



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

30TH JULY, 2023: SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **"SEEK DISCERNMENT AND UNDERSTANDING"**

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: 1Kgs 3:5, 7-12: Solomon pleases God when he asks for a wise and understanding heart to better govern the people.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130

O LORD, HOW I LOVE YOUR LAW.

Second Reading: Rom 8:28-30: God chose us to be conformed to the image of his Son.

Gospel Reading: Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46: Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of Heaven.

REFLECTION

Today's parables teach us that the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field: it is a precious gift waiting to be discovered and embraced. Just as the merchant sells everything to acquire the fine pearls, we are called to prioritize the kingdom of heaven above all else. Jesus invites us to discern the true value of eternal life and to make it the centerpiece of our existence. May we approach God with humble and open minds, yearning for the wisdom that leads us to abundant life. Let us strive to prioritize the kingdom of heaven above all else, recognizing its immeasurable value and being willing to surrender anything that stands in the way. May God bless us on this journey towards eternal wisdom and the fullness of His kingdom.

WEEKLY READINGS

| | |
|---|--|
| Mon 31ST JULY, 2023 St. Ignatius of Loyola Ex 32:15-24,30-34 Ps 126:1-6 Mt 13:31-35 | Tue 1ST AUGUST, 2023 St. Alphonse Liguori Ex 33:7-11;34:5b-9,28 Ps 103:6-13 Mt 13:36-43 |
| Wed 2ND AUGUST, 2023 Sts. Eusebius of Vercelli & Peter Julian Eymard Ex 34:29-35 Ps 99:5-7,9 Mt 13:44-46 | Thurs 3RD AUGUST, 2023 Ex 40:16-21,34-38 Ps 84:3-6,8,11 Mt 13:47-53 |
| Fri 4TH JULY, 2023 St. John Mary Vianney Lev 23:1,4-11,15-16,27,34b-37 Ps 81:3-6,10-11 Mt 13:54-58 | Sat 5TH JULY, 2023 Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major In Rome Lev 25:1,8-17 Ps 67:2-3,5,7-8 Mt 14:1-12 |

Readings for Next Sunday - TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| First Reading | Dan 7:9-10,13-14 |
| Responsorial Psalm | Ps 97:1-2,5-6,9 |
| Second Reading | 2Pt 1:16-19 |
| Gospel | Mt 17:1-9 |

Mass Schedule

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



KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

DIVINE REVELATION:

THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE AND FAITH - Final part

The description of this obedience or response of faith is required, thus, since revelation offers a vision of God to whom we should give our total allegiance and of whom we can also give some account, we can speak of faith as involving both 'believing in' and 'believing that'. A trusting and obedient adherence to Jesus Christ (*fides qua*) allows believers to express something of who he is and what he has revealed, giving their assent to truths about God that have now been disclosed (*fides quae*). An inference from Paul, who mentions the obedience of faith by which we obey the Lord (Rom. 16:26) – *fides qua* – and the confession by the lips (Rom. 10:9) – *fides quae*.

This version of faith obviously corresponds to the two models of revelation primarily as the experience of a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ which initiates a confident commitment of one's life to Christ, and revelation secondarily as propositions about God that are now disclosed and known to be true, or the confession of faith. This commitment and confession (both made possible by God) support a confidence that one's future here and hereafter is safe in the hands of God.

This 'believing in' and 'believing that' also involve accepting the foundational witness to the experience of God coming from the Old Testament and the New Testament (O'Collins, 2011). This foundational witness coupled with Tradition, require some interpretation and promotion, which is granted by the authentic duty of the church's Magisterium. The Magisterium has long been seen as the custodian and authentic interpreter of Divine revelation. Thus, as seen in the Catechism, the church expounds explicitly on this deposit of faith, and how faith is to be attached to the revelation of God. The Catechism is therefore divided into four main parts namely;

1. **The Creed – the faith professed**
2. **Sacraments – the faith celebrated**
3. **Christian morality – the faith lived**
4. **Prayer – the faith prayed**

This emphasizes the centrality of faith of to what is the Divine self-communication, whether it is personal or public. Lawrence Feingold in his book, *Faith Comes from What is Heard* (2016), discusses the essence of faith from the Biblical definition of faith as "assurance of things hoped for and conviction of things unseen" (Heb. 1:1). He distinguishes first and foremost between the human faith and divine faith, the former which is the free and personal assent of the will to what is seen either by the intellect or the sense and the latter is the supernatural gift from God that illumines and guides human faith to assent to God.

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

It should be noted as Feingold did, that the Divine self-communication, requires some disposition of faith, as Jesus spoke about the disposition for faith most directly in the parable of the sower, which is presented as a parable of fundamental importance (Mark 4:13). The four kinds of soil represent four different dispositions of the heart for receiving the seed of the sower, which represents the word of Christ. Jesus is warning the disciples that not all—but only one group among four—have the proper dispositions for receiving the Word in faith and persevering in it.

CONCLUSION

Thus far, we have seen the indispensability of the human experience to the Divine self-communication and the place of faith. Without the human experience there is no revelation and without faith there is no experience of Divine revelation. Faith is engagement with the message of Divine Revelation. The Catechism tells us that "faith also involves giving free assent to all that God has revealed" (CCC. 150). In other words, we say 'yes' not only to God but also to the truth or message that he has revealed—the truth which we see above is given to us in Sacred Scripture and Tradition, and protected for us through the Church's Magisterium. Needless to say, coming to a point of total faith in God, total surrender to him and his ways, and total adherence to his revealed truth, is a lifelong journey demanding tremendous cooperation with God's grace.

ORDINARY TIME II

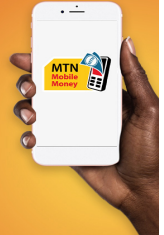


WEDNESDAYS BIBLE SHARING WILL BE ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.



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

THE MOUNTAIN STORY

A son and his father were walking on the mountains. Suddenly, his son falls, hurts himself and screams: "AAAhhhhhhhhhhh!"

To his surprise, he hears the voice repeating, somewhere in the mountain: "AAAhhhhhhhhhhh!"

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 given to it." "Your life is not a coincidence. It's a reflection of you.*

YOUTH CORNER

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT MONEY

1. **Save:** One is never too old or young to start saving. It is also a way to secure your independence and have money for emergencies.
2. **Invest:** This will help you build wealth and meet your set goals financially.
3. **Budget:** Budgeting prevents impulse buying and makes sure money is spent properly.
4. **Don't take loans:** You may have trouble repaying the loan and this could cause more financial problems.
5. **Know there is Joy outside of money:** Money brings a form of financial freedom but it is okay to just stop sometimes and enjoy life, live in the moment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Saturday 5th August, 2023 is the First Saturday of the month.** There will be **Grotto devotion at SJF at 4:00pm.** We are encouraged to come and seek for the help of our Lady of Grace for a Fruitful New Month, the Month of Her Assumption.
2. Fr. Emmanuel Kwofie's send off will come on the 13th August, 2023. We shall one Mass here at STM at 7:00am and also one Mass at SJF at 9:30am. Communities, Societies, Groups and individuals are reminded to come with their Gifts at any of the Masses for presentations.
3. We are reminded and encouraged to pay our Harvest levy of **GH¢100** per Adult, **GH¢50** per working Youth and **GH¢20** per child. Those in arrears of Harvest Levy, and pledges are entreated to redeem them and also fulfill all other Church Financial Obligations. (e.g. Church Dues, Welfare Dues and Building Fund).
4. 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.
5. Do you really want to understand the Mass? Do you want to re-ignite your prayer life? Do you feel the urge to study your bible but don't know how to go about it? If you answer yes to the above questions then register and be part of this year's Life in the Spirit Seminars (**LSS**). Life in the Spirit Seminars are series of teachings / talks on the Church's Doctrine and the Bible over a period of 8 weeks on Sundays only. It prepares the participants to:
 - Understand and appreciate the teachings of the Church (being committed Catholics).
 - Have an effective quiet time (praying and studying the Bible).
 - Identify their God given Charisms (Gift of the Holy Spirit).
 - Give your name to the church secretary. **Registration is FREE.**
6. **Funeral Arrangements of: Mr. Joseph Tampaa Elee, Father of Mad. Edith Sompour, a member of the Northern Union and Christian Mothers Association.** Funeral details is as follows:
 - Reception of Body & Traditional Rites: Friday 4th August, 2023 at Fian-Saapuoyiri, Upper West Region.
 - Burial Mass: Saturday 5th August, 2023 at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Fian at 10:00am.
 - Thanksgiving Mass: Sunday 6th August, 2023 at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Fian at 9:00am.

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: 9:00am - 1:00pm & 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Sunday: 9:00am - 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 JULY WEEK1 | STM JULY WEEK2 | STM JULY WEEK3 | STM JULY WEEK4 |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| SUNDAY | 1047.00 | ----- | 20.00 | ----- |
| MONDAY | 1499.00 | ----- | 120.00 | ----- |
| TUESDAY | 1747.50 | 25.00 | ----- | ----- |
| WEDNESDAY | 1342.00 | 35.00 | ----- | ----- |
| THURSDAY | 1712.50 | ----- | 20.00 | ----- |
| FRIDAY | 993.00 | 100.00 | ----- | ----- |
| SATURDAY | 1872.00 | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| JULY BORN | 89.00 | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| TOTAL | 10302.00 | 160.00 | 160.00 | 0.00 |

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

| SUNDAY | STM JULY WEEK4 |
|---------------------|----------------|
| MAIN COLLECTION | 1892.50 |
| SECOND COLLECTION | 1020.20 |
| OFFERTORY ENVELOPES | 160.00 |
| TITHE | 1340.00 |
| TOTAL | 4412.70 |

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

| WEEKDAYS | SJF JULY WEEK1 | SJF JULY WEEK2 | SJF JULY WEEK3 | SJF JULY WEEK4 |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| SUNDAY | 1307.00 | 420.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| MONDAY | 2852.00 | ----- | 100.00 | ----- |
| TUESDAY | 657.00 | 1.00 | ----- | ----- |
| WEDNESDAY | 848.40 | 220.00 | 455.00 | 50.00 |
| THURSDAY | 1552.50 | 220.00 | 100.00 | ----- |
| FRIDAY | 1026.50 | 4000.00 | 20.00 | ----- |
| SATURDAY | 1971.00 | 1000.00 | ----- | ----- |
| JULY BORN | 168.10 | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| TOTAL | 10382.50 | 5861.00 | 775.00 | 150.00 |

| SUNDAY | SJF JULY WEEK4 |
|-------------------|----------------|
| MAIN COLLECTION | 5444.20 |
| SECOND COLLECTION | 3434.70 |
| TITHE | 65.00 |
| TOTAL | 8943.90 |

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 - **100.00**
 Youth - **50.00**
 Kids - **20.00** or more

[@ Stmsjf_youth](#) [@ Thomasmorejohnfisher.com](#) [f 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**