



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

P.O. BOX AH 283, Achimota-Accra

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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

7TH JANUARY, 2024: THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, YEAR B.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **"LIKE THE MAGI, LET US ADORE THE LORD WITH OUR MOST TREASURED GIFT."**

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 60:1-6: Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.

*Responsorial Psalm:* Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

**ALL NATIONS ON EARTH SHALL FALL PROSTRATE BEFORE YOU, O LORD.**

*Second Reading:* Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6: Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

*Gospel Reading:* Mt 2:1-12: The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

### REFLECTION

The Epiphany of the Lord marks the revealing of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, signifying that redemption extends beyond the Jewish community to encompass all of humanity. As members of the gentile world, we share in the privilege of encountering the revealed light, uniting us in Christ. Even before Christ's sacrifice on the cross, represented by the Gentiles, we had already become part of His life. Contemplating the wise men's journey, guided by a star from the East to adore the newborn King in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-12), we recognize our own privilege of being consistently in the Lord's presence, adoring Him in spirit and truth. Whether in liturgical celebrations or within our hearts, adoration of the Lord yields benefits, as His glory continues to illuminate our lives, bringing joy and exultation (Isaiah 60:1-6).

In emulation of the wise men, we too should approach the Lord with our most cherished possessions. Although our offerings may differ from "gold, frankincense, and myrrh," they should be gifts that please the Lord and reflect our sincere devotion.

### WEEKLY READINGS

<b>Mon 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2024</b> <b>Baptism of the Lord</b> Is 55:1-11 or 1 Jn 5:1-9 Ps Is 12:2-6 Mk 1:7-11	<b>Tue 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2024</b> 1Sam 1:9-20 Ps 1Sam 2:1,4-8 Mk 1:21-28
<b>Wed 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2024</b> 1Sam 3:1-10,19-20 Ps 40:2,5,7-10 Mk 1:29-39	<b>Thurs 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2024</b> 1Sam 4:1-11 Ps 44:10-11,14-15,24-25 Mk 1:40-45
<b>Fri 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2024</b> 1Sam 8:4-7,10-22a Ps 89:16-19 Mk 2:1-12	<b>Sat 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2024</b> <b>St. Hilary</b> 1Sam 9:1-4,17-19;10:1 Ps 21:2-7 Mk 2:13-17

### Readings for Next Sunday - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

<b>First Reading</b>	<b>1 Sam 3:3b-10,19</b>
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Ps 40:2,4,7-10</b>
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>1 Cor 6:13c-15a,17-20</b>
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Jn 1:35-42</b>

### Mass Schedule

<i>St. Thomas More</i>	<i>St. John Fisher</i>
<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 BEHIND THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

The feast marking the end of Christmas is called “Epiphany.” In the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, Epiphany celebrates the revelation that Jesus was the Son of God. It focuses primarily on this revelation to the Three Wise Men, but also on his baptism in the Jordan and at the wedding at Cana. In the Eastern rites of the Catholic Church, Theophany – as Epiphany is known in the East – commemorates the manifestation of Jesus’ divinity at his Baptism in the River Jordan. While the traditional date for the feast is Jan. 6, celebration of Epiphany is moved to the Sunday between Jan. 2 and Jan. 8.

#### Origins of Epiphany

While the Western church celebrates The Feast of Epiphany, (which comes from Greek, meaning “revelation from above”), and the Eastern Church celebrates the Feast of Theophany (meaning “revelation of God”), of which these feasts share more than the same day.

The Feast of Epiphany, or the Feast of Theophany, is a very, very early feast. In the early Church, Christians, particularly those in the East, celebrated the advent of Christ on Jan. 6 by commemorating Nativity, Visitation of the Magi, Baptism of Christ and the Wedding of Cana all in one feast of the Epiphany. By the fourth century, both Christmas and Epiphany had been set as separate feasts in some dioceses. At the Council of Tours in 567, the Church set both Christmas day and Epiphany as feast days on the Dec. 25 and Jan. 6, respectively, and named the twelve days between the feasts as the Christmas season.

Over time, the Western Church separated the remaining feasts into their own celebrations, leaving the celebration of the Epiphany to commemorate primarily the Visitation of the Magi to see the newborn Christ on Jan. 6. Meanwhile, the Eastern Churches’ celebration of Theophany celebrates Christ’s baptism and is one of the holiest feast days of the liturgical calendar.

#### Roman Traditions

The celebration of the visitation of the Magi – whom the Bible describes as learned wise men from the East – has developed its distinct traditions throughout the Roman Church.

The celebration of Epiphany in some of Europe like Poland is marked by taking chalk – along with gold, incense, and amber – to be blessed at Mass. Back at home, families will inscribe the first part of the year, followed by the letters, “K+M+B+” and then the last numbers of the year on top of every door in the house.

The letters stand for the names traditionally given to the wise men – Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar – as well as for the Latin phrase “Christus mansionem benedicat,” or, “Christ, bless this house. The gifts the wise men brought – frankincense, myrrh, and gold – gifts that point not only to Christ’s divinity and his revelation to the Magi as the King of Kings but also to his crucifixion.

## 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.

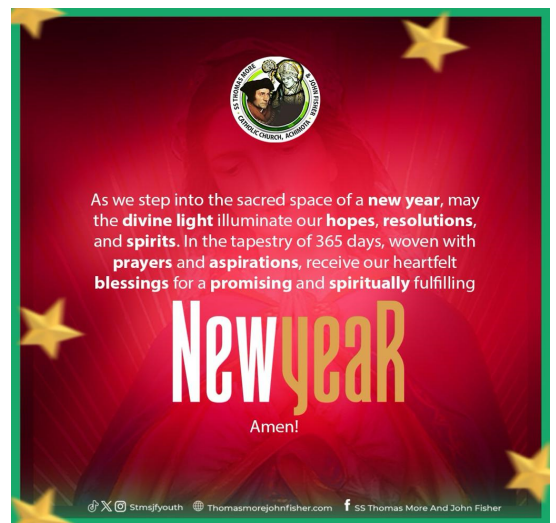
We humbly beseech you to help us win back our Land in this dispute. Save us from violence, discord and confusion and the evil plans of our adversaries.

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

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

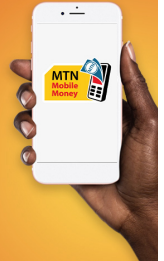


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How to make all church statutory payments through MTN momo  
**Ss Thomas more & John Fisher**  
**059 585 0922**

Dial \*170#  
Select Option 2  
Select Option 1  
Enter Merchant ID: **247834**  
Enter Amt  
Enter Reference: eg, *Dues*  
Enter your Momo pin  
Send



## MOTIVATION

### A POUND OF BUTTER (HONESTY)

There was a farmer who sold a pound of butter to a baker. One day the baker decided to weigh the butter to see if he was getting the right amount, which he wasn't. Angry about this, he took the farmer to court.

The judge asked the farmer if he was using any measure to weigh the butter. The farmer replied, "Honor, I am primitive. I don't have a proper measure, but I do have a scale."

The judge asked, "Then how do you weigh the butter?"

The farmer replied; "Your Honor, long before the baker started buying butter from me, I have been buying a pound loaf of bread from him. Every day when the baker brings the bread, I put it on the scale and give him the same weight in butter. If anyone is to be blamed, it is the baker."

**Moral of the story:** *In life, you get what you give. Don't try and cheat 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).
- Marriage Banns:**  
3RD Publication between: **Emmanuel Sallah**, son of Bartholomew Tetteh Sallah and **Felicia Sallah**, And **Sophia Jiagge**, daughter of Emmanuel Jiagge and Lawrence 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 this month.
- Death Reports:**
  - The death is reported of Mrs. Matilda Kwame. She was the wife of Mr. Emmanuel Kwame of the Achimota Town Community. Funeral Arrangements will be announced later.
  - The death is also reported of Mad. Mary Akua Atiso. She was a member of the Alogboshie Community. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.
- 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	STM DEC. WEEK5	GRAND TOTAL	
SUNDAY	490.00	\$100	23.00	20.00	25.00	1759.00	3 <sup>RD</sup>
MONDAY	1772.00+\$4	200.00	-----	110.00	-----	2130.04	2 <sup>ND</sup>
TUESDAY	776.50	-----	500.00	-----	10.00	1286.50	5 <sup>TH</sup>
WEDNESDAY	1483.00	2.00	-----	60.00	5.00	1550.00	4 <sup>TH</sup>
THURSDAY	4015.00	-----	-----	-----	-----	4015.00	1 <sup>ST</sup>
FRIDAY	698.00	-----	220.00	100.00	-----	1018.00	6 <sup>TH</sup>
SATURDAY	539.50	-----	-----	-----	-----	539.50	7 <sup>TH</sup>
DEC. BORNS	272.00	-----	-----	-----	-----	272.00	
TOTAL	10094.04	1403.00	743.00	290.00	40.00	12570.04	

### Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM DEC. WEEK5
MAIN COLLECTION	4190.30
SECOND COLLECTION	2458.80
TITHE	50.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	1240.00
TOTAL	7939.10

# FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF DEC. WEEK1	SJF DEC. WEEK2	SJF DEC. WEEK3	SJF DEC. WEEK4	SJF DEC. WEEK5	GRAND TOTAL	
SUNDAY	875.20	300.00	5.00	220.00	20.00	1420.20	6 <sup>TH</sup>
MONDAY	2549.00+\$100	-----	-----	-----	-----	3750.00	2 <sup>ND</sup>
TUESDAY	1078.80	-----	2300.00	150.00	-----	3528.80	3 <sup>RD</sup>
WEDNESDAY	824.70	-----	50.00	220.00	-----	1094.70	7 <sup>TH</sup>
THURSDAY	1831.90	-----	-----	-----	1420.00	3251.90	4 <sup>TH</sup>
FRIDAY	1284.00	4700.00	-----	-----	-----	5984.00	1 <sup>ST</sup>
SATURDAY	1001.00	-----	-----	300.00	1010.00	2311.00	5 <sup>TH</sup>
DEC. BORN	542.00	-----	-----	-----	-----	542.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11187.60</b>	<b>5000.00</b>	<b>2355.00</b>	<b>890.00</b>	<b>2450.00</b>	<b>21882.60</b>	

## Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF DEC. WEEK5
MAIN COLLECTION	6323.20
SECOND COLLECTION	5304.90
TITHE	405.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	420.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12453.10</b>

## ST. THOMAS MORE & ST. JOHN FISHER THANKSGIVING COLLECTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2023

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	BIRTHDAY	TOTAL
JANUARY	10181.00	6081.50	4764.30	2619.52	4075.20	8400.00	3648.50	796.00	40566.02
FEBRUARY	3267.70	8249.00	4003.00	1821.00	4992.00	7692.00	2825.00	598.00	33447.70
MARCH	2750.10	3533.00	4120.60	2496.20	2390.00	7313.80	3738.10	445.00	26786.80
APRIL	3158.00	4705.50	3162.00	2951.00	1927.50	7983.50	4624.00	1053.00	29564.50
MAY	2903.50	4110.50	4170.70	1501.50	3978.00	7263.70	3712.70	620.00	28260.60
JUNE	2604.90	6380.70	3748.00	1885.00	2204.80	8055.70	4447.50	660.00	29986.60
JULY	3044.00	5571.00	3430.50	3065.40	3715.00	6139.50	4843.00	257.10	30065.50
AUGUST	2292.00	3257.00	8151.40	2277.50	3173.50	6017.20	5584.50	368.50	31121.60
SEPTEMBER	4268.00	4271.60	3046.60	4263.50	3364.20	8012.30	2698.00	398.50	30322.70
OCTOBER	3688.50	5275.00	4185.20	4558.00	5376.30	7313.00	6685.00	745.00	37826.00
NOVEMBER	1674.10	6682.30	4165.00	3427.00	5369.50	11940.70	4799.75	783.00	38841.35
DECEMBER	3179.20	5880.04	4815.30	2644.70	7266.90	7002.00	2850.50	814.00	34452.64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43011.00</b>	<b>63997.14</b>	<b>51762.60</b>	<b>33510.32</b>	<b>47832.90</b>	<b>93133.40</b>	<b>50456.55</b>	<b>7538.10</b>	<b>391242.01</b>
<b>POSITIONS</b>	<b>6<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>7<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>1<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>TH</sup></b>		

**ALL FOREIGN CURRENCIES HAVE BEEN CONVERTED INTO CEDIS.**

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2023.

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