

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-5:00pm

Saturdays

8:00am-12:00pm

Sundays

8:00am-2:00pm

SUSPENSION OF USED CLOTHING RECEIPTS

The Parish has suspended receipt of used clothing as part of efforts to fight the spread of the Corona Virus. We will duly inform you appropriately when we commence again.
God bless you.

VITUS DERY EDUCATION FUND (VDEF)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR VDEF SCHOLARSHIP

The Parish Priest of Christ the King Catholic Church wishes to announce to Parishioners that applications are invited from eligible candidates for the Vitus Dery Educational Fund (VDEF) scholarship awards.

ELIGIBILITY

The applicant must be:

1. An active parishioner of Christ the King Catholic Church with minimum of six (6) months registration with the Parish
2. Not more than 26 years' old
3. Must show proof of support or contribution to the development of the parish or a society within the parish.
4. Must have gained admission to an educational institution within any of the categories below:
 - a. Public Primary
 - b. Public Junior High School (JHS)
 - c. Public Senior High School (SHS)
 - d. Public Vocational and, or Technical School
 - e. Public Tertiary Institution
 - f. Catholic Tertiary Institution

HOW TO APPLY

- Submit an Application Letter
- Fill a VDEF application form and attach
 - * Proof of admission and
 - * Previous Performance Report(s) or Transcript(s)
- Application with all the supporting documents must be deposited at the Parish Office of Christ the King Church addressed as follows:

The Parish Priest

Attn.: VDEF Educational Board

Christ The King Catholic Church

Accra

DEADLINE

Deadline for submission of applications is 31st July, 2020.

Please Take Note

- The Board shall exercise its discretion in the selection of beneficiaries.
- The Fund shall support not more than two beneficiaries from a family.
- Assistance will not be offered to those applying to private educational institutions.

Thank you.

17TH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME, YEAR A

COMMENTARY ON READINGS

First Reading: King Solomon prays to God for wisdom to discern the true value of things; not for worldly power or wealth. God rewards him for his unselfish desire to be righteous before God and the people. (**Kings 3:5, 7-12**)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 119) “Lord, I love your commands.”

I have said, O LORD, that my part
is to keep your words.

The law of your mouth is to me more precious
than thousands of gold and silver pieces. **Res**

Let your kindness comfort me
according to your promise to your servants.
Let your compassion come to me that I may live,
for your law is my delight. **Res**

For I love your command
more than gold, however fine.
For in all your precepts I go forward;
every false way I hate. **Res**

Wonderful are your decrees;
therefore I observe them.
The revelation of your words sheds light,
giving understanding to the simple. **Res**

Second Reading: Paul tells us that if we are humble and obedient before God, then we are among those who have been called to share in the glory of Our Lord Jesus Christ. (**Romans 8:28-30**)

Gospel: The parables of the Treasure and the Pearl teach us that in finding Christ, the love of God and His Kingdom, we have indeed found priceless fortune. (**Matthew 13:44-52**)

WEEKDAY READINGS & MEMORIALS 17TH WEEK IN ORDINARY, YEAR A

Monday	St. Innocent I Jer 13: 1-11 /Dt 32/Mt 13:13-35
Tuesday	St. Victor Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79/Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday	St. Martha Jer 15:10. 16-21/Ps 59/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
Thursday	St. Peter Chrysologus Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146/ Mt 13:47-53
Friday	St. Iganatius of Loyola Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69/ Mt 13:54-58
Saturday	St. Alphonsus Ligouri Jer 26:11-16. 24/Ps 69/Mt 14:1-12

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

18TH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME, YEAR A
Is 55:1-3/Ps 145/Rom 8:35. 37-39/
Mt 14:13-21

REFLECTION

Today's Gospel concludes three weeks of readings from the 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Throughout these three weeks we have heard Jesus teaching crowds about the kingdom of heaven, and we have heard Jesus interpret some of his teachings for the disciples. In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers three more short parables.

The first two parables describe the great value of the kingdom of heaven. In the first parable, Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a buried treasure that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else. In the second parable, Jesus proposes that the kingdom of heaven is like a pearl of great worth for which one will sell everything else to possess. These parables teach us that we are to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

The third parable that Jesus proposes in today's Gospel is different from the first two, but it is reminiscent of the parable of the sower heard in last week's Gospel. The kingdom of heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the final judgment, will the wicked and the righteous be separated.

Today's Gospel concludes with a curious statement about the scribe who understands the kingdom of heaven. Here a metaphor is offered: this scribe is like the head of a household who "brings from his storeroom both the new and the old." The scribes referred to here are experts of Mosaic law. It is possible that Jesus is here instructing the early Christian community on how to proceed in the interpretation of Jewish law with respect to Jesus' "new" teaching. Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of heaven does not replace the Jewish tradition; it interprets it in a different light

FAMILY CONNECTION

Like the person who found the buried treasure and the merchant who acquired the pearl of great price, we seek to find the signs of the kingdom of heaven in our lives. In fact, we even work to bring about God's kingdom in our actions and in our words. We pray that our family values reflect our pursuit of the kingdom of heaven. As Jesus' disciples, we place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

As you gather as a family, talk about what your family values. Make a list together of those things that your family considers most important, such as family, friends, faith, trust, and love. Place this list before you as you read today's Gospel in its shorter form, Matthew 13:44-46. In these parables, Jesus teaches us that it is worth giving up even valuable things in order to possess the kingdom of heaven. Look at the list your family made and talk about how these things are important to the kingdom of heaven. What has your family given up to make these values important in your life? As Jesus' disciples, we place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God. Pray together for God's kingdom by praying the Lord's Prayer.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

STS. JOACHIM AND ANNE

July 26th



St. Anne and St. Joachim are honored as the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They spent their lives worshipping God and doing good. They had one great sorrow, however: for decades they had not been blessed with children. For years and years Anne had begged the Lord to give her a child. She promised to consecrate the baby to him. When she was already old, God answered her prayer in a far better way than she could ever have dreamed.

The child born to St. Joachim and St. Anne was the Immaculate Virgin Mary. This holiest of all women was to become the Mother of God. Anne took tender care of little Mary for a few years. Then she gave her to the service of God, as she had promised she would.

Mary went to live in the holy Temple of Jerusalem. St. Joachim and St. Anne continued their lives of prayer until God called them home to heaven. Christians have always been especially devoted to St. Anne. Many beautiful churches have been built in her honor. Perhaps one of the most famous is the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre in Canada. Great crowds go there all year around to ask St. Anne's help in their sufferings.

☪ St. Anne and St. Joachim were the parents of Mary and the grandparents of Jesus. We can ask them to bring us closer to Jesus and Mary.

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES



#Wash Your hands with HDR Soap under running water

#Sanitize your hands with HDR Hand Sanitizers

USE SANITIZERS

SANITIZERS AND LIQUID SOAP ON SALE AT OLAFAS (HDR CONVENT)

CALL: 020 244 6242

TUESDAY TEACHING CORNER

THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN

In almost every culture and in every state of life there is a particular way of life that is demanded by the people in it. The way of life of a Ghanaian would be quite different from that of the American. The single person's way of life would be different from that of the married person. An employer's way of life would be quite different from that of the employee. The way of life of the rich would be different from the way of life of the poor person. The way of life of a religious would be quite different from the way of life of the laity. So once we find ourselves in a particular group which is unique from another then our way of life should also be quite different from others.

We are Christians, people who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and follow his way of life. Jesus's life then becomes the way of life that as Christians we are supposed to live. This life should thus definitely make us different from those who are not Christians. Once we call ourselves Christians we should also know that there is a way of life which is demanded of us. This is the Christian way of life that we are talking about.

The Christian way of life is simply the way of life which is modelled on Jesus Christ. It is very interesting to know that the word Christian was first used in reference to Jesus' disciples particularly because of the way they lived their lives, a reflection of the life of Christ. (Acts 11:25)

Our Lord Jesus Christ himself lived a life of total trust in the Father who sent him on earth to gain salvation for mankind. He always called on the Father whenever he was about to make any major decision in life and he always journeyed early at dawn to a deserted place to commune with the Father through prayer. The Christian life is thus a life of prayer; an intimate and personal relationship with God. He called people to faith through his preaching and worked many miracles to draw us to Faith in the Father. Though he was God he humbled himself as man and called on us his followers to be humble so that the Father himself will raise us. He showed love to all those in need especially those who were possessed by evil spirits, the sick and those who were troubled.

How then does faith help us to live the Christian life?

According to Hebrews 11:1, "Faith is the assurance of what we hope for, being certain of what we cannot see." In this text we see that the very core of Christian life which is belief in God is a matter of faith. Though we have no concrete proof of his existence we are nevertheless absolutely sure of his existence and that he created us and will take care of all our needs.

At this juncture it will be necessary to look through the scriptures and see how some personalities lived their life on faith. Scripture calls Abraham "Our father in Faith". When God called him to leave the land of Mesopotamia to a foreign land where he did not even know with the promise of a land and numerous descendants, Abraham willingly obeyed the Lord and left. He demonstrated total trust in the Lord. Even when God granted him the son of the promise and asked him to sacrifice his only son, Abraham obeyed the Lord. Abraham's faith makes us appreciate the fact that God's ways are quite different from what we would ordinarily expect. Sometimes they even appear to us as foolish yet they are the ways of the Lord. We thus need to totally place our trust in the Lord in all circumstances of our life. Like Abraham we may not totally comprehend what the Lord requires of us and some may even sound foolish. But once we have faith in the Lord and we obey him his blessings will surely come to pass in our lives.

Our Mother Mary is also another woman of faith we can learn from. As a young girl who knew no man, and knowing the consequence of becoming pregnant without a man she willingly accepted the message of the angel to bear Christ. She responded to the angel's message "I am the handmaid of the Lord let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Faith in God will therefore require that we accept God's will in our lives. God's plans are definitely better than any of the plans we have. Mary definitely had a plan for her life as a young girl, she was hoping to enjoy married life with her betrothed husband but she abandoned that and accepted the will of God needless of its consequences. Faith will therefore require that we put our trust totally in the Lord when the consequences may not even go in our favour. God's plans are finitely the best. Today the entire humanity honours Mary simply because of her faith and trust in the Lord. Due to her faith she became the Mother of God and salvation came into the world.

Jesus's disciples are another group of people that we can learn what faith is from. These were people who were gainfully employed, some were fishermen and others were tax collectors yet when Jesus called them they immediately left whatever they were doing and they followed Jesus. Faith indeed requires us to leave behind our past and whatever keeps us from worshipping God with all our hearts. Faith requires us to totally abandon everything into the hands of God trusting that he will surely see us through all our endeavours successfully.

Our Christian life is not any extraordinary type of life that is separated from our normal way of life. It is part and parcel of our day to day activities. Some of us mistakenly limit our Christian life to the time spent in church or in prayer. This is an erroneous view

of the Christian life. In our day to day activities our Christian life which is exercised in faith should be brought to the fore.

In the marital life spouses are bound to each other in mutual love and enjoy the good things of the marriage as well as the bad side. Thus when things are not going on well in our married life divorce is not the option. We need to continually trust in the Lord and entreat him in prayer because the Lord will never desert us. Even when we are not able to make ends meet in the married life, we must seek refuge in the Lord the great provider in he will surely come to our aid most especially when children are not coming forth from the marriage. Have we forgotten how long Abraham had to wait for the promised child and how long Zechariah and Elizabeth waited for the birth of John the Baptist? Faith thus demands that we wait on the Lord so that at the appropriate time he will manifest his glory.

The school life is also not outside our Christian life. At school our prime purpose is to study in order to come out as successful people. This demands that we become much focused and forge ahead no matter the difficulties involved. In our bid to study hard as students we should not lose sight of the fact that it is God who blesses us with the gift of wisdom, knowledge, retentive memory and even good health for our studies. Therefore in moments when things are not going well as students, quitting the school or putting down our books are not the best option, we must rather seek the face of God and he will surely come to our aid. The story of St John Vianney may be of help here. Though not academically good and failed some subjects at school he continually persevered in his seminary formation and was ordained a priest and his priestly life was a very successful one. No student is too daft to be aided by God's grace.

In our daily work, whether as market women, farmers, fishermen, accountants or whatever work we are doing, we should bear in mind that God cannot be ruled out. As farmers and fishermen we may not always have bountiful harvest but that should make us trust in the Lord the more. We can recall the story of Peter's encounter with Jesus. After working hard the entire night and having no catch Jesus directed them to pull into the deep and they caught so much that their boats were at sinking point. As market women or businessmen, sales may not always be good but this should not make us lose faith in God. We should rather trust in him the more and he will definitely reward us.

It is noteworthy at this time to look at what St Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13. According to St Paul faith is useless if it is not expressed in works of love. Even if we have faith strong enough to move mountains and we have no love we are only clanging cymbals. Our faith should therefore lead

us to be concerned about our neighbour and what happens to him or her. We cannot claim to have faith and see the hungry without giving some food to eat; we cannot claim to have faith and see the thirsty continue being thirsty when we have drink in abundance; In our community not all of us are blessed with the same level of resources. Some are financially endowed than others and some have other gifts that others do not have. It will be very good to identify those in various kind of need and move to their aid.

Faith is indeed a gift from God and until God blesses us with such a gift we cannot claim it of our own accord. By virtue of our baptism we have been blessed with the gift of faith yet we need to continually seek the Lord in prayer to bless us abundantly. It is not enough to beat our chests and say once we are baptized we have faith and that is all. It is not enough to say that we trust in God and all that he teaches us. It is also not enough to say that we have faith because we believe in whatever the church proposes for our belief. Our faith should be manifested in the way we live our Christian life, which is in our day to day activities. Anything that is not compatible with our Christian life should not be entertained in our daily endeavours.

Let us bear in mind that like married life which married people are supposed to live, and like school life which students enjoy, to partake of ours as a Christian community is the Christian life which is a life of Faith. Let us therefore exercise our faith by putting in all our efforts to make our families, our church, our country and the world, as a whole, a wonderful place to be.

ARE YOU REGISTERED WITH CHRIST THE KING CHURCH?

HOW TO CHECK IF YOU ARE REGISTERED

1. Visit the Parish Office
2. Send your details to;
 - a. Email: info@christthekingparishaccra.org
 - b. Whatsapp : 0264888513

HOW TO REGISTER IF YOU ARE NOT

1. Pick up a registration form at the Parish Office
2. Request for registration form via
 - a. Email: info@christthekingparishaccra.org
 - b. Whatsapp : 0264888513

NB:

1. The form must be completed and submitted in hard copy at the Parish office.
2. Already registered parishioners who need to update their records can also use same procedure.

PUBLICATION OF MARRIAGE BANN

1. Andrew Ntim & Elsie Anu (3)
2. Christopher K. Kwakye & Patricia A. Brabi (3)
3. MaryAnne Amedior & Lawrence Gyamfi (3)