



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

25TH FEBRUARY, 2024: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: "A FAITHFUL LENTEN JOURNEY NEVER GOES UNREWARDED."

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 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18: Abraham obeyed God and was prepared to offer his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 116:10, 15-19

I WILL WALK IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.

Second Reading: Rom 8:31b-34: God's faithfulness is shown in his offering of his own Son for our salvation.

Gospel Reading: Mk 9:2-10: Jesus is transfigured in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

REFLECTION

Beloved, let us find encouragement in the assurance that those who steadfastly accompany the Lord during the "Lenten Season" will not go unrewarded. In today's gospel, we witness the challenging journey of Jesus' disciples—Peter, James, and John—as they ascended a high mountain for prayer (Mark 9:2–9). This journey was undoubtedly arduous, navigating through rough terrain, dust, wild creatures, scorpions, the intense sun, evening chill on the mountain, and various discomforts. Despite these challenges, they persevered and reached the summit. Their unwavering commitment was met with a divine reward—the revelation of the Lord's transfiguration, accompanied by the presence of the great lawgiver, "Moses," and the eminent prophet, "Elijah." It is crucial to note that these disciples later played pivotal roles in the life of the Church: Peter emerged as the leader, unlocking the doors of the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles after Pentecost (Acts 2:1ff), James became a martyr for his faith in Christ, and John received divine revelations to conclude the scriptures. Likewise, our faithful journey this "Lenten Season" promises a reward from God, perhaps unexpected but undoubtedly significant. Let us persevere with the knowledge that God's blessings await those who steadfastly walk with Him through the challenges and trials of this season.

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 26TH FEBRUARY, 2024 Dan 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8-9,11,13 Lk 6:36-38	Tue 27TH FEBRUARY, 2024 Is 1:10,16-20 Ps 50:8-9,16-17,21,23 Mt 23:1-12
Wed 28TH FEBRUARY, 2024 Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6,14-16 Mt 20:17-28	Thurs 29TH FEBRUARY, 2024 Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-4,6 Lk 16:19-31
Fri 1ST MARCH, 2024 Gen 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a Ps 105:16-21 Mt 21:33-43,45-46	Sat 2ND MARCH, 2024 Mic 7:14-15,18-20 Ps 103:1-4,9-12 Lk 15:1-3,11-32

Readings for Next Sunday 3 RD SUNDAY OF LENT B	
First Reading	Ex 20:1-17
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 19:8,9,10,11
Second Reading	1Cor 1:33-25
Gospel	Jn 2:13-25

Mass Schedule for Next Sunday	
<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

SEVEN BENEFITS OF PRAYING THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This devotion is usually on Fridays, especially during Lent. You may wonder, what are the benefits of praying *The Stations of the Cross*?

1. *It gives us a way to make a spiritual pilgrimage.*

The *Stations* allow us to visit the Holy Land. Around the 17th century, Franciscans began to develop a “Way of the Cross” in local churches whereby the faithful could walk through the passion narrative without having to go to Jerusalem. Here is a brief history: Innocent XI, in 1686, granted to the Franciscans, in answer to their petition, the right to erect the Stations in all their churches, and **declared that all the indulgences that had ever been given for devoutly visiting the actual scenes of Christ’s Passion, could thenceforth be gained by Franciscans and all others affiliated to their order if they made the Way of the Cross in their churches in the accustomed manner.** Innocent XII confirmed the privilege in 1694 and Benedict XIII in 1726 extended it to all the faithful. In 1731 Clement XII still further extended it by permitting the indulgenced Stations to all churches, provided that they were erected by a Franciscan father with the sanction of the ordinary. **At the same time, he fixed the number of Stations at fourteen.** ([Catholic Encyclopedia](#), emphasis added)

Additionally, in a certain (real) way we can also accompany the suffering and persecution that our brothers and sisters are experiencing in the Holy Land and Middle East.

2. *We can gain a plenary indulgence to shorten our time in Purgatory.*

There are a few conditions to receive this indulgence. First, we must receive the sacrament of Confession and be in a state of grace (detached from sin). It must be within 20 days (before or after) praying the devotion. We must also receive the Eucharist within that timeline. Next, we pray for the Pope’s intentions. An extra requirement is that we (or a leader) move from station to station as we pray. We can still gain partial indulgence if we cannot meet every condition.

3. *Praying the Stations of the Cross helps inspire deep prayer.*

God gives us the grace to contemplate the suffering of Jesus and feel deep empathy and love for Him. As we meditate on the events, they become more vivid and take root in our hearts.

To be continued...

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 |

LENTEN SEASON 2024








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 STORY OF THE GRATEFUL STARFISHES

One morning, an elderly man was walking along the beach when he noticed a young boy picking something off the sand and throwing it into the sea.

As he got closer, the man realized the child was throwing stranded starfish that had washed up on the shore back into the breaking waves.

Approaching the boy, the man asked what he was doing. "The starfish will die if they're still on the shore when the sun rises," he replied.

Perplexed, the old man said, "But that's pointless! There are countless miles of beach and thousands of starfish. It doesn't matter how many you return to the water; you can't make a difference."

Unfazed, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and tossed it into the sea. "It matters to this one," he said.

Moral of the story: No matter the odds of success or the scale of the challenge, your actions can make a difference. It's better to light a candle than curse the dark. Every little one counts. Doing something to make a positive change is always better than nothing!

YOUTH CORNER

GHANAS' DEMOCRATIC LIGHT SHINES ONLY AT THE TOP

When it comes to countries in sub-Saharan Africa hailed for their democracy, Ghana stands tall among the beacons. (Ghana's Democratic Index in 2023 stands at 6.3 points, making it third in Sub-Saharan Africa and fourth in Africa). Ghana's democracy is an envy to some and a model for many countries- a light that shines so bright, or so we think.

This is why I am in a paradox- how can a democracy shine so bright at the top and still be so dark below? Our democracy is on fire (in the words of Dr. Dramani of ACEPA). It is a mess! (in my own words).

I believe Ghana runs a democracy that promotes the participation of voters but not citizens. When it comes to free and fair elections, we get it right most times- but that is where it ends- at the polls. After the election, the voices of citizens are lost to the wind. Their sentiments, dreams, demands and hopes become relegated to the background. The political class assume an all-knowing aura, what in Ghana is called 'y3ntie obia syndrome' translated as "we will not listen to anyone". Citizens watch helplessly as the country continues to suffer and deteriorate."

"You know, it's not entirely helpful that global metrics for ranking democracies have heavily relied on free and fair elections. While we often say that democracy is about freedom of speech, human rights, and other values, we rarely consider the importance of accountability. Where does accountability fit into our ranking systems? What's the point of having the freedom to speak if elected officials can simply choose not to listen? Should we just be satisfied with having the freedom to speak, even if it doesn't lead to any meaningful change?" **To be continued...**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We are reminded and 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 also fulfill all other Church Financial Obligations. (e.g., Church Dues, Welfare Dues and Building Fund).
- During the Season of Lent we shall have Stations of the Cross and Mass on Fridays at 7:00 pm at both STM and SJF.
- The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to remind the St. Raphael (Francophone Community) of their visits to Alogboshie Group A in March.
- As part of our Lenten activities, the STM and SJF Youth Choir, will be ministering a sacred classical dubbed "Olivet to Calvary" on the scenes of Christ's passion on 17th March, 2024 at SJF at 5:00pm. We humbly solicit your support to create awareness towards the programme and your presence on that day to make the program a success.
- Funeral Arrangements:**
 - The Funeral Arrangement of **the late Mad. Mary Mansah Agbodzie**, mother of Mr. Joseph Elo is as follows:
Wake keeping: Friday 1st March, 2024 at Oduman, peace junction, Accra at 7:00pm.
Laying in state and Burial Service: Saturday, 2nd March, 2024 at Faith Foundation Assemblies of God at 8:00am, Oduman Peace Junction, Accra.
Thanksgiving Service: 3rd March, 2024 at Faith Foundation Assemblies of God at 8:00am.
 - The funeral Arrangement of **the late Mad. Agnes yaa Boatemaa Kissi**, was a member of the Holy Family Akan Kuo is as follows:
Reading of tributes, Viewing and Burial Mass: Saturday 9th March, 2024 at SJF at 8:00am.
Thanksgiving Mass: Sunday 10th March, 2024 at SJF at 9:30am.
 - The funeral details of **the late Mad. Matilda Naa Kudjah Ankrah Kwame**, wife of Mr. Emmanuel Kwame is as follows:
Wake keeping: March 15, 2024, at Nii Ankrah We, Hse no. B245/26, Achimota, behind the Total Filling Station.
Filing Past: March 16, 2024: at 7:45 am, at Gethsemene Presbyterian Church, Achimota, and **Funeral Service:** at 9:00am at Gethsemene Presbyterian Church, Achimota.
Thanksgiving Service: March 17, 2024: at 9:00am at Gethsemene Presbyterian Church, Achimota.

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 FEB. WEEK1	STM FEB. WEEK2	STM FEB. WEEK3
SUNDAY	1060.00	-----	-----
MONDAY	2156.50	-----	-----
TUESDAY	1345.50	120.00	700.00
WEDNESDAY	1592.50	-----	-----
THURSDAY	1012.50	-----	-----
FRIDAY	1031.00	20.00	-----
SATURDAY	608.20	-----	-----
FEB. BORNS	210.00	-----	-----
TOTAL	9016.20	140.00	700.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM FEB. WEEK3
MAIN COLLECTION	2503.20
SECOND COLLECTION	3669.10
TITHE	470.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	1040.00
31 ST DEC. ENV.	100.00
TOTAL	7782.30

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF FEB. WEEK1	SJF FEB. WEEK2	SJF FEB. WEEK3
SUNDAY	1287.70	-----	-----
MONDAY	2522.00	100.00	400.00
TUESDAY	2184.00	-----	-----
WEDNESDAY	713.50	200.00	-----
THURSDAY	3420.00	50.00	-----
FRIDAY	6804.30	100.00	-----
SATURDAY	3513.00+\$10	-----	200.00
FEB. BORNS	162.00	-----	-----
TOTAL	20730.20	450.00	600.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF FEB. WEEK3
MAIN COLLECTION	4523.20
SECOND COLLECTION	8151.80
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	1958.00
TOTAL	14633.00

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.



SS THOMAS MORE & JOHN FISHER
PARISH

Have You Paid Your Harvest Levy



Payments can be
made through **059 585 0922**

Adult	-	100.00
Youth	-	50.00
Kids	-	20.00 or more



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