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**Disciples
Making Disciples**

Water to Wine

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
20 Jan 2019

Is 62:1-5
1 Cor 12:4-11
Jn 2:1-11

This Sunday's gospel text centers on the Wedding at Cana, the first public miracle that Jesus performs. We can appreciate the significance of this text by focusing on two key details in the narrative.

The **first detail** is Jesus' response to Mary: "My hour has not yet come." On one level, this response implies that Jesus does not merely act on his own whims; he acts in harmony with the Father's will and according to the Father's plan.

On another level, Jesus' response foreshadows his "hour"—the moment that Jesus was crucified. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI points out in *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*, Jesus thus "stamps the miracle of Cana as an anticipation of the [mystery of the Cross], tying the two together intrinsically."

Against the broader context of the wedding event, Jesus' response also points towards the hour of the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev 19:9). Similarly, Isaiah prophesies in our First Reading that Israel will "have its wedding" and God will rejoice in her just "as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride."

Jesus does the same thing in the Eucharist: he celebrates the marriage feast with us here and now and lifts us out of our own time towards the "hour"



"Water becomes wine. Man's own efforts now encounter the gift of God, who gives himself and thereby creates the feast of joy that can only be instituted by the presence of God and his gift."

– Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

(*Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*)

of his glory. As Pope Emeritus puts it, "The promise of the last days enters into the Now."

The **second detail** is the miracle itself: water is turned into wine. The text tells us that this was water meant for "ablutions" i.e. for ritual purification. On the other hand, wine represents feasting—"[it] gives man a taste of the glory of creation" and "allows us to glimpse something of the definitive feast God will celebrate with man," in the words of Pope Emeritus.

Pope Emeritus reflects further that the miracle portrays the fulfillment of the Law in Jesus. "Ritual purification is in the end never sufficient to make man capable of God, to make him really 'pure' for God. Water becomes wine.

Man's own efforts now encounter the gift of God, who gives himself and thereby creates the feast of joy that can only be instituted by the presence of God and his gift."

But God is not only present when water is transformed into wine at Cana. As CS Lewis points out in *Miracles*, God creates the vine which turns water, soil, and sunlight into a juice which will ferment into wine. In Cana, God simply "short-circuit[ed] the process".

In this regard, Lewis concludes that the miracle has "half its effect if it only convinces us that Christ is God: it will have its full effect if whenever we see a vineyard or drink a glass of wine, we remember that here works he who sat at the wedding party in Cana."

Announcements

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

CANTEEN

The Charismatic group is running the canteen this week. Stop by for a scrumptious breakfast or brunch.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic service is on **Mon 21 Jan at Parish Hall**. Praise and worship followed by Bible sharing. All are welcome.

SALE OF CHINESE NEW YEAR COOKIES

The Altar Servers and the Sacristan Ministry will be selling Chinese New Year cookies this weekend, **19/20 Jan**. All proceeds will go directly to the SFX Renovation Fund. Do come and give them your support.

CATECHISM NOTICE

Catechism sessions will resume on **Sun 20 Jan**. All sessions will be held in CHIJ (Our Lady of Good Counsel) and the timings for the various levels are as follows:

NURSERY TO L4 (PRI 4)

1.30 to 3pm

L5 (PRI 5) TO L6

3.15 to 4.45pm

L7 (SEC 1) TO L9 (SEC 3)

3.15 to 5pm

L10 (SEC 4) SFX PARISH HALL

3.15 to 5pm

Special Needs catechesis will be held in St Anne's church in 2019 and not in our parish due to the change in venue and timing.

All parents are to note that there will be **NO PARKING facilities** in the school for the duration of catechism sessions. Parents are to park in the church and to walk their child/children to the school via the back gate, which can be approached through the corridor leading to the toilets. Certain parts of the school are out of bounds to us, so we would like to remind parents not to wander around the school.

For any queries, please email us at catechism@sfxchurch.sg.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT

This weekend, there will be a second collection for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to build a more vibrant, evangelistic and missionary Church. GIRO forms, cheques or cash can be sealed into GIFT envelopes and dropped into the collection bags that will go around. Spare GIFT envelopes are available in the church pews, and at the parish office. Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese. More info is available at gift.catholicfoundation.sg

INTERCESSORS NEEDED FOR RCIA RETREAT

The catechumens and candidates of RCIA will be having their retreat from **Fri 25 to Sun 27 Jan**. The retreat's intercessory team is inviting the parish community to come aboard to pray for our brothers and sisters as they continue on their journey of faith towards the Sacraments of Initiation. An online intercessory group will be set up over WhatsApp to better disseminate information and to encourage fellow parishioners to pray for the RCIA community.

If you like to join the Intercessory WhatsApp group or would like to seek more information, kindly Whatsapp Amanda Hoo at 8188 2200.

COME AND SERVE: L10 RETREAT

Come join us on **22 to 24 Mar** at our stay-in catechetical L10 retreat 2019! We're looking for young adults and youths who could help facilitate, aid in logistics or help intercede for the participants.

In preparation for the camp, we'll get together to pray, fellowship and learn on **12 Feb, 2 Mar and 16 Mar!** If you have that interest and excitement in your heart, don't hesitate! Join us today!

Contact Renae at 9060 4326 or Sarah at 9819 7559 to find out more.

ACF: SYMPOSIUM ON DIVORCE, SEPARATION AND ANNULMENT BY FR TERENCE PEREIRA

The Archdiocesan Commission for the Family is collaborating with the Archdiocesan Tribunal to help Catholics understand the complexity of the issues related to divorce, separation and annulment on **Sat 16 Feb** from **9am - 1pm** (includes 1 tea break) at **Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre, St Peter's Auditorium (2 Highland Road, Singapore 549102)**. Contribution: Love Offering. Do register at catholicfamily.org.sg/dsa.

SSVP BAZAAR @ CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

Join us for this meaningful fund raising event on **Sun 20 Jan from 7.30am - 2pm** where you can find your favourite new or pre-loved items such as food, snacks, clothing, accessories, books, toys, household goods, etc...on sale.

All proceeds will go to fund SSVP financial aid for our brothers & sisters in need (FIN). Do give your support.

The Bazaar @COTT
The ART of GIVING is from your heart

Sunday, 20th January 2019
07.30am - 02.00pm
Church of The Transfiguration
51 Punggol Central,
Singapore 828725

Join Us!
for this meaningful fund raising event
where you can find your favourite new
or pre-loved items on sale.

All proceeds will go to fund SSVP financial aid for our brothers and sisters in need (FIN)

Month of the Holy Name of Jesus



recitation of his name was itself a form of prayer. This short prayer is a combination of that early Christian practice and the prayer offered

by the publican in the parable of the pharisee and the publican (Luke 18:9-14).

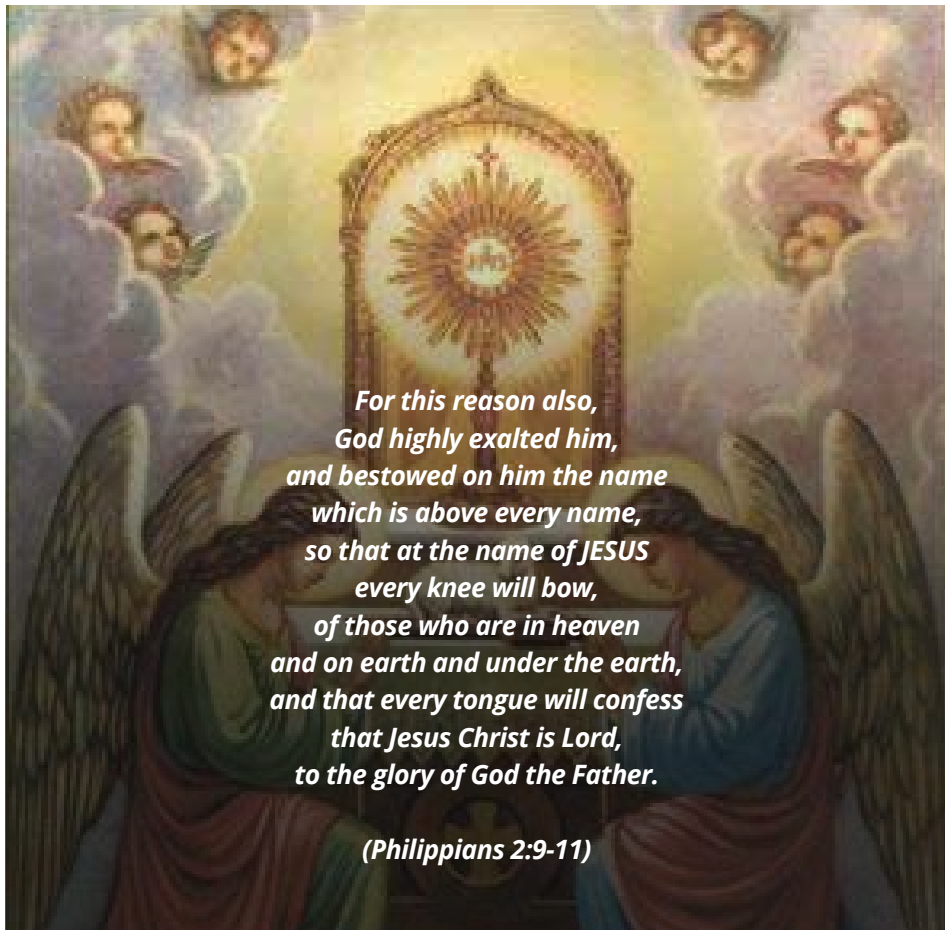
Origin of the "Jesus Prayer"

The derivation of the power behind the invocation of Jesus' name comes from Saint Paul who wrote, "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." (Phil 2:10)

Saint Paul urges you to "pray without ceasing," and this prayer is one of the best ways to start doing so. It takes only a few minutes to memorize, after which you can recite it whenever you remember to do so. According to Christian belief, if you fill the empty moments of your day with the Holy Name of Jesus, you will keep your thoughts focused on God and grow in his grace.

This month, why not take a few minutes to memorize the Jesus Prayer, and pray it during those moments of the day when you are between activities, or traveling, or simply taking a rest? Keeping Christ's Name always on our lips is a good way to ensure that we draw ever nearer to him.

It's a shame that the lovable name of Jesus, so powerful and salvific, is so often invoked in vain or in blasphemy. To more greatly honour the name of Jesus ensure that you and your family avoid making this mistake yourselves, and, whenever you hear the name of Jesus said in vain or blasphemed, make up for the sacrilege by praising the name of Jesus either in your heart, or even better, out loud. Jesus is the King of Kings, and this small act of love for his name will not go unrewarded by him.



*For this reason also,
God highly exalted him,
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name,
so that at the name of JESUS
every knee will bow,
of those who are in heaven
and on earth and under the earth,
and that every tongue will confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

(Philippians 2:9-11)

The month of January is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, with January 3rd being the feast of the Holy Name.

Christ's name is chosen in heaven, and the Angel Gabriel announces it when he informs the Blessed Virgin of the incarnation: "Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus". It is a name that has marvellous implications, for it means "saviour." The very name bespeaks the magnitude of his mission, his infinite love, a love that will cause him to offer himself up for us.

The name of Jesus is the sweetest of all names, and he who bears it is most worthy of all love. He who calls Jesus his friend can be assured that this friend is the most devoted and unselfish of all friends.

Jesus is our all. In his name we may pray to the Father with assurance of being heard. In his name the Church administers all her sacraments. In his

name she offers all her prayers and blesses homes, the fields, and the sick. In the name of Jesus she casts out evil spirits, and at the hour of our death bids us, "Go forth, Christian soul." She assures us that whoever shall call upon this name will be saved. When our soul has departed this life to seek its eternal home, the Church asks in the name of Jesus, "Eternal rest give unto him, O Lord."

Another good practice that we could take to heart during this Month of the Holy Name of Jesus is the recitation of the **Jesus Prayer**.

This penitential prayer very simply says, "*Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner,*" which can be repeated on a prayer rope or Jesus Beads just as the Hail Mary is prayed on the Rosary.

The Jesus Prayer

Very early on, Christians came to understand that the very name of Jesus had great power, and the



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

Catechist Commissioning Mass



At last Sunday's 11am mass, over 80 catechists from the Catechetical and Children's Liturgy Ministry attended the Commissioning of Catechists. Fr Ben thanked the catechists for continuing to devote their time and their generous commitment to be ambassadors of God and serve the Parish as catechists.

As we begin a new ministry year, we're still looking for catechists to join us. So if you would like to share your Catholic faith with the young people in the community, and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you, do drop by the Parish Office to leave your contact details.



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: Reopen in Dec 2019

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