



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Who am I?

3rd Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday
12 Dec 2021

Zeph 3:14-18
Phil 4:4-7
Lk 3:10-18

It is easy to lose track of one's true identity. We are labelled by wealth, power, status, achievements, even job titles. Advent reclaims the greatest existential truth of divine revelation - I am a child of God, made in the image of God (Gen 1:27). The Holy Spirit dwells in me; I am a consecrated holy temple; my mission, purpose and destiny are tied to my identity (CCC 782). *Gaudete* Sunday rejoices in the truth of our divine heritage.

Humans are embodied spirits, says St. Thomas Aquinas (ST I, q. 90, a. 2-3). Advent begins with the end in mind - **the coming of Jesus in majesty**, cataclysmic and frightening. Seen in the context of divine love and justice, our true identity transcends fear and embraces spiritual realities in anticipation of our destiny.

How we live determines our destiny. *Gaudete* Sunday shifts the focus to **Jesus' coming mysteriously into our lives**. Our relationship with Jesus keeps us tethered to our identity and shapes our behaviour. If our identity is corrupted, our relationship with Jesus needs an autopsy. John the Baptist is great because he is defined by a sublime relationship with the living God in Jesus Christ. He is defined by a relationship with love. That means like John the Baptist, we are extraordinary - if that is what defines us. Advent is a new beginning and a new conversion. Look into our hearts: What do I relate to? What is important to me? Am I in love with Jesus? Do I see Jesus in all things and in all relationships? Do I see



God's plan and salvation in all things?

Last week, we saw the importance of repentance and reconciliation. *Gaudete* Sunday exhorts us to take the next step: *"the proclamation of the Gospel and to active charity."* (CCC 1070) It is in touching lives that we experience the Advent joy of living out our identity through God's love and mercy. We need the grace of the Holy Spirit, in contemplation and prayer, to discern and bring to life, the gifts of God in us. Then only will our love bring joy and hope to those in need. When prayer-life penetrates lived-life, the relationship with Jesus becomes life-giving to both giver and receiver. When we touch lives, we heal ourselves too. *"It is in giving that we receive"* (St. Francis of Assisi). We shall see goodness, beauty & truth in everything and rejoice in all that is God. Equally important; discovering and nurturing our charisms through active charity is easier and more effective in driving out vices, than struggling with them in perpetual confessions and despair. This is because the two cannot go together. Such is the counterintuitive wisdom of God; his yoke is easy and his burden light (Mt 11:30). Evil is the absence of good, as darkness is the absence of light. Jesus warns that one *must be not* only emptied of evil but filled with divine goodness - otherwise we land ourselves in a state *"worse than the first"* (Lk 11:24-26). In today's

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- St. Irenaeus

Gospel, John the Baptist's preaching moves in the same trajectory, from repentance to social justice (Lk 3:11, 14), honesty (Lk 3:13), and generosity (Lk 3:11); (cf CCC 2447). Our vices are screaming for redemption. Give it an outlet through works of charity this Advent and Christmas.

"The glory of God is man fully alive, but the life of man is the vision of God." (St. Irenaeus)

Only God and his holy will can fill the void in our hearts. Desire and faith are the only prerequisites. Do not be caught off-guard like the foolish bridesmaids - it will be too late when Jesus finally comes again: *"Truly, I say to you, I do not know you"* (Mt 25:11-12). Have a personal relationship with Jesus now. John the Baptist was not the light but speaks for the light. If we are dim, rededicate ourselves to Jesus; bright but legalistic like the Pharisees, it is carcinogenic and realignment is urgently needed. We must shine brightly with the love, compassion and kindness of Jesus that is attractive and life-giving. Look beyond secular labels of who we are. Rejoice in our transcendental identity and relationship with the living God. It is the ticket to immortality; priceless, but free.

Announcements

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

IGNITE200 FUND COLLECTION

All collections on **Sat 11 Dec** Concurrent Mass will go toward the Ignite200 fund. Your contribution will support the organising costs of CATHOLIC200SG and the future of the Catholic Church in Singapore. You may also make your contributions via PayNow to UEN **201231391KIGN**, or scan the QR code. If you prefer to give physically, please ready your contributions before you leave the Church. We appeal to all to give generously.



SSVP 2ND COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend, SSVP was able to raise **\$5,529** for our Friends In Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of our activities. 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 17 Dec, 8pm
Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252
Password: SFXIP17DEC



Welcome Fr. Nathanial!

A warm welcome to Fr. Nathanial Xavier from Tanjore, India, who joins us as an Assistant Priest at SFX. Do say hello if you see him around!

Christmas Mass Bookings

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

Tue 14 Dec, 12pm

4th 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

ADVENT JOURNEY WITH SFX CHILDREN'S LITURGY

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

Please share the spirit of love this season by offering a food basket (non-perishables) for a family registered with the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul. There are 23 Families. Please contact (Monica - 9691 0599/ Craig - 9451 8256) to let us know that you are offering a gift basket so that we will know that we have enough for the families.

Please drop your gift basket during office hours from 10am to 5pm at JPII Hall (Parsonage Centre), from 20 - 22 Dec and SVDP will distribute the gifts to the families for Christmas!

Materials needed:

Activity 1

- Crepe/craft paper
- Vanguard sheets
- Stapler or glue

Activity 2

- Variety of canned food and goodies
- Reused basket/tray
- Cellophane paper
- Ribbon for tying

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**.

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 RETREAT 2021: OUR LADY THROUGH THE LENS OF ST. LUKE

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.



Sign up at tinyurl.com/adventcarmelite2021

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

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. Drop them into the box located outside the Parish Office.

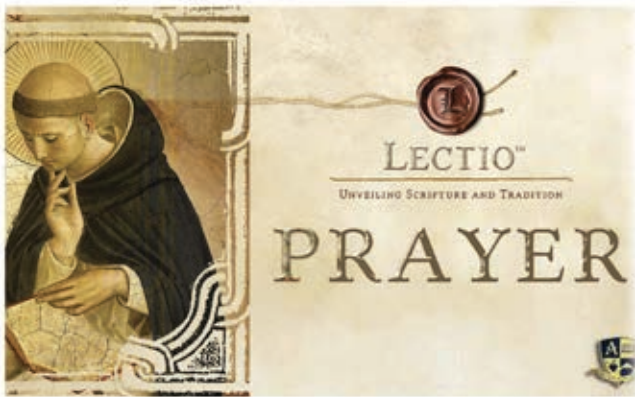


CATHOLIC NEWS DESK TOP CALENDAR 2022

It is now available for purchase at \$5 from the 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. Buy it as a gift for yourself, your loved ones and/or your colleagues.

CATHOLIC 200 SG CONCURRENT MASS

The 200th Anniversary Mass Will Be Celebrated Concurrently Across All 32 Parishes at 6PM on 11 December 2021.



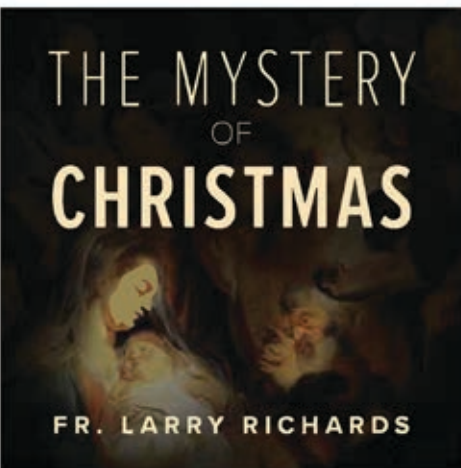
Lectio: Prayer — An Intimate Dialogue

St John of the Cross, Doctor of the Church, had a deep desire to help others grow in prayer. In honour of this mystical saint, join Dr Gray as he dives into the simplicity and mystery of prayer.



Saint Teresa of Ávila: A Study in Perseverance

Both St John of the Cross and his dear friend St Teresa of Ávila lived heroic lives of prayer. In honour of these spiritual masters, enjoy this film depicting the Carmelite way of life and the virtue of perseverance.



The Mystery of Christmas by Fr Larry Richards

In this talk, Fr Larry Richards reminds us that in the mystery of Christmas, God gives humanity his greatest gift — the gift of his Son to the world.



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