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**Disciples
Making Disciples**

**Faith is a call to
be persistent with
God right to
the end**

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
16 Oct 2022

Ex 17:8-13
2 Tim 3:14-4:2
Lk 18:1-8



“And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night?” Lk 18:7

Let's look at the question Jesus asks at the end of today's Gospel passage - "when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (Lk 18:8). So why would Jesus be asking this question? Would he not find this faith amongst us when he returns?

CCC 153 puts faith as "a gift of God", a grace given to us with the help of the Holy Spirit to move our hearts and convert it to God. This makes it possible for us to then believe in God, which "is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace" (CCC 155). However, faith is more than just an intellectual exercise of saying we trust, it is a call "to walk by faith, not by sight" (CCC 164).

It is a call to stay faithful when we struggle with personal illness, loss of loved ones, strife in marriage or family, job insecurity, poverty or loneliness. Our trust in God can weaken further when individualism, materialism, relativism and secularism seep into our lives. Our struggles may lead us to question our faith in God. If over time our prayers are not answered, it could lead to a larger turning away from God, something Dr Brant Pitre calls a "great apostasy", a sign where the coming of Jesus will be "preceded by a time of tribulation and darkness and sin and a lack of faith".

What then should we do? Today's parable of the persistent widow who forces the unjust judge to grant her request for justice, is both a timely and timeless reminder of the need to be persistent in our prayers and above all, to do so with hope in the only one who can deliver us. Just as the widow, who represents the most vulnerable groups of people in society, had her request answered by the unjust judge for fear "that she will eventually wear [him] out", surely we can expect more from God because he is all goodness and love, and because we are "his elect, who cry to him day and night"! (Lk 18:5-7).

Pope Francis reminds us that "all of us experience moments of fatigue and discouragement, especially when our prayers seem ineffective, but Jesus assures us (that) unlike the unjust judge, God promptly answers his children". However, this does not mean he does it in the time and manner that we would like. "Prayer is not a magic wand! It helps to preserve our faith in God, and to trust in Him even when we do not comprehend His will" (Audience at St Peter's Square, May 2016). Even if our hearts have been hardened, the psalmist proclaims that "my help is from the Lord" and that too should be our unceasing prayer to our Father, who waits for us to call on him.

The exhortation to pray ceaselessly to God requires effort but the reward for this perseverance is to know that God will come to vindicate us. Take today's first reading from Exodus, which recounts the story of the battle the Israelites had with the Amalekites. Moses went to the top of the hill with the staff of God in his hands. Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and whenever he lowered his hand, the Amalekites prevailed.

We sometimes forget that of all the people in the world, we have the least reason to be afraid because our God who has conquered both sin and death, loves us. Therefore, our prayers should be one of total trust and abandonment to God. While we may not always have our prayers answered the way we want, our persistent prayer can change us and open us to receive God's immeasurable graces and move our hearts to share in His perfect will.

So, "when the Son of Man comes again, will he find faith on earth?" If we persist with prayer which Pope Francis says "keeps the faith, (for) without this, the faith wavers", then yes, Jesus might just come and find us being faithful right 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/DAMAGED 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 PRAYER

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

Date: Mon 17 Oct 2022

Time: 8pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 17 Oct**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'Jesus & The Jewish Roots Of Purgatory' by Helen Chong. All are welcome!

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: Parish Hall
(Parish Centre, Level 3)

THE FATHER'S HOUSE

The 1Cor12 community invites all youth and young adults to come and spend a morning in the Father's house. We will begin with 9am Mass in Church, followed by input by Stuart Peter in the Parish Hall. Come join us for a time of worship, input and prayer. Do sign up early as slots will be limited!

Date: Sun 23 Oct

Time: 9am-12.30pm

Register: tinyurl.com/SFXFrHouseOct



FR BEN AWAY NOTICE

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

ALL SAINTS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

DAY OF OBLIGATION

6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

ALL SOULS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

There will be blessings of niches after all Masses



Safe Management Measures Update

With the recent easing of Safety Management Measures (SMM) on 10 Oct, the following changes will happen. There will be no more checking of attendance and vaccination status. Hand sanitization before communion will still be done by the wardens this weekend. Henceforth, all parishioners are strongly urged to bring and use their own personal alcoholic hand sanitizers. If you are coughing/ sneezing or not feeling well, kindly put on your mask or see a doctor.

MASS FOR THE SICK WITH ANOINTING

In conjunction with our Parish Feast day, we invite all who are unwell to this special Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing. Come experience the "special grace on the Christian experiencing the difficulties inherent in the condition of grave illness or old age" (CCC 1527). Mass will be on **Sun 27 Nov from 2pm - 4.30pm**, Confessions from 1pm. Family and friends are also welcome to join in this special Eucharistic Celebration as we give support to them as a loving and prayerful community. Sign up at tinyurl.com/MFTS2022 by **Sun 20 Nov 2022**.



Volunteers are needed to provide transportation to and from church, and serving refreshments after Mass. Please register at tinyurl.com/MFTS2022Volunteers by **Sun 6 Nov 2022**.

For further enquires, you may contact 9622 0212 (Long) or 9099 0200 (Grace).



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**

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 @ JP11 Hall

Tue: 8pm @ Grotto

Fri: 6pm @ JP11 Hall

Sat, Sun: 8pm @ JP11 Hall

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



FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS '22

SAVE THE DATES



Sat 26 Nov

Pilgrimage Walk

Sun 27 Nov

Mass for the Sick

Tue 29 Nov

Abide

Wed 30 Nov - Fri 2 Dec

Triduum & Fellowship

Fri 2 Dec

Overnight Adoration

Sat 3 Dec

Feast Day Mass &
Fellowship & Petra Concert

Sun 4 Dec

Feast Day Mass &
Fellowship & Treasure Hunt



How to pray without ceasing?

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17)

To "pray without ceasing" means to have our minds always on the things of God, to be in constant communication with him, so that every moment may be as fruitful as possible. How can we learn to "pray without ceasing?" Here are three practical steps.

1 Plan times for prayer

The first step is to develop a habit of regular prayer. And like all habits, it will take practice and perseverance.



AT MEALS

If the practice of praying at meals is not something you were taught or do right now, this is an easy way to pray more. For those of us who follow this practice, it is likely that we quickly thank God for our food and get on with eating. However, being more mindful in our prayer takes little time and can immensely increase the effectiveness of it.



WHEN READING SCRIPTURE

Start your daily Bible reading with prayer for God's Spirit to give insight and clarity as you read; end your reading with a prayer inspired by what you've read. Recite Scripture as you pray, and elaborate on how it speaks to you of what God is doing or wants to do in you. Make any time you meditate on Scripture a time of prayer.



AT THE START AND END OF THE DAY

When you wake up, dedicate the day to God in prayer. This focuses your mind on prayerfulness that will help carry you through the day, while developing the habit of constant prayer.

When you get ready for bed, thank God for his provision, and pray through your day. This will help quiet your mind and heart as you give over the things of the day to Jesus.

2 Start short and simple

There are people who are natural prayer warriors. They are gifted in prayer and are able to stay vigilant and focused. Others may have a way with words and know how to lift up praise and supplications to God with faith and confidence.

But sometimes frequent, short times of prayer can work just as well too. If you are one of those (like me) who constantly struggle to focus and stay still, then perhaps keeping it short and simple is a good way to start. So don't worry if your prayer times are short. Our Lord is not limited by our limitations; he is exalted in them. Only our great God could glorify himself through such frail vessels as us. If we come to him in humility, for his glory, and to bear fruit through him, he will lovingly take whatever we have to offer — even if it is but a trifle. We must trust him and faithfully take faltering steps into prayer.

3 Pray according to God's will

To pray without ceasing means that prayer is not primarily about us; it's about God. While God wants us to come to him with our concerns, we must understand as fully as possible what his concerns are.

First, seek to love God with everything you are through and in prayer. Then, seek to love your neighbour through prayer. In this way you seek God's will in every aspect of your prayers, as you include the concerns, requests, and needs for the people God has put around you.

Pray for your literal neighbour, those in your church, strangers you have interacted with recently, your priests and politicians. Pray without ceasing for all of them as you do for yourself — with God's will paramount in your prayers for them.

(Adapted from Three Practical Steps to Pray Without Ceasing by Brad Archer)



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)*

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

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/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