



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

12TH MAY, 2024: 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **“BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH.”**

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: Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26: Matthias is chosen to take Judas' place among the apostles.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 103:1-2,11-12,19-20ab

THE LORD HAS FIXED HIS THRONE IN HEAVEN.

Second Reading: 1 Jn 4:11-16: God is seen in our love for one another.

Gospel Reading: Jn 17:11b-19: Jesus prays for his disciples.

REFLECTION

Today's gospel passage from John reveals Jesus' profound prayer, emphasizing the importance of well-being, unity (keeping them in your name), fraternity (that they may be filled with joy), and goodness (keeping them from evil) among his disciples. These priorities underscored His deepest concerns as He prepared to depart from this world. He understood that maintaining these essential elements would empower His disciples to fulfil the mission entrusted to them. Christ's only request of His disciples was that they embrace truthfulness and dedication to their task, ensuring that His word, the truth, would flourish in the hearts of many. As members of Christ's body, the Church, do we sincerely share Christ's concern for the growth and well-being of the Church? What contributions have we made toward this end? Like Christ expected of His disciples, He expects us to be actively involved in nurturing the Church. Let us reflect on how we can contribute to its growth and vitality.

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 13TH MAY, 2024 Our Lady of Fatima Acts 19:1-8 Ps 68:2-7 Jn 16:29-33	Tue 14TH MAY, 2024 St. Matthias, Apostle (Feast) Acts 1:15-17,20-26 Ps 113:1-8 Jn 15:9-17
Wed 15TH MAY, 2024 Acts 20:28-38 Ps 68:29-30,33 Jn 17:11b-19	Thurs 16TH MAY, 2024 Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 Ps 14:1-2,7-11 Jn 17:20-26
Fri 17TH MAY, 2024 Acts 25:13b-21 Ps 103:1-2,11-12,19-20 Jn 21:15-19	Sat 18TH MAY, 2024 Acts 28:16-20,30-31 Ps 11:5-6,8 Jn 21:20-25

Readings for Next Sunday		PENTECOST SUNDAY
First Reading	Acts 2:1-11	
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 104:1,24,29-30,31,34	
Second Reading	1Cor 12:3b-7,12-13 or Gal 5:16-25	
Gospel	Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15	

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

WHAT ARE THE OILS USED FOR THE SACRAMENT AND HOW THEY ARE USED? - Continued from last week

The Oil of the Infirm is used in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick (formerly known as Extreme Unction). St. James wrote, "Is there anyone sick among you? He should ask for the priests of the church. They in turn are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord. This prayer uttered in faith will reclaim the one who is ill, and the Lord will restore him to health. If he has committed any sins, forgiveness will be his" (James 5:14-15). The *Apostolic Tradition* of St. Hippolytus recorded one of the earliest formulas for blessing the Oil of the Infirm. Also, in the early Church, a priest (or several priests) would bless this oil at the time it was to be used, a tradition that has been retained in the Eastern Churches. However, in the Latin Rite, at least since the time of the Middle Ages, priests have used oil blessed by the bishop; for instance, St. Boniface in 730 ordered all priests in Germany to use the Oil of the Infirm blessed by bishops only. Presently, the priest, anointing the forehead of the person, says, "Through this holy anointing, may the Lord in His love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit," and then anointing his hands, says, "May the Lord who frees you from sin, save you and raise you up." Another body part may also be anointed if the hands are not accessible or if there is another particular need.

Finally, Holy Chrism is a mixture of olive oil and balsam, an aromatic resin. This oil is linked with the sanctification of individuals. In the Old Testament times, the priest, prophets and kings of the Jewish people were anointed. This oil is used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders, since they impart an indelible sacramental character. The blessing of the Holy Chrism is different from that of the other oils: Here the Bishop breathes over the vessel of chrisam, a gesture which symbolizes both the Holy Spirit coming down to consecrate this oil, and the life-giving, sanctifying nature of the character sacraments for which it is used. (Recall how our Lord "breathed" on the apostles on the night of Easter, saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:22).) The concelebrants at the Chrism Mass also extend their right hands toward the chrisam as the bishop says the consecratory prayer, signifying that in union with their bishop they share "in the authority by which Christ Himself builds up and sanctifies and rules His Body," the Church (Vatican II, *Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests*, #2).

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 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

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



SS. Thomas More &
John Fisher Parish
Presents



PENTE COST²⁰²⁴ Novena

9th to 17th
May 2024

6:30pm
with Rosary
Prayers

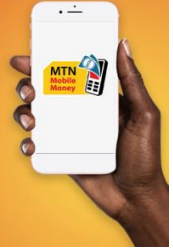
St. Thomas More
Achimota School

FROM ABIDING LOVE TO ABUNDANT FRUITFULNESS:
A JOURNEY OF FAITH
(JOHN 15:4-8, 16)



How to make all church statutory
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Ss Thomas more & John Fisher
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MOTIVATION

THE KNEELING MOTHER STORY

A major earthquake struck Japan, and when the rescuers were searching for earthquake victims to rescue them, they found a woman under the rubble of a house. The woman was on her knees, and the rescuers were surprised by the position of her body. The team leader inserted his hand between the cracks to see if the woman was alive or not, but unfortunately, her cold body made it clear that she was dead, so the rescue team left the building and went to the next building.

While the rescue team was looking for the people who were still alive, the team leader returned to the dead woman again inserted his head between the cracks, and approached her. Here was the surprise, as soon as the man moved the woman, he found underneath her a small child wrapped in a blanket. The child was three months old, and it was clear that his mother sacrificed herself to give him life. When the house began to fall, the mother covered her son with her body so that he would not be hurt. When the doctor came to examine the child, he found a message in his clothes that said, "If you can survive, remember that I love you."

Moral: The mother is the source of giving and sacrifice.

YOUTH CORNER

THAT THING CALLED DOUBT

There comes a time when an animal must adapt to its environment or fails to survive.

Every day, I remember that life presents me with these same choices- adapt or fail. Now, difficult as it may, this is the reality. But what baffles me more is my unwillingness to face these realities. But why? Because of Fear or perhaps Doubt. That thing called Doubt.

Doubt sucks you dry from all ideas of possibilities. You start your journey by thinking about plan Bs because you already see plan A failing. That thing called doubt.

Doubt cripples your desire to achieve more and learn more. That thing called Doubt.

Doubt is bad coming from others, but it's destructive when it comes from within us.

An animal must adapt. It has it in it to do so. But the animal must first believe it can. It must claim it. Desire it. Live it.

The animal must unlearn to re-learn. Must find joy in failing to learn. It must face doubts and fears with another kind of Fear- The Fear of dying off.

Here is to all who are like me, discovering how to stay alive. Trust me, the hard part of this journey is embracing your fears and saying to them- there's

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).
- Those who have pledged for the Legacy of Hope Project are reminded and entreated to redeem them.
- MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY. WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO PRAY THE ROSARY AT HOME WITH OUR FAMILIES.
- The sacrament of Confirmation will be administered during this year's feast day on Sunday 23rd June. Parishioners who wish to receive the sacrament should register with the secretaries and attend class from today after 1st Mass at STM and after the 2nd Mass at SJF.
- Catechism for the sacraments of Baptism and First Holy Communion also begin today at STM after the 1st Mass and at SJF after the 2nd Mass.
Parents and guardians are to pick up forms at the Parish Offices and register their kids.
- The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to remind the St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Society of their visits to Christian Village in the month of May.
- Marriage Banns: 2nd Publication between Henry Kofi Gyasi, (son of Henry Yaw Gyasi and Felicia Mensah) And Bertha Agyapon, (daughter of Samuel Oppong and Janet Boamah) in case of any impediment, kindly inform the Parish Priest as soon as possible.

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 MAY WEEK1
SUNDAY	1317.00
MONDAY	1111.00
TUESDAY	1600.30
WEDNESDAY	1966.00
THURSDAY	964.20
FRIDAY	1123.00
SATURDAY	851.50
MAY BORNES	267.00
TOTAL	9200.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM MAY WEEK1
MAIN COLLECTION	2583.50
TITHE	4050.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	1625.00
TOTAL	8258.50

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF MAY WEEK1
SUNDAY	1970.50
MONDAY	2444.10
TUESDAY	1982.80
WEDNESDAY	2827.00
THURSDAY	3084.00
FRIDAY	7528.00
SATURDAY	2354.00
MAY. BORNS	751.00
TOTAL	22941.40

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF MAY WEEK1
MAIN COLLECTION	3973.50
TITHE	300.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	1000.00
TOTAL	5273.50

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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