



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

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## 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## PROGRAMME OUTLINE FOR THE PENTECOST NOVENA

Day 1 Topic Speaker	Friday 22nd May, 2020 A contrite heart – a precursor for abundant blessings (Ps.32: 3 - 5) Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Darfour Appah	Day 6 Topic Speaker	Wednesday 27th May, 2020 The gifts of the Holy Spirit and their benefits Mrs. Ernestina Adom
Day 2 Topic	Saturday 23rd May, 2020 God heals the contrite Nation!	Day 7 Topic Speaker	Thursday 28th May, 2020 The Holy Spirit – our advocate and strength in weakness Mrs. Abena Safoa Ofori
Day 3 Topic	Sunday 24th May, 2020 The Holy Spirit - our Righteousness	Day 8 Topic Speaker	Friday 29th May, 2020 Bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit Very Rev. Fr. Andrew Campbell
Day 4 Topic Speaker	Monday 25th May, 2020 That we remember our first love Mrs. Magdalene Cole	Day 9 Topic	Saturday 30th May, 2020 The Holy Spirit – the seal upon our lives!
Day 5 Topic Speaker	Tuesday 26th May, 2020 We are Temples of the Holy Spirit Ms. Sena Dake		

**ALL NOVENA TALKS WILL BE AFTER MIDDAY MASS ON EACH DAY**

(Join us on our Facebook page (Christ the King Parish Accra) as we stream live)

## 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A

### COMMENTARY ON READINGS

**First Reading:** After Jesus' Ascension, the Apostles returned to Jerusalem, stayed and prayed together with Mary and other disciples, while they waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit. **(Acts 1:12-14)**

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 27)

**"I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living."**

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom should I fear?

The LORD is my life's refuge;  
of whom should I be afraid? **Res**

One thing I ask of the LORD; this I seek:  
to dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life, That I may gaze on the loveliness of  
the LORD  
and contemplate His temple. **Res**

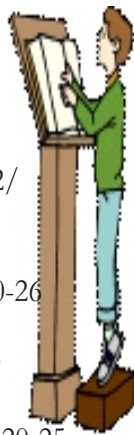
Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call;  
have pity on me, and answer me.  
Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks. **Res**

**Second Reading:** Peter encourages his converts, who suffer because they bear the name of Christ, to deem it a blessing that the Spirit of God rests upon them. **(Peter 4:13-16)**

**Gospel :** Jesus prays to the Father for His disciples whom He has made known to the Father Now they must go out into the world, so that filled with Jesus' Spirit, they will teach all nations. **(John 17:1-11)**

### WEEKDAY READINGS & MEMORIALS 7TH WEEK OF EASTER, YEAR A

Monday	Ss. Ven. Bede/Gregory VII/ Mary Magdalene de Pazzi Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68/Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday	St. Philip Neri Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68/Jn 17:1-11
Wednesday	St. Augustine of Canterbury Zep 3:14-18 or Rom 12:9-16/Is 12/ Lk 1:39-56
Thursday	St. Germanus Acts 22:30;23:6-11/Ps 16/Jn 17:20-26
Friday	St. Cyril Acts 25:13-21/Ps 103/Jn 21:15-19
Saturday	St. Joan of Arc Acts 28:16-20. 30-31/Ps 11/Jn 21:20-25



#### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

#### PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104/1 Cor12:3-7. 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

## REFLECTION

Today's reading is a prayer, which appears at the conclusion of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. At the end of the prayer, Jesus is arrested in the garden. The prayer might be read as Jesus' final commendation of himself to the Father. In the prayer, Jesus also expresses care and concern for his disciples.

Jesus' prayer reaffirms the complete union between Jesus and the Father. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus has been presented as the Word, who pre-existed with the Father and was sent to do the Father's work on earth. In this prayer we learn that Jesus' life and ministry have been directed toward one purpose, revealing the Father. When this work is accomplished, Jesus is to return to the Father to be glorified. Regardless of what happens to Jesus, in John's Gospel, Jesus and the Father are in charge. Even in the description of Jesus' death, Jesus does not simply die but instead hands over his spirit.

In today's Gospel we also note the distinction found in John's Gospel between the world and the disciples. The disciples are in the world, but they are separate from it because they have been given to Jesus. They are chosen from the world to be in service to the world for its salvation. This salvation has been accomplished in Jesus because Jesus has revealed the Father to the world, but the disciples will be sent by Jesus to make both the Father and Jesus known to the world. Jesus' prayer is for the disciples' work in the world.

## FAMILY CONNECTION

In today's Gospel we glimpse Jesus' prayer for his disciples. If we read further in John's Gospel, we find that Jesus prayed for his disciples' protection from the evil one. Jesus also prayed for all those who would have faith in him because of the disciples' teaching. That means that Jesus prayed for us as well, even before his death on the cross. Our faith tells us that Jesus continues to intercede for us at the Father's right hand.

Gather together as a family and think about the tradition of praying for other people. Who do you pray for? What do you ask for in your prayers? In today's Gospel we find an example of Jesus' prayer to the Father. Read together today's Gospel, John 17:1-11a. Think about Jesus' prayer for his disciples. We know that Jesus continues to intercede for us at the Father's right hand.

What might Jesus' prayer be for you and your family? Conclude by praying together in thanks for the great love that Jesus shows you. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

# SAINT OF THE WEEK

Elodie Paradis was born on May 12, 1840, in the village of L'Acadie in Quebec, Canada. Her parents were poor and devout Catholics. They loved their little girl. When Elodie was nine, her parents decided to send her to a boarding school. They wanted her to have an excellent education. The sisters of Notre Dame warmly received the new student. But Elodie and her family missed each other very much.

Mr. Paradis worked hard running a mill. But times were bad, and there was not enough work to support his wife and children. He heard wonderful reports of the gold rush in California. He was so desperate that he decided to go. In California, Mr. Paradis did not find the wealth he had hoped for. When he returned to L'Acadie, he was shocked to find that his Elodie had entered the convent. She had joined the Holy Cross congregation on February 21, 1854. Mr. Paradis went to the convent. He begged his daughter to return home, but she chose to remain. Finally, her father accepted her decision. Elodie pronounced her vows in 1857, taking the name Sister Marie-Leonie. She taught school in different cities. She prayed and lived her life joyfully.

As time went on, Sister Marie-Leonie was led by Jesus to begin a new religious order in the Church. The Little Sisters of the Holy Family were begun in 1880. These loving sisters are devoted to the priesthood. They do the household tasks so that priests will be able to devote more time to their people. The Little Sisters of the Holy Family now have many convents in Canada, the United States, Rome and Honduras.

Mother Marie-Leonie worked for her sisters until the last few hours of her life. She was always frail and often ill. But she never stopped caring for God's people. She put the finishing touches on the pages of the rule of life she had written. She had it sent to the print shop.



## BLESSED MARIE-LEONIE PARADIS

That book would give her sisters the guidance they would need to live their religious life. On Friday, May 3, 1912, Mother Marie-Leonie said she felt very tired. She went to rest and died a few hours later. She was seventy-one years old. Mother Marie-Leonie was declared "blessed" by Pope John Paul II. The joyful event took place at Jarry Park, Montreal, Canada, on September 11, 1984.

Little tasks that seem unimportant can be worth a lot when they're done with love. When we are carrying out chores that seem boring or insignificant, let's offer them to God with the same spirit Blessed Marie-Leonie had in doing her work.

## CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES



## WEAR A NOSE MASK

**NOSE MASK ON SALE  
AT OLAFAS (HDR CONVENT)**

**CALL: 020 244 6242**

**#STAY HOME | #STAY SAFE**



# THE TUESDAY TEACHING

## THE CHURCH AND THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY



continuing from last week...

### SACRAMENT

Marriage has existed since the sixth day of Creation. The Book of Genesis tells us: "God created man in his image, He created him in the image of God, man and woman, He created them. God blessed them and God said to them: 'Be fruitful and multiply!' ... And God saw what he had done and said 'This is good.'" "It is not good that man should be alone. I will give you a helpmate, who will be your companion." "This at last is flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone. She shall be called woman because she has been made from man. And this is why it is said that a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife and they shall become one flesh."

Marriage is part of the created, natural order. It is inherently good and pleasing to God. It's clear purpose is the begetting of children and mutual companionship and help. Marriage existed before the Fall. It was part of God's original plan for mankind that was thwarted by Adam and Eve's sin.

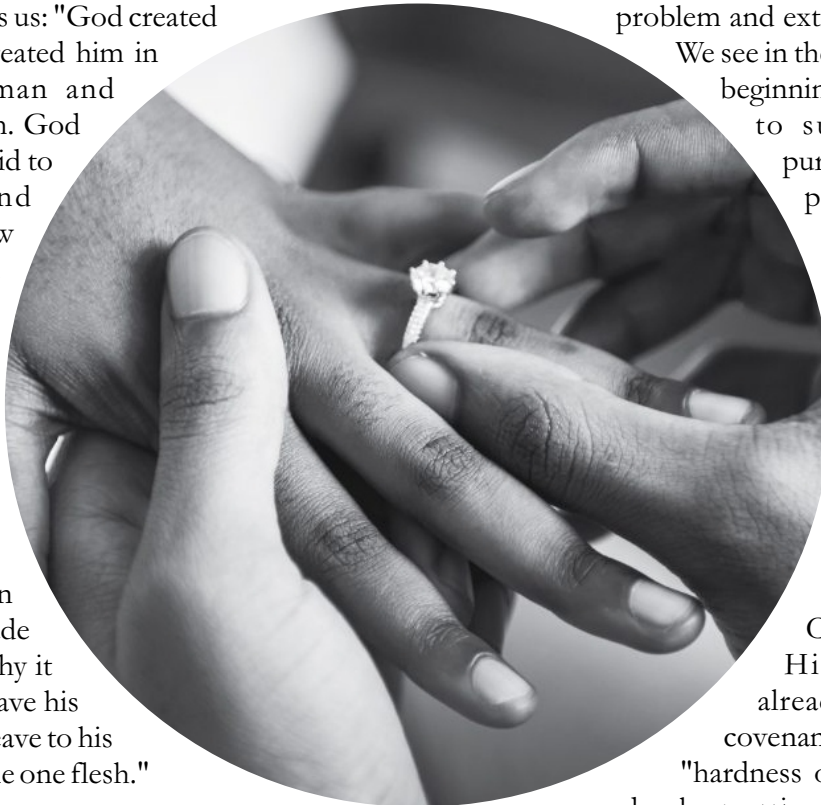
And so, even though He expelled them from Paradise, imposed the labours of childbirth on them and imposed their fallen nature on all their offspring, God still

ordained that the blessing and gift of Marriage should remain. However, man's fallen nature acted against the goodness and holiness of marriage. We see in Sodom and Gomorrah that marriage had become despised. We see in the 10 Commandments that adultery and lust was a serious problem and extremely displeasing to God.

We see in the sin of Onan that from the beginning, people have been trying to subvert the procreative purpose of marriage. We see polygamy practised by the Kings in the Old Testament.

But we also see that Israel understood the inherent goodness of marriage too. The Old Testament uses the imagery of God being the Bridegroom and Israel His bride. The Old Covenant between God and His Chosen People was already being likened to the covenant of Marriage. But their "hardness of heart" had led them to devalue marriage.

And so then we have Our Lord, who came to redeem the World, the new Adam. It is clear that Our Lord held marriage in great esteem. It was at a wedding that He chose to allow His glory to be seen by performing His first public miracle and out of compassion for the bride and groom so that they would not be embarrassed when they ran out of wine. He uses marriage often in His parables and symbolizes Himself as the Bridegroom.



And it is Our Lord who raises Marriage to a Sacrament of the New Law, restoring it to how the Father intended it to be "in the beginning". In St Matthew's Gospel, we read: "The Pharisees approached Him and, in order to test Him, said: 'Is it permissible for a man to put away his wife for any reason?' He said: "Have you not read that the Creator, in the beginning, made man and woman."

And He said: "That is why the man will leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined, let no man put asunder." They responded: "Why then did Moses allow a man to give his wife a divorce and put her away?" He said to them: "Moses allowed you to put away your wives because of the hardness of your hearts. But it was not so, in the beginning."

Unlike all the other Sacraments, with Marriage, Christ took something good which had existed from the beginning of Creation and restored it to the fulness of its former goodness making it a Sacrament.

We forget so often that marriage is a Sacrament. I suspect that it is so easily forgotten because none of us really understands what a Sacrament is!

I think most Catholics think Sacraments are just special times in your life. Baptism soon after you're born, First Confession, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, your wedding and the last rites when you're dying. The faithful have forgotten the purpose and power of the Sacraments.

A "Sacrament" then, is an effective sign which imparts Grace instituted by Christ. It is a channel between our souls and the graces poured forth by Our Lord on the Cross. It infuses the soul with God's Grace.

And so, that is what is so incredible about Catholic Marriage, what makes it more than a mere relationship. In the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, not only do you receive an abundance of sanctifying grace, but you receive a special Sacramental Grace which helps you to be faithful to your vows.

But, marriages do fail. Catholics do get divorced. Catholic husbands commit adultery. Catholic couples do reject children in their marriages. That is because, however abundantly it is poured out for us, Grace cannot override our Free Will. We must respond to God's Grace, we must choose to accept it, to call on it. We must not place obstacles in the way of His Grace. That means we have to try and live our Sacrament every day in a way that doesn't hamper God's assistance or Graces.

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## **The Properties of Sacramental Marriage**

Sacramental marriage draws its basic characteristics from the covenant relationship between God and his people. These are unity, fidelity, indissolubility and openness to procreation.

### **Unity**

Unity means that the marriage is possible only between one man and one woman. "God made them male and female, and for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife and the two will become one". (Mk 10: 6-8)

### **Fidelity**

Fidelity requires from each partner a full commitment to the other, and prevents him/her from having love affairs with another person. (adultery)

### **Indissolubility**

Indissolubility implies that a true marriage cannot be broken as long as both partners are alive. (adultery)"man must not separate what God has joined together"

### **Openness to Creation**

Openness to procreation flows from the fact that marriage makes a couple participate in God's creative love, which is life-giving. Therefore, a couple that refuses to have any children would be closing itself to involvement in this procreative aspect of God's love.