



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

3RD DECEMBER, 2023: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: "LET US LONG FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD."

Rev. Fr. George Obeng Appah (*Parish Priest*) 020-8592020
Rev. Fr. Clement Quagraine (*Assistant Priest*) 024-8329194

St. Thomas More Catholic Church - 030-3931800
SS. Thomas More and John Fisher Catholic Church - 030-3939862/
030-2436199

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7: Isaiah prays for the Lord's forgiveness of the people.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)

O GOD, BRING US BACK; LET YOUR FACE SHINE ON US, AND WE SHALL BE SAVED.

Second Reading: 1Cor 1:3-9: Paul gives thanks to God for the faith of the Corinthians.

Gospel Reading: Mk 13:33-37: Jesus warns his disciples to be watchful so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes.

REFLECTION

Advent, which is a season meant for adequate preparation for the joyous coming of the Lord in Christmas and for us to call to mind His second coming at the end of time, has a unique character. Its unique character aids us in going through a period of penitential guidance, watchful care, and vigilance. Hence Jesus' admonishment to his disciples, "Take heed, watch, and pray, for you do not know when the time will come (Mk 13:33-37). This calls to mind that we cannot just live anyhow, not conscious of embracing what the Advent season has for us, only for the child Jesus to be born to us in Christmas, "lest he comes suddenly and finds us asleep." We cannot welcome him with the same old attitude, devoid of any proper spiritual preparation. This means that for us to welcome Him well, we need to make use of the spiritual exercise that the Church has placed at our disposal in this season. We must be servants who are in charge of our spiritual welfare and be doorkeepers of our hearts, not allow our hearts to be contaminated with worldly allurements. Hence, we should distinguish between the world's preparation for Christmas festivities and that of the church.

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 4TH DECEMBER, 2023 Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-2,3-4b,4cd-5,6-7,8-9 Mt 8:5-11	Tue 5TH DECEMBER, 2023 Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17 Lk 10:21-24
Wed 6TH NOVEMBER, 2023 St. Nicholas Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-3a,3b-4,5,6 Mt 15:29-37	Thurs 7TH DECEMBER, 2023 St. Ambrose Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1& 8-9,19-21,25-27a Mt 7:21,24-27
Fri 8TH DECEMBER, 2023 Immaculate Conception BVM Gen 3:9-15,20 Ps 98:1,2-3ab,3cd-4 Eph 1:3-6,11-12 Lk 1:26-38	Sat 9TH DECEMBER, 2023 St. Juan Diego Is 30:19-21,23-26 Ps 147:1-2,3-4,5-6 Mt 9:35 --10:1,5a,6-8

Readings for Next Sunday - 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading	Is 40:1-5, 9-11
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 85:9-10,11-12,13-14 (8)
Second Reading	2 Pt 3:8-14
Gospel	Mk 1:1-8

Mass Schedule

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



KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

A JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT

As the days grow shorter and the world outside becomes cloaked in darkness, the arrival of Advent offers a profound sense of hope and anticipation to millions of Christians around the globe. Derived from the Latin word “adventus,” meaning “coming or arrival,” Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year and is a sacred season of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day. It is a period the Church embarks on a spiritual journey during these four weeks leading up to Christmas, embracing the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. At the heart of this profound tradition stands the Advent wreath, adorned with candles symbolizing these themes, and accompanied by heartfelt prayers that kindle the light of faith, one candle at a time.

The lighting of the Advent wreath candles is a cherished Christian tradition that holds deep spiritual significance. It serves as a sacred reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. Each candle represents a different facet of the Christian journey during Advent: The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the “Bethlehem Candle” as a reminder of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the “Shepherd’s Candle,” and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the “Angel’s Candle,” symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

Though the Mercy Home Advent wreath does not include a white candle, this is a tradition that has become popular in modern day adaptations.

The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the “Christ Candle” and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

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.

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|---------------------------------|-------------|
| St. Thomas More..... | Pray for us |
| St. John Fisher..... | Pray for us |
| All you Angels and Saints | Pray for us |

ADVENT SEASON

Happy 1st week of Advent!



Upcoming pr ogr a m

ADVENT RECOLLECTION

DATE: 14TH - 16TH DECEMBER, 2023

- 14TH & 15TH DEC.: Rosary Prayers & Talks.
SPEAKER: Rev. Fr. Raquel Quansah.
VENUE: STM @ 6:30pm Each Evening.
- 16TH DEC. 2023: CONFESSIONS
@ BOTH STM & SJF @ 5:00pm.



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 SHEPHERD'S BOY AND THE WOLF

The Shepherd's Boy and the Wolf is a classic story with a moral about lying. It's the original moral story of the common phrase *to cry wolf*.

A shepherd-boy, who watched a flock of sheep near a village, brought out the villagers three or four times by crying out, "Wolf! Wolf!" and when his neighbors came to help him, laughed at them for their pains. The Wolf, however, did truly come at last. The Shepherd-boy, now really alarmed, shouted in an agony of terror: "Pray, do come and help me; the Wolf is killing the sheep;" but no one paid any heed to his cries, nor rendered any assistance. The Wolf, having no cause of fear, at his leisure lacerated or destroyed the whole flock.

There is no believing a liar, even when he speaks the truth.

The moral of the story: *Always tell the truth. Or at least don't lie.*

YOUTH CORNER

THE PYC WOULD
LIKE TO CALL
FOR WRITERS
FOR THE
YOUTH CORNER.
INTERESTED
PERSONS
SHOULD
CONTACT AMA
ON *0578041989*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We are 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).
- Friday 8th December, 2023 Is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We shall Morning Masses at both STM & SJF at 6:15am.**
- Deaconate Banns: 2nd** Publication of Wisdom Asare, son of Mr. Leonard Asare and Mrs. Stella Abra Kafui Ankora. Kindly see the Parish Priest in case of any impediment as soon as possible, If not let's continue to pray for him.
- Marriage Banns:**
2ND Publication between James Kabir & Janet Maasang.
2ND Publication between Daniel Hoenyedzi, son of Vincent Nartey Fansey & Adolphine Tsogbe. And Eugenia Asonkey, daughter of Winson Asonkey & Judith Agbozmatu.
- The members of the Co-operative Credit Union of St. Thomas More & St. John Fisher are to take note of the following:
 - Updating of Personal Records.
 - Synchronization of details on Ghana Card with Personal Records.
 - Entry of 3rd Quarter Interest on Savings in passbooks.

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 NOV. WEEK1	STM NOV. WEEK2	STM NOV. WEEK3	STM NOV. WEEK4	GRAND TOTAL	POSITIONS
SUNDAY	720.00	-----	25.00	-----	745.00	7 TH
MONDAY	1353.50	1.00	0.80	111.00	1466.30	5 TH
TUESDAY	2314.00	100.00	50.00	-----	2464.00	1 ST
WEDNESDAY	1628.00	455.00	20.00	6.00	2109.00	3 RD
THURSDAY	1052.50	-----	-----	20.00	1072.50	6 TH
FRIDAY	1243.70	1200.00	-----	-----	2443.70	2 ND
SATURDAY	639.00	20.00	-----	1000.00	1659.00	4 TH
NOV. BORNS	176.00	-----	-----	-----	176.00	
TOTAL	9126.70	1776.00	95.80	1137.00	12135.50	

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM NOV. WEEK4
MAIN COLLECTION	2488.50
SECOND COLLECTION	1616.50
TITHE	360.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	820.00
TOTAL	5285.00

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF NOV. WEEK1	SJF NOV. WEEK2	SJF NOV. WEEK3	SJF NOV. WEEK4	GRAND TOTAL	POSITIONS
SUNDAY	528.90	300.20	100.00	-----	929.10	7 TH
MONDAY	5116.00	100.00	-----	-----	5216.00	2 ND
TUESDAY	1331.00	-----	320.00	50.00	1701.00	5 TH
WEDNESDAY	1118.00	-----	-----	200.00	1318.00	6 TH
THURSDAY	4040.00	227.00	10.00	20.00	4297.00	3 RD
FRIDAY	8133.00	100.00	1000.00	€20	9497.00	1 ST
SATURDAY	2820.75	120.00	200.00	-----	3140.75	4 TH
NOV. BORN	247.00	-----	-----	-----	247.00	
Unidentified Day	360.00	-----	-----	-----	360.00	
TOTAL	23694.65	847.20	1630.00	270+€20	26705.85	

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF NOV. WEEK4
MAIN COLLECTION	4162.90
SECOND COLLECTION	2513.20
TOTAL	6676.10

All Foreign Currencies have been converted into cedis.

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

Have You Paid Your Harvest Levy?

Adult - 100.00
Youth - 50.00
Kids - 20.00 or more



Payments can be made through
059 585 0922

For more info: **030-3931800**

Stmsjfyouth Thomasmorejohnfisher.com SS Thomas More And John Fisher

