



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

10TH DECEMBER, 2023: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT,
YEAR B.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **"THE LIGHT OF PEACE MUST
DISPEL THE DARKNESS OF
UNREST IN OUR HEARTS."**

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 40:1-5, 9-11: Isaiah tells the people to prepare a way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)

**LET US SEE, O LORD YOUR MERCY AND
GRANT US YOUR SALVATION.**

Second Reading: 2 Pt 3:8-14: Peter teaches that we must always be holy because the return of the Lord cannot be predicted.

Gospel Reading: Mk 1:1-8: John the Baptist preaches repentance and baptizes the people, in preparation for the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

REFLECTION

On the Second Sunday of Advent, we focus on the theme of "Peace" in preparation for the coming of the Lord. The prophetic words of Isaiah guide us toward a deeper understanding of this theme, emphasizing peace through comfort, pardon of iniquity for the people of Israel, and the announcement of good tidings free from fear or conflict. We, as the new Israel are called upon by the Church, akin to Isaiah's message, to fully embrace the essence of peace. It is only by sincerely "preparing the way of the Lord, that we can truly experience and share in this peace. This task of preparation is incumbent upon us and requires collective effort. A community that wholeheartedly embraces peace provides comfort to each other. We must remember that this is the very path that Christ will journey upon, and it is not fitting to welcome Him on a path marred by agony, sorrow, and unrest. The path of the Lord should be clear of unforgiveness and instead be adorned with a spirit of reconciliation. Only then can we, as a united Christian community, welcome the coming of the Lord with genuine joy and good tidings. Let us heed this clarion call to prepare our hearts and minds, individually and collectively, for the coming of the Prince of Peace. May our efforts be guided by love, forgiveness, and a shared commitment to embrace the peace that surpasses all understanding.

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 11TH DECEMBER, 2023 St. Damasus I Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9ab & 10,11-12,13-14 Lk 5:17-26	Tue 12TH DECEMBER, 2023 Our Lady of Guadalupe Is 40:1-11 Ps 95:1-3,10-13 Mt 18:12-14
Wed 13TH NOVEMBER, 2023 St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-2,3-4,8 & 10, Mt 11:28-30	Thurs 14TH DECEMBER, 2023 St. John of the Cross Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1& 9,10-11,12-13ab Mt 11:11-15
Fri 15TH DECEMBER, 2023 Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-2,3,4 & 6 Mt 11:16-19	Sat 16TH DECEMBER, 2023 Sir 48:1-4,9-11 Ps 80:2ac & 3b,15-16,18-19 Mt 17:9a,10-13

Readings for Next Sunday - 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading	Is 61:1-2a,10-11
Responsorial Psalm	Ps Lk 1:46-50,53-54
Second Reading	1Thes 5:16-24
Gospel	Jn 1:6-8,19-28

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

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ADVENT SEASON

When Does Advent Begin and End?

According to the General Norms (No. 40): Advent begins with Evening Prayer I of the Sunday falling on or closest to 30 November and ends before Evening Prayer I of Christmas. The Sunday on or closest to Nov. 30 can range between Nov. 27 and Dec. 3, depending on the year. In the case of a Sunday, Evening Prayer I is said on the evening of the preceding day (Saturday). This means that Advent begins on the evening of a Saturday falling between Nov. 26 and Dec. 2 (inclusive), and it ends on the evening of Dec. 24, which holds Evening Prayer I of Christmas (Dec. 25).

What Is the Role of Sundays in Advent?

There are four Sundays of Advent. The General Norms (No. 41) state: The Sundays of this season are named the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Sundays of Advent. The Third Sunday of Advent has a special name — *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin word for “Rejoice,” which is the first word of the introit of the Mass for this day. The Church ascribes particular importance to these Sundays, and they take precedence over other liturgical celebrations. Because of its special importance, the Sunday celebration gives way only to solemnities or feasts of the Lord. **The Sundays of the seasons of Advent, Lent, and Easter, however, take precedence over all solemnities and feasts of the Lord. Solemnities occurring on these Sundays are observed on the Saturdays preceding.**

How Are Churches Decorated During Advent?

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal notes: **During Advent, the floral decoration of the altar should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of this time of year, without expressing in anticipation the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord.** During Lent, it is forbidden for the altar to be decorated with flowers. Exceptions, however, are *Laetare* Sunday (the Fourth Sunday of Lent), Solemnities, and Feasts.

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 2nd week of Advent!



Advent RECOLLECTION

DATE: 14TH - 16TH DECEMBER, 2023

PROGRAM OUTLINE

14TH & 15TH DECEMBER, 2023

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Rosary Prayers.
- Praises & Worship.
- Talks.

SPEAKER: Rev. Fr. Raquel Quansah.

VENUE: STM @ 6:30pm Each Evening.

16TH DECEMBER, 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

TWO FRIENDS & THE BEAR

Vijay and Raju were friends. On a holiday they went walking into a forest, enjoying the beauty of nature. Suddenly they saw a bear coming at them. They became frightened.

Raju, who knew all about climbing trees, ran up to a tree and climbed up quickly. He didn't think of Vijay. Vijay had no idea how to climb the tree.

Vijay thought for a second. He'd heard animals don't prefer dead bodies, so he fell to the ground and held his breath. The bear sniffed him and thought he was dead. So, it went on its way.

Raju asked Vijay; "What did the bear whisper into your ears?"

Vijay replied, "*The bear asked me to keep away from friends like you*" ...and went on his way.

The moral of the story: *A friend in need is a friend indeed.*

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).
- This year's Carols Night comes off next Sunday 17th December, 2023 at SS. Thomas More & John Fisher at 5:00pm.**
- Diaconate Banns:** 3RD 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:**
3RD Publication between James Kabir & Janet Maasang.
3RD Publication between Daniel Hoenyedzi, son of Vincent Nartey Fansey & Adolphine Tsogbe. And Eugenia Asonkey, daughter of Winson Asonkey & Judith Agbozmatu.
- Funeral Arrangements** of the late **Mr. Emmanuel Kingsley Owusu** is as follows:
 - **Vigil:** Friday 12th January, 2024, from 6:00pm to 10:00pm at the Owusu's residence CFC, Dome, Accra. (GPS: GE-343-3895).
 - **Laying In State:** Saturday 13th January, 2024, from 5:00am to 6:30am at the Owusu's residence. **Filling Past** at SS. Thomas More & John Fisher at 8:00am and **Burial Mass** at 9:00am. **Final Funeral Rites** at SS. Thomas More & John Fisher from 1:00pm to 6:00pm. **Attire:** Black.
 - **Thanksgiving Mass:** Sunday 14th January, 2024 at SS. Thomas More & John Fisher at 9:30am. **Attire:** Black & White.
 - **Family Gathering:** 1:00pm to 6:00pm at the Owusu's residence, CFC, Dome, Accra. (GPS: GE-343-3895).

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 DEC. WEEK1
SUNDAY	490.00
MONDAY	1772.00+\$4
TUESDAY	776.50
WEDNESDAY	1483.00
THURSDAY	4015.00
FRIDAY	698.00
SATURDAY	539.50
DEC. BORN	272.00
TOTAL	4000.50

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM DEC. WEEK1
MAIN COLLECTION	2441.20
TITHE	42.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	770.00
TOTAL	3253.20

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF DEC. WEEK1
SUNDAY	875.20
MONDAY	2549.00+\$100
TUESDAY	1078.80
WEDNESDAY	824.70
THURSDAY	1831.90
FRIDAY	1284.00
SATURDAY	1001.00
DEC. BORNS	542.00
TOTAL	11187.60

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF DEC. WEEK1
MAIN COLLECTION	3782.20 +CFA300
TITHE	650.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	550.00
TOTAL	4982.20 +CFA300

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



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