



THE MANNA

Church of St Francis Xavier

63A Chartwell Drive,
Singapore 558758



Disciples *Making Disciples*



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Choose Salvation

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lay Apostolate Sunday
21 Aug 2022

Is 66:18-21
Hebr 12:5-7, 11-13
Lk 13:22-30

"Sir, will there only be a few saved?" (Lk 13:23), someone asked Jesus while he was making his way to Jerusalem. Isn't that a question we would all like to have an answer to? Perhaps in many of our hearts, the more pertinent question we really want answered is "Sir, will I be saved?"

Elsewhere in Scripture, God reveals that he "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim 2:4) And God's actions confirm his word when he "gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (Jn 3:16) Jesus, Son of God, through his sacrifice on the cross became an expiation for our sins and the sins of the whole world (1 Jn 2:2) and by his Ascension, draws all man to himself. (Jn 12:32) Jesus also tells us "Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened." (Lk 11:9) In light of all these truths, it becomes clear that God has offered to everyone every grace necessary and more, to enter into eternal bliss in Heaven. What then are we to make of Jesus' answer, that "many will try to enter [the Kingdom of Heaven] and will not succeed" (Lk 13:24)?

Jesus does not sugar coat the fact that entering the kingdom of God will require our best efforts! In the face of God's grace of salvation,

we are called to respond with the obedience of faith to the teachings of Jesus Christ. (Rm 1:5) Although we eat and drink Jesus himself in the Eucharist at every Mass, and listen to him teach us through his Priests, Jesus could still say "I do not know where you come from." (cf Lk 13:25-27) Simply coming to Mass every Sunday may not be enough if our lives do not change.

It is true that there are many who truly and sincerely believe in Jesus Christ and are baptised. But sadly, far too many do not lead Christian lives, who on a daily basis do things that are grievously abhorrent in the sight of God. Far too many are self-satisfied in having performed the outward observances of religion but who conduct their lives in a manner that is not well pleasing to God. These are those who say "Lord, Lord" but do not do the will of the Father in Heaven (Mt 7:21) And when their time on earth is over and the door to heaven is shut, Jesus will say to them, "I do not know where you come from; away from me, all evil doers!" (Lk 13:27)

We do not want to be "practicing Catholics" with whom God is not well pleased. God hates envy, immorality, selfishness, impurity, anger, dishonesty. He calls us and gives sufficient graces to live

a Christian life. Most of all, God wants us to be chaste, kind and true to our profession of faith. It is a tall order, but the second reading today also gives us hope. When we falter in our Christian lives and are at risk of turning away from it, God's love will discipline and reprimand us to get us back on track. The reprimand may be most painful at the time and far from pleasant, but "suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (Rm 5:3-5) In the end, the disciplining from God will bear fruit in peace and righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Hebr 12:11)

On this Lay Apostolate Sunday, we are reminded of our duty to go out and spread the Kingdom of God to our fellow men. However, we are also reminded to regularly examine our conscience and give our best efforts to practice our Catholic faith at home, at work, with our relatives, our friends and our enemies. When we fail to do so, we must repent because simply going to Mass does not entitle us to Heaven. Let us pray that God will grant us perseverance to the end.



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



FAULTY CHURCH PEWS?

Spot any faulty or damaged pews in church? Scan the QR Code to share with us at tinyurl.com/SFXFacilitiesReport



GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend, there will be a call for contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese by making a monthly giving pledge. Or give via PayNow (UEN: 201231391K). More info at catholicfoundation.sg



INTERCESSORY

Come storm heaven with us in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Date: Mon 22 Aug 2022

Time: 8pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 22 Aug**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Holy Mass celebrated by Fr Nathaniel. All are welcome!

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: SFX Parish Hall
(Parish Centre, Level 3)

THE MASS EXPLAINED (PT 2)

Come join us for a 2-part series of talks by Rev Fr JJ Fenelon on the liturgical celebration. Love offerings are welcome! Organised by the Lectors Ministry. All are welcome!

Date: Tue 23 Aug 2022

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: SFX Parish Hall
(Parish Centre, Level 3)

AUGUST 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:

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

The Rosary will be prayed 30 mins before all weekday Masses.

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**.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Come join us for Sunday Fellowship at JPPII Hall. Dining in is for fully-vaccinated parishioners only. Please use the hand sanitizers provided and mask up when not eating or drinking.

Non-vaccinated parishioners are welcome to takeaway. Let us do our part to help keep our parish community safe!

CATHOLIC NURSES GUILD: MASS FOR HEALTHCARE STAFF

The Catholic Nurses Guild is organising a special Mass for Catholic nurses, allied healthcare workers, and friends to thank them for their dedication, bravery, and front-line work during the 2-year pandemic.



Date: Sun 11 Sep, 5pm
(Unvaccinated Mass)

Venue:
Church of Christ the King

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/2022Mass4HealthcareStaff>

COUPLE EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Would you like to experience the fullness of marital joy? We bring to you the latest church teachings on family life and life skills to build stronger marriages and raise emotionally balanced children.

Come for a no-obligation preview of these sessions on **4 Sep 2022** starting from **1pm - 5.30pm** at the Church of Divine Mercy. The sessions run from **4 Sep - 30 Oct 2022**. There's a dedicated team to take care of your kids including infants for all sessions! Register now and make God the cornerstone of your marriage!

Date: Sun 4 Sep 2022

Venue: Church of Divine Mercy

Time: 1pm - 5.30pm

Register: <http://cep-sg.org>

Enquires: Julian at 9790 8065
or Andrea at 9857 9075

Catechetical Awareness Weekend 2022

This weekend, we shine a light on a few of our “stewards of the mystery”, our catechists. Read on to find out their answers to our questions.

Catechists Spotlight

ELAINE YEO, L4 catechist

Why be a catechist?

It was partly because I wanted to journey with my son. At the same time, I felt drawn to do more than attend Mass on Sunday, so serving in the catechetical ministry was a natural choice.

What keeps you motivated?

I've been with my boy's cohort for a few years now. Watching the kids grow and seeing their curiosity, I find joy in helping them discover the beauty of God and His Church! It helps too that my son tells me he enjoys it when I (or my husband, who is also a catechist) conduct a session.



Elaine with her husband Gary and son, Joshua at his First Holy Communion last year

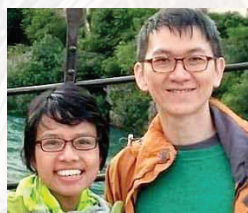
What is one main challenge you face and how do you overcome it?

The greatest challenge is when I am spiritually dry or overwhelmed by work, or when the topic is “cheem”. So I really need to set aside a time to focus my mind and energy on reading up on the assigned topic for that week, and ask God what He wants to reveal to the kids. While I prepare for the session as best as I can, I remind myself that the real teacher is Jesus and we are only His instruments.

KEVIN CHEONG, L6 catechist

Why be a catechist?

In a time when the world pulls us in all the wrong directions, I wished that I had come to know my faith earlier. I wish this for everyone and especially for the children.



Kevin with his fellow catechist, his wife Ca-Mie

What keeps you motivated?

When I'm attentive, I can sometimes see how God works in my life and the lives of the children. These glimpses are like when I catch the rainbow by surprise, and what joy it brings!

What is one main challenge you face and how do you overcome it?

I think the children appreciate having adults share their faith journey and be role models for them. We are very few in numbers and so we continue to reach out to the community for more to join us. Come, join us.

NICHOLAS FERNANDEZ, L2 catechist

Why be a catechist?

I want to grow in my faith journey and the best way I can do that is to learn how to share my faith with my children.



What keeps you motivated?

Nicholas and his wife, Marsha with Rachel and Sarah

Prayer and the wonderful people who toil in the “field” with me - the joyful kids, supportive and encouraging parents and the amazing catechists.

What is one main challenge you face and how do you overcome it?

Finding the time to prepare well, ahead of each session. But I'm grateful that He allows me the grace (and time) to be able to do so in whatever periods of time I have.

MABEL LEE, L9 youth catechist

Why be a catechist?

I wouldn't have joined if not for God's gentle nudge. At first, I didn't really know why I was here but as time went on, I realised that I only needed to bring my genuine self to the table. Being part of each cat class and seeing the teens grow helps me remember that faith stirs faith, I can be stirred by them to move and I am called to stir others with my faith. There's so much beauty in our Church and now knowing more too, I want others to have a taste of the goodness He has willingly provided for us.



Youth catechist Mabel Lee

What keeps you motivated?

Seeing them grow in their faith. And seeing them get excited as I get excited about our faith.

What is one main challenge you face and how do you overcome it?

Commitment! To keep my Sundays and meeting nights free. Sometimes, I just want a break or some time with friends...of course I do take breaks when needed but it's always motivating to know that my time spent labouring is never in vain. The Lord returns in abundance....“give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” Luke 6:38

Catechetical Awareness Weekend 2022

The theme for this year's Catechetical Awareness Weekend 2022 is "**Here I am, send me**". In line with Office For Catechesis's catechetical theme of the year (Being Sent), this theme hopes to inspire a new generation of catechists to journey with their candidates and help them to "mature in the Christian life and journey toward God" (Directory for Catechesis, 113c). It is also a callout to those who may be discerning this vocation to respond to the call of the mission. Find out about the Mission and let the Lord lead you in your response to be a catechist!

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" - Isaiah 6:8

HERE I AM SEND ME

BE A CATECHIST



CATECHETICAL
AWARENESS
WEEKEND 2022

www.catechesis.org.sg



Scan the QR Code to watch the video.
Contact Dan Lai at 9749 1635 to find out more.



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

MASS TIMES

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Thu:
6.30pm

Tue - Sat:
6.30am

Fri:
8pm

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat: 5.30pm*

Sun: 7am, 9am*, 11am*, 5.30pm
(There is currently no
Confession before Mass)

***For Vaccinated Only**

**MASS ON PUBLIC
HOLIDAYS**
9am

CONFESSION

Contact Parish Office to
make an appointment.

Fri:
4pm - 6pm

Sat:
10am - 12pm

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

ADORATION

Mon - Sun:
7am - 11pm

Closed on Public Holidays

COLUMBARIUM

Mon to Sat:

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

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

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.



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 two weeks 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