

# Weekly



# Bulletin

Year 25, No. 05

SUNDAY, 10TH MAY, 2020

Christ The King Catholic Church | P.O.Box CT 2110 Cantonments-Accra, Ghana

Tel. 233-302-775645 [www.christthekingaccra.net](http://www.christthekingaccra.net) Email: [info@christthekingaccra.net](mailto:info@christthekingaccra.net)

CTK School +233-302785200

## CHRIST THE KING CHURCH THEME FOR THE YEAR

**LET US REJOICE, FOR NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD - cf Is 61.2**

### OFFICE HOURS

#### Weekdays

8:00am-4:00pm

#### Saturdays

8:00am-12:00pm

#### Sundays

Closed

## **SUPPORT TO NEEDY PARISHIONERS**

The Parish has made a special provision to support needy persons or families, in these difficult times.

Parishioners who genuinely need some support should contact their societal head or

call 024 428 4669 / 030 277 5645

## PRAYER FOR AN END TO CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Almighty and merciful Father, who shows your love to all creation, we come before you asking for a quick control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world.

Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found.

We pray for the relevant Governments and Health Authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus. Amen

Happy  
Mother's  
Day

## 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A

### COMMENTARY ON READINGS

**First Reading:** This reading describes the circumstances that led to the institution of the diaconate by the Apostles and the appointment of the first deacons of the Church. (Acts 6:1-7)

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 33)

“ The Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.”

Exult, you just, in the LORD;  
praise from the upright is fitting.  
Give thanks to the LORD on the harp;  
with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises. **Res**

Upright is the word of the LORD,  
and all his works are trustworthy.  
He loves justice and right;  
of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full. **Res**

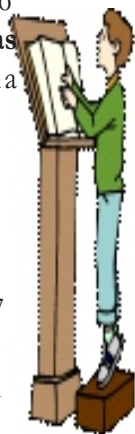
See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,  
upon those who hope for his kindness,  
To deliver them from death  
and preserve them in spite of famine. **Res**

**Second Reading:** Peter likens the Christian community, the Church, to a building whose foundation is Christ. The Church then, is the living stones of believers who are chosen, consecrated and set apart to praise God. (Peter 2:4-9)

**Gospel :** Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. It is through Him that we have access to God and it is through Christ alone that we can know the Father. (John 14:1-12)

### WEEKDAY READINGS & MEMORIALS 5TH WEEK OF EASTER, YEAR A

Monday	<b>St. Ignatius of Laconi</b> Acts 14:5-18 /Ps 115/Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday	<b>Ss. Nereus/Archilleus/Pancras</b> Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87/Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday	<b>Our Lady of Fatima</b> Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122/Jn 15:1-8
Thursday	<b>St. Matthias, apostles</b> Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96/Jn 15:9-11
Friday	<b>St. Isidore the Farmer</b> Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57/Jn 15:12-17
Saturday	<b>St. Simon Stock BVM</b> Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100/Jn 15:18-21



#### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

### 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 8:5-8/Ps 66/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21

## REFLECTION

The readings for the last few Sundays have been about the Resurrection, but today's Gospel takes us back in time to an event in Jesus' life before his Passion. Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to prepare a place for them in his Father's house. He promises that where he is going, his disciples will be able to follow. Thomas, who will later doubt the disciples' reports that they have seen the Risen Lord, contradicts Jesus by saying that the disciples don't know where Jesus is going or how to get there. Jesus explains that he himself is the way, the truth, and the life. In knowing and loving Jesus, the disciples now love God the Father.

Philip then makes a request that challenges Jesus' words. Philip wants Jesus to show the Father to the disciples. Recall that Jesus has just told his disciples, "If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." As a good teacher, Jesus responds to Philip by repeating and elaborating on what he has just told the disciples: they have seen and known Jesus, so they have seen and known the Father. Then Jesus offers another reassurance about his departure: because of faith in God and in Jesus, the disciples will do the work that Jesus has done and more.

The connection between Jesus and his Father, between Jesus' work and the work of the Father, is made clear in today's Gospel. Jesus is in the Father, and God the Father is in Jesus. As God spoke his name to Moses, "I am," so too Jesus speaks his name to his disciples: "I am the way and the truth and the life."

The revelation of the Trinity is completed in the passage that follows today's reading, and it is the Gospel for next Sunday. Because Jesus goes away, the Father will send in Jesus' name the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will continue the work of the Father and of Jesus.

## FAMILY CONNECTION

Members of the same family often bear close resemblances to one another. Sometimes physical resemblances are shared within a family, but often the similarities are behavioral characteristics and mannerisms. We hear this observation affirmed through a number of common phrases: "He's a chip off the old block" or "She's her mother's daughter." Today's Gospel points to a mystery of faith that might be examined in light of these familial relationships. In Jesus we see and know the Father. Likewise, the Father is known through the life and work of the Son, Jesus.

Talk together as a family about whether people outside of your family recognize common traits of your family. Are there physical resemblances that people recognize and so know each individual as a member of your family? Are there mannerisms that are shared by members of your family? What are some common interests and work that people might associate with your family? As you read today's Gospel, John 14:1-12, keep in mind that members of the same family share many characteristics, even though each person in the family is an individual. What does Jesus tell his disciples about his relationship with the Father? The relationship between the Father and Jesus is so close that Jesus says that those who have seen and known Jesus have also seen and known the Father. Jesus promises his disciples that because of their faith in him and in the Father, they too will be able to do the work of the Father as Jesus did. End your discussion by praying together that others will recognize in your family the work of the Father. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

# SAINT OF THE WEEK

Joseph de Veuster was born in 1840, the son of Belgian farmers. He and his brother, Pamphile, joined the Fathers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. These missionaries were responsible for bringing the Catholic faith to the Hawaiian Islands.

Joseph chose the name “Damien” when he entered the Sacred Hearts Congregation. Brother Damien was tall and strong. His years of helping on the family farm had given him a healthy look. Everybody liked him because he was good-natured and generous.

More missionaries were needed in the kingdom of Hawaii (Hawaii was not a state at that time). In 1864, a group of Sacred Hearts priests and brothers were chosen to go. Pamphile, Damien’s brother, was selected. Just before the departure date, Pamphile came down with typhoid fever. He could no longer consider going to the missions. Brother Damien, still studying to become a priest, asked to take his place. The father general accepted Damien’s offer. Damien went home to his family to say goodbye. Then he took the ship from Belgium to Hawaii. The voyage lasted eighteen weeks. Damien finished his studies and was ordained a priest in Hawaii. He spent nine years among the people of three districts. He traveled on horseback and by canoe.

The people loved this tall, generous priest. He saw that they responded to ceremonies. He used the little money he could raise to build chapels. He and volunteer parishioners built the chapels themselves. But the most incredible part of Damien’s life was soon to begin. The bishop asked for a volunteer priest to go to the island of Molokai. The very name struck the people with fear and dread. They knew that the section of the island called Kalawao was the “living graveyard” of people dying of leprosy. There was so much ignorance about the disease and such great fear of contagion that lepers were mostly abandoned. Many just despaired. There was no priest, no law enforcement agent on Molokai, no doctor or hospital. The Hawaiian government sent some food and medical supplies to the lepers, but it was not enough. And there was no organized way of distributing these goods.

Father Damien volunteered to go to Molokai. Faced with the poverty, corruption and despair, he felt afraid at first. But he made up his mind that for him there was no turning back. The people were desperately in need of help. He went to Honolulu to confront the members of



## ST. DAMIEN JOSEPH DE VEUSTER OF MOLOKAI

the board of health. They told him that he could not travel back and forth to Molokai for fear of contagion. Their real reason was that they didn’t want him on Molokai. They didn’t want to be reminded that they were responsible for the lepers. So Damien had to make a choice: if he went back to Molokai, he could never leave again. The board of health didn’t know Damien. He chose Molokai.

Father Damien worked hard for eighteen years until his death on Molokai. With the help of the lepers and generous volunteers, Molokai was transformed. The word Molokai took on a whole different meaning. It became an island of Christian love. Father Damien eventually became a leper himself. He died on April 15, 1889, at the age of forty-nine and was buried on the island. He was proclaimed “blessed” by Pope John Paul II in 1994 and canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009.

Let’s ask St. Damien to give us some of his bravery and generosity. There are so many people who need our love and support. St. Damien will help us respond to them with joy and kindness.

**CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES**

**#STAY HOME | #STAY SAFE**

# THE TUESDAY TEACHING

## THE CHURCH AND THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY



continuing from last week...

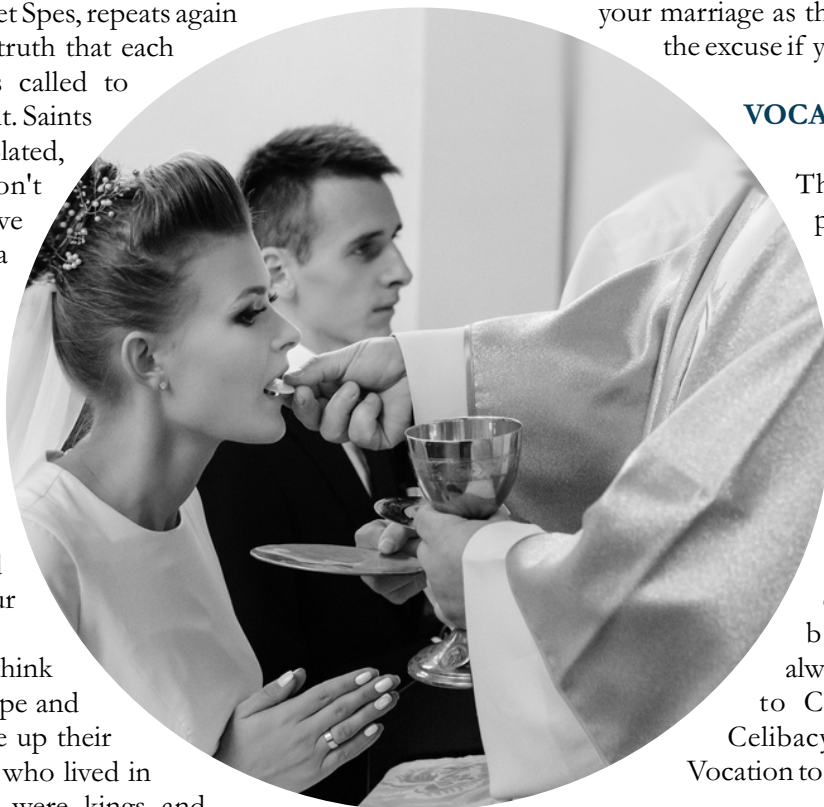
### PATH TO SANCTITY

Vatican II's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, *Gaudium et Spes*, repeats again for our modern ears the truth that each and every one of us is called to holiness, called to be a Saint. Saints are not meant to be isolated, rare individuals. You don't have to be a monk and shave your head, or a contemplative nun to be a Saint. Every single one of us, no matter who we are or what we do is called to be "perfect as our Father in Heaven is perfect". That is what God expects from us! That is what we are called to strive for throughout our entire lives!

There's a tendency to think that holiness is for the Pope and priests and nuns who give up their lives for God, for people who lived in another age when there were kings and queens and crusades and inquisitions. People who have day jobs and are married with children just don't have time for all that praying and helping the poor and smiling at everyone. You can't wear sackcloth to work! Maybe this view has arisen because so many of the Church's great Saints are priests and monks and nuns. But don't forget all the married Saints as well. Our Patron Saint, St Thomas More was a married man. He died for his faith and for refusing to renounce allegiance to the Holy Father leaving behind a wife and several children.

Marriage should not be an obstacle to our growth in holiness. The Church teaches very clearly that God gives us marriage as a way of becoming holy.

So, if you're married, or think that's what God has planned for you, there's no excuse! You still have to be a Saint, and use your marriage as the means to that end, not as the excuse if you don't make it!



### VOCATION

That leads me to my next point. One of the other things that make Catholic marriage different is that it is a Vocation.

Most of us tend to think that only Vocations to the priesthood or religious life are Vocations. That may be because the vast majority of people marry rather than live a life totally devoted to God. It may be because the Church has always affirmed that a Vocation to Consecrated Virginity or Celibacy is more exalted than a Vocation to the married state.

Nevertheless, it is very clear that the Church teaches that God has a plan for each of us which He invites us to participate in. He created us, He knows us through and through, and He has a special role for each of us in this life. A select few, He calls to live lives devoted entirely to Him so that we can all have a foretaste of how He wants us all to live in entire union with Him in Heaven.

to be continued.....