

Weekly



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Bulletin

Year 25, No. 28

SUNDAY, 4TH OCTOBER, 2020

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.

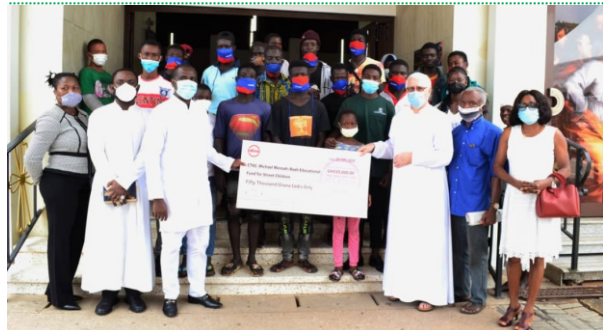


Akwaaba

REV. FATHER

RAPHAEL HESSAH

The Parish Community of Christ the King warmly welcomes you and wishes you a fruitful stay



LAUNCH OF MICHAEL MENSAH-BAAH EDUCATIONAL FUND FOR STREET CHILDREN

Story on page 4

Thank you all for your prayers, presents, encouragement, support and all the love you showed to me as I celebrated my sendoff Mass. I count myself blessed to have had the opportunity to serve this wonderful community of Christ the King Parish. I have enjoyed every moment spent and learnt a lot as well. God

bless you all.

Thank You



Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Darfour Appah

27TH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME, YEAR A

COMMENTARY ON READINGS

First Reading: Despite God's immense providence to Israel, the people showed no gratitude for the favors they received from Him. (Isaiah 5:1-7)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (PS 80)

“The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.”

A vine from Egypt you transplanted;
you drove away the nations and planted it.
It put forth its foliage to the Sea,
its shoots as far as the River. **Res**

Why have you broken down its walls,
so that every passer-by plucks its fruit,
The boar from the forest lays its waste,
and the beasts of the field feed upon it? **Res**

Once again, O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted
the son of man whom you yourself made strong. **Res**

Then we will no more withdraw from you;
give us new life, and we will call upon your name.
O LORD, God of hosts, restore us;
if your face shines upon us, then we shall be saved. **Res**

Second Reading: Paul urges Christians to unite, live a life worthy of praise and make known their request to God in prayer and thanksgiving, so as to enjoy the unsurpassing peace of Christ.

(Philippians 4:6-9)

Gospel: In the parable of the Wicked Tenant Farmers, we hear about another group of people to whom God has been so generous; yet, far from being grateful, they reject God, their most gracious provider. (Matthew 21:33-43)

WEEKDAY READINGS & MEMORIALS 27TH WEEK IN ORDINARY, YEAR A

Monday	Ss. Placid/Remigus Gal 1:6-12/Ps 111/Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday	St. Bruno Gal 1:13-24/Ps 139/Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday	Our Lady of the Rosary Gal 2:1-2. 7-14/Ps 117/Lk 11:1-4
Thursday	Ss. Sergius and Bacchus Gal 3:1-5/Lk 1/Lk 11:5-13
Friday	Ss. Denis, & co./John Leonardi Gal 3:7-14/Ps 111/ Lk 11:15-26
Saturday	St. Daniel Comboni/BVM Gal 3:22-29/Ps 105/Lk 11:27-28

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
Is 25:6-10a/ Ps 23/ Phil 4:12-14. 19-20/Mt 22:1-14

REFLECTION

Today's Gospel follows directly after last Sunday's Gospel in which Jesus was questioned by Jewish religious leaders about the source of his teaching authority. After refusing to answer their questions, Jesus tells the parable of the two sons and then criticizes the priests and elders for their lack of belief in John the Baptist.

In today's Gospel, Jesus once again speaks to the priests and elders with a parable. In this parable, the landowner leases his vineyard to tenants and sends his servants to collect the portion of the harvest that the tenants owe to him. Several times the servants are sent to collect payment, and each time they are beaten and killed by the tenants. Finally, the landowner sends his son to collect his rent. The tenants, believing that they will inherit the vineyard if the landowner dies without an heir, plot together and kill the landowner's son.

After telling the parable, Jesus questions the chief priests and elders about what the landowner will do to the wicked tenants. They all agree that the landowner will kill the wicked tenants and give the land to new tenants who will pay the rent.

In telling the parable, Jesus is clearly drawing upon Isaiah 5:1-7, which is today's first reading and one that the priests and elders would have known well. Jesus doesn't, therefore, have to explain the symbolism of the parable; the Pharisees would have understood that the vineyard represented Israel, the landowner represented God, the servants represented the prophets, and the bad tenants represented the religious leaders. Yet Jesus nonetheless explains the meaning of the parable for his audience: the Kingdom of God will be taken from the unbelieving and given to the faithful. The chief priests and elders have condemned themselves with their answer to Jesus' question.

Today's Gospel has a parallel in Mark 12:1-12. There are some notable differences, however. In Matthew's version, the religious leaders condemn themselves; in Mark's Gospel, Jesus answers his own question. Matthew names the religious leaders as Pharisees and chief priests. Clearly this Gospel shows the tension that was mounting between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders who thought that his message was dangerous. Matthew's Gospel was written about 70 years after Jesus' death and reflects the conflicts and tensions found in the Christian community for whom Matthew was writing. Many biblical scholars believe that the tension between Matthew's community and their Jewish neighbors can also be heard in today's reading.

This Gospel reminds us of the importance of listening to God's word. God speaks to us in many ways—through Scripture, through our Church tradition, in our Church's teaching, and through modern-day prophets. Are we attentive and receptive to God's word to us through these messengers?

FAMILY CONNECTION

In an ideal household, family members know the rules and follow them consistently. Even the most conscientious among us, however, sometimes needs to be reminded of the rules and their importance. How we respond to such correction reveals our true character. In today's Gospel Jesus exposes the religious leaders for their failure to heed God's messengers. It is an opportunity for us to consider how we respond to those who are God's messengers today, calling us to correct our ways and return to the way of the Lord.

As you gather as a family, talk about some of the most important rules of your household. Consider how consistently family members follow these rules. How are family members reminded when rules are not being followed? How do they respond? In today's Gospel Jesus corrects the religious leaders through a parable telling them that they have not heeded God's messengers. Read Matthew 21:33-43. What are some of God's rules that we must follow? How do we respond to God's messengers today? Pray together as a family that you will heed God's messengers and follow God's ways. Pray together the Act of Contrition for the times when your family has not heeded God's word.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

The patron saint of Italy, Francis of Assisi, was a poor little man who astounded and inspired the Church by taking the gospel literally—not in a narrow fundamentalist sense, but by actually following all that Jesus said and did, joyfully, without limit, and without a sense of self-importance.

Serious illness brought the young Francis to see the emptiness of his frolicking life as leader of Assisi's youth. Prayer—lengthy and difficult—led him to a self-emptying like that of Christ, climaxed by embracing a leper he met on the road. It symbolized his complete obedience to what he had heard in prayer: "Francis! Everything you have loved and desired in the flesh it is your duty to despise and hate, if you wish to know my will. And when you have begun this, all that now seems sweet and lovely to you will become intolerable and bitter, but all that you used to avoid will turn itself to great sweetness and exceeding joy."

From the cross in the neglected field-chapel of San Damiano, Christ told him, "Francis, go out and build up my house, for it is nearly falling down." Francis became the totally poor and humble workman.

He must have suspected a deeper meaning to "build up my house." But he would have been content to be for the rest of his life the poor "nothing" man actually putting brick on brick in abandoned chapels. He gave up all his possessions, piling even his clothes before his earthly father—who was demanding restitution for Francis' "gifts" to the poor—so that he would be totally free to say, "Our Father in heaven." He was, for a time, considered to be a religious fanatic, begging from door to door when he could not get money for his work, evoking sadness or disgust to the hearts of his former friends, ridicule from the unthinking.

But genuineness will tell. A few people began to realize that this man was actually trying to be Christian. He really believed what Jesus said: "Announce the kingdom! Possess no gold or silver or copper in your purses, no traveling bag, no sandals, no staff" (Luke 9:1-3).

Francis' first rule for his followers was a collection of texts from the Gospels. He had no intention of founding an order, but once it began he protected it and accepted all the legal structures needed to support it. His devotion and loyalty to the Church were absolute and highly exemplary at a time when various movements of reform tended to break the Church's unity.

Francis was torn between a life devoted entirely to prayer and a life of active preaching of the Good News. He decided in favor of the latter, but always returned to solitude when he could. He wanted to be a missionary in



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Syria or in Africa, but was prevented by shipwreck and illness in both cases. He did try to convert the sultan of Egypt during the Fifth Crusade.

During the last years of his relatively short life, he died at 44, Francis was half blind and seriously ill. Two years before his death he received the stigmata, the real and painful wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side.

On his deathbed, Francis said over and over again the last addition to his Canticle of the Sun, "Be praised, O Lord, for our Sister Death." He sang Psalm 141, and at the end asked his superior's permission to have his clothes removed when the last hour came in order that he could expire lying naked on the earth, in imitation of his Lord.

LAUNCH OF MICHAEL MENSAH-BAAH EDUCATIONAL FUND FOR STREET CHILDREN

In the second quarter of 2020, Mr. Michael Mensah Bah, a parishioner of Christ the King Catholic Church offered to sponsor some street children within the CTK Soup Kitchen in their education. Michael Mensah-Baah (MMB) was educated at Christ the King International School from 1976 to 1983. His passion is to financially support street children and get them removed from the streets and to give them the right education or skills that will enhance their potential and give them a better future.

This initiative is to complement the “CTK Soup Kitchen” and also advance the Christ the King Parish's educational scholarship programme which is currently known as the Vitus Dery Educational Fund (VDEF). The conditions for this sponsorship are as follows:

1. The sponsorship will be part of CTKC educational fund which is currently known as VDEF and thus governed by the fund's existing structures, constitution and processes. The implication is that this sponsorship would be a sub-fund under the Vitus Dery Educational Fund (VDEF).

2. The sponsorship will be for an amount of Fifty Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHS50,000.00) which will be spread evenly over the next five (5) years. The contributions will therefore be at Ten Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHS10,000) per year for 5 years.

3. The sponsorship will be for a minimum of five (5) beneficiaries whose guardian's must consent to their integration back home from the street.

4. That beneficiaries will stay in a home setting whilst in school and whilst on holidays shall be catered for by their guardians.

5. This fund shall be launched on his 50th Birthday which falls on 1st October, 2020.

6. The initiative shall be named as Michael Mensah-Bah Educational Fund for Street Children (MMBEFSC).

7. The beneficiaries must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Must be a member of the Christ the King Soup Kitchen
- The person should be aged below 15 years
- The child must have a guardian who must consent to the child being educated along with the terms expressed in bullets 3 and 4 above
- Must pass interview sessions organized by both Christ the King Soup Kitchen and VDEF

- Must be ready to comply with the VDEF monitoring and selection system
- 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



OCTOBER - ROSARY MONTH

There will be Rosary prayers every weekday (Mon - Fri.) at 11:30 am to be followed by Angelus and Midday Mass in the main church. This will also be streamed live on our facebook channel @ www.facebook.com/christthekingparishaccra

CONFESSIONS

Confession will now be held every Saturday from 5:00pm - 6:00pm in the Confession room in the Adoration chapel.

PUBLICATION OF MARRIAGE BANN

1. Emmanuel Osei & Cynthia Doreen Awusi-Nti (3)
2. Paul Joseph & Linda Dadson (3)
3. Philip Kanu C. Nwosu & Shirley Aboagye (3)
4. Christopher Opoku Nyarko & Sally Okailey Peparah (2)
5. Patrick Benjamin Annan & Worlasi - Debi K. Attipoe (2)
6. Edmund Bamfo Kissi & Lesley Swanzy Essien (1)

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The burial Mass of the late **Mrs. Josephine Botsio**, a parishioner comes of on Friday, 9th October, 2020 at Christ the King Church at 7:30 am.

The Memorial Mass of the late **Mrs. Comfort Mary Nyoagbe** comes of Saturday, 24th October, 2020 at 9:00am at Christ the King Church, Accra. Funeral rites will be held at the Parish Hall after Mass.

FAITH AS A GIFT

Continuing from last week....

FAITH IS THE PERFECTION OF THE INTELLECT

In the Christian understanding, however, faith and reason are not opposed but complementary. Faith, the Catholic Encyclopaedia notes, is the virtue "by which the intellect is perfected by a supernatural light," allowing the intellect to assent "firmly to the supernatural truths of Revelation." Faith is, as Saint Paul says in the Letter to the Hebrews, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). It is, in other words, a form of knowledge that extends beyond the natural limits of our intellect, to help us grasp the truths of divine revelation, truths that we cannot arrive at purely by the aid of natural reason.

WHAT OUR SENSES FAIL TO FATHOM

The intellect, even when enlightened by the theological virtue of faith, has its limits: In this life, man can never, for instance, fully grasp the nature of the Trinity, of how God can be both One and Three. As the Catholic Encyclopaedia explains, "The light of faith, then, illumines the understanding, though the truth still remains obscure, since it is beyond the intellect's grasp; but supernatural grace moves the will, which, having now a supernatural good put before it moves the intellect to assent to what it does not understand." Or, as a popular translation of the *Tantum Ergo Sacramentum* puts it, "What our senses fail to fathom/let us grasp through faith's consent."

LOSING FAITH

Because faith is a supernatural gift of God, and because man has a free will, we can freely reject faith. When we openly revolt against God through our sin, God can withdraw the gift of faith. He will not necessarily do so, of course; but should He do so, the loss of faith can be devastating, because truths that were once grasped through the aid of this theological virtue may now become unfathomable to the unaided intellect. As the Catholic Encyclopaedia notes, "This may perhaps explain why those who have had the misfortune to apostatize from the faith are often the

most virulent in their attacks upon the grounds of faith"—even more so than those who never were blessed with the gift of faith in the first place.

BIBLE PASSAGES THAT TALK ABOUT FAITH

Matthew 21:22

And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Mark 11:22-24

And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

James 2:19

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Luke 1:37

For nothing will be impossible with God."

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

The author of the book of Hebrews in chapters 11 through to 13 summarised a journey through the history of the Israelites in Scripture and pointed out the various champions of faith that were earlier referred to as the "Faith Hall of Fame." Let us take a look at some of them:

ABRAHAM

Abraham receives much more than a brief mention among the heroes of faith. A good deal of emphasis (from Hebrews 11:8-19) is given to this biblical giant and father of the Jewish nation.

One of Abraham's most notable feats of faith occurred when he willingly obeyed God's command in Genesis 22:2: "Take your son, your only son -- yes, Isaac, whom you love so much -- and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."

Abraham was fully prepared to slay his son, while fully trusting God to either resurrect Isaac from the dead or



Every
blood donor is a
Lifesaver

BLOOD DONATION 2020

As you are all aware, CTK has been helping and saving lives of countless people through our annual Blood Donation. Some of these recipients are amongst us, in our homes and workplaces.

This year due to limitations on large gatherings, the blood banks are in dire need of supplies. Let's join the National Catholic Blood Donation Campaign to help save lives near and far.

The exercise comes off on **25th October and 1st of November** respectively, on the CTK Compound.

DONATE BLOOD AND SAVE A LIFE!

provide a substitutionary sacrifice. At the last minute, God intervened and supplied the necessary ram. The death of Isaac would have contradicted every promise God had made to Abraham, so his willingness to perform the ultimate sacrifice of killing his son is probably the most dramatic example of faith and trust in God found in the entire Bible. His story is found in Genesis 12 – 25.

SARAH

Sarah, the wife of Abraham, is one of only two women named among the heroes of faith (Some translations, however, render the verse so that only Abraham receives credit.)

TO BE CONTINUED.....

2020 THANKSGIVING DAY

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His Love endures forever. (Psalm 136:1).

My brothers and sisters in Christ, Peace be with you! This year's Annual Harvest will not be organised as done previously due to Covid-19 and its impact on our daily lives. That notwithstanding, we can all testify that the Lord indeed has been gracious unto us and protected each one of us. We still have a reason to be thankful to Him. In view of this, Sunday **8th November, 2020** has been set out as a **“Thanksgiving Day”** for us to show our appreciation to God.

There will be **“Kofi and Ama”** on that day at all Masses to crown it all. Individuals and groups are encouraged to send their contributions either to the parish office or through the parish mobile money numbers (MTN-0245276017, VODAFONE – 0207566410) and bank account (Standard Chartered A/N- 0100113350000 Branch: Liberia Road).

There will also be MEN/VRS WOMEN/second collection to support the “Thanksgiving Day” starting from **Sunday 9th August, 2020 to Sunday 31st December, 2020**. All contributions received will be receipted and this will go towards the upkeep and running of the Parish.

We know times are hard but those who put their trust in the Lord will never be disappointed. May Christ the King, who reigns forever bless, protect and keep us always. Amen.