



**Disciples
Making Disciples**

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Stinginess Dishonours God

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
18 Sep 2022

Am 8:4-7
1 Tim 2:1-8
Lk 16:1-13

Not progressing in holiness? It may be due to one's attitude towards money and its use. Pope Francis observes: *"Riches have the ability to seduce, [making] us believe that we are in a paradise on earth, [that] we are powerful like God."* (Homily at Chapel of Santa Marta, 25 May 2015).

In a world ruled by wealth, people are abused, money is loved, God is hated. (Lk 16:13). The ruthless merchants in the 1st Reading cheat the poor in Samaria *"by swindling and tampering with the scales."* (Am 8:5). God warns that even the smallest acts of cheating and economic injustice will be punished. (Am 8:7-14) The warning is ignored. Samaria falls under the mighty Assyrians.

But money is not evil. Paul dedicates two chapters (2 Cor 8-9) exclusively to the importance of money and generosity. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches - use money, love people. The parable of the cunning steward is a typology for almsgiving.

About to get fired, the steward "cooks the book" to find favour with his master's debtors and prepares for his future (Lk 16:6-7). This Jewish Robin Hood seems to force his master to make restitution for exploiting the poor. (Although Jews were forbidden to lend to Jews at interest, it was not uncommon that exorbitant interest was levied.) Money is "tainted" (Lk 16:9) when trade is carried out unjustly.

We are to emulate the steward's astuteness with money, not his cunningness in fraud. Giving alms to the poor is a work of justice pleasing to God. (CCC 2462) We are stewards of God's creation (CCC 952). Everything we own, including money, does not really belong to us. Spiritual astuteness in the use of money, surpasses earthly astuteness. The steward makes friends on earth, Christians make friends in heaven. (Lk 16:9) **Almsgiving** also bears a degree of **prayer** (of thanksgiving and gratitude) and a degree of **fasting** (of giving up something) - the three pillars of Christian praxis.

Astuteness extends to investments in proclaiming the Gospel and building God's kingdom. (2 Cor 9:6-15) Our generosity will be lavishly rewarded, outmatched by God's gifts and blessings. (Lk 6:38, 2 Cor 9:8,11) There is a strong link between giving and one's heavenly prosperity. For giving is a higher level of blessing than receiving. Jesus himself said: *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* (Ac 20:35). Anecdotally, we can attest to it.

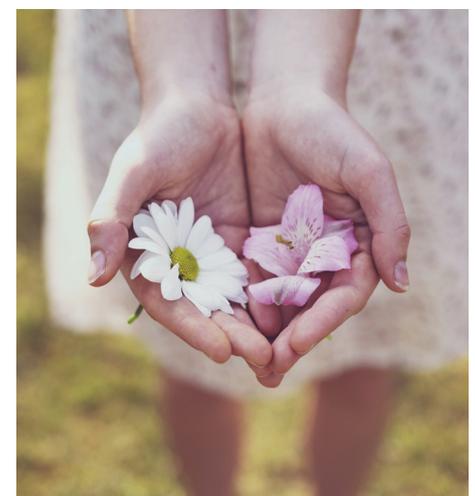
Herein lies a very important principle on the use of money - **What God is going to entrust to us spiritually**, in some way depends on what we do financially. When we are prudent in dealing with *"little things"* (money included), God blesses us with spiritual riches. (Lk 16:10-11) Stagnation in holiness could be due in part, to what is done, or not done with money. There are eschatological consequences too. In the ensuing parable of "The rich man & Lazarus", the rich man is condemned for his stinginess. (Lk 16:19-31)

Giving to God is sacred and proper to worship. This is often overlooked. For none shall come to worship God and celebrate, empty-handed. (Ex

23:15, Ps 96:8). Generosity honours God, stinginess dishonours God.

Parting with money is extremely difficult. We worked hard for it. There are always temptations of a bigger house, a nicer car ... The Christian view of money is harder to follow. Unlike Cain, we are our *"brother's keeper"*. (Gen 4:9). It is as G. K. Chesterton observed: *"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried."* Have faith - when we seek first the kingdom of God (Mt 6:33), divine providence kicks in (Mt 6:25-34). Without God, we labour in vain. (Ps 127)

Generosity is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. God will bless us with enough for every good work. (2 Cor 9:7-8) Don't let money rule us, use it wisely. Live by the faith principle - give first, then receive. We ought to use our earthly wealth in helping the poor and investing in God's Kingdom. It paves our way to holiness for heavenly returns that are phenomenal and assured.



"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
(Jesus, Ac 20:35)

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/DAMAGED
CHURCH PEWS?**

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



SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The SFX Youth Choir will be serving an Appreciation Breakfast this Sunday at the canteen to thank all parishioners for their ardent support over the past 35 years. Do drop by for the fellowship and try the delectable food selection prepared. They will also be sharing details of their upcoming Christmas Concert which will be held on **Sat 17 Dec**, to raise funds for a stage in our Parish Hall.

GIFT COLLECTION

There will be a call for contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Please give generously to support the organisations and projects of the Archdiocese by making a monthly pledge. You can give via PayNow (UEN: 201231391K) or drop your contributions into the GIFT donation box. More info at catholicfoundation.sg

INTERCESSORY

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

Date: Mon 19 Sep 2022

Time: 8pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 19 Sep**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a video presentation by FORMED "The Spirit And the Eucharist" by Fr Dave Pivonka. All are welcome!

Time: 8pm - 10pm

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

Safe Management Measures Update

Current check-in procedures for Vaccination-Differentiated (VDS) Masses remain unchanged. The mask-wearing requirement for indoor religious activities has been removed. If you are coughing/sneezing or not feeling well, kindly put on your mask or stay home.

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

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 Entrance: 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**.

SFX LIFE MINISTRY: INTO HIS LIKENESS BY DR EDWARD SRI

Do you desire a deeper relationship with Jesus? Join us in a five-part series of videos presented by Dr Edward Sri that aims to help us follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit and be transformed ever more into his likeness. All are welcome!

Dates: 30 Sep, 7 Oct, 14 Oct, 21 Oct, 4 Nov, 11 Nov (Fridays)

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: Jeremiah Room
(Parish Centre, Level 2)

Register: WhatsApp Desmond Cai
(9011 5076)

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: RESTORE, REKINDLE AND RENEW YOUR MARRIAGE

Good marriages can always be made better. To deepen your relationship, sign up for a Marriage Encounter Weekend on **23 - 25 Sep**. Please contact Joe & Reenie (9670 5390) or email them at mewkend@gmail.com.

CARITAS SINGAPORE: YOUTHLINE VOLUNTEERS

Youthline is launching a dedicated helpline and counselling service for young people up to 35 years of age. Help us make a difference by volunteering today! Please visit <https://youthline.sg> to sign up now.

You can look forward to:

- Free training and skills development
- Joining our awesome community
- Making a real impact

Roles:

- Helpline Volunteer
- Pro-bono Counsellor or Para-Counsellor
- Youth Hero

CARITAS SINGAPORE: TOWARDS A LIVING AND ACTIVE FAITH – A REVIEW OF LIFE WORKSHOP

Are you or your community facing challenges in applying faith to your daily life? Are you wondering how Catholics can respond to social concerns with a living faith?

Join us for a guided and facilitated discussion on one’s life, social concerns and faith using the See-Judge-Act method. We will experience hands-on learning on how to review one’s life or social concerns, reflect with the eyes of faith and take action in the light of the gospel.

The workshop will take place on **Sat 15 Oct** from **8am to 1pm** at CANA, Level 2 (55 Waterloo St). There is no charge but love offerings are welcome.

To register: <http://bit.ly/LivingAndActiveFaith>

For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at mPMC@caritas-singapore.org



WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

This September, we celebrate Migrants’ Month, remembering our migrant brothers and sisters who face daily struggles and challenges as they seek a better future abroad.

The Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Itinerant People is calling for donations to support migrants who are vulnerable.

To donate, visit their website at www.acmi.org.sg or scan the QR code. Thank you for your generous support!

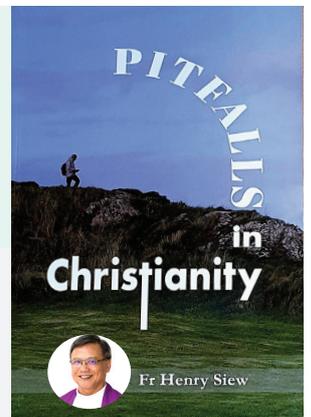


St Jerome Library Reopens!

Our parish library, St Jerome Library, which used to be at the Parish Centre, will re-open on **Sun 25 Sep, 8am – 1pm**, in its new location next to the Mt Tabor Adoration Room. St Jerome has been re-modelled as a boutique library-cum-exhibition space to cater to the voracious reader as well as the busy person looking to casually browse and be kept updated on what the Church is highlighting for our contemplation in her Solemnities and Feasts each month. St Jerome has over 700 books shelved under 10 collections including a “Popular Authors” shelf with writings by Pope Francis, Dr Scott Hahn, Bishop Robert Barron and Fr Henri Nouwen. Every month, a fresh mini exhibition of Christian art and tapestries, statuary and other archived materials is put up to showcase the Church’s rich heritage and spirituality. You can browse our collection online at www.librarything.com/catalog/sfxchurchlibrary



As part of St Jerome Library’s re-opening, we’re giving away five copies of Fr Henry Siew’s latest book, *“Pitfalls in Christianity”*. The 107-page book is a valuable resource on how to read the Old Testament without being literalistic and how to live our Christian New Testament faith authentically without superstition or fundamentalism. All you have to do is participate in a simple quiz (see below) by **Wed 23 Sep**. Five lucky winners will be drawn from all the correct entries and notified by Fri 25 Sep.



Please submit your answers via Telegram @stjeromelibrary in the following format:

1. Name
2. Mobile No.
3. Answers: 1X, 2X, 3X (X= A or B)

Quiz

Question 1:
St Jerome is the patron saint of:
A. Librarians, Students & Scholars
B. Neuro-surgeons

Question 2:
St Jerome’s feast day is celebrated on:
A. 25 September
B. 30 September

Question 3:
St Jerome is best known for his translation of the Hebrew bible to Latin which is known as the:
A. Vulgate
B. Latino Bible



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg



Receiving Jesus for the First Time

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." - Jn 6:51

Forty children from our parish received Holy Communion on 27 and 28 August, and here are some photos of them taken on 28 August.



*Photos taken on 27 August were published in the 4 Sep issue of the Manna.

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