



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

6TH AUGUST, 2023: THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YEAR A.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: "A GLIMPSE OF HEAVENLY GLORY"

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: Dan 7:9-10, 13-14: The prophet Daniel describes his vision of one like the Son of Man who received dominion from God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9

THE LORD IS KING, THE MOST HIGH ABOVE ALL THE EARTH.

Second Reading: 2Pt 1:16-19: Peter says that the voice heard from Heaven confirmed the truth of his testimony about Christ.

Gospel Reading: Mt 17:1-9: Jesus is transfigured on the mountain in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

REFLECTION

The Transfiguration offers us a foretaste of heaven, where we will behold God face to face in all of His glory. In our earthly journey, we often struggle to grasp the fullness of God's presence and the reality of the afterlife. However, the Transfiguration reminds us that one day, in heaven, we will experience the radiant splendor of God's divine presence. Like the apostles on Mount Tabor, we too will witness the glory of the Risen Christ, which will surpass anything we can currently comprehend. As we contemplate the glorified Christ, we are invited to renew our commitment to living lives of virtue and grace. Just as the apostles were transformed by their encounter with the transfigured Christ, we are called to be transfigured by our encounter with Him in the Eucharist and through prayer. This transformation is an ongoing process, as we seek to become more like Christ and reflect His light to the world. **May the Feast of the Transfiguration inspire us to draw closer to Christ and become bearers of His LOVE and LIGHT in the world.**

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 7TH AUGUST, 2023 Sts. Sixtus II & Cajetan Num 11:4b-15 Ps 81:12-17 Mt 14:13-21	Tue 8TH AUGUST, 2023 St. Dominic Num 12:1-13 Ps 51:3-7,12-13 Mt 14:22-36 or 15:1-2,10-14
Wed 9TH AUGUST, 2023 St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Num 13:1-2,25-14:1,26-29,34-35 Ps 106:6-7,13-14,21-23 Mt 15:21-28	Thur 10TH AUGUST, 2023 St. Lawrence 2Cor 9:6-10 Ps 112:1-2,5-9 Jn 12:24-26
Fri 11TH JULY, 2023 St. Clare Deut 4:32-40 Ps 77:-6,10-11 Mt 13:54-58	Sat 12TH JULY, 2023 St. Jane Frances de Chantal Deut 6:4-13 Ps 18:2-4,47,51 Mt 17:14-20

Readings for Next Sunday

First Reading	1Kgs 19:9a,11-13a
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 85:9-14
Second Reading	Rom 9:1-5
Gospel	Mt 14:22-33

Mass Schedule

St. Thomas More	St. John Fisher
First Mass: 7:00 AM	First Mass: 9:30 AM



KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

TEN THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS' TRANSFIGURATION

1. What does the word "transfiguration" mean?

The word "transfiguration" comes from the Latin roots trans- ("across") and figura ("form, shape"). It thus signifies a change of form or appearance. This is what happened to Jesus in the event known as the Transfiguration: His appearance changed and became glorious. Before looking at the Transfiguration itself, it's important that we look at what happened immediately before it in Luke's Gospel.

2. What happened right before the Transfiguration?

In Luke 9:27, at the end of a speech to the 12 apostles, Jesus adds, enigmatically: There are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God. This has often been taken as a prophecy that the end of the world would occur before the first generation of Christians died out. The phrase "kingdom of God" can also refer to other things, though, including the Church — the outward expression of God's invisible kingdom. The kingdom is embodied in Christ himself and thus might be "seen" if Christ were to manifest it in an unusual way, even in his own earthly life.

3. Did such a manifestation occur?

Yes, and it is the very next thing that Luke relates: the Transfiguration. Pope Benedict states that it has been ... convincingly argued that the placing of this saying immediately before the Transfiguration clearly relates it to this event. Some—that is to say, the three disciples who accompany Jesus up the mountain—are promised that they will personally witness the coming of the Kingdom of God 'in power.' On the mountain the three of them see the glory of God's Kingdom shining out of Jesus. On the mountain they are overshadowed by God's holy cloud. On the mountain—in the conversation of the transfigured Jesus with the Law and the Prophets—they realize that the true Feast of Tabernacles has come. On the mountain they learn that Jesus himself is the living Torah, the complete Word of God. On the mountain they see the 'power' (dynamis) of the Kingdom that is coming in Christ (Jesus of Nazareth, vol. 1, p. 317). We thus may have the key to understanding Jesus' mysterious statement just before the Transfiguration. He wasn't talking about the end of the world. He was talking about this. In fact, Luke notes that the Transfiguration took place "about eight days after these sayings," thus stressing its proximity to them and suggesting that it was the fulfillment of this saying, concerning the fact that some of them would see the kingdom of God. Mark gives a different number of days, saying it was "after six days" (Mark 9:2), but these both approximate a week.

4. Who witnessed the Transfiguration?

The three who are privileged to witness the event are Peter, James and John, the three core disciples. (Andrew was not there or not included.) The fact that Jesus only allowed three of his disciples to witness the event may have sparked the discussion which swiftly ensued about which of the disciples was the greatest (Luke 9:46).

5. Where did the Transfiguration take place?

Luke states that Jesus took the three "on the mountain to pray." This mountain is often thought to be Mount Tabor in Israel, but none of the gospels identify it precisely.

6. Why did the Transfiguration take place?

The Catechism explains it this way: Christ's Transfiguration aims at strengthening the apostles' faith in anticipation of his Passion: the ascent onto the 'high mountain' prepares for the ascent to Calvary. Christ, Head of the Church, manifests what his Body contains and radiates in the sacraments: 'the hope of glory' [CCC 568].

7. What does Luke (in particular) tell us about this event?

Luke mentions several details about the event that the other evangelists do not: He notes that this happened while Jesus was praying. He mentions that Peter and his companions "were heavy with sleep, and when they wakened they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him." He mentions that Peter made his suggestion to put up booths as Moses and Elijah were departing.

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

8. Why do Moses and Elijah appear on the mountain?

Moses and Elijah represent the two principal components of the Old Testament: the Law and the Prophets. Moses was the giver of the Law, and Elijah was considered the greatest of the prophets. The fact that these two figures "spoke of his departure, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem" illustrates that the Law and the Prophets point forward to the Messiah and his sufferings. This foreshadows Jesus' own explanation, on the road to Emmaus, of the Scriptures pointing to himself (cf. Luke 24:27, 32).

9. Why was Peter's suggestion misguided?

The fact that Peter's suggestion occurs when Moses and Elijah are preparing to depart reveals a desire to prolong the experience of glory. This means Peter is focusing on the wrong thing. The experience of the Transfiguration is meant to point forward to the sufferings Jesus is about to experience. It is meant to strengthen the disciples' faith, revealing to them in a powerful way the divine hand that is at work in the events Jesus will undergo. This is why Moses and Elijah have been speaking "about his departure, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem." Peter misses the point and wants to stay on the mountain, contrary to the message the two heavenly visitors have been expounding. As a seeming rebuke of this, a theophany occurs: "A cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!'"

10. What can we learn from this event?

The Transfiguration was a special event in which God allowed certain apostles to have a privileged spiritual experience that was meant to strengthen their faith for the challenges they would later endure. But it was only a temporary event. It was not meant to be permanent. In the same way, at certain times in this life, God may give certain members of the faithful (not all of the faithful, all the time), special experiences of his grace that strengthen their faith.

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY



THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION PRAYER

O Christ, upon the mountaintop you let the light of your face shine over Moses and Elijah. We ask your blessing upon your people who call on your name, who want to belong to the kingdom of light and life. Amen.

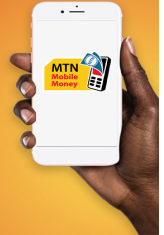
Painting by Lorenzo Lotto (c.1511)

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

TO MARRY OR NOT TO MARRY?

A small business owner owed a banker a considerable sum in a small Italian town long ago. The banker was an old, unattractive man who desired the business owner's daughter.

He offered to forgive the debt if the daughter would marry him, but the businessman and his daughter were reluctant to accept this arrangement.

The banker proposed a game to determine the outcome: he would put two black and one white stone into a bag, and the daughter would blindly choose one. If she chose the black stone, the debt would be forgiven, and she would have to marry the banker. But if the white stone were chosen, all debt would be erased, and she would not have to marry him.

The daughter watched as the banker placed two black stones into the bag, and then, when it was her turn to choose, she pretended to drop the stone and asked the banker to check the remaining stone in the bag to determine her choice. Knowing that the remaining stone was black, the banker pretended that the daughter had chosen the white stone and forgave the debt, allowing the daughter to avoid marriage to him.

Moral of the Story: *This story demonstrates the power of quick thinking and resourcefulness in overcoming difficult situations.*

YOUTH CORNER

WHAT TO DO WHEN ANGRY

1. **Just walk away:** When feeling overwhelmed by an emotion such as anger the best thing to do is just leave. This will prevent your emotion from carrying you away and leading to worse things.
2. **Take deep breaths:** Try to relax and take deep breaths in and out it will make you feel less angered.
3. **Talk about it:** Instead of doing something crazy try talking to the person who is making you angry but make sure you are calm when doing it.
4. **Don't let the angry control you:** Don't do anything you'll regret when you calm down

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Kwofie's send off Mass will come on next week Sunday 13th August 2023. We shall have one Mass here at STM at 7:00am and 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.
2. 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 fulfill all other Church Financial Obligations. (e.g., Church Dues, Welfare Dues and Building Fund).
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** and Knights and Ladies of Marshall to **8 Wards** in Alogboshie **Group B** this month. Parishioners are to check the SSVP Gallery notice boards to see pictures of visit.
4. 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.**
5. The death is reported of **Mr. Joseph Kwame Attah**, a member of the Alogboshie Community and a former Catechist. Funeral Arrangements will be announced later.

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	STM JULY WEEK5	GRAND TOTAL	POSITIONS
SUNDAY	1047.00	-----	20.00	-----	-----	1067.00	7 TH
MONDAY	1499.00	-----	120.00	-----	-----	1619.00	4 TH
TUESDAY	1747.50	25.00	-----	-----	-----	1772.50	2 ND
WEDNESDAY	1342.00	35.00	-----	-----	115.00	1492.00	5 TH
THURSDAY	1712.50	-----	20.00	-----	-----	1732.50	3 RD
FRIDAY	993.00	100.00	-----	-----	-----	1093.00	6 TH
SATURDAY	1872.00	-----	-----	-----	-----	1872.00	1 ST
JULY BORN	89.00	-----	-----	-----	-----	89.00	
TOTAL	10302.0	160.00	160.00	0.00	115.00	10737.0	

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM JULY WEEK5
MAIN COLLECTION	2835.90
SECOND COLLECTION	1870.90
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	670.00
TITHE	50.00
TOTAL	5426.80

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

WEEKDAYS	SJF JULY WEEK1	SJF JULY WEEK2	SJF JULY WEEK3	SJF JULY WEEK4	SJF JULY WEEK5	GRAND TOTAL	POSITIONS
SUNDAY	1307.00	420.00	100.00	100.00	50.00	1977.00	5 TH
MONDAY	2852.00	-----	100.00	-----	1000.00	3952.00	2 ND
TUESDAY	657.00	1.00	-----	-----	1000.00	1658.00	6 TH
WEDNESDAY	848.40	220.00	455.00	50.00	-----	1573.40	7 TH
THURSDAY	1552.50	220.00	100.00	-----	110.00	1982.50	4 TH
FRIDAY	1026.50	4000.00	20.00	-----	-----	5046.50	1 ST
SATURDAY	1971.00	1000.00	-----	-----	-----	2971.00	3 RD
JULY BORN	168.10	-----	-----	-----	-----	168.10	
TOTAL	10382.5	5861.00	775.00	150.00	2160.0	19328.5	

SUNDAY	SJF JULY WEEK5
MAIN COLLECTION	3856.40
SECOND COLLECTION	2524.70
OFFERTORY ENVELOPS	550.00
TITHE	2700.00
TOTAL	9631.10

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



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

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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