






Disciples *Making Disciples*

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Gratitude - An Antidote to Life

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9 Oct 2022

2 Kgs 5:14-17
2 Ti 2:8-13
Lk 17:11-19

"Remember Jesus Christ," (2 Ti 2:8 RSV) St. Paul begins our second reading by exhorting his spiritual son (2 Ti 2:1), Timothy. Do we remember Jesus? What do we remember of him? Perhaps our secular lives have been so exciting and our Christian lives so mundane that thoughts of Jesus are relegated to a far corner of our minds and all but banished from our hearts. Do we remember when we last truly worshipped God at Mass with all our hearts and all our souls; when we last got down on our knees and humbly gave thanks to God; or dedicated time to read Scripture?

We ought always to remember Jesus Christ.

We ought to remember that when we were baptised, by the grace of God, all our sins were forgiven. Baptism signifies our dying to sin and descent into the tomb with Christ. At Baptism, we were also reborn into new life in Jesus so that nothing remains. Neither Adam's sin, nor personal sin, nor the consequences of past sins would impede our entry into the Kingdom of God (CCC 628,1263). St. Paul said to Timothy, "if we have died with him, we shall also live with him" (2 Ti 2:11). Nothing that we have ever done, nor can do, will merit our re-birth into life with Christ, except by the grace of God through Christ. In gratitude, we ought to remember him.

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Having been born again to new spiritual life, Jesus sustains it by feeding us with spiritual food. This food is none other than the divinity of Christ himself in his body, blood and soul of which we partake every time we celebrate Mass in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. But although the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian lives (CCC 1324), our lives are seldom perfectly righteous. Much like the Israelites hankering after their previous lives of slavery in Egypt, the "stain" of Original Sin frequently pulls us back into sin even after Baptism. Sin wounds our spiritual life and at its gravest, separates us from God (CCC 1264, 1861). Thankfully, even when we are faithless, God is faithful (2 Ti 2:13) and provides the means to heal these wounds through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Penance, which restores our spiritual lives to a right relationship with him. It was Jesus who established this Sacrament when he gave his Apostles the authority to forgive or retain sins on earth (Jn 20:23). In gratitude, we ought to give thanks and remember him.

By his life of obedience to God the Father, his death and resurrection, Christ merited for us the grace of eternal life with God. Therefore, our entire earthly life is nothing but time given by the grace of God for us to prepare for eternal life through the

obedience that springs from faith (Rm 1:5, 16:26) in what Jesus has accomplished. And at the end of our time on earth, even in death, there is a positive meaning because of Christ. *"What is essentially new about Christian death is this: through Baptism, the Christian has already 'died with Christ' sacramentally, in order to live a new life; and if we die in Christ's grace, physical death completes this 'dying in Christ' and so completes our incorporation into him in his redeeming act."* (CCC 1010) In gratitude, we ought to be comforted and remember him.

A disposition of gratitude for the grace and providence of God in every circumstance that life throws at us, is one which pleases God. Thus in our first reading Naaman, the great commander of the Syrian army worshipped God in gratitude for his healing through his "baptism" in the Jordan. In a similar way, the Samaritan leper in our gospel reading, returned to Jesus to worship him in gratitude. These expressions of gratitude through worship demonstrate faith in God and elicit the response from Jesus, "Stand up and go your way. Your faith has saved you." (Lk 17:19)

Let us always remember Jesus Christ, keep the faith and endure till the end; so that he will also say to us, "Rise, your faith has saved you!"

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



SSVP COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend, SSVP was able to raise **\$7,319.10** for our Friends-In-Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of their activities.

DAILY CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSIONS



The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. There will be nightly processions within the church grounds in honour of Our Blessed Mother. You may bring your own waxless candles.

PROCESSION SCHEDULE

Mon, Wed, Thu: 8pm @ JPII Hall
Tue: 8pm @ Grotto
Fri: 6pm @ JPII Hall
Sat, Sun: 8pm @ JPII Hall

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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

Date: Mon 10 Oct 2022

Time: 8pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 10 Oct**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'The Secret Of Mary' by Bro Dominic Yeo. All are welcome!

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: Parish Hall
(Parish Centre, Level 3)



FR BEN AWAY NOTICE

Please note that Fr Ben will be on leave from **9 Oct to 21 Oct**.

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**.

REGISTRATION FOR 2023 CATECHISM

Registration will be online via myCatholic.sg/Catechism. Parents must create an account for the child and login to the child's account to register for catechism. The child's baptism certificate must be uploaded at the time of registration. Online registration is only for children from K1 to L1 in 2023. For other levels, please email catechism@sfxchurch.sg for registration process. Registration closes 31 Dec 2022. For further enquires, please contact 9749 1635 (Dan Lai).



For children already registered for catechism in our parish in 2022, there is no need to re-register.

All levels - **Sunday 3pm - 4.30pm**

CPS LUNCHTIME TALK: ANONYMITY OF CATHOLICS

Join Rev Fr Terence Pereira as he shares how we live our Catholic faith out in the open. Registration is required. Register by scanning the QR code or via <https://tinyurl.com/CPSTalksAnonymityofCatholics>



Dates: (Mondays) 17 and 31 Oct 2022

Time: 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Venue: TPI Building (62 Cecil Street) or via Zoom

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION: YOUNG STEWARDS CONFERENCE 2022

We are inviting speakers and young adults from all over the archdiocese to discuss and share about relevant issues faced by young working adults, focusing on the theme of Christian Stewardship. This conference invites young adults to respond to this call: To speak on important issues regarding our faith and provide a platform for us to connect, collaborate and co-create. We will explore in greater depth, on what it means to steward our time, talents and treasures for the Kingdom of God. For more information, visit catholicfoundation.sg/young-stewards-conference-2022.

Date: Sat 29 Oct 2022

Time: 10.30am – 3.30pm

Venue: SFX Seminary Building

Register: bit.ly/YoungStewards2022

OYP: TREASURE #14 (YOUNG ADULTS ENCOUNTER RETREAT)

**"COME, let US RETURN to the Lord"
- Hosea 6:1**

Treasure #14 is a stay-in Catholic Encounter Retreat organised for young working adults (age 21 to 35 years old). The Lord beckons us to COME towards Him. He wants us to RETURN to the place of love which we have lost and reclaim our relationship with Him. He invites US to rediscover together the treasure of our lives. Sign up, and invite a friend to discover our Treasure in Christ today!

Dates: Thu 24 Nov, 7.45pm - Sun 27 Nov, 6pm (requires 1 day of leave on 25 Nov)

Venue: OYP (2 Lorong Low Koon)

Register: tinyurl.com/OYPTreasure14

NOVENA CHURCH: ST. GERARD'S FEAST DAY (PATRON SAINT OF MOTHERS & CHILDREN)

There will be a special prayer service from 7.45pm to 8.45pm. A photo wall collage will be built in front of the main church so that families who have received the blessing of a child through the intercession of St. Gerard, are welcome to attach the picture of their child/children. This photo wall will be a sign of gratitude and testimony to St. Gerard's powerful intercession. The photos can be in digital prints and sent via email to secretariatcssr@novenachurch.com. For those who are submitting the original photo to the reception at Novena Church, we encourage them to write their contacts at the back of the photo so that we can return accordingly.

Date: Sun 16 Oct 2022

Time: 7.45pm to 8.45pm

1st Sacrament of Reconciliation for L2

46 children from L2 participated in their first Reconciliation on 1 Oct 2022. Reconciliation being one of the 7 Sacraments, was an important occasion for the children who, for the first time, experienced its full meaning, including the examination of conscience, preparations for Confession and Penance. Parents were present throughout the session to encourage and journey with their children. Some children were initially afraid, not knowing if they would get scolded. Others were nervous to be speaking with the priests and uncertain as to what to say. However, with the guidance of the priests, parents and catechists, all went well. To mark this meaningful event, parents wrote letters to encourage their children. In addition to Reconciliation, the children also did craft work (A Joy of a Clean Heart).

The children share their experience here:

"It was a very good experience for me. Father made me feel relaxed and I was comfortable and felt blessed."

Ramon Sivakumar

"Nervous and worried the priest would scold me but thereafter, I felt happy knowing that God forgives and loves me no matter what. I feel confident to go for my next Confession."

Ara

"Nervous at first but after Confession, I felt happy and closer to God."

Emmanuel

"Thank you to all the catechists and parents who participated in this event. I would also like to thank Father Ben who helped me through my first confession. Stress-free and fun."

Dana

"Scary at first, but I felt really good after saying out my wrongdoings."

Chloe Loe





Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

"Nervous initially but felt better after. Father gave good advice and told me that God loves and has forgiven me. I also enjoyed singing the hymn "Loving and forgiving", doing the art and crafts and watching the movie on Moses after Confession."

Elizabeth

"I was happy throughout the whole of yesterday's event. I enjoyed it."

Chloe Cheng

"I was nervous initially. It was a wonderful experience to be honest and to confess in humility. The affirmation from the priest that I am forgiven made me feel loved by God."

Karl

"I liked the priest when he gave me advice. He made me feel loved. I went home and listened to him to be nice to my grandma."

Tate



"At first, I felt nervous. However, Father helped make me feel at ease and to complete it. It was not as bad as I thought it would be."

Isaac

"Was scared of Confession at first, as I was afraid that the priest would scold me. Instead, Father Joseph helped make me feel at ease, and prayed for me. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare us for our first Confession."

Joanna



thankfulness

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus cured ten lepers. Leprosy is a horrible disease that eats away at a person's body until they die. It was pretty amazing for those people when Jesus just told them to go and show themselves to the priests and they realized that they were cured!



But then something interesting happened. Only one of the ten who had been cured came back to say 'Thank you' to Jesus. Do you think that the other nine were not happy that they were better? Why do you think they didn't come back to thank Jesus?

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME RECEIVE YOU!



Now think about your life. You've probably never had a disease like leprosy, but God has still done amazing things for you. He made you and gave you everything you need to live. He gave you your friends and family, and most especially He gives Himself to us in the Mass and at Holy Communion.

Do you remember to say 'Thank you' to God?

Source: <https://thekidsbulletin.com>

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

Mon - Sat:
9.30am - 6.30pm
Sun: 8.30am - 1pm
Closed on Public Holidays

ADORATION ROOM

Mon - Sun:
7am - 11pm
Closed on Public Holidays

LIBRARY

Sun:
8am - 1pm

COLUMBARIUM

Mon to Sat:
10am - 6pm
Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.

CANTEEN

Sun:
7am - 12pm

ANOIDING 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/second 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