



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, angeline.wong@catholicpreschool.edu.sg

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

God's Invitation, Christ's Sacrifice and Compassionate Discipleship

11th Sunday of Ordinary Time
18 June 2023

Exo 19:2-6A
Rom 5:6-11
Matt 9:36-10:8

Coming just after the Solemnities of the Most Holy Trinity, Corpus Christi and the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, today's scripture readings of the 11th Sunday of Ordinary Time might seem like a return to a more 'normal state of affairs' in the Church's liturgical calendar. However, it is not ordinary for us. Pope Benedict reminds us "to live our ordinary life as a journey of holiness, that is, of faith and friendship with Jesus discovered and rediscovered as Teacher and Lord, the Way, the Truth and the Life of man". (Angelus, 15 Jan 2006)

As followers of Christ, today's readings offer valuable insights into how Jesus wants us to respond to His teachings. These passages reveal God's invitation, Christ's sacrificial love, and the call to compassionate discipleship. Just as the invitation was given to the Israelites who were in the wilderness (Ex 19:2-6), we too are on this journey of testing of our trust in God. Each of us are his "special possession" but it is our choice to accept or not his invitation to his covenant, will and love. Jesus wants us to embrace this identity fully and live as faithful witnesses of his love and truth.

How? By deepening our relationship with Him every day through prayer, scripture reading, and participation in the sacraments. He wants us to actively seek his will and allow his Spirit to



*"Without cost you
have received, without
cost you are to give"*
- Mt 10:8

guide us. Only then can we radiate God's presence into our worlds and bring his love into our families, workplaces, and communities.

The second reading presents Jesus' sacrificial love to us. St Paul's posits that "if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life." God has already done the more difficult thing, which is He reconciled us back to him in friendship whilst we were sinners and enemies to Himself. And now, we can have absolute confidence that he will do what is 'easier' by comparison, that is to save us who are now his friends. The initiative in reconciliation is God's; yet the decision to accept is ours.

By accepting his friendship, we can emulate Christ's sacrificial love in our ordinary lives by forgiving others even when it is difficult and to serve selflessly, putting the needs of others before our own. He calls us to demonstrate compassion and mercy, just as He showed us. Through acts of kindness where it is least expected, we can reflect his love and bring healing and reconciliation to those around us.

Finally in our Gospel reading, Jesus revealed the deep compassion he had for the crowds whom he saw were "like sheep without a shepherd" – confused, alone and troubled. Sheep are stupid animals who need a shepherd in the field to protect and lead them. Without one, they very often just wander

off, get lost and die. Sheep are easy prey for wolves and wild animals. And sometimes we are a lot like sheep.

Jesus does not see us as just sheep to be shepherded but also as crops to be harvested. Here Jesus complains that "the harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few", and moved with seeing this he named and commissioned the Twelve Apostles – people chosen from ordinary life – as his spiritual shepherds and spiritual farmers for these people. Jesus picked the Twelve for a special role. It is a reminder that like them as ordinary people, who are not yet saints, we can and are also entrusted by God with this mission of compassionate discipleship by our words and most powerfully by our deeds.

He wants us, his Church, to see the world with His eyes and recognize the spiritual and physical needs of those around us and extend compassion to the lost, the hurting, and the marginalized. He calls us to be present for those who are suffering, to listen with empathy, and to offer a helping hand.

Our everyday lives are anything but ordinary when they present opportunities for us to do the simple yet extraordinary. It begins by sharing our faith and/or simply living as a witness to His transformative power. Having received what God has already given to us, we are called to give forward to others.

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 CHURCH PEWS?

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



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

We thank God for the blessing of fatherhood. On this special day, we honour and celebrate the fathers in our lives. We pray for all fathers, that they may be guided by our Heavenly Father's love and wisdom as they raise their children. May they be a source of strength and support for their families, leading by example and instilling in their children the values of faith, hope, and love.



SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The men in our Parish will be running the canteen this weekend. Do come down to enjoy some good food and fellowship.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY ON 29 JUN (THU) - HARI RAYA HAJI

There will be only one mass at 9am and no evening mass.

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. Please give generously to support the organisations and projects of the Archdiocese by making a monthly contribution. You can give via PayNow (UEN: **201231391K**) or drop your contributions into the GIFT donation box. More info at catholicfoundation.sg.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 19 Jun, 8pm** at **SFX Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Bible Sharing. All are welcome!

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS/YOUTH

Do you have big questions about life and its meaning, where and how God fit in? Come discover what the Catholic Church says and offers. RCIA/Y stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults/Youth. As Jesus said "Come and See" in Jn 1:39, we warmly invite all inquirers to come and join us in our journey to explore and deepen our faith! Registration forms are also available on the SFX website and at the Parish Office.

New RCIA Journey (24 years old and above)

Session start: Tue 4 Jul 2023

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: JPil Hall (Parsonage, Level 1)

Register: tinyurl.com/SFXRCIA2023

For enquiries: 9626 5960 (Angela) / 8112 8041 (Grace)



SCAN TO
REGISTER

New RCIY Journey (13 - 23 years old)

Session start: Sun 2 Jul 2023

Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm

Venue: Isaiah room (Parish Centre, Level 2)

Register: tinyurl.com/RCIY23

For enquiries: 9002 9977 (Angela) / 9675 5698 (Corinne)



SCAN TO
REGISTER

RCIY 'Come and See' Session

Date: Sun 25 Jun 2023

Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm

Venue: Thessalonians room (Parsonage, Level 2)

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR 2023 (LISS) - JUMPSTART

Do you desire a new life in the Holy Spirit? Join us in LISS - a series of 10 weekly in-person sessions including live praise and worship, talks and small group discussions. Seats are limited so sign up now!

Dates: 3 Jul - 11 Sep 2023 (Mondays)

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: SFX Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)

Register: tinyurl.com/SFXLISS2023



BAT: THE GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE TIMELINE

Discover the story of salvation history and understand how you fit into God's plan. Journey with BAT through this 24-session study programme to explore all twelve time periods of The Bible Timeline Chart, from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church. We will email the Zoom invites for the study sessions and information regarding the in-person meetings. Find out more and sign up now!

Dates: 21 Jun - 29 Nov (24 Wednesdays)

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Location: Zoom (21 Sessions), SFX (3 sessions)

Register: <https://bit.ly/GBA2023Register>



SAVE THE DATE: 3RD WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY DAY - THANKSGIVING NIGHT

In 2021, Pope Francis instituted the World Day for Grandparents and Elderly on the fourth Sunday in July, close to the feast of Jesus' grandparents, Saints Joachim and Anne. Grandparents are a source of love, wisdom, and guidance for many of us. They've been there for us through thick and thin, and have played a significant role in shaping who we are today. On Grandparents' Day, we want to do something special to honour them at SFX.

Date: Sat 22 Jul
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: JPil Hall
Capacity: 30 pairs
Cost: \$90/pair

As part of this celebration, we're offering an exclusive dinner catered from Jack's Place for you to serve your grandparents/elderly for an unforgettable experience. Don't wait too long to get your tickets, though. They're available only while stocks last! This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to show your grandparents just how much you appreciate them, so be sure to grab your tickets from the Parish Office and make this Grandparents' Day an occasion to remember! Tickets will go on sale at the Parish Office on **Wed 21 Jun** on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be no advance/ phone bookings.

MASS & BLESSING FOR CATHOLIC NURSES & ALLIED HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Join us for the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Nurses' Guild of Singapore with His Excellency Archbishop Marek Zalewski, Papal Nuncio to Singapore. The event will include Mass, the Nurses' pledge & blessing of hands.

Date: Sun 23 Jul 2023
Time: 5pm
Venue: Church of Christ the King
Register: tinyurl.com/HealthcareGoldenJubilee2023
Cost: \$15/pax



CHOICE: JUNE WEEKEND RETREAT

Calling all single or dating young adults for an intentional and meaningful retreat to explore deeper into the relationships around you. To discover the call to Belonging as our purpose in Life. All are welcome! Feel free to bring a friend along!

Dates & Time: Fri 23 Jun, 7pm to Sun 25 Jun, 5pm
Venue: LifeSprings (100 Jalan Merbok, Singapore 598454)
Register: tinyurl.com/choicesg2023
Cost: SGD\$180/pax

THE CENACLE SISTERS: SPIRITUAL LANDSCAPES

The Cenacle Sisters will be conducting a stay-in weekend of Prayer and Reflection on the different "terrains" of our spiritual life. Each session will reflect on the landscapes of our different life experiences and will invite us to look more deeply at the way God was present in those experiences, and how they have impacted us and our relationships.

Dates: 14 - 16 July 2023
Venue: La Salle House
Register: tinyurl.com/spirituallandscapes2023



8 Attributes of Catholic Dad



Source: <https://catholic-link.org>

1. Encounter with God the Father

One can't give what he doesn't have. Many of us have been blessed with great fathers growing up but others haven't. In both cases, however, the source of Fatherhood must always come from above. Any man who seeks to be a good father, ignoring God the Father, will inevitably fall short. One must be aware that you aren't in control of your family, God is. Your leadership and service must be fruit of the obedience and humility that you live towards Him.

2. Conversion

A good father must be a converted man, or better yet, a man growing daily in conversion. Any man that abandons his efforts to live a Christian life, who doesn't allow the encounter with God the Father to transform him, abandons simultaneously the most fundamental testimony that he can give to his children. The encounter mentioned in the first point must be an effective one, you must grow, change, mature daily.

3. Man of Prayer

Conversion breathes prayer. Without it, it suffocates. If your schedule is too busy to allow time for prayer, change it.

4. Understanding your True Vocation

For those that are blessed to be married and have children, you must recognise that helping your families get to heaven and being good husbands and fathers – not your business career – is your real vocation. Ask yourself: "Is my work serving my family? Or is my family serving my work?"

5. Presence not presents

Fatherhood means presence. Presence is "being with",

"being for". This implies that you invest serious time with your family referring to both quantity and quality time. Have the courage to set the smartphone down and look your children in the eyes. Take a moment to marvel at who they are and what they are becoming. Look them in the eye, listen to them, speak to them about the things that matter. Share with them how you are doing, what's going on in your mind, in your heart, in your life. Share your "being" with them, not only what you have. Showering them with presents and fancy gifts is a poor substitute for face-to-face time; in fact, it isn't a substitute at all.

6. Courage

Have the courage to love according to the truth. The truth is that life isn't easy and neither is being a good Catholic. This means that you can't be a blend-in kind of father. Have the courage to correct, to teach, to demand, to challenge. And then have the courage to allow them to do the same to you.

7. Love your wife

Men, you must love and cherish your wives. Your children will learn to love others by how they see you and your wife love each other. The husband-wife relationship is their first school in love. It is the first lesson in community, in communication, in sacrifice, and in service. To love your wife means to offer your life for her, every day. "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ also loved the church, and delivered himself up for it."

8. Be humble

In any relationship of service and authority, one quickly becomes aware of his or her own weaknesses. Don't be afraid, accept it with humility; it is perhaps one of the greatest displays of authority that exists.



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg



L8 Retreat

Come know the Father and your identity as a Child of God!

From 2nd to 4th June, 48 St Francis Xavier and 38 St Bernadette's Church participants were given a stay-in retreat experience based on 1 John 3:1 — "You must see what great love the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God's children". Sessions were conducted with games and activities to make it interesting and appropriate for our teens. They were also exposed to para-liturgies and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Here are some testimonies:



"The retreat was an eye-opening experience. Before the retreat, I wasn't keen to go. But during the retreat, one of the activities made me realise that God loves me no matter what I do, and I shouldn't care what other people think at all. Confession felt more special to me this time because afterward, I truly felt free after confessing my sins. Lastly, the thing that really stuck with me was praise and worship, the songs were really catchy and taught me how to trust in God and how he loves me no matter what."
- **Francesca (L8, SFX)**

"I wasn't looking forward to this year's retreat prior to attending. However, after spending 3D2N walking with the Lord, through engaging sessions by our facilitators, sharing, and exposure to multiple different forms of prayer (e.g. intercession, adoration, mass, praise and worship, etc), I was able to grow in my identity as a child of God, and am looking forward to next year's L9 retreat." - **Andrea Liu (L8, SFX)**

"The retreat helped me open up to God, and to be more open with others. The facilitators were good role models who encouraged us to be more open with God. Overall, this retreat has helped me to be more spiritually connected to God and has increased my faith. After this retreat, I would like to continue to communicate more with God, and I pray that I will understand God better in the future." - **Luke Ng (L8, SFX)**

"Overall I loved the camp, I got to know my brothers and sisters in Christ in the 3 days. I personally loved the praise and worship sessions and I am a fan of it, it was really uplifting. I would really look forward to L9 camp."
- **Ethan Lee (L8, SBC)**

"I feel like the camp helped me to learn more about God and how I am his child. It also helped to relieve me of some of my everyday worries and just focus on Christ during the camp. Lastly, it also helped me to open up and interact with my groupmates and foster new friendships."
- **Aerin Chew (L8, SBC)**

"The camp was an enlightening experience that let us all worship Christ through games, songs, adoration and prayer. It was a good opportunity for us to make new friends, renew our faith and most importantly, praise God as one Catholic community." - **Rafael Castrillo (L8, SBC)**

Let's keep praying for our teens, may they keep hearing the voice of truth in a world filled with competing voices. Ephesians 5:8 — "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light"

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

BACK GATE

Mon - Sun:
5am - 1am

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 - Fri:
10am - 6pm

Sat - Sun:
8.30am - 6pm
Closed on Public Holidays

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 and outside JP11 Hall. 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