

**ADVENT SEASON MESSAGE**

**A**dvent is the beginning of a new liturgical year. "Advent" is from the Latin word "Adventus" for "coming", and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. Advent always contains four Sundays, beginning on the Sunday nearest to the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, (November 30) and continuing until December 24. It blends together a Penitential spirit, a liturgical theme of the preparation for the Second and Final coming of the Lord, called the Parousia, and a joyful theme of getting ready for the Bethlehem event

Since the 900s Advent has been considered the beginning of the Church year. The traditional colour of Advent is **Purple** or **Violet** which symbolizes the penitential spirit.

The Catechism stresses the two fold meaning of the coming: When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviors first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming.

Advent preparation has been the use of the Advent wreath. The wreath is a circle, which has no beginning or end: so we call to mind how our lives, here and now, participate in the eternity of God's plan of salvation and how we hope to share eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. The wreath is made of fresh plant material, because Christ came to give us new life through His passion, death, and resurrection.

Three Candles are **Purple**, symbolizing Penance, preparation and sacrifice: **The Pink candle** symbolizes the same but highlights the third Sunday of Advent, **Gaudete Sunday**, when we rejoice because our preparation is now half-way finished.

In all, during Advent we strive to fulfill the opening prayer for the Mass of the First Sunday of Advent: Father in Heaven, ..... increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing in His presence and welcoming the light of his truth.

**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

- ♦ **Friday, 14th December: Appreciation Night:** a night where Parishioners come together express their gratitude to God Almighty for His grace, love and protection throughout the year. Rosary begins at **6pm**. Speaker: Rev. Fr. Courage Dogbey. Harp of David Music Ministry to lead.
- ♦ **Monday, 24th December: Carol Service and Vigil Mass** at **7pm**. Offertory and bidding prayers by: Catholic Men Association, Catholic Women Association, Marshallan Association and St. John International. In attendance will be Harp of David and Mass Choir.
- ♦ **Tuesday, 25th December: The Nativity of the Lord.** Christmas Day there will be One Mass Concurrently in the Parish Hall and Chapel at **7.30 am**.
- Parish Hall:** COSRA, STHEYA, Children of Mary CASU, In attendance is AYC and Francophone. Offertory and Bidding Prayers: same groups above.
- Chapel:** All other Parishioners, **Offertory and bidding prayers by:** Ewe Union, Northern Society, Akan Kuo, Ebiemo & Nigerian Community. In attendance is Immaculate Heart of Mary Choir and St. Theresa choir.
- ♦ **Sunday, 30th December: Holy Family Feast.** Usual Three Masses. There will be no French Mass.
- ♦ **Monday, 31st December: New Year's Eve.** Vigil Mass starts at **8pm**. Bidding Prayers by Lectors & Communicators. Offertory by All Societies. In attendance will be Harp of David and Mass Choir.
- ♦ **Tuesday, 1st January 2019: Solemnity of Mary Mother of God** (special intentions for widows and widowers and founding members. New year Mass at **9am**. Offertory and Bidding Prayers by Christian Mothers Association. In attendance will be Mass Choir.

**SPECIAL INVITATION- POWER EMPOWERMENT**

**Power Empowerment** humbly invites all to witness the Grand Launch and Exhibition of Arts & Crafts of its Humanitarian group that seeks to train mobility challenged women who sit and beg by the roadside in bead making trade.

The ultimate aim of this initiative is to equip them with a skill and make them financially independent.

**Date:** Friday 14th December, 2018.

**Time:** 3pm

**Venue:** Sun Lodge Hotel, Conference Hall, Tesano.

***Come, Encourage and Cheer these talented physically challenged women .***



**ST. THERESA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*Purity & Love*

**WEEKLY BULLETIN**

**2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**9TH DECEMBER, 2018.**

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2018.**

**EVANGELIZATION- IN THE SERVICE AND TRANSMISSION OF FAITH THAT PEOPLE, WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THE SERVICE AND TRANSMISSION OF FAITH, MAY FIND, IN THEIR DIALOGUE WITH CULTURE, A LANGUAGE SUITED TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE PRESENT TIME.**

**PARISH PRIEST**

Rev. Fr. Michael Owusu-Ofori  
**0302 257 357**

**GA RURAL RECTORATE**

Rev. Fr. Christopher Sackey  
**0243-969866**

**ASSISTANT PRIEST**

Rev. Fr. Winfred Charles Lwanga Tawiah Jr.  
**0302 257 357**

**GA ODUMASE RECTORATE**

Rev. Fr. Pascal Ankamah  
**0243-345240**

**SUNDAY MASS**

1st Mass: 7.00am  
Youth Mass: 7.30am  
2nd Mass: 9.30am  
French Mass: 10.00am

**WEEK DAY MASS**

Monday, Wednesday  
Thursday 6 am  
Saturday 6.30 am  
Tuesday & Friday 6.30 pm

**OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday-Saturday: 8am-5pm, Sunday: 9am-2pm  
Telephone: 030-2257357/ 050-0005252  
E-mail: officesttheresa2014@gmail.com  
Facebook: St. Theresa's Catholic Church  
P. O. Box KN 146. Kaneshie- Accra

**Week 1**  
**Hope**

**Reminds us...**  
Jesus is coming

**Bible verse**  
Romans 15: 12-13

**Bible verse**  
Luke 2:10

**Reminds us...**  
The joy at the coming birth of Jesus

**Week 2**  
**Faith**

**Reminds us...**  
To prepare the way of the Lord

**Bible verse**  
Luke 3:4-6

**Bible verse**  
Luke 2:14

**Reminds us...**  
"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours"

**What do we remember each week of Advent?**

**Week 3**  
**Joy**

**Week 4**  
**Peace**

**REFLECTION: THE HOPE OF RETURNING**

In recent times the image of the Church on a journey. The beauty of this image which reflects the season of advent is, that it indicates we have not yet arrived at our destination even though we are on the way (the way being Jesus). It is clear to us from the readings that this way can sometimes be rough. Sometimes there are other routes suggested to us as easier or shorter routes to the destination. So that we can reach our destination, Saint Paul prays that the good Lord who has started the good work in us would bring it to its fulfillment. This indicates a movement, a gradual development and a journey.

None of us has reached that perfection but we are on our way to that perfection (God). However, however it is as though God stands at the end of the journey waiting for us, making no movements himself. Indeed the way on which we travel is His Son who is always present with us. The discernment to choose the right path is possible only by the Holy Spirit. "And this is my prayer, says Paul to the Philippians: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ". Few things we note in these readings:

1. We are people on the way, even though we may fall: we will persevere until the end and not give up.
2. We are the unfinished products of God. We are not perfect but trying to reach the goal. Therefore we must be patience with ourselves and with others.
3. On this way we are never alone: we have a companion (Jesus) and a helper (Holy Spirit) and fellow travelers helping each other on this journey. We have the word of God as our guide and the Eucharist as our food.
4. We have the hope of getting back on track if we should miss our way. This is the Sacrament for Reconciliation in which we receive forgiveness that places us back on this road.

**May God give us Strength always.**



**READINGS FOR TODAY  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 9, 2018.**

**1ST READING: BARUCH 5:1-9**  
Jerusalem shall see the splendor of God's glory.

**RESPONSORIAL: PSALM 126:1-6**

**THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US; WE ARE FILLED WITH JOY.**

**2ND READING : PHILIPPIANS 1:4-6,8-11**  
Paul prays for the Philippians.

**GOSPEL: LUKE 3:1-6**  
John preaches repentance and baptizes in the region of the Jordan.

**COLLECTION FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 2, 2018.**

MAIN COLLECTION	GH¢ 4,326.10
THANKSGIVING	GH¢ 22,418.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>GH¢ 26,744.10</b>

**COMPOUND CLEANING SCHEDULE**

DATE	SOCIETY
Sat. 15th Dec.	Welcomers' & CASU
Sat. 22nd Dec.	KNOLTA & AYC
Sat. 29th Dec.	COSRA

**OFFERTORY & BIDDING PRAYER SCHEDULE**

DATE	1ST MASS	2ND MASS
SUN. 9th Dec.	STHEYA	St. Gabriel's Guild
SUN. 16th Dec.	Christian Mothers Association	St. Theresa of the Child Jesus
SUN. 23rd Dec.	Anchor of Hope Society	Knights & Ladies of Marshall
SUN. 30th Dec.	PPC, PYC, Laity Council, Catholic Women Council	Perpetual Help Confraternity.

**RESTORATION 2019! RESTORATION 2019!**

**WATCH OUT!!! COMING SOON!!!**

**MARRIAGE CORNER**

**1ST TIME**

**Groom: John Doni Kofie**  
**Father:** Kofie Sange John  
**Mother:** Dora Afi

**Bride: Juliet Sungdumba**  
**Father:** Edward Sungdumba  
**Mother:** Theresa Bukari

**1ST TIME**

**Groom: Shali Akwetey Otoo-Kati**  
**Father:** Giles Kati  
**Mother:** Sharon Otoo

**Bride: Frances Amonoo McCarthy**  
**Father:** Peter McCarthy  
**Mother:** Agnes McCarthy

**2ND TIME**

**Groom: Robert Abayi Atia**  
**Father:** Atia Alpha  
**Mother:** Alantome Alpha

**Bride: Patricia A. Alambirigo**  
**Father:** Alambirigo Akolko  
**Mother:** Ayampoka Nyaaba

**2ND TIME**

**Groom: Frederick Kwame Boakye**  
**Father:** Francis K. Boakye  
**Mother:** Agnes Quansah

**Bride: Asantewaa Ama Agyapong**  
**Father:** Paul K. Nkrumah  
**Mother:** Josephine A. Adjei

*Let us keep them in our prayers*

**FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DECEASED: Mr. Samuel Nii Oko Sai Cobbold, father of Clement Nii Obodai Cobbold who is a Parishioner and member of AYC.**

**Lay in State:** Thursday, 13th December, 2018 at Mataheko behind J.T School at 6pm.

**Burial Mass:** Friday 14th December, 2018 at St. Augustine Anglican Church, Dansoman- Sahara at 9am. Attire Black & White

**Thanksgiving Mass:** Sunday, 16th December, 2018 at St. Justina Anglican Church, Ablekuma at 9am. Attire: Black & White.

**DECEASED: Mrs. Christiana Vierrah, a Parishioner.**  
Funeral Arrangements are as follows:

**Wake-Keeping:** Thursday, 3rd January, 2019 at the Residence, Manye lane near the Prince of Prince School, Kaneshie.

**Burial Mass:** Friday, 4th January, 2018 at St. Theresa Catholic Church, Kaneshie at 8am.

**Thanksgiving Mass:** Sunday 6th January, 2018 at St. Theresa Catholic Church, Kaneshie at 9.30am.

**FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS**

**DECEASED: Madam Justine Amoah-Larbi, a Parishioner.**  
Funeral arrangements are as follows:

**Requiem Mass:** Friday, 18th January, 2019 at St. Theresa Catholic Church, Kaneshie at 7pm, followed by wake keeping. Attire is black.

**Burial:** Saturday, 19th January, 2019 at Kpando in the Volta Region.  
Funeral rites continues at St. Theresa Parish grounds at 12pm. Attire is Black.

**Thanksgiving Mass:** Sunday, 20th January, 2019 at St. Theresa Catholic Church, Kaneshie at 9.30am. Attire Black and White.

**END OF YEAR THANKSGIVING**

**MEGA KOFI AND AMA THANKSGIVING.**

Are you ready for the end of year Kofi and Ama competition? 28 Days to Go!!!!

Can you believe it is December already? Where did the year go? How great is our God?

The Theme for this years Kofi & Ama Thanksgiving is **"NOT UNTO US O LORD, NOT UNTO US, BUT TO YOUR NAME GIVE GLORY"** Psalm 115:1

Who will the champions be? Come prepared to win on Sunday the 30th of December, 2018.

**PPC CORNER**

There will a meeting for all current and incoming PPC members.

**Date:** Monday 10th December, 2018  
**Time:** 6.30pm.

**Venue:** Executive Conference Room.

**♦ PPC Elections:**

**Date:** Sunday 16th December, 2018 at  
**Time:** 10:00am.

**Venue:** Executive Conference Room.

**KNOLTA ASPIRANTS- MEETING**

Rev. Fr. Michael Owusu-Ofori will meet all aspirants of the Knights and Ladies of the Altar (KNOLTA) together with their Parents today, Sunday **9th December at 1pm** in the Chapel.

**FRENCH ACADEMY**

**Do you want to Read, Speak, Write and Understand basic French in no time for both adults and children then contact 0571- 124080/ 0557-916595**