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**Disciples  
Making Disciples**

 **Parish Priest:**  
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## Recognising the Face of Christ through Prayer

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord  
2 Feb 2020

Mal 3:1-4  
Heb 2: 14-18  
Lk 2:22-40

In today's Gospel, Simeon and Anna were two venerable elderly people who had dedicated their lives to prayer and fasting. When Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the temple, they could immediately recognise the infant as the Messiah – a gift borne out of their contemplative life. The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple is also an extension of the "Pro Orantibus Day" that is celebrated on the Feast of the Presentation of Mary on 21 November. *Pro Orantibus Day* is a day of prayer for cloistered Religious, "totally dedicated to God in prayer, silence and concealment." (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, *Holiness is Always in Season*, p286) Forty days after Jesus was born, the Church also commemorates the World Day of Consecrated Life - a day to reflect on the gift of consecrated persons or Religious to the Church.

The Religious profess the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience "as a sign... to attract all the members of the Church to an effective and prompt fulfilment of the duties of their Christian vocation. The people of God have no lasting city here below, but look forward to one that is to come." (*Lumen Gentium* 44) The Religious therefore, lead the people of God to holiness so that they



"This practice of the [evangelical] counsels, under the impulsion of the Holy Spirit, undertaken by many Christians ... gives and must give in the world an outstanding witness and example of the same holiness."  
- *Lumen Gentium* 39

too can consecrate their lives to God according to their state of life.

*Lumen Gentium* elaborates on this mission in these words: "In the Church, everyone, whether belonging to the hierarchy or being cared for by it, is called to holiness, according to the saying of the Apostle, 'For this is the will of God, your sanctification'...in a very special way this [holiness] appears in the practice of the counsels, customarily, "evangelical." This practice of the counsels, under the impulsion of the Holy Spirit, undertaken by many Christians, either privately or in a Church-approved condition or state of life, gives and must give in the world an outstanding witness and example of the same holiness." (LG 39)

Before Pope St John Paul II entered the seminary, he met Jan Tyranowski who introduced him to Carmelite charism. Pope St John Paul II was so attracted to the charisms of the Carmelite spirituality that he desired to join the Carmelite Order. He studied the Masters of Carmelite spirituality, particularly that of St John of the Cross. His philosophical doctoral thesis, *Doctrina de fide apud S. Ioannem a Cruce* (The Doctrine of Faith in St John of the Cross) speaks volumes of his voluminous love for Carmelite spirituality.

Just like Simeon and Anna, Pope St

John Paul II had a deep prayer life such that he could recognise the face of Christ nearby. In order not to disrupt his schedule, the Pope's trip planners made sure he did not pass by too many chapels or he would stop repeatedly to pray. During his trip to Baltimore, the trip planner had the chapel door shut but to no avail, "When it was time to leave, he walked down the hall, which was lined with doors leading into various rooms, passed by the door of the chapel, and then suddenly stopped. He looked back at the door, then looked at Father Tucci [the trip planner], and without saying a word, wagged his finger at him and shook his head. Father White recalled: 'He's never been in this place before, never set eyes on the place, and there was nothing about the door that distinguished it in any way as a chapel. It was just one more door in a corridor of doors. But he turned right back around, opened that door up, and he went into the chapel and he prayed'" (*Saint John Paul the Great: His Five Loves*, p138).

Prayer is a relationship with God. Just as husbands and wives who have been married for a long time are able to sense what each other is thinking without saying a word, similarly, in prayer, we can recognise God's desires and will for us as we deepen our prayer life.

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

### SECOND COLLECTION FOR POOR AND NEEDY

SSVP is having a second collection for the poor and needy (Friends-In-Need, FINs) **this weekend**. Kindly contribute generously so that SSVP can continue to aid the FINs via various programmes with your donations. We thank you for your generosity.

### BLESSING OF CANDLES

**This weekend**, there will be blessing of candles for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Do label your candles and tealights and place them on the table in front of the sanctuary before Mass starts.

### RETURNING OLD PALMS

Do return your old palms to the boxes placed at the front foyer of the Kindergarten from **1 - 16 Feb**. Please kindly remove all plastics bags and rubber bands.

### HOLY HOUR

Come spend some time with our Lord at Holy Hour, on **Thu 6 Feb, 8.30pm** at **St Matthew Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)**. All are welcome!

### INFANT BAPTISM

There will be no infant baptism on the month of Feb until further notice.

### FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY: HAPPY IN MY SKIN

Come and be equipped with a deeper understanding of the 'know hows' on how to share gender identity and sexuality with children/youth.

**Dates:** Sat 15 Feb

**Time:** 9am - 12.30pm

**Register:** [bit.ly/himspvb](https://bit.ly/himspvb) or call 6488 0278

**Contribution:** \$15 per pax.

### COLUMBARIUM IS OPEN

The Columbarium is now open daily from **7am - 7pm**, and parishioners can visit their loved ones. Please take the stairs down to the Columbarium. The lift is currently not operational as we are still awaiting certification. **Do note that as we are still in the midst of renovations, please be careful and mindful of your surroundings and follow all signs.** Weekend masses will still be celebrated at OLGC till further notice. We seek your understanding and continued prayers.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FR BRIAN (8 FEB)

On this special day, we thank the Lord for Fr Brian who has been such a gift and blessing to all of us. We pray for his good health, sense of humour, and continued warmth and kindness. May his faith be renewed and his heart burns with passion to serve the Lord and his people.



### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The next intercessory prayer session is on **Fri 7 Feb, 7.15pm** at **St Matthew's Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)**. Come join us!

### COME AND SERVE: L10 RETREAT

Come join us on **Fri 13 Mar - Sun 15 Mar** for our stay-in Catechetical L10 retreat 2020! We are looking for young adults and youths to help facilitate, be in the logistics team or help to intercede for the participants.

In preparation for the camp, we will have sessions to pray, train and prepare our hearts and minds on **Sat 15 Feb, Thu 27 Feb** and **Thu 5 Mar**. If you are interested and feel excitement in your heart, don't hesitate and join us today! Contact Renae at 9060 4326 to find out more or sign up at [www.tinyurl.com/L10Retreat2020](http://www.tinyurl.com/L10Retreat2020)

### CALL FOR INTERESTED PARISHIONERS TO JOIN MYANMAR MISSION TRIP

SFX SiGN (Sowers in God's Name) will be organising their next mission trip to Myanmar **in the third week of March** (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 in this upcoming mission trip, or wish to find out more, please contact Anne (9741 9634) or Thud Chee (9632 3489) for more details.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AUDIO-VISUAL PROJECTS

The Marketing and Media Ministry (MMM) urgently needs help in the live streaming of masses that will be held in our new Community Hall to the Columbarium. This is in the interim while our Main Church is undergoing renovation. If you are tech savvy and are able to spare some time for the next few months (15 mins before and after each mass), please email [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) or contact Daryle at 9662 2267. Training will be provided for this task.

### GRAPHIC DESIGNERS, WE NEED YOU

Do you have an eye for design? Are you creative and proficient in Adobe InDesign? If the answer is YES, we want you! SFX's Marketing and Media Ministry (MMM) is looking for graphic designers to help with the design of parish collaterals. If you would love to exercise your artistic talents, look no further! Contact [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) for more information.

# Living out our faith

We are always told to live our faith, but what does it really mean? Living our faith is an everyday, outward expression of our love for God and what he is doing in our life. It may seem like an arduous task, but it really is not. Here are five ways to intentionally live our faith in simple, everyday actions.

## 1. BE A FRIEND

Being a good listener and attentive friend to those around you expresses Christ's love through you, shows others that you care, and that they are important to you. Choose to be intentional with your relationships and treat others how Jesus treated others. Be authentic, and inclusive, and your friends will see God's love shining through you.

*Who comes to mind when you think of who you could be a better friend to? Does someone come to mind that you might want to start a friendship with?*



## 2. USE YOUR GIFTS

The Lord has blessed each of us with unique gifts that we can use to further his Kingdom. Sometimes, we don't even realise we have those gifts, but they have been given to us for the purpose of living and sharing our faith.

*Think about the gifts God gave you. What is an easy way for you to put just one of those gifts into practice to glorify God?*



## 3. RADIATE POSITIVITY

Living your faith can be as simple as just having a positive attitude. Every morning, we have a choice to make as to whether or not we will be positive or look for all of the small things to worry about. There is always going to be something that goes wrong or does not go as planned, but we have the freedom to choose how we react to it, and we can choose to react by glorifying God with our attitude, and in turn, living our faith.

*Try to simply smile at one or two strangers today, you will be blessed by how it makes you feel and you never know what kind of impact it can have on their day!*

## 4. SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE

We all have things to be thankful for, but it can be easy to overlook them or take them for granted if we are not consciously recognising the blessings around us. Finding the time in your day to recognise and react positively to the things around you will open your eyes and the eyes of others to the kindness and blessings that God has provided for you.

*Go one step further, write a note or two to let someone know how grateful you are for them. Your simple words of encouragement will build them up and may cause a ripple effect.*



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

## UNIVERSAL - LISTEN TO THE MIGRANTS' CRIES

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

## IN THE MONTH OF JAN 2020

### CONDOLENCES

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

1. Annie Yim Yut Mei
2. Sarah Soh
3. Joseph Lee

### BAPTISMS

We welcome:

1. Chin En Ze Nathan
2. Lim Yi Le Alexander
3. Toh Hao Kai Jude
4. Yip Cheuk Lun Matthias Luke

## 5. DO YOUR BEST

At the end of the day, no one is perfect. We are all just trying to do our best and we will make mistakes. But consciously choosing to do your best in everything you do is an outward expression that you are following what God asks of us. By working for the Lord and doing things for his glory instead of your own, you are living your faith and showing a great example to others around you.



Adapted from the article "5 Easy Ways to Live Your Faith" (<https://www.dayspring.com/articles/5-easy-ways-to-live-your-faith>)



# FORMED Picks for February

## VIDEO: Peter and the Keys: The Primacy of the Church

What are the "keys of the kingdom" and why are they so important to understanding Peter's role in the Church? Dr Tim Gray takes us back to the Old Testament and the significance of the imagery the keys had to the office of the prime minister in the kingdom of King David. From there we can see how Jesus was restoring and perfecting both the kingdom and its offices in his Church.

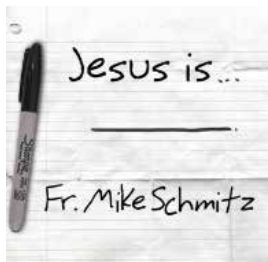


## VIDEO: Light of Love

We often have ideas of religious life, either kneeling in a convent or out in the streets assisting the poor. While both of these scenes are essential to the life as a sister, Light of Love takes a deeper look into understanding the call – the "why" of religious life. By interviewing five sisters from five orders across the United States, the film places viewers face to face in intimate conversations with these amazing women. What does it mean to be called? What are the struggles of religious life? How have you seen God move through your ministry? These questions and others are addressed throughout the film. With minimal music and simple visuals, Light of Love gives viewers a look into the lives, suffering, and joys of religious life captured in a way like never before.



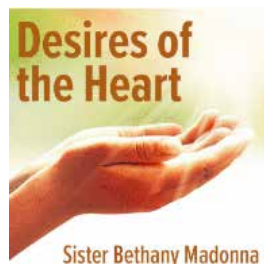
## AUDIO: Jesus is...by Fr Mike Schmitz



Fr Mike Schmitz, a renowned and beloved speaker and spiritual guide to the youth and young adults, discusses the all-important topic of God's existence. Armed with his usual repertoire of lively humour and sound philosophy, Fr Mike reveals the incredible implications of the question that Christ asks all of us: "Who do you say that I am?"

## AUDIO: Desires of the Heart: Receiving the Gifts of the Father by Sr Bethany Madonna

Sr Bethany Madonna, vocations director for the Sisters of Life, shares how God not only wants us to know him, but also to give us the desires of our heart and gifts that bring purpose, meaning and hope. She makes it clear that "receiving is the gift that we give" to the Lord and that he wants to be invited into every aspect of our lives. Speaking from her own experience, Sr Bethany shows the importance of asking in order to receive all the Lord has in mind for us.



## Free FORMED Access for SFX Parishioners

**Getting FORMED on your mobile**  
(Scan with your camera/reader app)

**iPhone users:**



**Android users:**



**New Viewers**

Go to <https://sfxchurch.formed.org/>.  
Fill out the registration form.  
A verification eMail will be sent to you.

**Existing Viewers**

if you forgot how to log in, go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org), look at the top right and click the LOGIN button. Use your own login email and password.

## 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

7am - 7pm

### 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](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)