



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

8TH SEPTEMBER, 2024: TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **"THE STRENGTH TO HELP SOMEONE COMES FROM GOD"**

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 35:4-7a: Isaiah prophesies about God's vindication.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10

COME, LORD, AND SAVE US.

Second Reading: Jas 2:1-5 James teaches that there is to be no partiality within the Christian community.

Gospel Reading: Mk 7:31-37: Jesus restores a man's hearing and speech.

REFLECTION

Beloved in Christ, in today's Gospel from Mark, Jesus teaches us that the strength, goodwill, and discernment to help others come from God, not from man. Therefore, we must always look up to God for the grace to fulfill any task. In the passage, Jesus places His finger into the ears of the deaf man and touches his tongue, recognizing his speech impediment. He then looks up to heaven, sighs, and declares "Ephphatha," acknowledging that the power to restore wholeness comes from His Father. In this moment, Jesus prays for strength and receives it, showing that true healing and understanding are directed by God. Jesus, with divine wisdom, understands the man's needs and draws him aside from the crowd, ensuring he does not feel embarrassed. He heals him with compassion and sensitivity. Similarly, we must remember that if we fail to seek God's strength and guidance when helping someone, we risk acting in ways that may not truly benefit them. May we always turn to God for the strength and wisdom to care for others. Amen.

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 Saint Peter Clever, Priest (M) 1Cor 5:1-8 Ps 5:5-7,12 Lk 6:6-11	Tue 10TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 1Cor 6:1-11 Ps 149:1-6,9 Lk 6:12-19
Wed 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 1Cor 7:25-31 Ps 45:11-12,14-17 Lk 6:20-26	Thurs 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 The Most Holy Name of Mary 1Cor 8:1b-7,11-23 Ps 139:1-3,13-14,23-24 Lk 6:27-38
Fri 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop, doctor of the church (M) 1Cor 9:16-19,22b-27 Ps 83:3-6,12 Lk 6:39-42	Sat 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 The Triumph of the Cross (F) Num 21:4b-9 Ps 78:1-2,34-38 Phil 2:6-11 John 3:13-17

Readings for Next Sunday

First Reading	Is 50:5-9a
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 114:1-6,8-9
Second Reading	Jas 2:14-18
Gospel	Mk 8:27-35

Mass Schedule for Next Sunday

St. Thomas More & St. John Fisher

ONE MASS: 8.30 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.

2. Immersion, Pouring, Infusion

While in today's liturgical climate, an immersion baptistery is considered *de rigueur*, the documents make it clear that a font may be set up for either pouring, immersion, or both (RBC, 22; BB, 1085). However, a clear preference is given to immersion. The *Book of Blessings* says the font "should permit baptism by immersion, wherever this is the usage" (1085), while the *General Introduction to Christian Initiation* makes a clearer theological statement, calling immersion "more suitable as a symbol of participating in the death and resurrection of Christ" (GICI, 22). To further enhance the sign value of baptismal water as the living water of new life, the *Book of Blessings* recommends a font function as "a fountain of running water" (BB, 1085).

3 Tomb and Eighth Day

As is typical of the Church's universal documents, very few specific details are given for baptisteries, although many historical examples can give theologically derived inspiration. In ancient Roman culture, tombs and other places of veneration were most frequently designed with a centralized plan known as a *tholos*: a design using a circle, octagon, square, or Greek cross as its fundamental shape. As a place where a catechumen dies with Christ and rises again, the *tholos* serve an important purpose in mystagogical revelation: the inherited marker of a place of death is transformed and used as an image of new life.

In many historical examples, the octagon has taken precedence from the list of possible shapes, likely because of the symbolism of the number eight and its association with the theological "eighth day." Genesis speaks of God creating the world in six days and resting on the seventh. So the "eighth day" is the metaphorical day of eternity as the day "after" the earthly Sabbath, a day of re-creation into eschatological completion. Relatedly, eight souls in Noah's ark became the source of new life after the deadly flood. Since baptism is the door to this new life, the eight-sided baptistery takes on a symbolic significance particularly appropriate to the sacrament's effect.

4. Relationship to Altar and Ambo

The Church makes no prescription on the location of the baptismal font. In 1955, scholar J.B. O'Connell wrote that the traditional location for the baptistery was at the northwest corner of an oriented (literally, eastward facing) church, noting that the north side was associated with the darkness of paganism and the west side with the church entrance. With the 20th-century Liturgical Movement's reaffirmation of the significance of baptism, fonts became larger and began to appear on a worshipper's path of entrance to the church building. Even as early as 1941, liturgical reformer H.A. Reinhold wrote that it should be "in the way" of the faithful as they go to church so they could be reminded "of the one fact to which they owe their salvation." Similarly, the designers of the highly influential St. John's Abbey Church in Collegeville, MN, placed a baptistery at the center of the narthex, requiring worshippers to encounter the place of their baptism at each visit.

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 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 II, YEAR B



LAITY WEEK
STUDY PROGRAMME 2024
16TH – 20TH SEPTEMBER
TIME: 6:30PM EACH DAY
THEME: FOSTERING THE GROWTH OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
IN GHANA THROUGH COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY

DAYS	TOPIC	MODERATOR	MC	CHOIR
Mon. 16 th Sept	The question of clergy-laity relationship	Miss. Ama Afful	Rep Main Choir	Main Choir
Tues. 17 th Sept	Kerygma and catechesis	Mr. Basil Tetteh	Rep YCW	Youth Choir
Wed. 18 th Sept	Developing a new and more effective diocesan pastoral plan of evangelization	Mr. Joseph Quayson	Rep YCW	Ave Maria Singing Group
Thurs. 19 th Sept	Towards a more effective approach to children and youth ministry	Mrs. Barbara Oyata	Rep Youth	CCR Singing Ministry
Fri. 20 th Sept	Catholic population dynamics	Mr. Raymond Oyata	Rep Youth	Ave Maria



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 SECRET TO SUCCESS

Once a young man asked the wise man, Socrates, the secret to success. Socrates patiently listened to the man’s question and told him to meet him near the river the following day for the answer. So the next day, Socrates asked the young man to walk with him towards the river. As they went in the river, the water got up to their neck. But to the young man’s surprise, Socrates ducked him into the water.

The young man struggled to get out of the water, but Socrates was strong and kept him there until the boy started turning blue. Finally, Socrates pulled the man’s head out of the water. The young man gasped and took a deep breath of air. Socrates asked, ‘What did you want the most when your head was in the water?’ The young man replied, ‘Air.’ Socrates said, ‘That is the secret to success. When you want success as badly as you wanted the air while you were in the water, then you will get it. There is no other secret.’

Moral: *A burning desire is the starting point of all accomplishment. Just like a small fire cannot give much heat, a weak desire cannot produce great results.*

YOUTH CORNER

1. ANNOUNCEMENT! ANNOUNCEMENT!!
- 2.

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

3. 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).
4. 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.
5. **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.
6. **Marriage Banns:**
 - **2nd Publication** between Michael Quarshie (Son of Kofi Asare and Akua Ganyo) and Lucy Akosua Kubi-Quarshie (Daughter of Philip K. Nuvor and Victoria Ameho)
 - **2nd Publication** between Anthony Hugh Cobbinah (Son of Anthony Hugh Cobbinah and Georgina Blankson Cobbinah) and Afua Foriwaa Boafah (Daughter of Kenneth Boafah and Augustina Kusi Boafah)
 - **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.
7. Meetings: **TODAY:** Ave Maria Society after the 7.00 am Mass.
8. **Offertory for Next Sunday will be done by all Parishioners (Communities, Societies, Groups and Individuals)**
9. **One Week Celebration**
The one week celebration for the Late WO1 RTD Albert Akoto Bamfo comes off this Friday 13th September at SJF at 6:15am. We are all invited. Dress Code: Black. Direction to the house: 3satellite Street Tantra Hill. Near the Taifa Junction.
10. **Funeral Arrangement**
 1. The Funeral Arrangement of the Late **Mad. Mary Vormawor**, Wife of **Mr. Kenneth Gbormittah** is as follows:
 - **Friday Sept 27th 2024:** Family gathering at her residence Israel Lormnava, Masalechie Street near Ofankor Barrier.
 - **Saturday Sept 28th 2024:** Memorial Service at her residence by Apostolic Revival Ministries of Ashiaman. Burial at Tsiamé, Volta Region.
 - **Sunday Sept 29th 2024:** Thanksgiving Mass at SS. Thomas More & John Fisher Catholic Church, New Achimota at 9.30 am.

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 SEPT. WEEK1
SUNDAY	526.50
MONDAY	1742.70
TUESDAY	550.30
WEDNESDAY	851.00
THURSDAY	803.00
FRIDAY	1019.00
SATURDAY	682.00
SEPT. BORN	383.00
TOTAL	6557.50

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM SEPT. WEEK1
MAIN COLLECTION	2785.60
TITHE	40.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	3560.00
TOTAL	6385.60

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF SEPT. WEEK1
SUNDAY	1150.00
MONDAY	3835.00
TUESDAY	999.50
WEDNESDAY	1403.00
THURSDAY	2237.00
FRIDAY	8272.00
SATURDAY	4630.00
SEPT. BORNS	532.00
TOTAL	23058.50

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF SEPT. WEEK1
MAIN COLLECTION	5069.60
TITHE	300.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	2550.00
TOTAL	7919.60

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.



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

