



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

14TH JANUARY, 2024: SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **"THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP."**

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: 1Sam 3:3b-10, 19: The Lord calls Samuel.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10

SEE, I HAVE COME, LORD, TO DO YOUR WILL.

Second Reading: 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20: Paul reminds the Corinthians that their bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading: Jn 1:35-42: John the Baptist recognizes Jesus as the Lamb of God.

REFLECTION

The readings of today urge us to reflect on the call to discipleship and the transformative power of encountering the Lord. The story of Samuel and his response to God's call and the encounter between Jesus and Simon Peter challenge us to be open to God's call in our lives and to respond with faith and courage. Just as Samuel and Simon Peter responded to their calls with courage and openness, we too are called to discern and embrace God's will for our lives. God continues to call each of us, inviting us to enter into deeper relationship with Him and respond to His call with faith and trust. As we reflect on these readings, let us consider how we can more fully open ourselves to God's call and embrace the opportunities for discipleship that come our way. Perhaps it is through prayer, service, or simply being present to those in need. Let us also pray for the grace to recognize and respond to God's voice in our lives, and to have the courage to follow where He leads us. May the example of Samuel and Simon Peter inspire us to be open to God's call, and may we respond with generous hearts, ready to follow Him wherever He may lead us.

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 15TH JANUARY, 2024 1Sam 15:16-23 Ps 50:8-9,16bc-17,21 & 23 Mk 2:18-22	Tue 16TH JANUARY, 2024 1Sam 16:1-13 Ps 89:20,21-22 Mk 2:23-28
Wed 17TH JANUARY, 2024 St. Anthony, Abbot 1Sam 17:32-33,37,40-51 Ps 144:1b,2,9-10 Mk 3:1-6	Thurs 18TH JANUARY, 2024 1Sam 18:6-9;19:1-7 Ps 56:2-3,9-10a,10b-11,12-13 Mk 3:7-12
Fri 19TH JANUARY, 2024 1Sam 24:3-21 Ps 57:2,3-4,6 & 11 Mk 3:13-19	Sat 20TH JANUARY, 2024 St. Hilary 2Sam 1:1-4,11-12,19,23-27 Ps :2-7 Mk 2:13-17

Readings for Next Sunday

First Reading	Jon 3:1-5,10
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 25:4-5,6-7,8-9
Second Reading	1Cor 7:29-31
Gospel	Mk 1:14-20

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

MASS CELEBRATION - HOW TO JOIN IN THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS.

➤ THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

In the same way that the Mass begins with prayers to help us prepare to hear the Scripture proclaimed in the liturgy of the Word, so now we prepare to offer the Eucharistic sacrifice. Our participation in the liturgy of the Word was centered on opening ourselves fully to the Word of God proclaimed to us. Now we prepare ourselves to join our sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ that is offered at this Mass.

Our Lord, on the night before He died, took bread and wine and instructed His apostles to do this in commemoration of Him. In this part of the Mass, we bring the bread and wine to the altar. The priest will “take the bread” from the congregation and say the “blessing” over it. This will lead us into the next part of Mass when we pray a great prayer of “giving thanks” (literally what Eucharist” means), before the priest “breaks the bread” and “gives it to us” in communion.

Reflecting on this, Saint Paul told the Corinthians: “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes” (1 Cor 11:26). Both bread and wine are made by gathering them the many and crushing them into a unified substance makes bread. Crushing grapes into juice and letting the juice age and ferment makes wine. The Church, which is the Body of Christ, is made up of the “many,” who are made one through the sacrifice of Jesus. In the preparatory rites of the liturgy of the Eucharist, we prepare to offer ourselves, along with the presider, to God the Father in union with the one sacrifice of Christ.

➤ THE COLLECTION

In the early Church, people would bring the bread and wine from their homes and present it to the presider during the Mass. Now the bread and the wine are brought, but we still have the opportunity to give of ourselves at Mass. One of the most concrete ways that we offer some part of ourselves in the Mass is by giving in the offertory collection.

Giving in the collection is a symbolic but very real way of dying to ourselves. It proclaims that our faith is ultimately in God, not in our material wealth. Of course, it also pays the very real bills, salaries, and expenses that the church accrues every time. Most of us will be shocked to know the amount of money that goes into these expenditures.

In the same way that our Lord handed himself over to sinful men and was sacrificed on the cross for our salvation, we now give of ourselves, too. It is not to recreate His sacrifice, but rather to participate in His sacrifice. We will offer ourselves through Christ to the Father in the Eucharistic Prayer.

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.

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

ORDINARY TIME I

Ordinary Time

- Liturgical Color
 - Green
 - Growth, hope, and life
- Occurs twice in the year
 - Between Christmas and Lent
 - Between summer and the fall
 - Pentecost-Feast of Christ the King
- Purpose
 - To recall the life of Jesus
 - Reminded that God is always there to help us live as Christians

UPCOMING PROGRAM

**REVIVAL! REVIVAL!! REVIVAL!!!
COMES OFF FROM
WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY TO
FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY, 2024
@ STM @ 6:30PM
EACH EVENING.**



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 OBSTACLE IN OUR PATH (OPPORTUNITY)

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. He then hid himself and watched to see if anyone would move the boulder out of the way. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it.

Many people loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none of them did anything about getting the stone out of the way. A peasant then came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to push the stone out of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded.

After the peasant went back to pick up his vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King explaining that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

Moral of the story: *Every obstacle we come across in life gives us an opportunity to improve our circumstances, and whilst the lazy complain, the others are creating opportunities through their kind hearts, generosity, and willingness to get things done.*

YOUTH CORNER

PYC EFFECTIVE LIVING SERIES

WEEK 1: FIVE TIPS ON DEVELOPING EMOTIONAL GROWTH

1. Deepen your Self Awareness

The ability to observe yourself in a moment, to describe what you are going through or your emotions is key. It can help you choose how to respond or react.

CTA: Try and be aware of your emotions at every given time.

2. Name and Own your Emotions

When you identify how you feel, you are more likely to accept it and work with it rather than being in denial of how you feel.

CTA: Name it to Tame it!

3. Beware of these Emotions; These are deadly Bitterness, Insecurity, Entitlement, Shame, Envy, Ungratefulness.

4. Decide which emotions you will feed

Everyone battles with negative and positive emotions. However, you can decide which of these emotions you will feed to grow.

CTA: Choose the mindset and believe system that feed your positive emotions.

5. Prioritise Self-Care

Taking care of yourself is essential for maintaining productivity. Ensure you get enough sleep, exercise regularly, and eat nutritious meals. Engage in activities that help you relax and recharge, such as practicing mindfulness or pursuing hobbies you enjoy.

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).
- "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity".**
Theme: **"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and your neighbour as yourself."** (Luke 10:27)
Date: **Thursday 18th to Thursday 25th, January, 2024.**
There will be online activities for the week. Let's watch out.
- Meetings:**
 - The Young Christian Workers Movement will meet next Sunday 21st January, 2024 after the 7:00am Mass at STM.
 - The Christian Mothers Association will meet next Sunday 21st January, 2024 after the 9:30am Mass at STM.
 - The St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Society will also meet next Sunday 21st January, 2024 after the 9:30am Mass at SJF.
- The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to remind the St. Francis of Assisi (Nigerian Community) of their visitation to Achimota Group A in this month.
- The death is reported of Mrs. Mad. Grace Abena Achiaa. She was the mother of Kingsley Nti Adutwum of the Technical Team. The One Week Celebration is scheduled on Saturday, 20th January, 2024 at Mamponteng in the Ashanti Region. Funeral Arrangements will be announced later.

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 JAN. WEEK1
SUNDAY	1054.00
MONDAY	953.50
TUESDAY	1170.50
WEDNESDAY	1009.50
THURSDAY	1023.70
FRIDAY	1229.50
SATURDAY	746.50
JAN. BORNS	126.00
TOTAL	7313.20

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM JAN. WEEK1
MAIN COLLECTION	3136.10+\$1
TITHE	250.00
31ST DECEMBER ENVELOPES	17384.90
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	1570.00
TOTAL	22341.00

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

WEEKDAYS	SJF JAN. WEEK1
SUNDAY	1606.00
MONDAY	2257.50
TUESDAY	1067.00
WEDNESDAY	1925.00
THURSDAY	1245.90
FRIDAY	7296.00
SATURDAY	23439.00
JAN. BORNS	971.00
TOTAL	39807.40

SUNDAY	SJF JAN. WEEK1
MAIN COLLECTION	4452.90
TITHE	510.00
31ST DECEMBER ENVELOPES	51888.20
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	1300.00
TOTAL	58151.10

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.