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## Disciples *Making Disciples*

### *Ite Ad Joseph*

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary  
and Joseph  
27 Dec 2020

Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3  
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19  
Lk 2:22-40

While today's feast is widely known as the feast of the Holy Family, its proper title is the Feast of the *Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*. The Church has named each member of the Holy Family in today's feast in order to pay special attention to each of its members. The Holy Family, therefore, is not just Jesus' Family or Mary's. Nor is it simply a functionary institution through which Jesus was raised. Instead as the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, the Holy Family brought to perfection the Divine Will of God, through the individual sanctity of its members; forming the nucleus in which God Incarnate was raised, protected and nurtured.

Indeed, the role St Joseph as Christ's earthly father and his patriarchal role as protector and guide has often been overlooked. It is thus fitting that Pope Francis, considering the grave times we currently live in, has decided to proclaim the Year of St Joseph, invoking him as Patron of the Universal Church to guard the faithful and preserve our faith, especially in this time of need (*Patris Corde*). While St Joseph is often known as the legal father of Jesus, not many appreciate him as Patron of the Universal Church (Blessed Pius IX, *Quemadmodum Deus*). Being members of the Universal

Church, we can therefore look to St Joseph as our protector and personal patron.

It may seem odd that St Joseph, whose words are not recorded in the gospel, nor whose deeds are mentioned anywhere else besides the infancy narratives, should have such a pronounced devotion in our faith. On closer examination, we see that the honour due to him is not unfounded, for *God himself, chose Joseph to be his earthly father*. God found St Joseph to be a "just man" (Mt 1:19) who was not only responsive to divine will but obedient in its administration, despite any personal hardships which came his way.

This is most clearly illustrated by his complete trust in God's revelation in a dream to take Mary as his wife for she had conceived the Saviour of the world (cf Mt 1:20-21). He also heeded God's word to escape to Egypt to protect Jesus, even if it meant hardship and uncertainty. We thus see in St Joseph a true man of faith with "roots in the living waters of God's word, whose life was spent in dialogue with God and who

therefore brings forth constant fruit." (Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth*)

St Joseph is thus an example of a man who was "inwardly watchful for the divine... someone with a real sensitivity for God and His ways." (ibid) By his attentiveness to God, his words and deeds were no longer his, but God's; him fully becoming an instrument of God's will; God whom St Joseph so deeply loved that he was willing to do anything and everything for.

As a result of this, God out of love towards this just man gave him the greatest gift possible, the honour of becoming the father of Jesus. The divine poetry is especially significant when we consider that God's response to St Joseph's love was to become incarnate in the person of Jesus as St Joseph's son. *God, the Father of creation and the author of love itself thus chose to experience the earthly love of a father through the fatherhood of St Joseph!*

In this Year of St Joseph, let us invoke the help and intercession of St Joseph in times of trouble and despair. Asking him to help us to have a faith like his, to be able to love like him, and to be obedient to God as he was. *For it is through love of God and doing his will that we will truly be able to experience God's love and providence.* In the year ahead may St Joseph be for us a pattern of sanctity, especially in these uncertain times. And may we, like our forefathers before us, find strength in invoking the age-old prayer and anthem, "*Ite ad Joseph!*" (Go to Joseph)



*God, the Father of creation and the author of love itself thus chose to experience the earthly love of a father through the fatherhood of St Joseph!*

## Announcements

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

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed at the following times:

**Thu 31 Dec - Open till 12pm**  
**Fri 1 Jan - Closed**

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

It is available via appointment only. You can contact the Parish Office to make an appointment for the following time slots:

**Tuesdays & Fridays: 4pm - 6pm**  
**Saturdays: 10am - 12pm**

### TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intentions **1 WEEK** in advance and wait for the Finance Department to contact you. They will provide you with a "Reference No", MO xxx (eg MO 001). Key in the given referral number upon making payment via PayNow (**T08CC4033J**).

### RETURNING OLD PALMS

Do return your old palms to the boxes placed at the front foyer of Main Church from **1 - 31 Jan**. Please kindly remove all plastics bags and rubber bands.



### MEDIA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of committed volunteers to assist in our media ministry. If you have the gifts and talents, come serve with us to build the Kingdom of God and email [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) to find out more!



### SUBSCRIBE TO SFX TELEGRAM CHANNEL

Follow us through our official **TELEGRAM** channel at <https://t.me/sfxchurch>! You will receive the latest official announcements on parish-wide events/initiatives, reminders, mass timings and the church bulletin on your phone.



*As the new year approaches,  
our parish priests –  
Fr Benedict, Fr Cornelius, Fr Antony –  
would like to thank everyone for your  
generous support, prayers and love.  
Together with all our staff in SFX, we wish  
one and all, a Blessed Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!*



Scan the QR code to watch a special Christmas greeting from our beloved priests - Fr Benedict, Fr Cornelius and Fr Antony!

### BOOKING OF MASSES IN JANUARY 2021

Great News! From January, our Main Church will be ready to accommodate 150 parishioners for both weekday and weekend Masses. Booking for the first weekend Mass and all weekday Masses begin on **Tue 29 Dec, 12pm** via [myCatholic.sg](http://myCatholic.sg).

#### MASS TIMINGS

**Tuesday, Thursday: 6.30pm**

**Saturday: 5.30pm**

**Sunday: 9am, 11am, 1pm, 5.30pm**

**Tue 12 Jan, 12pm:** Booking for a second Mass for a weekend in January.

**Tue 19 Jan, 12pm:** Booking for a third Mass for a weekend in January.

To ensure that all who want to attend are able to get slots, we ask that you be gracious and book at least 2 days in advance, and only if you are sure you can attend. Do also remember to cancel your booking if you are unable to attend. **There will be two check-in points via the Main Church foyer & outside JPIL Hall.** Please come 20 minutes earlier and bring along your photo identification card for MARS booking verification.

#### TraceTogether Token/App Required:

As we enter into Phase 3, each individual is required to use the TraceTogether token or phone application to enter our church premises. Scanning SafeEntry QR codes with phone cameras, or through the SingPass mobile app or barcodes on NRIC, as well as 'Group check in' will not be possible.



**Let us do our part to help keep our parish community safe!**

### MASS COLLECTION

Your continuous generosity and donations will help contribute to our Parish's daily operations. You can make your offerings via the following options:

- 1. PayNow** - Launch the Paynow service on your bank's app or online website. Select "**Send via Unique Entity Number (UEN)**" and enter "**T08CC4033J**". Proceed to check entity name - **Church of St Francis Xavier**, then key in amount. Lastly, key in the reference - **Mass Collection**.
- 2. Cheque** - Payable to **Church of St Francis Xavier** and write '**Mass Collection**' behind the cheque. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.



# Year of St Joseph



## Pope Francis has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from 8 Dec 2020 to 8 Dec 2021.

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), the Pope describes St Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble St Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

According to the Pope, some important aspects of St Joseph that we can learn from include the following:

1. He trusted in the Lord, accepting even the events that he did not understand. Through St Joseph, it is as if God were to repeat to us: “Do not be afraid!” because “faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad,” and makes us aware that “God can make flowers spring up from stony ground.” Joseph “did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it.” For this reason, “he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak”.
2. Happiness for Joseph involved a true gift of self. “In him, we never see frustration, but only trust,” writes the Pope. “His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust.” Joseph stands out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that “needs fathers,” and not “tyrants”; a society that “rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction.”



## Prayer to St Joseph

The Pope encourages all of us to pray this prayer to St Joseph:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace,  
mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil.  
Amen.*

Adapted from <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html>

# CATHOLIC 200 SG

Celebrating 200 years  
of the Catholic Faith in  
Singapore since 1821



"I have come to bring  
fire to the earth, and  
how I wish it were  
blazing already!"

Luke 12:49

360,000 of us

IGNITE  
AND SHINE  
WITH FAITH

## CATHOLIC 200 SG PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Your Son commissioned His apostles to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Our founding missionaries left home and country so that we in Singapore may receive the Good News and Your loving salvation. Thank You for this gift of faith, and for all those who laboured to keep it alive and burning these two hundred years.

Lord Jesus, our faith is in danger of becoming irrelevant because of secularism, materialism, individualism and relativism. Grant our communities a renewed missionary zeal and courage to proclaim Your name and Lordship. Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew Your people with the conviction and courage of our early missionaries. Rekindle our faith so that we can be beacons of light in a world darkened by sin, hopelessness, and ignorance. Protect us from the snares of the evil one and grant us the grace to remain faithful to You.

May our families be models of love and unity; our workplaces be sanctuaries for justice and integrity; truth and charity be taught in our classrooms; parishes live out their mission in communion; the poor, sick, and abandoned see the face of God in us, and may peace and harmony reign among peoples of every race, language and religion in our land.

Blessed Mother, you were the first disciple and evangeliser to announce Jesus as Saviour to the world. Intercede and grant us your maternal guidance and protection as we navigate the uncertain future.

Father, may Your love and grace ignite our hearts and lead us to launch a new era of faith, so that we may once again be a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



Looking for more Information?  
visit [www.sfxchurch.sg](http://www.sfxchurch.sg)!

### Mass Timings

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Tue & Thur:**  
6.30pm

#### WEEKEND MASSES

**Sat Sunset:**  
5.30pm

*(There is currently  
no Novena at  
4.45pm)*

**Sun:** 9am, 11am,  
1pm, 5.30pm  
*(There is currently  
no Confession  
before Mass)*

#### MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Suspended until  
further notice

#### HOLY HOUR

Suspended until  
further notice

### Opening Hours

#### PARISH OFFICE

For pastoral care  
services (e.g.  
anointing, funerals  
etc), you may  
contact us before  
coming at the  
following hours.

#### Mon - Sat:

9.30am - 6.30pm  
**Sun:** 8.30am - 1pm

#### ADORATION ROOM

Closed until  
further notice

#### LIBRARY

Closed until  
further notice

#### COLUMBARIUM

<https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>  
*(by appointment only)*

### 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



For more information, please contact the Parish Office for Baptism of Infants.

### 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)