



Disciples
Making Disciples



Parish Office:
6280 6076, secretariat@sfxchurch.sg



Parish Priest:
Rev Fr Benedict Chng
6288 0484
benedict.chng@catholic.org.sg



Little Shepherds' SchoolHouse@St Francis Xavier:
6011 1076, lss-cosfx.admin@catholicpreschool.edu.sg

Assistant Priest:
Rev Fr Nathaniel Xavier
6280 8331
xavier.nathaniel@catholic.org.sg

The Eucharist, Our Joy

3rd Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday
11 Dec 2022

Is 35:1-6,10
Jas 5:7-10
Mt 11:2-11

On this third Sunday of Advent or *Gaudete* (Rejoice) Sunday, the liturgical colour of purple is deliberately replaced by a refreshing rose pink. The priest's pink vestments and the pink Advent candle we are lighting, invite us to be strong in hope and to be joyful as we await the coming of the Lord at Christmas. This invitation to joy and hope is taken from St Paul's exhortation to the Philippians written in 62AD, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near" (Phi 4:4-5, Entrance Antiphon). As Paul wrote of the Lord's "nearness", he, like many of the early Christians of his time in the first century, expected an imminent *parousia* or second coming. They expected the Lord to return very shortly, perhaps within their lifetimes. They longed for the promised enduring peace - where swords will be hammered into ploughshares (cf Is 2:4) and there will be "no hurt, no harm" (Is 11:8).

By the end of the first century, when Christ had still not returned, a disciple of St James, writing to Jewish Christians, urged them to continue to be patient and to live peacefully with each other (cf Jas 5:8-9).

Today, nearly two thousand years since our Lord's ascension, with wars, terrorism, racism and other discords still making the headlines, we may wonder how long more we would have to wait for the Lord's

return so that we can have peace. Is it really true that "...the Lord is near"?

In the twelfth century, Doctor of the Church, St Bernard of Clairvaux, spoke of the Lord's nearness as "Three Comings". He said, "We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible." The two "visible" comings are the incarnation and the *parousia* or second coming. The third "invisible" coming is in the Eucharist. St Bernard said, "In case someone should think that what we say about this middle coming is sheer invention, listen to what our Lord himself says: If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him..." In more concrete terms, he added, "Remember to eat your bread, or your heart will wither away". Today, scholars have phrased Jesus' three comings as comings in history, in mystery and in majesty - in the Incarnation, the Eucharist, and the *Parousia*. The Second Vatican Council calls Christ's daily coming in the Eucharist, "the source and summit of the Christian life" (*Lumen Gentium* 11). The Catechism says that the Eucharist is "a Paschal banquet 'in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us'" (CCC 1323).

The Eucharist is such a "efficacious sign and sublime cause" (CCC 1325) of our communion with God that the "inexhaustible richness" (CCC 1328) requires a multitude of names to capture the different aspects of this most blessed sacrament. It is firstly "**Eucharist**" or thanksgiving for it is gratitude to God for creation, redemption and sanctification; it is "**the Lord's Supper**" - the meal Jesus took with his disciples before his Passion; the "**memorial of the**

Lord's Passion and Resurrection" by which we participate in Christ's one perfect sacrifice on the cross; "**Holy Communion**" as we are made "sharers in [Christ's] Body and Blood to form a single body" and "**Holy Mass (Missa)**" as the faithful are nourished and strengthened to continue Christ's *missio* or mission in the world (CCC 1328 - 1332). In the Eucharist, we receive the miracles that delighted John the Baptist as he heard how Jesus restored the blind, lame, deaf, leprous, poor and dead (cf Mt 11:5). We have been brought back to true life and made whole to share this newness in Christ with others!

We may have waited two thousand years now for Christ's *parousia*, yet, as St Bernard reminds us, Christ has not left us at all for he comes to us every day in the Eucharist. This is his nearness that Christ desires us to proclaim to others so that their darkness, festering wounds and crippling hurts can all be healed in his love. *Gaudete in Domino semper!* Rejoice in the Lord always!



"Remember to eat your bread, or your heart will wither away"
- St Bernard of Clairvaux

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 **\$56,707.20** for Friends In Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of our activities. Please note that if you wish to make a cheque payment or PayNow, it should be payable to:

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)
OCBC Bank Account No:
686 596 768 001

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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

Date: Mon 12 Dec 2022
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: HONORING THE PATRONESS OF UNBORN CHILDREN

All are invited to join in celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Saint Alphonsus Church (Novena Church). This is organised by the Pregnancy Crisis & Support Group, part of Catholic Family Life. The celebration will begin with Pro-life Rosary at 7pm followed by the Eucharistic Celebration at 8pm. There will be a Healing Prayer and Blessing of Pregnant Women after the Mass.

Date: Mon 12 Dec 2022
Time: 8pm
(Pro-life rosary begins at 7pm)
Venue: Novena Church

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES IN SERANGOON DISTRICT

- Wed 14 Dec, 8pm - Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- **Thu 15 Dec, 8pm - Church of St Francis Xavier**
- Fri 16 Dec, 8pm - Church of the Transfiguration
- Mon 19 Dec, 8pm - Church of St Vincent de Paul
- Tue 20 Dec, 8.30pm - St Anne's Church
- Wed 21 Dec, 8pm - Church of The Immaculate Heart of Mary



ADVENT PRAYER TREE

What better idea than to give someone in need the gift of intentional prayer this Christmas? Just as we did last year, think of someone to pray for - either to return to Church or be open to knowing the Lord. The prayer tags will be available for you to write your prayers and drop them into the box located outside the JPIL Hall or in front of Mother Mary in church.

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE
Christmas Eve (Sat 24 Dec)
5.30pm Pageant, 6pm Mass
8.30pm Carolling, 9pm Mass
11.30pm Carolling, 12am Mass
Christmas Day (Sun 25 Dec)*
9am, 11am
**There will be no 7am and 5.30pm Masses.*

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT RECRUITMENT

The Children's Liturgy Ministry will be organising this year's Christmas Pageant. We are looking for the young and the not-so-young to be involved. Scan the QR code to register. The pageant will be on **Christmas Eve at 5.30pm (before 6pm Mass)** and on **Christmas Fiesta on 30 Dec, 7.30pm**. If you have any questions, please contact Lynnette at 9690 0750.



Practices will be from **7.30pm to 10pm** on

- **Wed 14 Dec**
- **Tue 20 Dec**
- **Fri 23 Dec** (Full Dress Rehearsal)



CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE - BACK TO SCHOOL FUN WITH YOUR FAMILY

The brand new year is approaching and before we enter into hustling mode again, let's take some time to bond with our family and energize ourselves for the year ahead. Join us at Catholic Family Life's family bonding event, with big head prawning, Long Kang fishing for kids, free ice cream, live music and more!

Date: Mon 2 Jan 2023
Time: 2pm - 4pm
Venue: Fish @ AMK (The Grassroots Club)
Cost: \$150 (Family of up to 5)
Register: bit.ly/BTS_Prawning



VERBUM DEI: VOCATION SEMINAR

Vocation Seminar for young single women 17 - 28 years old. Join us for an afternoon to learn more about consecrated life and vocation discernment with time for personal prayer. Tea will be provided. This seminar will be led by Sr. Sandra Seow, FMVD.

Date: Sat 4 Feb 2023
Time: 2pm - 6pm
Venue: Verbum Dei House (4 Sommerville Road, Singapore 358228)
Email: verbumdeispore@yahoo.com.sg (Register by 28 Jan 2023)

SFX Triduum & Feast Day Celebration Highlights



Do check out SFX Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/sfxchurch.sg for more photos.



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

A Gift
Given
A Gift
Shared

CHRISTMAS FIESTA

FRIDAY 30 DEC, 7PM - 10PM

Join us for a night of fun, food and fellowship. Sway to the music of our live band and warm up your vocals for some good ol' caroling. Enjoy the Christmas pageant and look out for a little surprise segment too! There's something for everyone, so bring along your family and friends and come on down!



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

Sat:
6.30pm - 7.15pm

Sun:
8am - 1pm,
6.30pm - 7.15pm

COLUMBARIUM

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



In today's gospel reading Jesus tells the disciples to tell John the Baptist what He does. What happens to whom?
Match up the people with what happens to them.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| the blind • | • are raised up |
| and the lame • | • have good news preached to them |
| lepers • | • hear |
| the deaf • | • are cleansed |
| the dead • | • receive their sight |
| and the poor • | • walk |



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