



Disciples Making Disciples



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Jesus' Daily Gamble

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
30 Oct 2022

Wis 11:22-12:2
2 Th 1:11-2:2
Lk 19:1-10

To our shame and regret, many of us have complained against a priest or a fellow churchgoer just as the crowd in today's gospel complained about Jesus and Zacchaeus, "He has gone to stay at a sinner's house..." (Lk 19:7) Why is it that we cannot be like St Paul in the second reading, "continually [praying]" that God will make everyone "worthy of his call" and increase everyone's "desires for goodness" so that "the name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified..." (2 Th 1:11-12)

Perhaps we have become so sanctimonious because we have forgotten that we are only "a grain of dust" and "a drop of morning dew." (Wis 11:22) Our lives are ephemeral and "we should imagine ourselves standing before God at the end of time...[for] it is closer to the resurrection, which is the meaning and purpose of life." (Pope Francis, Homily, 4 Nov 2019)

Or perhaps our mistaken sanctity is due to being "lost" (Lk 19:10) in cynicism just as others, like Zacchaeus, have become "lost" in the easy temptations of the world. Zacchaeus became a Roman peon attracted by the "perks" of over-collecting taxes for himself. Our cynicism could be a coping mechanism from the onslaught of relativistic "new normal" ideologies.

How can we avoid becoming "lost" either way? The writer of Wisdom invites us to a time of recollection and become aware again that we all originate from the Father's heart of love: "Yes, you love all that exists, you hold nothing of what you have



"...everything of Him had passed into the celebration of the sacraments... Here lies all the powerful beauty of the liturgy [for it is] given also to us the possibility of a true encounter with Him."

(Desiderio Desideravi n. 9 & 10)

made in abhorrence...how, had you not willed it, could a thing persist, how be conserved if not called forth by you?...all things are yours, Lord, lover of life..." (Wis 11:24-26)

Reflecting on God's sustaining and pursuing love which is also seen in today's gospel, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI describes this divine pursuit as "a gamble", "Zacchaeus was very rich but despised by his fellow citizens. So when Jesus... stopped at the house of Zacchaeus, he caused a general scandal. The Lord, however, knew exactly what he was doing. He wanted, so to speak, to gamble, and he won the bet: Zacchaeus, deeply moved by Jesus' visit, decided to change his life..." (Angelus, 31 October 2010)

Jesus' love made Zacchaeus whole again. He needed nothing else, "...I am going to give half my property to the poor...if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount." (Lk 19:8)

Jesus continues to gamble and bet on us when he comes to visit us every day in the Eucharist. Quoting Pope St Leo the Great, Pope Francis reminds us that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, "that which was visible in Jesus, that which could be seen with the eyes and touched with the hands, his words and his gestures, the concreteness of the

incarnate Word — everything of Him had passed into the celebration of the sacraments...Here lies all the powerful beauty of the liturgy [for it is] given also to us the possibility of a true encounter with Him." (Desiderio Desideravi "On Liturgical Formation" n. 9 & 10, 29 Jun 2022)

So the small Eucharistic host we receive today in our hands and into ourselves is not a thing but someone. Christ is coming to stay in our "house" in an even more intimate way than when he visited Zacchaeus, for he is coming as our resurrected and glorified Lord. In awe, we acknowledge his desire to share his power and glory with us when we say, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof..."

Christ won his gamble on Zacchaeus. Will he win his bet on us today? Will we say "Amen!" – "So Be It!" to being made whole in Holy Communion with Jesus such that we can cast off anything that tempts us away from him? Will we say "Amen!" to being a "lover of life" and look on others with Jesus' sustaining and pursuing love, hoping in their increasing "desires for goodness." (cf Wis 11:24-26, 2 Th 1:11) Will we glorify him by welcoming his True Presence in the Eucharist to transform us for our resurrection?

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



ST JEROME LIBRARY- CALL FOR AD-HOC LIBRARIANS

Our parish library is looking for Ad-hoc Librarians who can help with updating book borrowings, returns, adding, and tagging of new books into their Librarything system. Training will be provided. If you are able to commit at least 1 hour each month on a **Sunday** anytime from **8am - 1pm**, please come by the library on Sunday or Telegram @stjeromelibrary with your name and mobile number.

"Let us seek to learn on earth those truths which will remain ever valid in heaven" (Letter of St Jerome to St Paulinus of Nola, 395 AD).

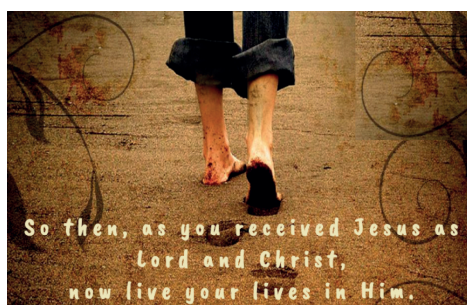
CPS LUNCHTIME TALK: ROOTED IN CHRIST

Am I living as a disciple and steward of Christ? Join Rev Fr Jovita as he brings us through the discovery to be "Rooted in Christ". Registration is required. Register by scanning the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/CPSTalksRootinChrist

Dates: (Mondays)
7, 14, 21 & 28 Nov 2022

Time: 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Venue: TPI Building (62 Cecil Street, 6th Floor) or via Zoom



ALL SAINTS' DAY VIGIL MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, 31 October
6.30pm

ALL SAINTS' DAY MASS SCHEDULE

DAY OF OBLIGATION
Tuesday, 1 November
6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

ALL SOULS' DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 2 November
6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

There will be blessings of niches after all Masses

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**, and confession will be 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**.



Volunteers are needed to provide transportation to and from church, and serve refreshments after Mass. If you are keen to do so, please register at tinyurl.com/MFTS2022Volunteers by **Sun 6 Nov**.



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**.

CARITAS SINGAPORE: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING - VERSATILE TOOLS

What does it mean when the Church says work has dignity? Why is it a problem when managers micromanage their staff? Why do persons with and without intellectual disabilities have equal dignity? What is the problem with both capitalism and communism? What is our duty to the poor and the environment? Why does the Church prefer democracy? What does the Church have to say about world peace?

Dates: (Tuesdays)
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Nov 2022
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: CANA The Catholic Centre, Level 3
Register: <https://bit.ly/CSTVersatileToolsNov22>



Jesus challenges us in the gospel to interpret the signs of the times. Join Fr David Garcia as we turn to the Church's social teachings so we can obtain the tools to think about the social issues of our time! For enquiries, email Caritas Singapore at mpmc@caritas-singapore.org

CARITAS SINGAPORE: LIVE THE GOSPEL IN THE WORLD

We hear about the gospel in church every week. But can the gospel make a difference in our daily life? Pope Francis tells us that Catholic social teaching lets "the gospel take concrete form on a social and cultural level". Sign up now for a weekend retreat! For enquiries, email Caritas Singapore at mpmc@caritas-singapore.org

Dates: 5 - 6 Nov 2022
Time: 9am - 6pm
Cost: \$70
Venue: Catholic Theological Institute (Upper Bukit Timah)
Register: <https://bit.ly/LiveTheGospel>



PIETA MEMORIAL MASS 2022

The annual PIETA Memorial Mass for children who have died is organised to unite families in prayer after the loss of a child. If you wish to join the Mass and include the name of your late child/children for Mass, please complete the registration form by Fri 4 Nov at <https://tinyurl.com/PietaMM2022>

Date: Fri 11 Nov 2022

Time: 7.45pm

Venue: Church of the Holy Spirit
(Upper Thomson Road)

Enquiries: pietamass@gmail.com



RCIA – Rite of Acceptance 2022

On Saturday, October 8, inquirers of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), participated in the Day of Recollection (DOR). It was a time specially dedicated for reflection on their RCIA journey which began in July; in particular, on why God is calling them, and to discern their readiness to participate in the Rite of Acceptance (ROA).

The following Sunday, October 15, a total of 19 inquirers from both RCIA and RCIY (Rite of Christian Initiation of Youths) partook in the ROA. Thanks to the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, the ROA was back to being celebrated at the Sunday 9am Mass, enabling our parish community to take an active part in the celebration.

After the rite, the inquirers went through a change of identity to become Catechumens. In the months to come, they will go through the Rite of Election as they further prepare for their initiation into the Christian faith by baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist.

We also joyfully greet those we call Candidates who are already one with us by baptism, and who now wish to complete their Christian initiation through confirmation and the Eucharist, into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

Let us keep our brothers and sisters in Christ in our prayers for a fulfilling spiritual journey.

"During the ROA, I felt solemn as it was another 'Yes' to God, but this time in front of the church. In my heart, I was quite expectant as I recall vividly the anointing and the signing of the senses which felt like a nod of acknowledgment to every decision I have made to get closer and to know God better. It was something I didn't know I needed. I felt 'seen' and surer that this is a path I want to continue walking on. The Bible I received will be my good companion as I continue to read more scriptures and keep myself spiritually filled."

– Vienna Lim

"After going through ROA, I felt more relieved and assured of where my heart lies in this faith. It feels great to take this next big step and saying 'Yes' to the faith. I've always felt a little out of place in RCIY as quite a number of them are cradle Catholics (but who have not gone through the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Eucharist), which made me ponder about whether I truly belong here. However, after the rite, I'm more assured and I am looking forward to baptism as I profess my faith in and commit to Jesus."

– Celeste Ang



"First of all, I'd like to thank God for choosing me, and for allowing me to get to know him better. I am also immensely grateful to the RCIA service team for, without a doubt, has helped to prepare and lead us to the ROA. During DOR, the talks were insightful, and I enjoyed the food and fellowship. At the ROA, the warm and welcoming church community has also made me feel welcomed. So far, my journey of faith has been most fulfilling."

- Terence Fong



"I began RCIA with deliberate scepticism and a heart that was distant from God. During the journey, while I was attracted to the knowledge and traditions of Catholic teachings, my heart was warmed and humbled when I saw the RCIA service team's display of love as they make sacrifices week after week in order to support my journey. While unanswered questions abound in my mind, the Rite of Acceptance crystallised my desire to know and experience God as this church does, and I am expectant to see where the Holy Spirit leads me."

- Alicea Tan

"DOR was a day of miracle. As I was writing the letter to Jesus, I felt my heart so close to God. The RCIA sessions have been enlightening, allowing me to further understand God's call and the knowledge imparted has also helped me to persevere knowing that I'm on the right track."

- Ng Dong An

Mini MANNA

What did Jesus say to the man in the tree? Use the code to find out!

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Luke 19:1-10

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ANOIDTING 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