



Parish Office:
6280 6076(phone), secretariat@sfxchurch.sg



St Francis Xavier Kindergarten:
6280 8929, sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg



Parish Priest:
Rev Fr Benedict Chng
6288 0484, FrBenChng@sfxchurch.sg

Assistant Priest:
Rev Fr Donatien Davaine
6280 8331, FrDon@sfxchurch.sg

Priest in Residence:
Rev Fr Brian D'Souza
6282 3151, FrBrian@sfxchurch.sg

**Disciples
Making Disciples**

Have a Heart

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 September 2018

Deut 4:1-2, 6-8
Jm 1:17-18, 21-22, 27
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Catholics have, at times, been (wrongly!) accused of being too ritualistic to the point of adding things that are not taught in the Bible. This may range from crossing ourselves before and after a prayer; to genuflecting in front of the Tabernacle; to having an altar at home and bestowing honour upon the Virgin Mary. Those who do not understand Catholicism might even point to today's reading from Deuteronomy and Mark's gospel as rebukes directed at us.

The good news is that the Catholic Church is constantly checking herself against Scripture and Tradition. Scriptures are the writings of the apostles and men associated with them who have committed the message of salvation in writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Tradition is what has been handed down orally by the apostles who learnt from the lips of Christ himself, from his way of life and his works and also from the promptings of the Holy Spirit (cf CCC76). Therefore, it is vitally important and perhaps even a personal responsibility for each and every Catholic to be well versed on why we do the things we do in the practise of our religion and where that teaching came from. St. Peter puts it well when he said that we must always be ready to make a defence of our faith whenever someone questions us



*"But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves."
James 1:22*

(1 Peter 3:15), always remembering to do it gently and respectfully. So if you are unsure of why you do the things you do in Catholicism, now might be a good time to seriously study the Bible, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church or talk to a Priest.

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, Religion involves two types of acts (*Summa Theologiae* II,II,81,1). The first is directed towards the worship of God. Thus acts of sacrifice, adoration, genuflection, prayer etc are directed towards God. The second type of actions are directed towards honouring God by the practise of virtues commanded by God. Therefore, in the second reading today, St. James points out that we must practise the virtues of "coming to the help of orphans and widows" and "keeping ourselves uncontaminated by the world" as part of our religion. The main theme of the Epistle of St. James is summarised in verse 22, when he says that we must not just listen to the word but practise it as well!

In other words, whilst we are saved by the grace of faith, we still need to put our faith into practice through obedience to the commandments and thus "work out your own salvation in fear and trembling" (Phil 2:13).

In the gospel passage today, Jesus wraps both acts of religion - worshipping and honouring God, around what is in our hearts. The heart is the centre of the person, "the seat of moral personality" (CCC 2517) and the source of every decision that manifest itself in deeds. In all that we do, we must have the right motives and intentions in the core of our very being - our hearts. Indeed, in the Beatitudes, Jesus said "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Mt 5:8). In other words, the prerequisite for seeing God is having a pure heart. Those who act with integrity, unselfishness, and charity in serving God and man will truly be worshipping and honouring God in the proper way. This is what ties all three readings together this week - a pure heart will always guide us toward leading our daily lives in a way that is right before God, in every decision and action we take. This will be difficult if we rely on our own efforts. But St. James also reminds us that God's word has been planted in us; the Holy Spirit has been given to us to guide us. And if we are docile to the Spirit's prompting, being doers of God's word will come naturally to us. The more we practise our faith, the easier it becomes! By the grace of the Holy Spirit, let our outward confession of our faith through our works, express the inward conviction of our hearts in the hope of Christ.

Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to mmm@sfxchurch.sg by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

CANTEEN

CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) will be running the canteen this weekend. In addition to the usual delicious food, they will also be selling Lego toys and Collectibles in an effort to raise funds for our church renovations. Do drop by and give them your generous support.

HOLY HOUR

Come spend some time with our Lord at Holy Hour, this **Thurs, 6 Sep, 8.30pm** in the main church.

CHARISMATIC LISS

The next session is **Mon, 3 Sep, at 8pm, 2nd Level, Parish Hall**. The session begins with praise and worship followed by Eucharistic Celebration and Commissioning for LISS participants by Fr Benedict Chng.

ROSARY WITH LEGION OF MARY

8 September is Our Lady's birthday. The Legion of Mary will be leading the Rosary at the Grotto after the sunset mass at **6.45pm**. Do join us in thanksgiving to Our Lady.

CARITAS SINGAPORE'S 2ND PUBLIC TALK

The event will see presentations from Boys' Town and their partner, WE CARE Community Services. To register, please email Caritas Singapore at agapevillage@caritas-singapore.org or call 6801 7400 (Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm). Registration is free and on a first-come-first-serve basis!

Title: Understanding Our Youths: Love and Addiction

Date: Sat 15 Sep 2018

Time: 2pm to 4.30pm

Venue: Level 1, Multi-purpose Hall, Agape Village
7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh
Singapore 319264

CATECHISM NOTICE

Due to the school holiday break, there are no catechism sessions on **Sun, 2 Sep**. Sessions will resume on **Sun, 9 Sep**.

PSLE PRAYERS

Leading up to the PSLE exams, the L6 catechists together with the Parents Prayer Group (PPG) will be organising weekly prayer sessions every Sun from **9 Sep till 30 Sep, 11am to 12.30pm**. These sessions will take place whilst the L6s are having their catechism sessions. There will also be a time of worship, prayer and adoration on **Fri, 14 Sep in the Parish Hall from 8.15pm to 9.30pm**. This will be led by Fr Ben. All parents, godparents and families of the L6 children are welcome and urged to come and spend time in prayer.

As a church, we pray for our younger brothers and sisters in Christ as they strive and study for their exams. We pray for good health, peace of mind and God's guidance during this period. We also pray for the parents, that they will come together and place Christ in the centre of their lives, as we become part of the SFX family, disciples making disciples.

RENOVATION FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Last weekend, various activities were held to raise funds. SiGN (Sowers in God's Name) was in charge of the canteen and also sold other items and foodstuff and raised \$6,883. The Library organised a movie screening which attracted over 80 parishioners and raised over \$1,036. The BAT (Bible Apostolate Team) collected love offerings during their Sunday morning Bible study lectures and raised over \$2,000. We thank all for their support and generosity and praise the Lord for what has been achieved.



If you have not returned your pledge/donation forms, please do so as soon as possible. This will help the Fundraising team plan for other activities.

Forms and envelopes are available in the parish office or at the back of the church. Do your bit now to help restore your church!



DISCERNMENT IN DAILY LIFE

To be held from 14 - 16 Sep 2018 at the Choice Retreat House, 47 Jurong West Street 42, Singapore 649368.

"God speaks to us in a language we can understand." This weekend programme will offer ways of learning this "language" so that we can live mindfully and meaningfully. Discernment will be presented as a habitual way of responding to God in everyday life. By Sr. Linda Lizada, RC and Team.

There will be a contribution of \$250.00 per person, on a twin-sharing basis.

For registration, please email cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com, or call 6565-2895, 9722-3148; Website: www.cenaclemission.com

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY (TOB) COURSE

This TOB course explains Catholic teachings through the lenses of the nuptial mystery. Understanding sexuality, love and the meaning of life is critical not only to marriage and sexual morality but concerns the entire Gospel, the Bible and the whole Mission of Christ. Details as follows:

Dates: 15, 22, 29 Sep, 6 Oct 2018 (Saturdays)

Time: 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm

Venue: Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, 02-01, Singapore 187954

Costs: Love Offering, all are welcome.

For more details and to register, please go to www.catholic.sg/act.
For enquiries only, contact Andrew via SMS 9649 3893.



**HOLY FATHER'S
PRAYER INTENTIONS
THIS MONTH**

YOUNG PEOPLE IN AFRICA

That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.

IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2018

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couple:

1. Ling Wei Lian & Sharon Lim Wei Ying

CONDOLENCES

We offer our prayers to the families of the following who have returned to the Lord:

1. Rosalind Chin @ Yook Lan
2. Khor Teik Hean Michael
3. Png Yong Kwang Patrick

Movie Night - THE CASE FOR CHRIST

Last Saturday night, about 80 people gathered for a movie screening to commemorate Lay Apostolate Sunday. While enjoying snacks & light refreshments, they were enthralled by the moving narrative of Lee Stroebel's spiritual journey from atheism to Christianity.

For one parishioner, Max Lee, the show certainly resonated deeply with him:

"With a heart of stone, no amount of evidence will suffice to make me see the truth even though they are piled a mile high. It is simply because I refused to see the truth. When God turns my heart of stone into a heart of flesh, all I need is LOVE and I see the face of Christ! Praise God!"





Rite of Acceptance



This weekend at the 11am mass, the parish community celebrates the Rite of Acceptance for our brothers and sisters on their RCIA/RCIY journeys in our parish. With this Rite, there is a 'change in identity' where those previously known as inquirers become 'catechumens'; candidates, who are already baptised but either preparing for full reception into the Catholic church, or awaiting the reception of Eucharist/Confirmation, continue to be referred to as Candidates. As a community, we support them with our prayers as they continue on this journey of faith to seek the truth and to come to know God, having spent some time discerning and inquiring, and who now profess their readiness to continue.

Second stage: Catechumenate

After the inquirer has made the decision to continue the conversion journey of faith, he or she will be invited to experience the first rite, Rite of Acceptance. The inquirer will be called Catechumen. Catechumen will journey this stage with Facilitators and church as a community who will pray and support them.



Mass Timings

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset:
5.30pm (Novena at 4.45pm)
Sun: 7am, 9am, 11am & 5.30pm
Confession 15 mins before Sunday Mass

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Fri:
6.30am & 6.30pm
Sat: 6.30am

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
8.30am *only*

HOLY HOUR
8.30pm, every first Thurs of the month

Opening Hours

PARISH OFFICE

Mon - Fri:
9am - 9pm
Sat: 9am - 7pm
Sun: 8am - 1pm

ADORATION ROOM

Daily: 5.30am - 11pm

LIBRARY

Sun: 8.30am - 12.30pm

COLUMBARIUM

Daily: 7am - 9pm

CANTEEN

Sun: 7am - 12pm

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



The sacrament can be administered to any Catholic awaiting serious surgery, suffers from serious illness or is weakened by old age. Anointing may be before getting admitted for the anticipated medical procedure. Contact the Parish Office to request for a priest. In emergencies, priests of the church nearest to the hospital can be contacted.

INFANT BAPTISM



Baptism of Infants is held every 2nd Sunday of the odd month at 4pm in the main church. Preparation session for both parents and godparents is held the Sunday before at 3.30pm in the SFX room. For more information please contact infbaptism@sfxchurch.sg

FUNERAL



Please check with the Parish Office for priest availability and Mass timing before confirming the timing at the crematorium. For prayers at the wake, please contact St.Pio prayer group via the Parish Office.

MARRIAGE



Contact the Parish Office 12 months before your intended date to book the church premises and ensure that your presiding priest is able to make that date. Church unavailable from 1 Nov 2018 due to renovations.

MASS OFFERING



Mass offering envelopes are available outside the Parish Office. Submit your envelopes at least two weeks in advance of your intended date. Please write the names clearly, and in block letters.

VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg