



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

24TH DECEMBER, 2023: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT,
YEAR B.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: "LOVE BECAUSE GOD, WHO IS THE
SOURCE, HAS ALWAYS LOVED HUMANITY."

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: 2Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16: The Lord promises David that he will raise from his descendants a kingdom that will endure forever.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29

I WILL SING FOR EVER OF YOUR MERCIES, O LORD.

Second Reading: Rom 16:25-27: Paul praises God for making his revelation known.

Gospel Reading: Lk 1:26-38: The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

REFLECTION

As we approach the conclusion of the Advent season on this fourth Sunday, the Church guides us to eagerly anticipate the upcoming Christmas season, centered around the theme of "LOVE." In symbolizing this theme, the fourth candle is lit, signifying the radiant love of God in the sending of His only begotten Son to dwell among us. Why is it meaningful to anticipate this love-light? The love embodied in Jesus Christ arrives not with fear, tension, or conflict, but rather with encouragement, peace, hope, and joy for all of humanity. This revelation is communicated through Mary, the first recipient of this divine message. Recall the angel Gabriel's greeting to Mary, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Luke 1:26-38), portraying a message of love, assurance, and encouragement. The angel further declared, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." Just as Mary, our beacon of hope, embraced this love-light with unwavering conviction, leading to the descent of the Holy Spirit upon her and the overshadowing power of the Most High, we too, like Mary, are called to embrace this light of love. The light of love will indeed come, but it will find its way into our lives if we align our will with that of the Lord, echoing Mary's words, "Let it be to me according to your word."

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 25TH DECEMBER, 2023 Nativity of the Lord Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5,9-14	Tue 26TH DECEMBER, 2023 St. Stephen, First Martyr Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59 Ps 30:3-4,6,8,16-17 Mt 10:17-22
Wed 27TH NOVEMBER, 2023 St. John, Apostle & Evangelist 1Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12 Jn 20:2-11	Thurs 28TH DECEMBER, 2023 Holy Innocents, Martyrs Jn 1:5--2:2 Ps 124:2-5,7b-8 Mt 2:3-18
Fri 29TH DECEMBER, 2023 5th Day: Octave of Christmas Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-3,5-6 Lk 2:22-35	Sat 30TH DECEMBER, 2023 6th Day: Octave of Christmas 1Jn 2:12-17 Ps 95:7-10 Lk 2:36-40

Readings for Next Sunday - THE HOLY FAMILY

First Reading	Gen 15:1-6;21:1-3
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 128:1-5
Second Reading	Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19
Gospel	Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22,39-40

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

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES: WHAT IS A VIGIL MASS, AND WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

The term "vigil" derives from the Latin *vigilia* which means, "a night to watch," generally the fourth part of the night from sunset to sunrise. In the Christian Church, it is a religious service held during the night leading to a feast day. This practice dates back to early Christianity when the faithful would wake up in the middle of the night to pray.

During the third and fourth centuries, it was very common to hold a vigil in preparation for a feast. The service would begin on the previous night to the feast day and end the next morning. During these vigils, the faithful gathered in the evening at an assigned place or in the church where the celebration would take place. The vigils involved prayers, readings from Sacred Scripture, Psalms, and sermons followed by a Eucharistic service. The vigil was a "preparation" for a more fruitful celebration of the feast.

The Christmas Vigil Mass is celebrated on December 24, and it is often confused with the Christmas Midnight Mass. During the Christmas Vigil celebration, the faithful participate in an "anticipated celebration" of the Nativity of the Lord before midnight. In the Christmas Vigil Mass, we are coming out of Advent to enter Christmas, but we are still in a time of waiting and anticipation. During this liturgical celebration, these readings are concentrated on the announcement of the coming of our Lord, and one last time, the Gospel prepares us for the big day.

With the Vigil Mass Advent seems to draw to a close. Our weeks of longing and waiting are replaced by an assured confidence that "This Day you shall know that the Lord will come and save us, and in the morning, you shall see His glory" (Introit of the Vigil Mass). A hushed tone of cheerfulness pervades this day of vigil, subdued only by the holy fast that the Church gives us to prepare for the "day of rejoicing." The spirit of the Mass induces a spirit of silence--the family responds to the joyful restraint of the Church with a great hush of expectancy. Even the children will sense the peace that surrounds the awaited festivities if an air of serenity and stillness fills the house.

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 payer 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 4th 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 STM- St. Thomas More
 Google Maps:
 JQC6+QWV, St Fisher St, Accra 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

CONTROL YOUR TEMPER (ANGER)

There once was a little boy who had a very bad temper. His father decided to hand him a bag of nails and said that every time the boy lost his temper, he had to hammer a nail into the fence.

On the first day, the boy hammered **37 nails** into that fence. The boy gradually began to **control his temper** over the next few weeks, and the number of nails he was hammering into the fence slowly decreased. He discovered it was easier to control his temper than to hammer those nails into the fence. Finally, the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father the news and the father suggested that the boy should now pull out a nail every day he kept his temper under control.

The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. **"You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there."**

Moral: Control your anger, and don't say things to people in the heat of the moment, **that you may later regret.** Some things in life, you are unable to take back.

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).
- The Children Service' 9th Edition of "**JINGLE BELLS CHRISTMAS**" comes off this evening at SJF at 7:00pm. We are encouraged to come and support our children.
- Marriage Banns:**
1st : Emmanuel Sallah and Sophia Jiagge
3RD Publication between: **Benjamin Kweku Ababio**, son of Akwasi Ababio & Helena Ababio. And **Audrey Sesi Adom**, daughter of Elliot Adom & Ernestina Adom.
- The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to remind the St. Francis of Assisi (Nigeria Community) of their visitation to Achimota Group A in January 2024.
- 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	STM DEC. WEEK3
SUNDAY	490.00	\$100	23.00
MONDAY	1772.00+\$4	200.00	-----
TUESDAY	776.50	-----	500.00
WEDNESDAY	1483.00	2.00	-----
THURSDAY	4015.00	-----	-----
FRIDAY	698.00	-----	220.00
SATURDAY	539.50	-----	-----
DEC. BORN	272.00	-----	-----
TOTAL	10094.54	1403.00	743.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM DEC. WEEK3
MAIN COLLECTION	2727.40
SECOND COLLECTION	1809.10
TITHE	200.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	1140.00+ \$50
TOTAL	6062.50+ \$50

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF DEC. WEEK1	SJF DEC. WEEK2	SJF DEC. WEEK3
SUNDAY	875.20	300.00	5.00
MONDAY	2549.00+\$100	-----	-----
TUESDAY	1078.80	-----	2300.00
WEDNESDAY	824.70	-----	50.00
THURSDAY	1831.90	-----	-----
FRIDAY	1284.00	4700.00	-----
SATURDAY	1001.00	-----	-----
DEC. BORN	542.00	-----	-----
TOTAL	11187.60	5000.00	2355.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF DEC. WEEK3
MAIN COLLECTION	4628.90
SECOND COLLECTION	2895.00
TITHE	450.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	1400.00
TOTAL	9373.90

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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