



Disciples Making Disciples



Parish Office:
6280 6076, secretariat@sfxchurch.sg



Parish Priest:
Rev Fr Benedict Chng
6288 0484, benedict.chng@catholic.org.sg



Little Shepherds' SchoolHouse@St Francis Xavier:
6280 8929, sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg

Assistant Priest
Rev Fr Cornelius Ching
6282 3151, cornelius.ching@catholic.org.sg

The Joy from Repentance

2nd Sunday of Advent
5 Dec 2021

Bar 5:1-9
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11
Lk 3:1-6

With the stress caused by the pandemic, the Church can appear cold and detached from the reality of ordinary people in making the Advent call to reflection and repentance.

After all, are we not enduring enough "penitential practices" by having our normal, happy routines of work, family, friends and recreation curtailed by pandemic restrictions? Why heap on additional stress by asking the faithful to go deep into themselves, confront their guilt and verbalise their shame through the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

For many of us, the process of examining our conscience is an uncomfortable one unless we have made it a regular habit and experienced its healing and liberation. Repentance is healing and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI says the vitriol we see today is a sign of unrepentance and suppressed guilt:

"...the aggressiveness... which we experience openly in our society – the lurking readiness to demean the other person, to hold others guilty...to want to change the world by violence...all of this can be understood only as an expression of the suppressed reality of guilt...as long as people suppress the truth... the Holy Spirit [will] 'convince the world of sin' (Jn 16:8). It is not a question here of making people's lives unpleasant... but rather simply of leading them to the truth and thus healing them... – [it is] not to humiliate us but to make us true and healthy, to 'save' us." (*In the Beginning... A Catholic*



Understanding of the Story of Creation and the Fall)

Our experience of guilt arises from "a law inscribed by God [in man's heart]... [in his conscience] he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths." (CCC 1776) Denying our sinfulness is an unbearable burden we will try to rid ourselves of by blaming others (cf 1 Jn 1:8; Gen 3:12). Peace comes only from letting the Holy Spirit bring our sins to light and give us grace for repentance and conversion (cf CCC 1433).

Repentance "saves" by leading us to accept human frailty and to see everyone as "a creature...*en route*". Created in God's image and likeness (cf Gen 1:26-27) the human being is where "heaven and earth touch one another...God enters into his creation." We are called by God to be "one with Christ and thereby be one with God himself." To accept our "creatureliness" is to acknowledge that "God alone... who is eternal love, created the world, and that it rests in his hands." (*ibid*)

God has also established a rhythm of worship so that "our life's rhythm moves in proper measure." The Israelites did not observe this worship mandated by God through the sabbath years (Lev 25). 2 Chronicles 36:21 tells us that the Babylonian deportation happened so that "the land enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept sabbath,

Denying our sinfulness is an unbearable burden we often try to rid ourselves of by blaming others. Peace comes only from letting the Holy Spirit bring our sins to light and give us grace for repentance and conversion (cf CCC 1433).

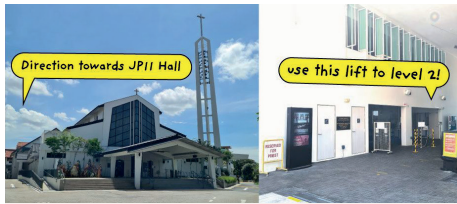
to fulfil seventy years." According to Pope Emeritus, the Israelites' neglect of the sabbath years "means the people had rejected God's rest, its leisure, its worship, its peace, and its freedom and so they fell into a slavery of activity. They brought the earth into the slavery of their activity...In their 'no' to the God-given rhythm of freedom and leisure they departed from their likeness to God and so did damage to the earth."

In the 70 years of soul-searching during her exile, Israel experienced deep remorse. Her repentance and conversion was evident to Baruch. Israel became especially aware that she was God's Elect - "the diadem of the Eternal"; she wore her "cloak of integrity" and looked after the needy (cf Neh 5); in her return to Jerusalem, her zeal for adherence to scripture and to purity made her the "beauty of the glory of God" to the nations around her (Is 55:5, Bar 5:1-3).

Understanding Israel's long exile as the consequence for neglecting the mandated time to encounter God's peace, we can perhaps better appreciate the Church's seasonal call to repentance. God has determined that we need these times of self-examination for our health and salvation. Can we say today that we are in touch with God? Are we resting in his peace and slowly but surely *en route* to being one with Christ?

Announcements

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



PARISH OFFICE HAS MOVED!

Please note that the Parish Office is now relocated to level 2 of the Parsonage.

SSVP 2ND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection by Society of St Vincent De Paul this weekend to help the poor and needy in monthly rations and other aid programmes. SSVP members will be at the atrium area. Please give generously. For cheque payments or PayNow, pay to:

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)

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

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 reference number upon making payment via PayNow (**T08CC4033J**).

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?



Please submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. Rest assured that all prayer requests are kept confidential. Join us online to pray and intercede for others in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. If you are joining us for the first time, please email intercessory@sfxchurch.sg for more information. All are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Date & Time: Fri 10 Dec, 8pm

Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252

Password: SFXIP10DEC



December Mass Bookings

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

Tue 7 Dec, 12pm

3rd booking of all weekday and weekend Masses, Usual policy of 1 weekend Mass, and 5 weekday Masses per booking session.

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



CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Booking: Tue 14 Dec, 12pm

Parishioners will only be able to book **either** a Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Mass, and not both, to enable as many parishioners to attend.

These will not count to parishioners' quota of 1 weekend Mass and 5 weekday Mass bookings for the month.

MASS TIMINGS:

Christmas Eve Masses (Fri 24 Dec):

- 50 pax: 4pm, 8pm
- 180 pax: 6pm, 10pm, 12mn

Christmas Day Masses (Sat 25 Dec):

- 50 pax: 11am
- 180 pax: 9am, 1pm

Holy Family Masses (Sun 26 Dec):

- 50 pax: 11am, 5.30pm
- 180 pax: 9am, 1pm

New Year's Eve Masses (Fri 31 Dec):

- 50 pax: 8pm
- 180 pax: 11pm

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**.

ADVENT JOURNEY WITH SFX CHILDREN'S LITURGY

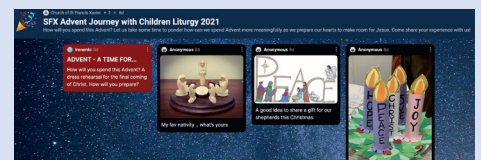
12 December is the third Sunday of Advent! Join us for the exciting activities on the SFX YouTube channel from **9am**, or at your own pace during the week.

Materials needed:

- ✦ Paper, Pen and Envelope
- ✦ Second Activity
- ✦ Empty Cardboard box
- ✦ Penknife or scissors
- ✦ Masking tape
- ✦ White Glue
- ✦ Dried leaves
- ✦ Holy Family Figurines
- ✦ Animal figurines

"Come, let us praise Yahweh JOYFULLY." - Psalm 95:1a

Please post photos of your work or the family participating in our weekly activities on our SFX Padlet Wall through this link <https://tinyurl.com/SFXAdventjourney2021>



CHOIR RECRUITMENT

We are recruiting musicians (non-wind instruments, eg. violin, cello, percussion, etc) and singers to serve at our Sunday Masses. Open to all who are 13 years and above. Liturgical music training will be provided. WhatsApp Christopher Wong at 8128 4797 for more information.

ADVENT PRAYER TREE

What better idea than to give someone in need the gift of intentional prayer this Christmas? Just as we did last year, think of someone to pray for - either to return to Church or be open to knowing the Lord. The prayer tags will be available for you to write your prayers and drop them into the box located outside the Parish Office.



CATHOLIC NEWS DESK TOP CALENDAR 2022

It is now available for purchase at \$5 from Parish Office during office hours, while stocks last! Please bring exact cash amount. This year's theme is 'Pray without ceasing' based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. This calendar is a rich spiritual resource, making it an excellent year-end gift. Order it as a gift for yourself, your loved ones and/or your colleagues.

The calendar includes:

- An inspiring prayer by holy Catholic men and women every month.
- Beautiful imagery that facilitates prayer and contemplation.
- Indication of major Church feast days, Public Holidays and school holidays.
- Ample space to jot down important information.

ADVENT RETREAT 2021

Join Discalced Carmelite friar Fr. Emmanuel Noel, OCD this Advent to learn more about Our Blessed Mother Mary, through the Gospel of St. Luke, and end off this mini-retreat with a guided reflection led by Carmelite friars Brothers Raphael and Luke.

There are 2 options for this Retreat. Both options consist of the **same content** presented. So please choose the option that suits your timing best.

Theme: Our Lady through the Lens of St. Luke

Option A

Two sessions of 1h 15 min each

- **Tues, 14 Dec, 8.15pm - 9.30pm**
- **Wed, 15 Dec, 8.15pm - 9.30pm**

Option B

One session of 2.5 hours

Sat, 18 Dec, 2pm - 4.30pm



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

CATECHISTS

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

IN THE MONTH OF NOV 2021

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couples:

1. Jervis Kang Qi Xiang & Goh Li Yi, Joey
2. Chen Binghui, Terence & Rachel Foo Siu Ying
3. Tan Wei Yang, Kelvin & Mariana
4. Tan Guowei Jack & Law Wee Wei, Jaslyn
5. Robert Law Ken De Boer & Tan Ziwen, Rachel
6. Seah Xianyang, Francis & Yollanda Basri Nurdin
7. Rodrigo Thomas Joseph Tiangco & Lee Ser Huay, Janice Teresa

CONDOLENCES

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

1. Wee Sip Tiong Mark
2. Patrick Yeo Swee Chay

BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Leigha Annette Long-Yam
2. Kang Jingyi Sophia
3. Kaylea Odilia Ong Qi En
4. Pio James Gammell-Lim

Feast Day Celebrations

As part of our parish Feast Day celebrations, a pilgrimage walk and a treasure hunt journey were organized over the weekend and were joined by some of our adventurous parishioners together with their invited family and friends. There were 63 participants for the walk and 65 participants for the treasure hunt. All in all, everyone enjoyed the journey and had a good experience. Not even the scorching heat of the sun or the heavy thunderstorm could dampen their spirits in completing the journey. Here are some of the comments from the participants.





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

Pilgrimage Walk

"I felt very blessed to take part in the pilgrimage walk. I knew no one at the start of the journey but had a good sharing session with everyone. From this journey, I learned to keep my mind and heart open to listen to everyone's journey with God and also learned to look out for one another. It has been a very fruitful and heart-warming journey. Thank you to the organizers and the amazing fellowships!" ~ **Jaslyn Low**

"We not only brought Jesus with us for the walk, we had Mother Mary with us too as we recited the rosary together as we walked. Prayer of St Francis at every church served as a reminder to us to follow the example of St Francis. A timely reminder as we begin this advent season, the Church's New year. Like St Francis, may we show compassion to those we encounter, treating them as if they were Christ himself. Let's look beyond ourselves and seek to comfort those who are suffering, whether it be physically or emotionally. St Francis, pray for us" ~ **Kristen**

Journeying with others and God through a prayer walk to various Churches in Singapore

SFX Pilgrimage Walk- 27 Nov 21



"The pilgrimage walk through the nature parks and under the scorching sun reminded me that in this journey with Jesus, there will be times where rest stops are few, the road is long and the only way is forward. But God showed me that I am not alone and that I can draw inspiration from those around who are also heading to the same destination. My time with the group may have been just a few hours, but they helped me take a step closer towards eternity." ~ **Tiffany**

"It was an interesting walk getting to visit three different churches as well as meet other parishioners. It was good to finally visit different churches after so many months of restrictions. It was also a new experience for me to carry the crucifix throughout the walk." ~ **Anne Rachel**

"I enjoyed the pilgrimage walk as it was my first time, a very meaningful time with personal prayers and reflection as I was praying the Divine Mercy prayer. I am thankful for the blessings and protection of Jesus and Mary as we visited the 3 churches."

~ **Anna, our eldest pilgrim**

Treasure Hunt

Discovering the hidden gems in our Church and neighbourhood in a fun way



"We thank the Lord for the fine weather on 28th November Sunday afternoon, granting our Treasure Hunters a joyous and fun-filled bonding time for the participants."

After their warming up exercises to the tune of "Disciples making Disciples" and Father Ben's blessings, they set off on their journey. Within a period of 2.5 hours, they trekked through our Church grounds and left their footsteps at Serangoon Gardens Circus, myVillage and Chomp Chomp Food Centre seeking answers to the questions posed.

The questions prompted the participants to Re-think how we are linked to our community. As each team brought with them an item related to our faith, they were Recharged by this connection to our Lord. Lastly their time physically together totally Reconnected them with each other." ~ **Andrew Toh**

"Thanks a lot to the organizing team from SALT community. Praise the Lord for the fine weather and for keeping us safe." ~ **Dan Lai and family**

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