



**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:
6011 1076, lss-cosfx.admin@catholicpreschool.edu.sg

Assistant Priest:
Rev Fr Nathaniel Xavier
6280 8331
xavier.nathaniel@catholic.org.sg

Prayer – A Relationship

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
24 July 2022

Gen 18:20-32
Col 2: 12-14
Lk 11:1-13

While praying petitions can help us weather the storms of life, God often calls us to something deeper in prayers.

St John Damascene describes prayers as *"the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God."* In Jesus, life was prayer & prayer was life. He prayed early in the morning, often the whole night, before and after great events, and especially when life was unusually busy. Prayer is a living relationship with God.

Jesus leads us progressively toward the Father in the Lord's Prayer. (CCC 2786 - 2865) Also called the "Our Father", the prayer denotes foremost a familial relationship between God as Father and we as his adopted children. It develops in us the will to become like him and fosters a humble and trusting heart.

"In the Our Father, the object of the first three petitions is the glory of the Father: the sanctification of his name, the coming of the kingdom, and the fulfilment of his will. The four others present our wants to him: they ask that our lives be nourished, healed of sin, and made victorious in the struggle of good over evil." (CCC 2857) - long version of the Lord's Prayer (Mt 6:9-13).

The Lord's Prayer is not just a prayer but also a framework and attitude for praying. St Thomas Aquinas explains: *"The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers . . . This prayer*

not only teaches us to ask for things, but also in what order we should desire them." However, when prayers are not answered, we are reminded that God is not an instrument to be used, but a provider for what is good for us (CCC 2735-36).

Words alone are not sufficient for prayers - the Holy Spirit is needed (CCC2766). In the parable of the persistent friend, Jesus wants us to pray more relentlessly for the gift of the Holy Spirit than for the necessities of life. Prioritising holiness is a call to trust in the Father's care (Phil 4:6). This is not an excuse for laziness in practical matters (2 Th 3:6-13). So if we ask the Father for the Holy Spirit, he's not going to deny us, just as an earthly father would not deny his child's request for bread, a fish or an egg. (Lk 11:13). Also important is the manner in which we intercede. We are not merely to recite petitions but to pray relentlessly, persistently and even desperately - like the friend in the parable who pounds on the door until he gets some bread.

We see in the 1st Reading, the same audacity and persistency in the intercession of Abraham. Tempered with humility, Abraham lowers himself: *"I who am but dust and ashes."* (Gen 18:27), before bartering with God to spare Sodom from destruction, if 50, then 40, ... and finally 10 righteous men can be found. Abraham's prayer is a model for persistent, humble prayer of intercession.

"Lord, teach us to pray" (Lk 11:1) is more a question of imitation than a request for another vocal prayer. Jesus does not give us a formula to repeat mechanically (Mt 6:7) - in praying, we should meditate and contemplate.

In the "Interior Castle", St. Teresa of Avila, Doctor of the Church (Prayer), describes meditation

as an attentive reflection using scripture (Our Father qualifies) or other spiritual reading as a conversation starter to discern and respond to the Lord's prompting. This leads to contemplation - a supernatural prayer. Here, God takes the impetus - he captivates the mind, body and soul as they are progressively surrendered. Contemplation culminates in a trance-like simple gaze of faith, fixed on Jesus. St John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests describes his experience: *"I look at him and he looks at me."*

Spiritual theologian Fr Jordan Aumann explains that in contemplation, God re-makes us in his image and likeness. We are literally being deified by God and beginning to participate more and more in his divine nature (2 Pe 1:4). This supercharged relationship with God empowers love and relationship with others.

"The closer one approaches to God, the simpler one becomes." (St Therese of Lisieux)

Spend more time in Eucharistic adoration. Contemplate on the Lord. When you lose your life, you will find it (Mt 10:39).



***"I look at him
and he looks at me."***
- St John Vianney

Announcements

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

**SCAN QR CODE
FOR MASS HYMNS**
www.sfxchurch.sg/mass



CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 25 Jul**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Mass celebrated by Fr Ben. All are welcome!

Venue: Parish Hall
(Parish Centre, Level 3)

Time: 8pm - 10pm

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Pope St John Paul II said, "Art has a unique capacity to take one or other facet of the message and translate it into colors, shapes and sounds which nourish the intuition of those who look and listen".

We'd like to ignite and shine with faith through Art@SFX by calling for you to share your creative talents with us. Your pieces will be used to decorate our parish! Contact Craig (9451 8256) to register your interest or if you have any questions.

Details

Theme: "He makes all things new"

Requirements:

1. Medium: Oil/Acrylic/Mix Media/ Watercolour, mounted on a 60cm x 60cm canvas
2. A video synopsis of not more than five minutes to share the inspiration behind this art piece

Submission Deadline: Fri 30 Sep

CATHOLIC PRAYER SOCIETY: MARY, THE FIRST DISCIPLE

Sign up for this four-part online talk by Mgrs Ambrose Vaz as he shares why and how we can imitate our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Apostles and First Disciple of our Lord.

Registration is required for admission.

Dates: 8, 15, 22 & 29 Aug 2022 (Mondays)

Time: 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Venue: Zoom

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/CPSTalksMotherMary>

JULY MASSES

Online Mass bookings are no longer required. Seating capacity for Weekend Masses has been increased to 700 for VDS* Masses and 500 for Non-VDS* Masses.

NON-VDS MASSES (500 PAX):

- Weekday Masses (EXCEPT SPECIFIED SOLEMNITY MASSES)
- Sat 6.30am, Sun 7am, Sun 5.30pm

VDS MASSES (700 PAX):

- Sat 5.30pm, Sun 9am, Sun 11am

As per MCCY guidelines, we regret that we may have to refuse entry when the maximum capacity has been reached.

* Vaccination-Differentiated

MASS TIMES

Please note that we now have more Weekday Masses. The updated Weekday Mass Schedule is as follows:

Tue - Sat 6.30am

Mon - Thu 6.30pm; **Fri** 8pm

THINGS TO NOTE

- Trace-Together App/token and ID **NOT REQUIRED** for Weekday & Sat AM Masses except specified Solemnity Masses
- Trace-Together App/token and ID **REQUIRED** for VDS Masses for Vaccination status verification and headcount
- ID **REQUIRED** for Sunday non-VDS Masses for headcount
- Mass Entry: Weekday & Sat AM Masses - all doors; Sun 7am Mass - Choir Entrance only; all other Weekend Masses - Choir Entrance and Foyer

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'. Please write 'Mass Collection' behind the cheque. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

RCIA/RCIY 2022/2023 - THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

Do you know of anyone who is interested in embarking on a journey of faith? Or perhaps someone who has felt a stirring in their heart and is seeking answers to questions, or even peace in their struggles? We encourage you to reach out to them and invite them to join us in RCIA and RCIY.

New RCIA Journey (24 years old and above)

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: JPII Hall (Parsonage, Level 1)

Register: tinyurl.com/sfxrciasignup

For enquires: 9827 6893 (Lloyd)/
8112 8041 (Grace)



New RCIY Journey (13 - 23 years old)

Date: Every Sunday

Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm

Venue: Jeremiah
(Parish Centre, Level 2)

Register: tinyurl.com/SFX-RCIY-2022-23

For enquires: 9002 9977 (Angela)/
9675 5698 (Corinne)



For 2022 RCIA/Y Journey testimonials, visit <https://tinyurl.com/sfxrciy22testimonials>

LANDINGS SINGAPORE: WELCOMING CATHOLICS SEEKING A RECONNECTION

There will be a new 10-week programme which runs from **5 Sep to 14 Nov**, every Monday from **8pm - 10pm**. A weekend retreat will take place at the end of this programme on **12 and 13 Nov**. All sessions will be held in person at the Church of the Holy Spirit. We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the faith to register. For more information on Landings, please email singapore@landings.org.sg or visit www.landings.org.sg

Returned!

This event, which includes testimonies, will give you an understanding of Landings, and an opportunity for any clarifications you may have.

Date: Fri 5 Aug 2022

Time: 8pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Church of the Holy Spirit

Register: bit.ly/3AbeUMB

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE



SFX BAT is offering an eight-session course on Salvation History, Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible. It will be held on Zoom over eight Fridays, **8pm - 10 pm**, starting **12 Aug 2022**. You would need to first sign up for online access - Scan the QR Code for more details.

IN FAITH WE BRAVE THE STORM

The Cantonese Retreat 2022 will be held at the Church of Sts Peter and Paul with activities including rosary recitation, praise and worship, testimonies, healing and Holy Mass.

Date: Tue 9 Aug 2022
Time: 9am - 6pm
Venue: Church of Sts Peter & Paul



MUSIC IN THE LITURGY - BY FR JJ FENELON

The liturgical music ministry has invited Fr JJ Fenelon to give a talk on Music in the Liturgy. All are welcome to attend! Register at tinyurl.com/MusicLitTalk2022

Date: Fri 29 July 2022
Time: 8pm
Venue: Hosea Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)



FORMED® *PICK OF THE WEEK*

WATCH

SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA: SOLDIER FOR CHRIST

At the end of the month, we celebrate the feast of St Ignatius of Loyola, the "Soldier for Christ." While Martin Luther's interior troubles plunged Europe into a maelstrom of controversy, Ignatius of Loyola set out on an extraordinary interior pilgrimage of grace. Taught directly by God, Ignatius offered the Church a new spirituality of devoted service to Christ and founded a religious order dedicated to evangelisation, the Jesuits.



LEARN

FORMED NOW! DOES FAITH TAKE A VACATION?



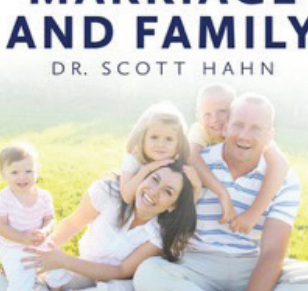
As many of us embark on sunny vacations, it is important to make sure our faith remains front and centre in our lives. Since it's easy for us to be distracted by the excitement of the summer rhythm, Dr Ben Akers and Dr Scott Hefelfinger discuss what we can do to make sure we do not let the spiritual life take a back seat.

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

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY: LOVE UNVEILED BY DR. SCOTT HAHN

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

DR. SCOTT HAHN

A photograph of a family of five posing in a grassy field. A woman is crouching in the center, smiling, with a young girl on her back. A man is crouching to the right, also smiling, with a young boy on his back. A young girl is standing to the left. They are all wearing light-colored clothing. The background is a bright, hazy landscape.

Fill in the blanks to complete the "Our Father."
Use the letters from the numbered boxes to fill in the blanks at the end.

Our _____, who art in
_____, hallowed be thy
_____. Thy _____ come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
_____ us this day our _____
_____ and _____ us our
trespasses as _____ forgive those who
_____ against _____ and
_____ us not into temptation but
_____ us from _____.



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

OPENING HOURS

MAIN GATE

Mon - Sun:
5am - 11pm

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

***For Vaccinated Only**

ADORATION

Mon - Sun:

Closed on Public Holidays

COLUMBARIUM

Mon to Sat:

10am - 6pm
*Closed on Sundays and
Public Holidays.*



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.



Spiritual preparation is held on the last Friday of every odd month. Baptism is held on the first Sunday of the following month. For registration, please refer to our website.



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.



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 envelopes are available outside the Parish Office. Submit your envelopes at least two weeks in advance of your intended date. Please write the names clearly, and in block letters.

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg