SUNDAY              | STM JUNE WEEK4 |
|---------------------|----------------|
| MAIN COLLECTION     | -----          |
| SECOND COLLECTION   | -----          |
| OFFERTORY ENVELOPES | -----          |
| TITHE               | -----          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>-----</b>   |

# FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

## Details of Last Sunday's Collections

| WEEKDAYS    | SJF JUNE WEEK1 | SJF JUNE WEEK2 | SJF JUNE WEEK3 | SJF JUNE WEEK4 | GRAND TOTAL | POSITIONS       |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| SUNDAY      | 1722.00        | -----          | -----          | -----          | 1722.00     | 6 <sup>TH</sup> |
| MONDAY      | 1121.20+£50    | 1000.00        | -----          | 20.00          | 2746.20     | 3 <sup>RD</sup> |
| TUESDAY     | 2020.00        | -----          | 100.00         | 25.00          | 2145.00     | 4 <sup>TH</sup> |
| WEDNESDAY   | 573.00         | -----          | 100.00         | 200.00         | 873.00      | 7 <sup>TH</sup> |
| THURSDAY    | 1500.00        | 300.00         | -----          | -----          | 1800.00     | 5 <sup>TH</sup> |
| FRIDAY      | 6531.20        | -----          | 320.00         | 150.00         | 7001.20     | 1 <sup>ST</sup> |
| SATURDAY    | 3382.50        | -----          | 110.00         | -----          | 3492.50     | 2 <sup>ND</sup> |
| JUNE BORNES | 517.00         | -----          | -----          | -----          | 517.00      |                 |
| TOTAL       | 17971.90       |                | 630.00         | 395.00         | 20296.90    |                 |

| SUNDAY              | SJF JUNE WEEK4 |
|---------------------|----------------|
| MAIN COLLECTION     | 5611.70        |
| SECOND COLLECTION   | 3914.60        |
| OFFERTORY ENVELOPES | 1021.00        |
| TITHE               | 1300.00        |
| TOTAL               | 11847.30       |

*All Foreign Currencies have been converted into cedis.*

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



## 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**