



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

17TH DECEMBER, 2023: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT OR GAUDETE SUNDAY, YEAR B.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **"REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS, AND LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED."**

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 61:1-2a, 10-11: The Lord's salvation will be made known to the poor and the oppressed.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps Lk 1:46-50, 53-54

MY SOUL SHALL EXULT IN MY GOD.

Second Reading: 1Thes 5:16-24: Paul encourages the Thessalonians to rejoice and pray always.

Gospel Reading: Jn 1:6-8, 19-28: John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare the way for the coming of Lord.

REFLECTION

Beloved, as people of faith, there is a need for us to **"rejoice always, pray constantly, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"** (1Thes 5:16-24). Since the church wants to always fulfil the will of Christ for her people, she has chosen the Third Sunday in the season of Advent as "Gaudete Sunday" for us to reflect and also embrace the theme of "joy or rejoicing," especially as we edge closer to Christmas. We can only faithfully embrace this theme if we are willing to be ambassadors of it. Let us bring good news and joy to people when they need it most, as Isaiah (61:1-2a ff) in the reading of today did for the people of Israel. The good news of Isaiah brought encouragement, hope, and joy to the people of Israel, especially those who were afflicted and brokenhearted, those who still had not overcome the bad memories of exile and still felt captive and imprisoned. You may not know how a message of hope or gladness can transform the entire livelihood of a friend. It may seem nothing to you, but to others, it may mean much. Put a smile on the face of a friend, working colleague, brother, or sister by sharing a message of joy.

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 18TH DECEMBER, 2023 (O Adonai) Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19 Mt 1:18-25	Tue 19TH DECEMBER, 2023 (O Radix Jesse) Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a Ps 71:3-6,16-17 Lk 1:5-25
Wed 20TH NOVEMBER, 2023 (O Clavis David) Is 7:25-31 Ps 103:1-2,3-4,8 & 10, Mt 11:28-30	Thurs 21ST DECEMBER, 2023 (O Oriens) St. Peter Canisius Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1& 9,10-11,12-13ab Mt 11:11-15
Fri 22ND DECEMBER, 2023 (O Rex Gentium) Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-2,3,4 & 6 Mt 11:16-19	Sat 23RD DECEMBER, 2023 (O Emmanuel) St. John of Kanty Sir 48:1-4,9-11 Ps 80:2ac & 3b,15-16,18-19 Mt 17:9a,10-13

Readings for Next Sunday - 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading	2Sam 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 89:2-5,27,29
Second Reading	Rom 16:25-27
Gospel	Lk 1:26-38

Mass Schedule

St. Thomas More	St. John Fisher
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

O ANTIPHONS - DECEMBER 17 - 24

December 17 marks the beginning of the "O" *Antiphons* an ancient part of our liturgy, dating back to the fourth century, one for each day until Christmas Eve. These antiphons address Christ with seven magnificent Messianic titles, based on the Old Testament prophecies and types of Christ. The Church recalls the variety of the ills of man before the coming of the Redeemer. The antiphons beg God with mounting impatience to come and save His people. The order of the antiphons climbs climatically through our history of Redemption.

In the first, *O Sapientia*, we take a backward flight into the recesses of eternity to address Wisdom, the Word of God. In the second, *O Adonai*, we have leaped from eternity to the time of Moses and the Law of Moses (about 1400 B.C.). In the third, *O Radix Jesse*, we have come to the time when God was preparing the line of David (about 1100 B.C.). In the fourth, *O Clavis David*, we have come to the year 1000. In the fifth, *O Oriens* we see that the line of David is elevated so that the people may look on a rising star in the east, and hence in the sixth, *O Rex Gentium*, we know that He is king of all the world of man. This brings us to the evening before the vigil, and before coming to the town limits of Bethlehem, we salute Him with the last Great O, *O Emmanuel, God-with-us—He Cometh*.

- **Sapientia or O Wisdom** (December 17), *O Wisdom* (Sirach 24:3), Come and teach us the way of prudence (Isaiah 40:14).
- **Adonai or O Lord and Ruler** (December 18), *O Adonai* (Ex 3:14), Come, and with an outstretched arm redeem us (Jeremiah 32:21).
- **Radix Jesse or O Root of Jesse** (December 19), *O Root of Jesse*, (Isaiah 11:1), Come, save us, and do not delay (Habakkuk 2:3).
- **Clavis David or O Key of David** (December 20), Scepter of the house of Israel (Numbers 24:17): Come, and deliver him from the chains of prison who sits in darkness and the shadow of death (Ps 107:10).
- **Oriens or O Rising Dawn or Morning Star** (December 21), *O Rising Dawn*, (Jer 23:5), Come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death (Ps 107:10; Lk 1:78).
- **Rex Gentium or O King of the Nations** (December 22), *O King of the Gentiles* (Jeremiah 10:7), Come and save man whom You fashioned out of clay (Genesis 2:7).
- **Emmanuel** (December 23), *O Emmanuel* (Isaiah 7:14; 8:8; Luke 1:31-33), Come, and save us, O Lord our God.

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 3rd week of Advent!





CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

Sun. 17th	Carols Service SJF 5pm
Sun. 24th	4th Sunday of Advent STM: 7am & 9:30am SJF: 6:30am & 9:30am
Sun. 24th	Christmas Vigil STM: 7pm SJF: 7pm
Mon. 25th	Christmas Day STM: 7am SJF: 9am
Tue. 26th	Mass for the Sick & Aged STM: 8am
Sun. 31st	Holy Family STM: 7am & 9:30am SJF: 6:30am & 9:30am
Sun. 31st	New Year Vigil/Aseda Night STM: 9pm SJF: 9pm
Mon. 1st	New Year STM: 8am SJF: 9am

SJF - SS Thomas More & John Fisher
Google Maps:
JQC6+QWV, St Fisher St, Accra

STM- St. Thomas More
JQFJ+R35, Accra



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 BUTTERFLY (STRUGGLES)

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Until it **suddenly stopped making any progress** and looked like it was stuck. So the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily, although it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.

The man didn't think anything of it and sat there waiting for the wings to enlarge to support the butterfly. But that didn't happen. The butterfly spent the rest of its life unable to fly, crawling around with tiny wings and a swollen body. Despite the **kind heart of the man**, he didn't understand that the restricting cocoon and the struggle needed by the butterfly to get itself through the small opening; were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings. To prepare itself for flying once it was out of the cocoon.

Moral: *Our struggles in life develop our strengths. Without struggles, we never grow and never get stronger, so we need to tackle challenges on our own, and not always rely on help from others.*

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).
- OUR NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE COMES OFF TODAY AT SS. THOMAS MORE & JOHN FISHER AT 5:00PM.**
- The Children Service invite you to their 9th Edition of **"JINGLE BELLS CHRISTMAS"** on Sunday 24th December, at SJF at 6:00pm.
- Marriage Banns:**
2ND Publication between: **Benjamin Kweku Ababio**, son of Akwasi Ababio & Helena Ababio. And **Audrey Sesi Adom**, daughter of Elliot Adom & Ernestina Adom.
- 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	STM DEC. WEEK2
SUNDAY	490.00	\$100
MONDAY	1772.00+\$4	200.00
TUESDAY	776.50	-----
WEDNESDAY	1483.00	2.00
THURSDAY	4015.00	-----
FRIDAY	698.00	-----
SATURDAY	539.50	-----
DEC. BORNs	272.00	-----
TOTAL	10094.54	1403.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM DEC. WEEK1
MAIN COLLECTION	2936.70
SECOND COLLECTION	1922.00
TITHE	250.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	50.00
TOTAL	5158.70

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF DEC. WEEK1	SJF DEC. WEEK2
SUNDAY	875.20	300.00
MONDAY	2549.00+\$100	-----
TUESDAY	1078.80	-----
WEDNESDAY	824.70	-----
THURSDAY	1831.90	-----
FRIDAY	1284.00	4700.00
SATURDAY	1001.00	-----
DEC. BORNS	542.00	-----
TOTAL	11187.60	5000.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF DEC. WEEK2
MAIN COLLECTION	4044.30
SECOND COLLECTION	2075.50
TITHE	350.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	630.00
TOTAL	7099.80

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.

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**

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