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Disciples
Making Disciples



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The Mass – Our Feast of Faith

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
11 Aug 2019

Wis 18:6-9
Heb 11:1-2, 8-19
Lk 12:32-48

Today's Opening Prayer reminds us that we can have the confidence to call God "Father" only because he has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit in baptism. He gave us this life of grace to help us be obedient to his will so that someday, we can return "home" to him. We must therefore seek him and sincerely ask of him, "Increase your Spirit within us and bring us to our promised inheritance."

This "promised inheritance" as we learn in the first reading, is our "heavenly homeland" (Heb 11:16) and the "increase" of God's Spirit comes from our "allowance of food" or the Eucharist (Lk 12:42).

God has thus provided us with powerful spiritual nourishment. Today's readings however, all warn against doubting the power of God's self-gift. Jesus warns in the gospel that our lack of vigilance and failure to be in his "employment" or involved in his mission to spread God's Kingdom on earth can cause us to be "cut off" from this inheritance and be judged as "unfaithful" (Lk 12:43,46).

The warning against apostasy or the abandonment of the faith from a lack of trust in God's power and promises permeates today's readings. The first reading written around 50 BC warned against following the pagan customs



"Renew your faith by attending Holy Mass... In your mind's eye transport yourself to Calvary and meditate on the Victim who offers Himself to Divine Justice, paying the price of your redemption."
- St Padre Pio

of Israel's overlords who were then the ancient Greeks. Worship of a polytheistic pantheon and the practice of homosexual paedophilia or pederasty was the norm among the ancient Greeks. Many Jews had forgotten the *Shema* teaching that God is One. They had also ignored the injunction against homosexual acts (cf Deut 6:4, Lv 18:22).

The author of Wisdom sought to stem this apostasy by recalling the first Passover - "that night [that] had been foretold" - when God, through Moses, freed the Israelites from Egyptian slavery and led them into the Promised Land (Wis 18:6). The Wisdom writer recalled Israel's dignity as a virtuous people that God would always act to save. In insisting on observing the "divine pact" of the annual Passover no matter what foreign power they were under, Israel showed she accepted not just God's blessings but also the "dangers" of being his covenant people (Wis 18:7,9).

The appeal against apostasy in today's second reading was directed at Jewish Christians living under the Domitian persecutions in the late first century. Under threat of death for being Christians, many Jewish Christians wanted to return to Judaism. The author of Hebrews urged them to remain steadfast like their patriarchs

who realised that they were all only "strangers and nomads on earth". The "real homeland... better homeland [is the] heavenly homeland" (Heb 11:13).

From our Creed, we know that Christ has ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father awaiting our return. He reminds us in today's gospel that we are his co-heirs, "There is no need to be afraid... for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom."

We are therefore urged to be steadfast in faith for we are the adopted children of a generous and loving Father who gave up his only-begotten Son so that we can receive him as spiritual "food" for our New Passover journey to heaven. The Eucharist in Holy Mass is "the source and summit of the Christian life" (*Lumen Gentium 11*). It is our Feast of Faith strengthening our communion with Christ to resist the pressures to compromise and apostatise.

St Pio of Pietrelcina affirms this bond that is accomplished in the Eucharist: "Renew your faith by attending Holy Mass. Keep your mind focused on the mystery that is unfolding before your eyes. In your mind's eye transport yourself to Calvary and meditate on the Victim who offers Himself to Divine Justice, paying the price of your redemption."

Announcements

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

PUBLIC HOLIDAY ON MON 12 AUG (HARI RAYA HAJI)

There will only be **one mass** at **8.30am** and no evening mass.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - DAY OF OBLIGATION

Mass on **Wed 14 Aug**
8pm (there will be no 6.30pm Mass)

Masses on **Thu 15 Aug**
6.30am, 6.30pm and **8.30pm**

TOTAL COLLECTED FOR SSVP 2ND COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) was able to raise **\$13,857.30** for Friends In Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of our activities.

THE TOB CONFERENCE - HUMAN LOVE IN THE DIVINE PLAN

In a world devastated in numerous ways by a distorted vision of human sexuality, Pope St John Paul II gave us Theology of the Body (TOB), an in-depth biblical explanation illustrating the awesomeness of sexuality, marriage and celibacy for the Kingdom.

This conference celebrates the TOB, helping us to have a better understanding and more importantly, how to apply it in our lives to heal and redeem the brokenness that has battered so many of us today. The keynote address will be delivered by Fr David Garcia, OP with breakout sessions exploring other aspects of the message.

Date: Sat 26 Oct
Time: 10am - 4pm (ending with sunset mass)
Venue: St Joseph's Institution
Cost: \$20 per person
Register: <https://tob.sg>

NOTE ON FR JUDE'S POSTING

Fr Jude David who has been appointed Assistant Priest of the Church of St Francis Xavier is still on Study Leave. He will assist the parish when he is on his vacation in Singapore. Upon completion of his studies, he will assume the office of assistant priest at St Francis Xavier Parish as a secondary appointment besides teaching in the seminary. His primary appointment remains as Chaplain of the Office of Young People.

PARISH FORMATION PROGRAMME 2019: VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

To be fruitful in our mission, we need leaders with a vision, but how can we discern our vision together? Importantly, how can we as laity collaborate with our priests in our parish to fulfill God's mission for us? Come and learn more about what it takes to be visionary from Fr Jude on **Mon 26 Aug, 8 - 10pm** at the **Main Church**. All are welcome! Sign up now at <https://tinyurl.com/SFXModule4>!

60TH ANNIVERSARY PARISH FEAST DAY DINNER: TICKET SALES!

Join us as we celebrate our 60th Feast Day as a parish community on **Sun 1 Dec, 7pm** at the **Ban Heng restaurant** (Harbourfront Centre #04-01, 1 Maritime Square S099253). Besides the sumptuous menu and entertainment, there will also be exciting games and a lucky draw! Look out for the ticket sales booth after mass and purchase your tickets early. Tickets cost **\$70 per person** and will be sold on a first come first served! **Renovation fundraiser tables are available at \$10,000 per table**. For further details or to purchase a table, please contact the parish priest.

SAVE THE DATE: SFX CONVERSION EXPERIENCE RETREAT!

Have you wondered what it means to have a personal encounter with the Lord? Are you desiring healing in a certain area of your life? Do you yearn for more? SFX will be having our own stay-in conversion experience retreat (CER) from **6 - 10 Nov**, conducted by Archbishop William Goh at the Catholic Spirituality Center! Successful registration for CER will be determined by balloting. Applicants must be a 1st time retreatant and aged 21 years and above. **Forms are now available at the parish office and the main church, you can also download the form via www.sfxchurch.sg/forms-and-admin.**

Ballot Registration Day at CSC:

Date: Sat 31 Aug (Registration - 9am)

Time: 9am - 1pm (Registration closes at 10am for balloting)

Venue: Catholic Spirituality Center (St Peter's Hall, Level 1)

SFX KINDERGARTEN OPEN REGISTRATION FOR 2020

We believe every child is unique and special and a gift from God. We give priority to spirituality so that there is a sense of God in all that we do.

For further enquiries, kindly call the Kindergarten at 6280 8929 or email sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg.

Level	Child's year of birth
Pre-Nursery	2017
Nursery	2016
K1	2015
K2	2014

Chinese Immersion Classes for Nursery to K2 levels are available.

LANDINGS: WELCOMING RETURNING CATHOLICS

An evening of testimonies by Catholics who have returned and strengthened their faith with the help of Landings will be held on **Fri 23 Aug, 7.30pm** at the **JM Beurel Centre (Annex Building Level 3), Cathedral of the Good Shepherd ('A' Queen Street S188533)**. Listen to stories of struggles, challenges, grace and reconciliation and register via <https://bit.ly/2Dz549P>.

Details of next Landings programme at the Cathedral:

Date: Fridays from 13 Sep - 29 Nov

Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Cathedral of the Good Shepherd

We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the Faith and those interested in this ministry to participate in this 10-week programme. **Registration closes on Sun 25 Aug**. Please email returning@landings.org.sg or find out more at www.landings.org.sg.

First Holy Communion For L3



Our parish community celebrated as 55 boys and girls received their First Holy Communion (FHC) on 28 July during the 5.30pm Eucharistic Celebration. On this special day, the children fully experienced the grace of being one with the Catholic community as they accepted the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ witnessed by their families, friends and the congregation that were present on this memorable occasion. Together with our catechists, parents and other family members played an important role in our children's preparation for their FHC. At a full-day retreat on 20 July, our children and their parents were spiritually prepared through a series of talks, praise and worship session, as well as a community craft activity. We have collected a few thoughts from some of our parents and children on the experience.



"I felt nervous but excited to receive my FHC. I was curious to know what it would taste like. I am happy that Jesus loves me and pray that I will live my life in a way that brings him glory." - Joshua Tham

"Receiving Jesus makes us a part of him and he strengthens us to overcome all the temptations that we would normally succumb to if we are to rely on our own strength. Our every thought, word and deed should reflect the love of Christ. And what better way to reflect this love, than by first receiving him, who is the very quintessence of love. In partaking of his precious body and blood, which he so graciously poured out for us, we are also reminded that as he nourishes us, we too are called to go forth to be bread for the world, to be a blessing to others. With thanksgiving in my heart, I pray I never take lightly this wonderful privilege as a Catholic Christian, but continue to grow in deeper understanding of this wonderful mystery and the call it has for me." - Odette Otheris, mother of Joshua Tham



"Before I received Jesus for the first time, I was excited and nervously preparing myself to be ready. After receiving him, all I can think of is that I can't wait to receive Communion again." - Isabela

"When I receive Jesus in the Eucharist, I feel incredibly grateful for all he has done for me. I feel inspired to share his love especially with my children, so that they too will grow to know and love him as I do." - Cara Pereira, mother of Isabela





“Receiving Jesus in the Holy Communion gives me peace of mind and reminds me about forgiveness. I am encouraged to try to be more like Jesus and strengthened by having his power in me. In this tough and challenging world that we live in, where anger, hatred and greed can sometimes overwhelm us, receiving Jesus reminds me to try hard to follow his ways. I am grateful for the amazing gift that I receive through Holy Communion.

Before receiving the Body of Christ, Rikito felt nervous, excited and anxious to have God come into him. He was curious as to how it would feel like. After receiving his FHC, he realized that it was not as scary as he thought it might be. Instead, he felt a sense of calm and peace.” - Rikito and Rumi Christian



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 except PH

Opening Hours

PARISH OFFICE

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

ADORATION ROOM

Temporarily closed

LIBRARY

Temporarily closed

COLUMBARIUM

Temporarily closed

CANTEEN

Temporarily closed

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



The sacrament can be administered to any Catholic awaiting serious surgery, suffering from serious illness or weakened by old age. Anointing may be given before admission 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 check with the Parish Office.

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 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 and Church. 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