



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

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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

31ST DECEMBER, 2023: THE FEAST OF MOST HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, YEAR B.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: "THE FAMILY IS THE DOMESTIC CHURCH; HENCE, WE MUST UPHOLD ITS DIGNITY."

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:** Gen 15:1-6; 21:1-3: God fulfills his promise to Abraham, and Sarah gives birth to a son.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 128:1-5

**HE, THE LORD, IS OUR GOD; HE REMEMBERS HIS COVENANT FOR EVER.**

**Second Reading:** Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19: Paul examines Abraham's example of faith.

**Gospel Reading:** Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40: Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the Temple in accordance with the Law of Moses.

### REFLECTION

The family, referred to as a "domestic church," constitutes the initial encounter with discipleship for children and serves as an apostolate of love for all (Pope, 2015). Christian households, through shared practices, foster an environment where children not only appreciate and experience parental love but also emulate it based on the love they have received. Reflecting on the life of the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary, and Joseph), it is crucial to consider the comprehensive aspects associated with celebrating this feast and to emulate their example. The Holy Family exemplifies a robust foundation of family life. Firstly, their commitment to spiritual growth is evident as "the parents of Jesus brought him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord" and offered sacrifices for the entire family. This underscores the paramount importance of the spiritual life within every family. Regarding moral development, the parents of Jesus ensured that He "grew and became strong, filled with the wisdom and fear of the Lord." Furthermore, the Holy Family's understanding of the Jewish custom of integrating a child into their culture and tradition highlights the importance of maintaining a connection with social values. Accepting, implementing, and sustaining these factors are essential for the holistic growth of every family. Just as the Holy Family prioritized spiritual, moral, and social dimensions, families today are encouraged to embrace and uphold these principles for the well-being of their members and society at large.

### WEEKLY READINGS

<b>Mon 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY, 2024</b> <b>Mary, Mother of God</b> Num 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3,5-6,8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21	<b>Tue 2<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY, 2023</b> <b>Sts. Basil the Great &amp; Gregory</b> 1Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 1:19-28
<b>Wed 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY, 2023</b> <b>Holy Name of Jesus</b> 1Jn 2:29-3:6 Ps 98:1,3-6,11-12 Jn 1:29-34	<b>Thurs 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2023</b> <b>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</b> 1Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1,7-9 Jn 1:35-42
<b>Fri 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023</b> <b>St. John Neumann</b> 1Jn 3:11-21 Ps 100:1-5 Jn 1:43-51	<b>Sat 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023</b> <b>St. Andre Bessette</b> 1Jn 5:5-13 Ps 148:12-15,19-20 Mk 1:7-11

### Readings for Next Sunday - EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

<b>First Reading</b>	Is 60:1-6
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	Ps 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13
<b>Second Reading</b>	Eph 3:2-3a,5-6
<b>Gospel</b>	Mt 2:1-12

### Mass Schedule

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



## KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

### THE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

#### Where does the term “crib” come from?

The word "crib" means "manger" and refers directly to a text in the Bible which states that Jesus, at his birth, was laid in a manger by his mother, Mary. Because of the unusual nature of this birthplace, we still use it today to refer to a place where babies and young children are welcomed. The Bible also mentions shepherds and scholars from far away bringing gifts

#### What is the symbolism of the crib?

The crib is a symbol of poverty, as Mary and Joseph sought refuge in a hotel and found no place to stay, so they found a stable shelter. It is also a prophetic symbol of Jesus being given as food for humanity. It is the first earthly place that Jesus encounters at his birth, and it is also a sign from God to guide the shepherds to the Saviour. The crib depicts the birth of Jesus and also recalls the wonder and joy of welcoming a newborn child.

#### Where do nativity scenes in houses come from?

The French Revolution was the origin of nativity scenes in homes. During this period of the Revolution, access to churches being complicated, Catholics decided to invent domestic nativity scenes to celebrate Christmas at home. The Provençal santons, referring to each inhabitant of the village, were a great success, as everyone could see themselves in them by having a figurine in their image.

#### Who created the Christmas crib?

According to tradition, it was Saint Francis of Assisi who organised the first living crib in a grotto reminding him of the one he had seen in Bethlehem. This crib was created in Greccio, during the night of Christmas 1223. Later, under the influence of the Franciscans, the custom of living nativity scenes gradually spread throughout Europe. Wooden and earthen nativity scenes were gradually made. It was in the 16th century that miniature nativity scenes appeared in churches and convents. Later, they also appeared in homes as an element of decoration and prayer.

His aim was to help people to better call to mind the poor surroundings in which Jesus was born and to make the wondrous event of the incarnation more real to the people of the time. In the town of Greccio, with the help of a local landowner, a nativity scene was set up with a stable, animals, and straw. People came at night from the town with candles and torches to attend holy Mass by the crib and seeing the scene, be reminded of God's love for us in sending his only son to be born in the poverty of a manger.

## 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.

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

## CHRISTMAS SEASON





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 FOX & THE GRAPES

One afternoon a fox was walking through the forest and spotted a bunch of grapes hanging from over a lofty branch.

*“Just the thing to quench my thirst,”* he thought. Taking a few steps back, the fox jumped and just missed the hanging grapes. Again, the fox took a few paces back and tried to reach them but still failed.

Finally, giving up, the fox turned up his nose and said, *“They’re probably sour anyway,”* and proceeded to walk away.

**Moral of the story:** *It’s easy to despise what you can’t have.*

## 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 Son, Wisdom Asare, will be ordained a deacon this Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 at St. Kizito Parish, Nima, Accra at 9:00am prompt.**
- Marriage Banns:**  
2nd Publication between: **Emmanuel Sallah**, son of Bartholomew Tetteh Sallah and **Felicia Sallah, And Sophia Jiagge**, daughter of Emmanuel Jiagge and Lawrencia Mable Afatsiawu
- 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	STM DEC. WEEK4
SUNDAY	490.00	\$100	23.00	20.00
MONDAY	1772.00+\$4	200.00	-----	110.00
TUESDAY	776.50	-----	500.00	-----
WEDNESDAY	1483.00	2.00	-----	60.00
THURSDAY	4015.00	-----	-----	-----
FRIDAY	698.00	-----	220.00	100.00
SATURDAY	539.50	-----	-----	-----
DEC. BORN	272.00	-----	-----	20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10094.54</b>	<b>1403.00</b>	<b>743.00</b>	<b>290.00</b>

### Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM DEC. WEEK4
MAIN COLLECTION	3159.80
SECOND COLLECTION	1930.60
TITHE	331.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5921.40</b>



# FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF DEC. WEEK1	SJF DEC. WEEK2	SJF DEC. WEEK3	SJF DEC. WEEK4
SUNDAY	875.20	300.00	5.00	220.00
MONDAY	2549.00+\$100	-----	-----	-----
TUESDAY	1078.80	-----	2300.00	150.00
WEDNESDAY	824.70	-----	50.00	220.00
THURSDAY	1831.90	-----	-----	
FRIDAY	1284.00	4700.00	-----	
SATURDAY	1001.00	-----	-----	300.00
DEC. BORN	542.00	-----	-----	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11187.60</b>	<b>5000.00</b>	<b>2355.00</b>	<b>890.00</b>

## Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF DEC. WEEK4
MAIN COLLECTION	6658.60
SECOND COLLECTION	4800.70
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	510.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11969.30</b>

# 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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