



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Jesus, Master Recruiter

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
6 Feb 2022

Is 6:1-2A, 3-8
1 Cor 15:1-11
Lk 5:1-11

Leaders usually ask questions to draw attention to issues. But in today's Gospel, Jesus uses instructions to draw Peter to his vocation. The instructions are easy to understand but hard to obey. They are tests, examining the heart, not the head. The process and self-discovery are more important than perfection of the tasks.

The Gospel opens with Jesus getting into Peter's boat uninvited. The first test seems easy: *To put the boat out a little from the shore* (Lk 5:3). Peter complies, giving priority to the Lord. He overcomes fatigue and frustration from a futile night of fishing and stops washing his nets. His detachment from personal needs points to "holy indifference", reminiscent of Mary's visitation to Elizabeth (Lk 1:39). Theologian Fr Hans Urs von Balthasar says "holy indifference" is the serenity "to let God dispose of one as God sees fit."

After preaching, Jesus fires the second instruction, a lure: *"Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch."* (Lk 5:4) Should a professional fisherman obey the amateurish instruction of a carpenter? Logic holds him back while the enigmatic Jesus beckons with his words and works: for Peter was on the same boat where Jesus had just preached and had earlier witnessed the mysterious



"Man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart"
- 1 Sam 16:7

healing of his mother-in-law (Lk 4:39). Peter takes the bait: *"[we've caught nothing all night], but if you say so, I will pay out the nets."* (Lk 5:5) Peter's humility engenders obedience; the hallmark of Mary's response to Angel Gabriel at the annunciation (Lk 1:38).

In the face of the miraculous catch, Peter recognises Jesus' divinity, confessing his sinfulness and unworthiness (Lk 5:6-8). In the first reading, Isaiah experiences the same unworthiness (Is 6:5). In both callings, their imperfections and sinfulness are magnified in the presence of divine holiness (CCC 208). God chooses the weak and imperfect, so that they can be strong in Him (2 Cor 12:9-10). There is a motif in God's choice of leaders: *"Man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart."* (1 Sam 16:7) David, Peter, Paul, ... etc all follow this pattern. But no one can be a disciple of Jesus without first admitting their sinfulness. With Peter's confession, Jesus calls him to mission: *"Do not be afraid; from now on, it is men you will catch."* (Lk 5:10) Peter's occupation points to his future mission and vocation. We are reminded of our evangelical role in secular space and affairs (*Lumen Gentium* 31).

God works in ways appropriate to the human soul. He plants "seeds" of grace, which grow gradually. Peter learns to understand and appreciate great truths gradually. Divine grace uses human nature and its learning

style rather than setting it aside. God works the same way in the Sacraments. It is the highway to heaven but its efficacy depends on the state of the receiver since one must be properly disposed to receive grace. Therefore, it also depends on the state of one's faith. As St. Augustine said after his conversion: *"The God who created us without us will not save us without us."* Love is freely given and freely received - therefore we obtain grace by freely cooperating with God (CCC 2002). Grace is not deposited - like into a bank account. God desires that we act and choose, like Peter.

Jesus' use of Peter's boat as a platform to preach and teach, is seen by ancient Church Fathers as a symbol of Peter's primacy as leader of the Church. The Roman rite and the successor of Peter has a certain charism, that goes all the way back to this day in Galilee. The proof is in the pudding: the largest group of Catholics is the Roman rite, and the largest church in the world is the Roman Catholic Church. Despite more than two thousand years of controversies and schisms, the Roman Catholic Church has outlived all human institutions led by the intelligentsia and the elite. The only plausible explanation is its divine signature. What the Lord promises, he delivers: *"You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* (Mt 16:18)

Announcements

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

SSVP 2ND COLLECTION

This weekend, there will be a second collection by Society of St Vincent de Paul to help the poor and needy in monthly rations and other aid programmes. SSVP members will be at the atrium area. Please give generously.

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)

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

RETURNING OLD PALMS

Do return your old palms to the boxes placed at the front of Main Church Foyer/JPII Hall/Choir Entrance from **1 - 28 Feb**. Please help to remove all plastic bags and rubber bands.



HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

You may submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. All prayer requests are kept confidential. Join us online every Monday to pray and intercede in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Date & Time: Mon 7 Feb, 8pm

Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252

Password: SFXIP7FEB



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**).

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 7 Feb, 8pm**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Bible Sharing. All are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 884 2477 8685

Password: HOLYSPIRIT



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

FOR RELIGIOUS SISTERS AND CONSECRATED WOMEN

We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

February Mass Bookings

From 1 Feb, all Masses registered through mycatholic.sg will be strictly for the vaccinated. If you are unvaccinated and would like to attend Mass, please register your contact details with the Parish Office by Sun 13 Feb.

Tue 8 Feb, 12pm

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

UPDATED MASS CAPACITY:

- Tue & Thurs: 100 pax
 - Fri and ALL weekend Masses: 180 pax
- All Masses are Vaccinated Masses.

Things to note:

- Mass Entry: Tue & Thur Masses via Church Foyer, all other Masses via Church Foyer and Choir Entrance.
- Mass bookings/cancellation may be made **1 hour** before Mass.

Admission Criteria:

- Fully vaccinated, as indicated by TraceTogether or HealthHub status.
- Recovered from COVID-19 infections and granted a 180-day exemption period (including unvaccinated or partially unvaccinated) & have an official MOH Discharge Memo.
- Medically ineligible for vaccination, as indicated by either TraceTogether or HealthHub status or an official certificate issued by MOH.
- Children aged 12 years and younger (born on or after 2010)

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



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**.

COME, ADORE AND PRAY WITH JESUS

John Paul II Hall is available for silent prayer every **Wednesday** from **7pm to 10.30pm**. No booking is required, but a maximum of 25 people at one time will be allowed. It will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The usual safe distancing measures are applicable.

IN THE MONTH OF JAN

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couples:

1. Justin Choo Jan Wen & Debra Elizabeth Quek Pei Ling
2. Timothy Tan Cheung Sien & Yong Hui Min, Clarice
3. Julian Yew Wei Xiang & Kelly Ann Rodrigues
4. Chia Kok Leong, Ignatius & Li Huiling, Michelle

BAPTISMS

We welcome:

1. Emma Grace Wong Xuan Min
2. Beatrice Wong Yee Ting
3. Chen Le Xuan, Jera Micaiah
4. Benedict Tan Geok Cheang

FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK

February 6, 2022

WATCH

BERNADETTE

Millions of people each year go on pilgrimage to Lourdes, a place where miracles frequently occur. Explore the origins of this miraculous place of encounter with the Lord in this movie which depicts Mary's apparitions to St. Bernadette.



FORMED® *Now!*

How and Why to Pray the Rosary
with Dr. Tim Gray & Dr. John Sehorn

FORMED NOW! HOW AND WHY TO PRAY THE ROSARY

As we celebrate Our Lady of Lourdes this week, we invite you to learn more about the Rosary! Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn as they discuss how they pray the Rosary and how it has changed their lives!

LEARN

LISTEN

TRUTH TO INSPIRE: ST. BERNADETTE OF LOURDES

This inspiring story depicts St. Bernadette and her encounters with the Blessed Mother. Learn more about the saint who Mary appeared to eighteen times!

St. Bernadette of Lourdes



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

5 Essential saints to accompany you and your family through 2022

The start of a new year brings a mix of excitement and anxiety for what is to come. As we face 2022 with COVID still very much in our lives, there seems to be a lot more uncertainty, fatigue, and stress in the air. To help you and your families face the year armed with some hardcore spiritual support, here's a selection of go-to saints to lean on for whatever hardships may lie ahead...



To deal with financial woes — St. Matthew

For job loss and economic stability, look to St. Matthew, the tax collector who became one of the 12 Apostles and wrote one of the four Gospels. He took a leap of faith to follow Jesus, and it is this same faith that we need to hold on to see us through tough times.

To strengthen mental health — St. Oscar Romero

For those facing stress or mental exhaustion, there are a number of saints to draw from, but the Salvadoran prelate St. Oscar Romero seems particularly pertinent for this COVID era.



The archbishop actually visited a psychiatrist in 1966 suffering from exhaustion. He was diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive personality disorder, something his fellow priests referred to as scrupulosity, a spiritual equivalent to OCD.

His exhaustion is something many people can relate to, and the call for us to scrupulously follow strict hygiene measures, which have become obsessive for some, is something that makes the much-admired saint a wonderful intercessor.



To give your kids a boost — Blessed Carlo Acutis

Our children have really borne the brunt of COVID, with family life, social life, and schooling being turned upside down. (And that's not to mention the anxiety many have felt for their aging relatives.)

Yet the popular young saint Blessed Carlo Acutis is a shining example for all youngsters today. The relatable teen used his impressive IT skills to document Eucharistic miracles in his final months. His efforts were a testament to his faith, and a reminder that technology can be a force for good for our screen-loving kids.

To fight COVID — St. Casimir

If you or a loved one contracts the virus, invoke St. Casimir, the patron saint of plagues, for a physical and spiritual remedy.

The 15th-century prince of the Kingdom of Poland spent much of his life devoted to the sick and eventually died at the age of 25 from tuberculosis, a respiratory illness that was linked to the plague at that time.



To re-connect with friends and family — St. Joseph

One of the legacies of a long-lasting pandemic is that many people have become more insular and feel disconnected from friends and family. So it's time to call on one of our most powerful intercessors, who represents all that is beautiful about family life — Jesus' earthly father, St. Joseph.

In fact we're cheating a little here. After all, St. Joseph is someone you can call on for a myriad of reasons and a saint we can embrace throughout our lives.

Extracted from <https://aleteia.org/2022/01/04/5-essential-saints-to-accompany-you-and-your-family-through-2022/>



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

Mass Timings

VACCINATED WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thu:
6.30pm

Fri:
8pm

VACCINATED WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset
5.30pm

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

VACCINATED 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