



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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On Riches, Ruin, and Redemption

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10 Oct 2021

Wis 7:7-11
Hebr 4:12-13
Mk 10:17-30

This Sunday's gospel often makes us uncomfortable. As a meritocratic and practical people living in a capitalistic Singapore, we cannot imagine being imprudent with our savings (read: wealth), let alone giving it *all* away.

There are two key messages in this Sunday's gospel that resist this worldly attitude.

First, Jesus warns us against the moral and spiritual dangers of being rich. He said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! ... It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." (Mk 10:23-25)

These are strong words. As GK Chesterton put it, "There is one thing that Christ and all the Christian saints have said with a sort of savage monotony. They have said simply that to be rich is to be in peculiar danger of moral wreck." (*Orthodoxy*)

Wealth is widely-perceived to present three dangers. One, having more begets wanting more. Hence, the adage that the only thing that people with money want is more money, or in other words, the capital sin of greed. Two, having more enables spending more. Where expenditure and consumption are excessive, there we find the capital sin of gluttony.

Three, wealth engenders the illusion of independence and security. As CS Lewis said, such riches "make you feel independent of God," (*God in the Dock*) or put another way, you fall into the sin of pride. Riches and wealth therefore go beyond material abundance to anything that can distance us from God and can be idolized – good fortune, health, popularity, wellbeing, etc. Chesterton was thus emphatic in denouncing the reliance on such riches: "The whole case for Christianity is that a man who is dependent upon the luxuries of this life is a corrupt man, spiritually corrupt, politically corrupt, financially corrupt."

The gospel's second and related key message is that we should give to the poor, or in the language of Catholic Social Teaching, have a preferential option for the poor. As Pope Francis points out in *Evangelii Gaudium* (EG), "The entire history of our redemption is marked by the presence of the poor... the Church has made an option for the poor which is understood as a 'special form of primacy in the exercise of Christian charity.'"

This is not just a social exhortation. For the Church, as Pope Francis clarifies in EG, the option for the poor is "primarily a theological category rather than a cultural, sociological, political, or philosophical one." If the measure of a Christian is how Christ-like that person is, then the poor have a special likeness to Christ, who was himself stripped naked and "for our sakes became poor." (2 Cor 8:9) Pope Francis thus urges all of us to "find Christ in [the poor]" and to "let ourselves be evangelized by them."

These two key messages are captured in Pope Francis' famous line: "I want a Church which is poor and for the poor." EG 198

But there is a third, more subtle, but perhaps more important message. Before Jesus told the rich young man to sell all that he owns, Jesus looked at him and "loved him." (Mk 10:21) Even before the young man was advised, much less decided, to give away what he owned, even before he decided (not) to follow Jesus, Jesus loved him *first*.

And this is how we will be redeemed – not through our good works of justice or charity, but through the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. If we give at all, it is because Christ gave himself first. If we love at all, it is because Christ loved us first. Lewis summed this up: "[the Christian] does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us."

Let us then anchor ourselves in Christ's love for us and may that inspire us to give of our riches to the poor as freely as he gave himself to all of us.



"I want a Church which is poor and for the poor."
– Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 198

Announcements

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

SSVP 2ND COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend, SSVP was able to raise **\$5,117.20** for Friends In Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of our activities. Please note that if you wish to make a cheque payment or PayNow, it should be payable to:

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)

- **OCBC Bank Account No:** 686 596 768 001
- **PayNow UEN:** S61SS0149B

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

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Please submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessoryprayer. All prayer requests are kept confidential. Join us online on **Fri 15 Oct, 8pm** to pray and intercede for others in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252
Password: SFXIP15OCT



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 reference number when making payment via PayNow (**T08CC4033**). Your intentions will be offered during our priests' private masses.

ARE YOU ON OUR MAILING LIST

Have you changed your address? Are you new to the parish? Please update your address and any other details with the Parish Office or send an email to secretariat@sfxchurch.sg.

October Mass Bookings

[HTTPS://MYCATHOLIC.SG](https://mycatholic.sg)

Tue 12 Oct, 12pm

3rd booking for all weekday Masses and one weekend Mass*

**Weekday Mass bookings for whole of Oct are open throughout the month and subject to availability with a cap of five weekday Masses per booking.*

Fully Vaccinated/PET Masses (180pax):

- **Fridays:** 8pm • **Saturdays:** 5.30pm
- **Sundays:** 9am, 1pm

Things to note:

- All Masses will be held in the Main Church. Entry for 50 persons Masses will only be via the Plaza.
- Mass bookings/cancellation may be made **1 hour** before Mass.
- Vaccinated parishioners should refrain from booking unvaccinated Mass slots.

MASSES FOR FULLY VACCINATED/PET INDIVIDUALS:

Admission Criteria:

✓ **Fully Vaccinated**
14 days after 2nd dose of Pfizer/Moderna/WHO EUL vaccines.

✓ **TraceTogether**
Check in via TraceTogether token/app.

✓ **Pre-Event Testing**
Taken from MOH-approved test provider. No earlier than 23 hours before Mass.

✓ **Children aged 12 years and below**
can participate in Pre-Event Testing (PET) or Vaccinated-only Masses. The total number of children allowed is no more than **20%** of worshippers present for the Mass.

✓ **Vaccination Proof**
ONLY local vaccination certificates or Health Hub vaccination proof are accepted.

✗ **Other Vaccines**
- Self-test Kit

For more information on the MOH guidelines, visit www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/pet



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**.



ONLINE ROSARY

Come join us as a parish community to pray together at the following timings

WEEKDAY DIVINE MERCY & ROSARY

tinyurl.com/SFXWeekdayRosary

Date & Time: Mon to Fri, 3pm

Meeting ID: 845 8298 0708

No passcode required

EVENING ROSARY DEVOTION

tinyurl.com/SFXRosaryGrp

Date & Time: Mon, Wed & Sat, 8.30pm

Meeting ID: 984 7131 7782

Password: 172017

ROSARY BY SALT

tinyurl.com/SFXTueRosary

Date & Time: Tuesdays, 8.30pm

Meeting ID: 867 1052 4234

Password: 465481

SUNDAY ROSARY BY LECTORS

bit.ly/SundayRosary

Date & Time: Sundays, 8.30pm

Meeting ID: 840 7232 7379

Password: 305946

OCTOBER CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

The Church is organising a nightly procession within the church grounds in honour of Our Lady from **1st to 31st October**. All SFX registered parishioners are invited to participate in the procession. All you need to do is register with your group (**a minimum of 6 and maximum of 30 persons per session**) on a first-come, first-served basis. For further enquires, please email to oct2021rosary@gmail.com.

Procession Schedule

Mon and Fri: 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat, Sun: 8pm - 9pm

Find out more and register: <https://tinyurl.com/SFXOctProcession2021>

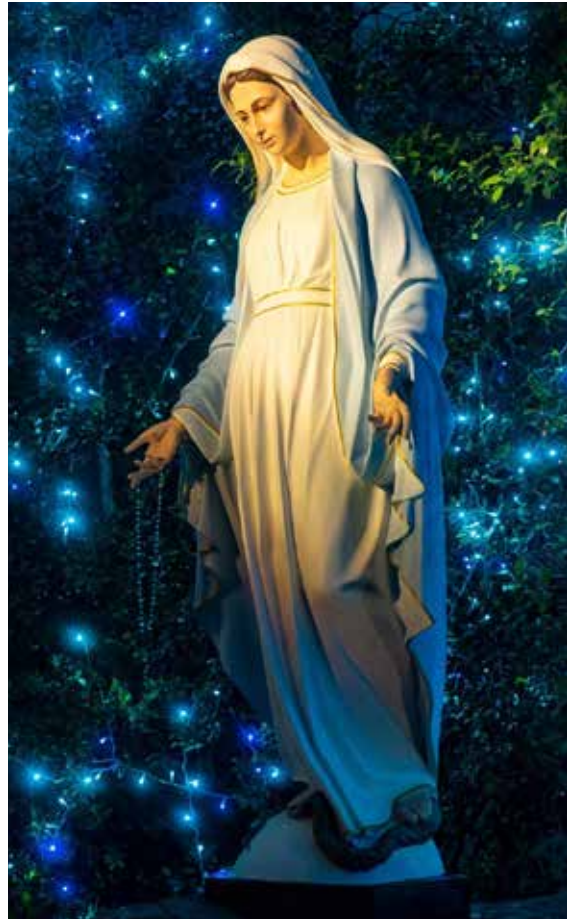




October: Month of the Holy Rosary

“The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God... and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary.” - Pope Saint Pius X

This month is dedicated to the Holy Rosary and we are invited to dive deeper and meditate on the life of Christ through the eyes of Mary. Our SFX premises are decorated with fairy lights to welcome our parishioners to come pray with our Blessed Mother. Let us also lift our prayers for all who are suffering from Covid-19 and the safety of all nations.



MEET THE SAINTS

Hi, I'm Saint
Francis of
Assisi!



During my life, Jesus appeared to me on the cross and told me to rebuild His church. I thought Jesus meant the chapel where I was praying, so I started carrying huge rocks to fix the walls of the church that were falling down. Later, I discovered that Jesus was talking about all the people in the church who forgot about loving God. I lived my life to remind people that God is in everyone by showing love to all God's children, even lepers.

Saint Francis of Assisi
Feast Day: October 4th

MyCatholicKids.com

Hi, I am Saint
Thérèse of
Lisieux!



Saint Thérèse of Lisieux
Feast Day: October 1

MyJesseTree.com



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

Mass Timings

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thu:
6.30pm

Fri:
8pm*

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset
5.30pm*

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

*Fully vaccinated/PET Mass

**MASS ON PUBLIC
HOLIDAYS**
9am

HOLY HOUR
Suspended until
further notice

Opening Hours

PARISH OFFICE

For pastoral care
services (e.g.
anointing, funerals
etc), you may contact
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

Mon to Sat:

10am - 12pm, 2pm - 4pm
Booking via
<https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>

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.

MASS OFFERING



Mass offering envelopes are available outside the Parish Office. Submit your envelopes at least one week 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