



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

1ST SEPTEMBER, 2024: TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **“BEYOND RITUALS TO INNER PURITY.”**

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: Deut 4:1-2, 6-8: Moses tells the Israelites to observe the commandments that God gave them.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5

O LORD, WHO MAY ABIDE IN YOUR TENT?

Second Reading: Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27: James teaches that Christians should be doers of the Word.

Gospel Reading: Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23: Jesus teaches that it is that which comes from our hearts that defiles us.

REFLECTION

Beloved in Christ, in today's gospel, Jesus confronts the Pharisees and scribes who criticized His disciples for eating with unwashed hands, a breach of their traditional purity laws. He rebukes them, pointing out that they have elevated human traditions above God's commandments. Jesus' words challenge us to reflect on our own lives, asking whether we prioritize external appearances and rituals over the deeper matters of the heart. The heart is the wellspring of our actions. Jesus teaches that what truly defiles a person is not what enters from the outside, but what comes from within. Evil thoughts, greed, envy, pride, and malice originate in the heart, and it is these that distance us from God. Jesus invites us to shift our focus from merely following religious customs to cultivating a pure and loving heart. In our daily walk with Christ, we must remember that God desires not just our compliance with rituals, but our sincere devotion and inner transformation. Let us examine our hearts and rid ourselves of anything that contradicts the love and holiness of God. As we do so, our outward actions will naturally reflect the goodness and purity that God desires for us, leading to a life that truly honors Him.

WEEKLY READINGS

| | |
|--|---|
| Mon 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2024 1Cor 2:1-5 Ps 119:97-102 Lk 4:16-30 | Tue 3RD SEPTEMBER, 2024 St. Gregory the Great 1Cor 2:10b-16 Ps 145:8-14 Lk 4:31-37 |
| Wed 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 1Cor 3:1-9 Ps 33:12-15,20-21 Lk 4:38-44 | Thurs 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 1Cor 3:18-23 Ps 24:1-6 Lk 5:1-11 |
| Fri 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 1Cor 4:1-5 Ps 37:3-6,27-28,39-40 Lk 5:33-39 | Sat 7TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 1Cor 4:6b-15 Ps 145:17-21 Lk 6:1-5 |

Readings for Next Sunday

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| First Reading | Is 35:4-7a |
| Responsorial Psalm | Ps 146:7,8-9,9-10 |
| Second Reading | Jas 2:1-5 |
| Gospel | Mk 7:31-37 |

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

WHY DO CATHOLICS LEAVE JESUS CRUCIFIED ON THE CROSS IN CATHOLIC CHURCHES WHEN JESUS IS RISEN?

Continued from last week

The Sacred Depth of the Baptismal Font: The Place of Re-Creation

Living, Liberating Waters

The scriptures reveal the meaning of water in several ways. In the beginning, God created the waters and breathed across them, making them a wellspring of holiness. Since a spring of fresh water turns the lifeless desert into a life-giving garden, it becomes a spiritual symbol of life. Yet in Noah's flood, water signifies death and destruction from which sanctuary is needed in the ark. Water is seen as a barrier as well, since the Israelites had to cross the Red Sea to move from slavery to freedom and the Jordan River to find their promised land.

Christ, however, brings these aquatic paradoxes to fulfillment in baptism. Just as the triumphant power of the Cross brought life from death, so baptism brings life through water: it leads a Christian from the desert of life outside of Christ to the new garden of the restored Eden of the glorified world; it leads a person from waters of the womb and natural birth to the new waters of supernatural rebirth; and it allows a person to pass from the slavery of ignorance to the new life of enlightenment.

Baptism makes these invisible ideas real in the life of a catechumen, and in proper mystagogical design, a baptistery allows the viewer to perceive them with the senses and encounter their reality. Since the rite of baptism "is held in the highest honor by all Christians" (*General Introduction to Christian Initiation*, 4), it comes as no surprise that the Church's official documents note that a baptistery should be "worthy of the sacrament that is celebrated there." Therefore, the baptistery should be spotlessly clean, of splendid beauty (BB, 1084), and located in a prominent place. Other than that, the Church gives very few specifics on its design, and so the five points below are given to help reveal the nature of the baptismal font and therefore establish how it ought to be designed.

Five Points of Baptistery Design

1. *Baptistery and Font*. The words "baptistery" and "font" are often used interchangeably, yet each has a distinct meaning. Properly speaking, the term "baptistery" belongs to the building, chapel, or place where baptisms occur. The "font" is the actual vessel where the water of baptism is poured or contained. Many baptisteries in older cities are buildings separate from a church or cathedral, within which the font is located and the rites are celebrated. Perhaps surprisingly, several of the Church's books still presume the possibility of a baptistery that is erected apart from the main body of the church. The *Book of Blessings* gives several instructions on the topic (1083-1084) and the *General Introduction to Christian Initiation* notes that the baptistery may be "either inside or outside the church" (25).

2. *Immersion, Pouring, Infusion*: The notes in both the *General Introduction to Christian Initiation* and the *Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults* restate what is said clearly in Canon 815 of the Code of Canon Law: baptism may be lawfully celebrated by only two methods, "immersion" or "pouring" (GICI, 22: RCIA, 213). Pouring is simply the more everyday term for "infusion," meaning that water is poured over a person's head in baptism while the formula, "N., I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," is said by the minister. The precise definition of immersion is not easy to find in the Church's documents, however, in some descriptions, it presumes full submersion of a person's entire body underwater. In others, it presumes the person to be baptized will be standing in a significant amount of water and get a substantial drenching through pouring on the head. The *Statutes for the Catechuminate*, for example, offers the term "partial immersion," meaning at least the candidate's head is brought completely underwater.

To be continued...

PRAYER FOR GOD'S INTERVENTION IN OUR

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

ORDINARY TIME II, YEAR B

22nd
Sunday in
Ordinary Time

YEAR B





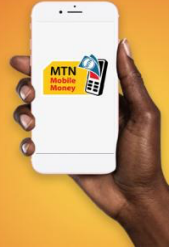
“THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT. MAY THE BLESSING OF GOD BE POURED OUT ABUNDANTLY UPON YOU.”
“THE LOVE OF CHRIST URGES US ON”
(2 COR. 5:14A)

REV. FR. WISDOM K. ASARE



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

LAZINESS WON'T BENEFIT YOU

This short story comes from ancient times. It is believed that a King ordered his men to place a boulder on the roadway. He then hid in the bushes to see if anybody would move the boulder out of the way.

The story states that the King's wealthiest merchants and courtiers walked past the boulder without batting an eyelid. They assumed moving the boulder was a job beneath them. Somebody else would do it. The boulder remained on the road for many days. Many people started to get quite angry at the King, blaming him for the state of the roads. However, not one person took the time to move the boulder.

Until one day, a peasant came along carrying vegetables. He approached the boulder and, without hesitation, decided that he would try to move it. He attempted to push the stone away, which took a lot of effort and time. With much pushing and straining, he finally managed, and the boulder was finally moved. The peasant returned to where the boulder sat to collect his vegetables. To his surprise, a purse was lying on the road, containing an array of gold coins and a note from the King. It explained that whoever moved the boulder would receive the gold.

Moral: *Hard work and independence will always benefit you in life.*

YOUTH CORNER

ANNOUNCEMENT! ANNOUNCEMENT!!

THE PYC WOULD LIKE TO REMIND ALL THE YOUTH THAT REGISTRATION FOR THE TSO MIDZO TRIP IS STILL ONGOING. REGISTER USING THE CODE ON THE FLYER, REGISTRATION LINK, OR BY SEEING THE REPS.

THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT IS 8TH SEPTEMBER 2024.

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. Those who have pledged for the Legacy of Hope Project are also reminded and entreated to redeem them and also fulfill all other Church Financial Obligations. (e.g., Church Dues, Welfare Dues and Building Fund).
- The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to remind the Northern union of their visits to Achimota group A in the month of September.
- STM & SJF Credit Union Job Vacancy:** A male or a Female with 1st Degree in Accounting, HND holder or SSCE with little experience is needed for immediate employment. Experience: High integrity with Money. Salary: Negotiable.
- Marriage Banns:
 - **1st Publication** between Michael Quarshie (Son of Kofi Asare and Akua Ganyo) And Lucy Akosua Kubi-Quarshie (Daughter of Philip K. Nuvor and Victoria Ameho)
 - **3RD Publication** between Emil Akogo (Son of Emmanuel Akogo and Agnes Dzagbo) and Sylvia Delawe Agbeve (Daughter of Godwin Samuel Agbeve and Fidelia Kuadugah). In case of any impediment kindly inform the Parish Priest as soon as possible.
- Meetings
 - ❖ **TODAY**
 - Northern Union after the 7.00 am Mass at STM
 - St. Theresa of the Child Jesus after the 7.00 am Mass at STM.
 - St. Francis of Assisi, Nigerian Community after the 9.30 am at SJF.
 - ❖ **NEXT WEEK**
Ave Maria Society after the 7.00 am Mass at STM.
- Offertory for Next Sunday**
 - @ STM: 7.00 am Mass: Ushers. 9.30 am Mass: All Parishioners.
 - @ SJF: 6.30 am Mass: All Parishioners. 9.30 am Mass: Legion of Mary.
- A parishioner is in search of an apartment (either a two bedroom or chamber and hall) to rent preferably around Achimota, Abeka, Tesano and Mile 7. He can be contacted on 0541282818.

Parishioner needs a chamber and hall self-contained or 2 bedrooms self-contained apartment in Achimota and its environs. Kindly contact on **054 323 4232**.

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 AUG. WEEK1 | STM AUG. WEEK2 | STM AUG. WEEK3 | STM AUG. WEEK4 | GRAND TOTAL | POSITIONS |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| SUNDAY | 815.00 | 330.00 | ----- | ----- | 1145.00 | 5TH |
| MONDAY | 1128.00 | 50.00 | ----- | ----- | 1178.00 | 4TH |
| TUESDAY | 2157.50 | ----- | 15.00 | ----- | 2172.50 | 2ND |
| WEDNESDAY | 1143.00 | 1000.00 | 55.00 | ----- | 2198.00 | 1ST |
| THURSDAY | 322.00 | ----- | 360.00 | ----- | 682.00 | 7TH |
| FRIDAY | 1208.00 | ----- | ----- | ----- | 1208.00 | 3RD |
| SATURDAY | 963.00 | ----- | ----- | ----- | 963.00 | 6TH |
| AUG. BORNES | 95.50 | ----- | ----- | ----- | 95.50 | |
| TOTAL | 7832.00 | 1380.00 | 430.00 | ----- | 9642.00 | |

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

| SUNDAY | STM AUG. WEEK4 |
|---------------------|----------------|
| MAIN COLLECTION | ----- |
| SECOND COLLECTION | ----- |
| OFFERTORY ENVELOPES | ----- |
| TOTAL | ----- |

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

| WEEKDAYS | SJF AUG. WEEK1 | SJF AUG. WEEK2 | SJF AUG. WEEK3 | SJF AUG. WEEK4 | GRAND TOTAL | POSITIONS |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| SUNDAY | 1397.00 | ----- | 10.00 | ----- | 1407.00 | 7TH |
| MONDAY | 2450.00 | ----- | 100.00 | ----- | 2550.00 | 3RD |
| TUESDAY | 1752.20 | 20.00 | ----- | 100.00 | 1872.20 | 5TH |
| WEDNESDAY | 1266.30 | 140.00 | ----- | 200.00 | 1606.30 | 6TH |
| THURSDAY | 1969.00 | 100.00 | 1500.00 | 200.00 | 3769.00 | 2ND |
| FRIDAY | 2490.00 | 10000.00 | ----- | ----- | 12490.00 | 1ST |
| SATURDAY | 956.50 | 1520.00 | ----- | ----- | 2476.50 | 4TH |
| AUG. BORNS | 479.00 | ----- | ----- | ----- | 479.00 | |
| TOTAL | 12760.00 | 11780.00 | 1610.00 | 500.00 | 26650.00 | |

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

| SUNDAY | SJF AUG. WEEK4 |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| MAIN COLLECTION | 7397.50 |
| SECOND COLLECTION | 6293.30 |
| OFFERTORY ENVELOPES | ----- |
| TOTAL | 13690.80 |

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST.

Harvest 2024

THEME
LET US ARISE AND
REBUILD TOGETHER
NEHEMIAH 2:17

TARGET

GH¢ 500,000.00

DATE

**SUNDAY,
3RD NOVEMBER, 2024**

VENUE & TIME

STM: 7:00AM MASS
SJF: 6:30AM MASS
9:30AM MASS

ACCOUNT NAME: ST. THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

ACCOUNT NUMBER:
1117000222801

BANK: NIB BANK, ABEKA BRANCH

ACCOUNT NAME: SS. THOMAS MORE
AND JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

ACCOUNT NUMBER:
0595850922