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Making Disciples**

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The End Times

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
17 Nov 2019

Mal 3:19-20
2 Th 3:7-12
Lk 21:5-19

As we approach the end of the liturgical year, our readings describe the end times in sombre detail. Our First Reading speaks about the day that is coming that will “burn [the evil-doers] up”; the Gospel warns us not to be deceived as “many will come using [Jesus’] name” and there will be “wars and revolutions”.

CS Lewis’ *The Last Battle* illustrates an allegory of these end times. In the story, an ape persuades a simple-minded donkey to dress in a lion’s skin and pretend to be the Great Lion Aslan (a metaphor of Jesus). Using the donkey as his pawn, the ape deceives many into serving a false god and to contribute to “Aslan’s treasury”, on the pretext that it will be used for the good of all the people.

How do we respond to and prepare for such dire prophecies?

Scripture uses three tenses in talking about salvation. First, we are *already* saved. St Paul writes that “in hope we were saved” (Rom 8:24) and “by grace [we] have been saved” (Eph 2:5).

We are saved because Christ died for our sins. In the words of CCC 613, Christ’s death “accomplishes the definitive redemption of men”. By the sacrament of Baptism, all our sins are forgiven and we are born again in the Holy Spirit.

Second, we are *being* saved (see

1 Cor 1:18, 2 Cor 2:15). CCC 2010 makes it clear that no one can merit the initial grace of forgiveness and justification. However, we can subsequently “merit for ourselves and for others the graces needed for our sanctification, for the increase of grace and charity, and for the attainment of eternal life.” St Paul thus exhorts us to “work out [our] own salvation... for it is God who is at work in [us]” (Ph 2:12).

Third, we *will* be saved. St Paul assures us that “now that we have been justified by [Christ’s] blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God” and “having been reconciled to God through the death of his Son... will we be saved by his life” (Rom 5:9-10).

St Augustine wrote that “heaven and earth will pass away but the salvation and justification of the elect... will not pass away” (CCC 1994). CCC 1030 puts this another way: “All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.”

In the end, it is Jesus who saves. His life, death, and resurrection occurred 2000 years ago, but is continually re-presented at every Holy Mass, and we will be glorified in him in the last days.

Our Second Reading is then instructive on how we should approach the end times. Following his first letter warning them that the Last Day would come “like a thief in the night” (1 Th 5:2), St Paul’s second letter chides all who had stopped working and were simply waiting around. Instead, he exhorts them to “go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.” (2 Th 3:12)

Similarly, we will not get any closer to holiness by simply waiting around. We should continue to carry out our daily duties and earn our daily bread, and in so doing, wait in confidence for the last days when we shall see the face of the Lord.

CCC 1040 sums up what this moment will be like: “The Last Judgment will come when Christ returns in glory. Only the Father...determines the moment of its coming. Then through his Son Jesus Christ he will pronounce the final word on all history. We shall know the ultimate meaning of the whole work of creation and of the entire economy of salvation and understand the marvelous ways by which his Providence led everything towards its final end. The Last Judgment will reveal that God’s justice triumphs over all the injustices committed by his creatures and that God’s love is stronger than death.”



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Announcements

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

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 at the parish office. Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese. More information is available at gift.catholicfoundation.sg.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT RECRUITMENT

We are starting our recruitment drive for children from 3 -12 years of age, teenagers and adults who want to act, sing or help in the Christmas Pageant for the Christmas Eve Family Mass from **4pm** (TBC). The Pageant will be at **5pm** followed by the Family Mass at **5.30pm**. So if you are interested in being part of Jesus' birthday, please contact Monica (9691 0599), Craig (9451 8256) or Jui (9299 1138). You may also look for our Children's Liturgy booth at the front of the Main Church from **17 Nov - 1 Dec** (3 Sundays after the 9am and 11am Masses) to sign up with us directly.

CENACLE SISTERS: ADVENT RECOLLECTION 2019

An invitation to spend a day of prayer to prepare for the feast of the Nativity of the Lord (Mass included).

Date: Sun 8 Dec
Time: 9.30am - 5pm
Venue: 47 Jurong West St 42 S649368
Contribution: Love Offering
Register: www.cenaclemission.com

NOVENA CHURCH: CHINESE MUSICAL PLAY

Theme: Homecoming Pilgrims @ Novena (He is waiting for you)
Date: Fri 13 Dec
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Novena Church (Free Admission)

— TRIDUUM & FEAST DAY 2019 —
THANKSGIVING
BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

24 NOV (SUN)

MASS FOR THE ELDERLY & SICK WITH ANOINTING
Confession 1.15PM. Mass and Anointing 2PM
Forms available at Parish Office. Registration closes 10 Nov

Celebrant: Fr Benjamin Eishu (Myanmar)

28 NOV (THU) REMEMBERING <i>the Mission</i> TRIDUUM MASS 8PM	29 NOV (FRI) SEEKING <i>God's Help</i> TRIDUUM MASS 8PM	30 NOV (SAT) SHARING <i>the Mission</i> TRIDUUM MASS 5.30PM
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1 DEC (SUN) FEAST DAY

REBUILD MY CHURCH, RESTORE MY PEOPLE
11AM* FEAST DAY MASS, with His Grace Archbishop William Goh
7AM, 9AM, 5PM* SUNDAY MASS
*Please kindly note the change in mass timing *Blessing of Leaders at 11am mass

MASS FOR THE ELDERLY & SICK WITH ANOINTING

In conjunction with our Parish Feast Day, we invite the elderly and sick to this special Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, to experience the "special grace on the Christian experiencing the difficulties inherent in the condition of grave illness or old age" (CCC 1527). **Mass will be on Sun 24 Nov from 2pm - 4pm**, there will also be **confession from 1.15pm**.

Family and friends are welcome to join in this special Eucharistic Celebration as we give support to them as a loving and prayerful community. Registration forms are available from the Parish Office. Sign up at tinyurl.com/MFTS2019.

SCREENING OF "UNPLANNED" (M18 RATING)

"Unplanned" is a film that speaks to one of the most polarizing topics of our day, and brings us an eye-opening look inside the abortion industry from a woman (Abby Johnson) who was once its most passionate advocate involved in more than 22,000 abortions as a clinical director in Planned Parenthood. No matter which side of the fence you're on, no one will leave this film unmoved by Abby's journey.

Date: Fri 6 Dec
Time: 8pm (formation talk before movie screening)
Venue: SFX Main Church
Contribution: Love offering

Accompanying the screening of this movie, Fr Edward Lim O.C.D., who is also a practicing doctor, will be giving a short formation talk on the encyclical "Humanae Vitae" written by Pope Paul VI in 1968. As the war against life continues to intensify, let us no longer remain indifferent and ignorant!

FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY: HAPPY IN MY SKIN

What does it really mean to be a MALE or a FEMALE? Is it really true that there is a "Third Gender"? What is gender in the first place? And most importantly, what makes me a unique & special person? Come and join us during this school holiday to get some real powerful answers to these questions.

Date: Fri 22 Nov
Time: 9am - 1pm
Venue: CAEC (2 Highland Road)
Register: bit.ly/hims_bt or call 6488 0278. Only \$15 per pax.

Building A Church of Love

After months of anticipation, 134 of our fellow parishioners were blessed to attend the five-day stay-in CER (Conversion Experience Retreat) from 5 to 9 Nov. The retreatants listened to lively and informative talks conducted by our Archbishop, praised and worshipped the Lord in song and dance, experienced the redemptive peace of reconciliation and were filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit. Months before the actual CER, a veritable army of their fellow parishioners had already been hard at work to ensure a meaningful and enriching retreat for them. Here we share a few inspiring testimonies.



“I am grateful to God and my friends for bringing me to CER where I encountered God so beautifully and intimately. During my confession, I saw Jesus personified in the priest, crying with me, feeling my pain. I saw his compassion for me, telling me that he truly loves me and forgives me. Now I know, Reconciliation is the most beautiful sacrament for us Catholics. No words can describe the immense joy I felt when I received the gift of tongues - the feeling of being so close to our God was simply awesome. Now I believe why my friends say **CER is an out-of-the-world experience. You have to experience it personally to know!**” - ***Sheryl Wong, retreatant***



Intercessory prayers while the retreatants were in sessions

“The inspiring testimonies that were shared in my group have helped deepen my personal and communal prayer life. Over the past months, SFX parishioners were given this wonderful opportunity to collaborate and work toward the success of the CER. We prayed, fasted, fellowshiped and grew together spiritually as one church. Most of all, we were able to minister to one another with the love of Jesus. For it is in giving that we receive... SFX is no longer just a church to me but an **extended loving family of Christ!**”

- ***Lidia Ko, service team member***

“Though my ministry members had urged me to attend the CER, I was hesitant and came up with excuses not to do so. However, as the registration date drew closer and as I witnessed how Jesus cleared the obstacles, I knew he had chosen me and I could not escape. I reluctantly accepted. When we were asked to be open and surrender to the Lord, I was initially at a loss. But God slowly chipped down my barriers. I found myself crying during the P&W session. In time, I discovered how broken I was. I had been ignorant of all the wounds caused by my sins and hurts. Jesus performed a “spiritual surgery” to clean me up and filled me with the Holy Spirit. I know I am on my way to spiritual recovery. I experienced God’s deep love for me. I commit to build an **intimate relationship** with him, **to strengthen my faith** through daily personal prayers and to serve in the community.” - ***Steven Lew, retreatant***



The joy of a retreatant after giving testimony



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



“How much better can it get than a family coming together to encounter the unfathomable love of God? That’s what the SFX CER was. Some knew each other well, others were mere acquaintances, and many had never met. Regardless of whether it was the multitude of numbers of the service team, or the retreatants, somehow it felt like we had just been reacquainted with long-lost brothers and sisters and it felt so comfortable and right to be with each other. Having our dear parish priest, Father Ben around was special. We felt so loved and cared for, it became a wonderful family vacation with God where we did not even have to go shopping because God just knew what we needed and filled our hearts with **gifts and blessings that overflowed!**” - *June Oei, service team member*



“Burdened with pain and shame, the tears that flowed freely during the first three days were cathartic. The reconciliation I experienced was liberating. Joy replaced sadness. I don’t feel any “retreat high”, but I come away with a new-found sense of peace as I am learning to “let go and let God”, **assured in his love** for me.” - *Audrey Thng, retreatant*



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.

Do check out SFX Facebook page for more pictures

VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

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