



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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Being Thankful in Difficult Circumstances

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
13 Oct 2019

2 Kgs 5:14-17
2 Tim 2:8-13
Lk 17:11-19

In today's Gospel, Jesus healed 10 lepers but only one leper came back to thank him. Surprisingly, as highlighted by St Luke, that one leper turned out to be a Samaritan.

Within the Israelite community, the discovery of a rash or skin disorder required one to go to the priest to be examined. Should the skin disorder be deemed contagious, he was to be declared ceremonially unclean (Lv 13:1). According to Jewish law, anyone with a contagious disease had to be isolated and live as an outcast (Lv 13:45 – 46). This was necessary lest the disease became an epidemic. Hence, to be afflicted with a skin disease was tantamount to receiving a life sentence. A Samaritan who had leprosy can be said to experience being doubly outcast. Not only was he regarded as a hated ethnic enemy of the Jews and therefore encounter rejection in his ordinary life, to be found with leprosy as well would be a double burden he had to carry through no fault of his own.

The lepers all experienced not only physical pain but were also suffering emotionally and socially. In the midst of this physical and emotional suffering, when Jesus commanded them to go and show themselves to the priests,



"From a spiritual point of view, he who is proud of his intelligence, talent or voice, and never thanks God for them is a robber; he has taken gifts from God and never recognized the Giver."

~Venerable Fulton Sheen

it is commendable that they went in faith even before they saw any healing take place. St Luke tells us, "...as they were going away they were cleansed." (Lk 17:14) In other words, in order for the miracle to happen, these men had to start walking in faith by obeying Jesus' words to show themselves to the priests.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI says two levels of healing can be seen here, "...one, more superficial, concerns the body. The other deeper level touches the innermost depths of the person, what the Bible calls 'the heart', and from there spreads to the whole of a person's life. Complete and radical healing is 'salvation'... Jesus says [to the Samaritan leper]: 'Your faith has made you whole'. It is faith that saves human beings, re-establishing them in their profound relationship with God, themselves and others; and faith is expressed in gratitude." (Angelus, 14 Oct 2007)

In the midst of our own helpless situations, do we remain faithful, grateful and thankful to a loving God? We tend to forget that everything we possess is pure gift, and nothing on earth belongs to us. Our pride and lack of gratitude can lead us to place demands and conditions on God, "Lord Jesus, if you resolve this issue for me, I will serve you"; "Lord Jesus, if you answer this prayer of mine, I will give up everything for you." We may even

question whether it is worth praising, worshipping and serving God, since there is no guarantee that he would answer our prayer!

Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen says, "From a spiritual point of view, he who is proud of his intelligence, talent or voice, and never thanks God for them is a robber; he has taken gifts from God and never recognized the Giver." (Way to Happiness, 1998)

If we often feel challenged to remain faithful and thankful to God as we see nothing in our lives to thank him for, then our relationship with God would have been a contractual relationship. Perhaps we are placing on God terms and conditions, treating God as our "property" to call on when we need him rather than cherishing the covenantal relationship he is unceasingly offering us especially at Holy Mass.

Let us reflect today if we are seeking the Giver or the gifts. Can we instead, from the depth of our hearts, despite the helpless and perhaps, painful situations we sometimes find ourselves in, still obey him, love him, follow him? Can we praise him in the midst of our darkest of nights, and in the worst of our circumstances? Can we still, with great conviction proclaim that God is always a good and loving God?

Announcements

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

ALL SAINTS' AND ALL SOULS' DAY MASSES

All Saints' Day (Day of Obligation)
31 Oct (Thu) - 8pm (No 6.30pm Mass)
1 Nov (Fri) - 6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

All Souls' Day
2 Nov (Sat) - 6.30am, 9am

COLUMBARIUM

Please note that the Columbarium will be closed till completion of phase one of the renovation project (estimated end Nov). This is for the safety of the public. Thank you for your understanding.

MISSION SUNDAY: CANDLELIGHT ROSARY

We are in the extraordinary missionary month as declared by Pope Francis. Do come and join us to pray the mission rosary as we discover the mission mysteries and pray for the work of mission and our call to be missionaries.

Date: Sun 20 Oct
Time: 6.45pm
Venue: Grotto

CALL FOR INTERESTED PARISHIONERS TO JOIN MISSION TRIP

SFX SiGN (Sowers in God's Name) will be organizing our next mission trip to Myanmar in **3rd week Dec** (Exact dates TBC). We will once again visit the Nazareth Bush School to assist Fr Benjamin Eihsu with the children's spiritual formation. If you are keen to join the mission trip or wish to find out more, please contact Anne (9741 9634) or Thud Chee (9632 3489) for more details.

GIFT COLLECTION

Next weekend, 19/20 Oct, being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a second collection to receive your monthly pledges and contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese. Every Catholic is encouraged to sign up for a pledge to help with continued support for the numerous archdiocesan organisations needed for the mission of the church. More info is available at gift.catholicfoundation.sg.

SSVP: YOUTH CAMP

"Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is organising a 3D2N camp for youth looking to deepen their faith by serving the Lord's poor. We welcome all youths aged 15-25.

Date: 29 Nov - 1 Dec
Venue: Church of Transfiguration
Registration Fee: \$30/person
Register: Sign up now at tinyurl.com/ssvpcamp or contact 9747 5541 (Jaime) for more enquires

CPS 2019 LUNCHTIME TALK: DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE

A series of talks by Rev. Fr Terence Pereira. Can a divorcee receive the Eucharist? How does a Catholic obtain an annulment when there are already children in the marriage? Why are divorced Catholics allowed to remarry in Church? Come & find out more about the Church's teachings on divorce, annulment and remarriage.

Dates: 14 Oct, 21 Oct, 4 Nov and 11 Nov (Mondays)
Time: 12.30pm - 1.15pm
Venue: TPI Building 62 Cecil Street 6th Floor
Register: tinyurl.com/CPS-Divorce-Marriage

FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY: MY CHILD IS MADE FOR MORE (2 SESSIONS)

For parents and all who work with children. Learn about the sexuality issues facing youth on premarital/ casual sex and pornography, and equip yourself to be the primary sexuality educator. A programme that proposes truths leading to the roots as to why as human beings we are naturally inclined for sexual honesty, dignity, respect and authentic freedom.

Date & Time: **Sat 26 Oct**, 9am - 1.30pm & **Sat 2 Nov**, 9am - 4.30pm
Venue: CANA, Level 2 (55 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187954)
Cost: \$50 per pax and \$80 per couple
Register: bit.ly/mfm_bt or contact 6488 0278 (Jacinta) or email to education@familylife.sg for further enquires

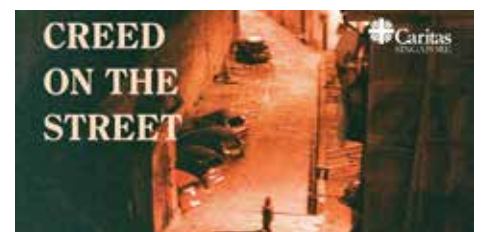
ONE: MISSION SUNDAY EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

In conjunction with the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019, the Office for the New Evangelisation is organising the Mission Sunday Eucharistic Celebration for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore. There will be a commissioning of all those who are going for an overseas mission during the months of Oct - Dec.

Date: Sat 19 Oct (Sunset Mass)
Time: 6pm
Venue: Cathedral of the Good Shepherd
Celebrant: The Most Rev William Goh, Archbishop of Singapore
Concelebrant: Rev Fr Terence Pereira, Episcopal Vicar for the New Evangelisation
Register: bit.ly/MissionSundaySG

CARITAS SG: CREED ON THE STREET (COTS 11)

The purpose of the Creed On The Street (COTS) session is to invite young adults to join in a conversation with each other, to lend perspective of their faith on social issues. Topic: "From Stigma to Solidarity - What more can we do to address the stigma of mental health issues?"



Date: Thu 21 Nov
Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Catholic Centre, level 3 (55 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187954)
Register: Visit www.caritas-singapore.org or email to youngadults@caritas-singapore.org for more information.

7 Surprising Things That Happen When You Pray the Rosary More Often



1. You Become Less Selfish

I'm not sure about you but I am convinced about the power of the rosary and love this wonderful gift. Yet, choosing to lay aside time in my day to pray it is so hard because it requires me to sacrifice time I could use for other activities. Do you face this struggle too? Choosing to offer up some time each day to pray the rosary teaches us to be less concerned about ourselves, to re-orientate ourselves towards Christ and grow in our love for God and neighbour.

2. You Become More Disciplined

To become a faithful disciple of Christ is like becoming a marathon runner - you can't just become a marathon runner on your first run, but you will need to build up your stamina bit by bit over time. Similarly, to become a faithful disciple of Christ involves being disciplined in your prayer life and praying even when you don't feel up to it. Praying the rosary constantly is a wonderful way to grow in faithfulness.

3. Our Lady Reveals Insights

In meditating on the mysteries of the rosary, Our Lady, with Christ, has something to give you. It could be an insight into an area of your life that you are struggling with, an epiphany over a particular moment in Christ's life that speaks to you or perhaps it is a deep encounter and experience of the Lord. There is always something new to be explored, and always something good to be revealed.

4. You Have More Courage

When you start to place your trust, life and heart into the hands of Mary through the rosary, you will begin to understand how simple she is. Mary loves us immensely and her main goal is to draw us closer to Christ. With the true love and tenderness of a perfect mother, we do her a great honour when we give her our problems. Knowing Mary is always by our side and

ever ready to help us help us to grow in courage! As St Maximilian Kolbe said: *"I see Mary everywhere. I see problems nowhere."*

5. Your Day Proceeds Calmly

Praying the rosary doesn't wipe out suffering in your life, but it is a weapon you can bring with you into battle. By surrendering the day and your problems into the hands of Mary, you are choosing to begin the day with the extra protection and graces from Mary's intercession for you.

6. You Get An Extra Awareness Before the Moment of Temptation

One of the 15 Promises of the Rosary is that: "it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies." By staying close to the heart of Mary and therefore of Christ through the rosary, there is an increase in grace to recognize what is not of God and what is displeasing to him. This includes being more aware when we are placed in situations of temptation. In praying the rosary, we will begin to see our life through a shared perspective with God, and begin to believe that what He wants for me is good and desire it too.

7. You Start to Live Out the Incarnation

The power of the rosary lies in its simplicity. It is so deceptively simple that it can seem stupid to the intelligent mind. So often we complicate matters, searching for complex solutions to our complex problems. We don't need to. God came to earth as a tiny, weak and helpless baby born into poverty. The rosary that is so deceptively simple is the most powerful weapon of prayer that we have.

"There is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families...that cannot be solved by the Rosary." Sr. Lúcia of Fatima.



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!

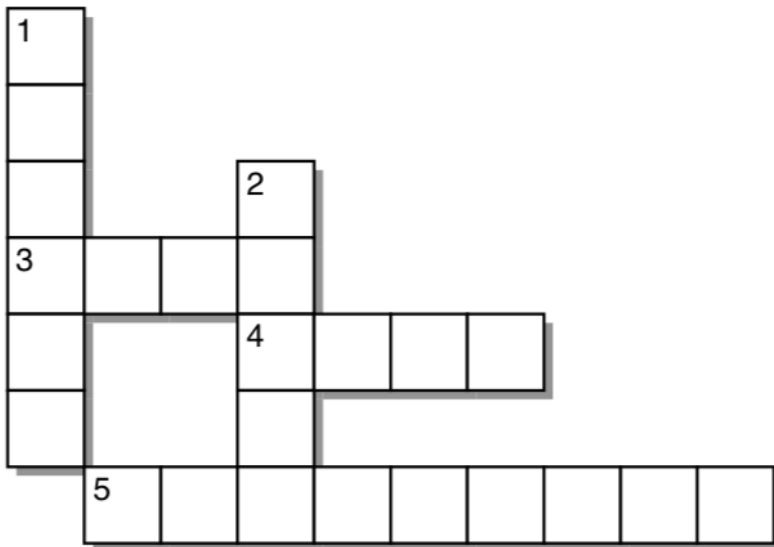
The 15 PROMISES of the VIRGIN MARY

FOR THOSE WHO PRAY THE ROSARY



- Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the rosary, shall receive signal graces.
- I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the rosary.
- The rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
- It will cause virtue and good works to flourish. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
- The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the rosary shall not perish.
- Whoever shall recite the rosary devoutly, shall never be conquered by misfortune.
- Whoever shall have a true devotion for the rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.
- Those who are faithful to recite the rosary shall have, during their life and at their death, the light of God.
- I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the rosary.
- The faithful children of the rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven.
- You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the rosary.
- All those who propagate the holy rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.
- All the advocates of the rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.
- All who recite the rosary are my sons, and brothers of my only son Jesus Christ.
- Devotion of my rosary is a great sign of predestination.

(From Catholic-Link resource library)



Down

- When a person is cured of an illness they are _____.
- A person is _____ when they have a disease called Leprosy. A person who has leprosy would have open sores all over their skin and were considered "untouchable" and unclean were banished from villages and towns.

Across

- The Gospel this week is from the Gospel of _____.
- When you feel sorry for someone.
- Jesus journey destination in this Gospel.

1. Healed 2. Leper 3. Luke 4. Pity 5. Jerusalem

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

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 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