



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

Perfection - Peace Amid Storm

13th Sunday of Ordinary Time
2 Jul 2023

2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16
Rom 6:3-4, 8-11
Mt 10:37-42

Can good works be displeasing to God?

According to CCC 1753 - it is sinful to give alms out of vainglory because evil intention ruins an act, even when it is objectively good.

Intention is paramount. It is a tussle of wills - ours against God's. Jesus warns that not everyone who calls him, "Lord, Lord", or does good works will enter the kingdom of heaven (Mt 7:21-22).

Heaven is for those who do "the will of my Father" (Mt 7:23).

God does not want our works. He wants authentic love, not a false worship of self masquerading as heroic acts of love. The principal effect of love is the union of wills. The more we unite our will with God's, the greater our love for him. We become one with God in "likeness".

"Anyone who prefers father or mother, [son or daughter, or does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps, or are not willing to lose one's life for my sake, is not worthy of me]" (Mt 10:37-39).

We are challenged to examine our priorities in life. Earthly attachments, including family ties, can be obstacles to the will of God (CCC 2232). Elevation to the family of God requires perfect union to God's will: "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Mt 12:50).

We have to carry our crosses.

God is not a sadist. He wants to save us from our fallen world riddled by sin. He heals our disordered nature through the divine surgery of suffering. Repentance, sacrifice and conformance to his will are virtues that will transform us to the highest union and love for God.

Parents tend to take the exact opposite approach of the cross. Misguided love drives us to make life easy for our children, often at the expense of authentic love and objective truth.

In contrast, our heavenly Father loves us in ways that would never allow him to shield us from what we need for our salvation.

Our suffering is a revelation of God's love for us.

Illnesses, afflictions, chastisements, humiliations, adversities and trials come not to crush but to mend our ways and save our souls. God allows suffering for our purification and not for our destruction.

Moments of suffering or pain can help us to know Jesus in ways that we otherwise could not. We can imagine some aspects of his suffering and draw closer to him. Proximity to Jesus is union with God and distance from sin.

In sickness, suffering is the acid test of our love for God. We can stop voluntary penances anytime. But illness cannot be turned off by a simple choice.

In that sense, enduring illness and resignation to the will of God are heroic and glorify God more than works and penances. The saints know this well - that we serve God better by our sufferings than by our actions (CCC 1521).

Suffering helps us to go to heaven faster. It is a means of obtaining

the temporal remission of sin and growing in holiness. This means that suffering on earth can help to reduce the punishment due to sin in this life or in purgatory (CCC 1472-1473). Until we are perfect, we cannot enter heaven.

In his book "*Uniformity with God's Will*", St. Alphonsus Ligouri asserts that our conduct in difficulty is the measure of our love for God:

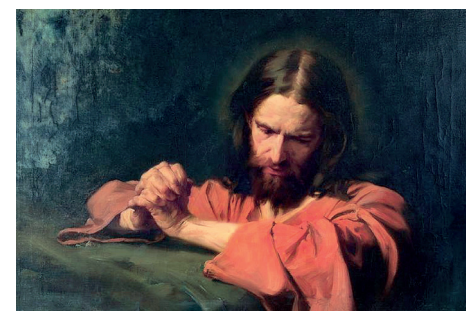
- To the degree that we embrace and respond to circumstances that express a holy yes to God, we will be united with Him.

- To the degree that we bristle, brood, complain, or reject what is happening, we become separated from him.

- When we rail, criticise, and obsess over injustice and unfairness, we are railing at God himself. It is tacit rejection of what God has allowed.

Never complain! Feelings and emotions can be overcome by grace, reason and will.

The greatest gift to God is to return our will back to him, who first gave us free will. This gift of self represents total trust in God. It draws us into the perfect Trinitarian life which translates to peace under all circumstances, including adversity.



"The greatest gift to God is to return our will back to Him, who first gave us free will".

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



2ND COLLECTION FOR THE GENERAL MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS OF THE CHURCH

There will be a second collection this week and all funds raised will go towards the general maintenance and operations of our church. If you would like to donate digitally, please PayNow to our UEN "T08CC4033J" and indicate in the reference General Maintenance & Operations. Please give generously.

PETER'S PENCE 2023

Collections from all Masses this weekend of **1 - 2 July** will be donated to Peter's Pence to support the Holy Father in his concern for the Successor of St Peter's ministry to the universal Church, and for the relief of those most in need. Find out more at tinyurl.com/peterspence

INTERCESSORY

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

Date: Mon 3 Jul
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room

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



ANNUAL CLERGY RETREAT

Our priests will be away for a retreat from **Mon 3 - Fri 7 Jul**. Please keep them in prayer. Communion Services will be conducted in their absence.

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 RCIIY 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/RCIIY23
For enquiries: 9002 9977 (Angela) / 9675 5698 (Corinne)



SCAN TO
REGISTER

ST FRANCIS XAVIER MAJOR SEMINARY: ANNUAL VOCATION RETREAT 2023

Amidst the uncertainties of life, the Lord reaches out his hand over the waves. How do we respond? Open to all single men 18 - 35 years old, be it any stage of your discernment journey. Priority given to first timers. For further enquiries, visit seminary.catholic.sg or email seminarians@catholic.org.sg.

Dates: Fri 11 Aug - Sun 13 Aug 2023
Venue: Montfort Retreat Centre (22 Upper Bukit Timah Road)
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/vcaug2023>



3RD WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY - THANKSGIVING DINNER

In 2021, Pope Francis instituted the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on the fourth Sunday in July, close to the feast of Jesus' grandparents, Saints Joachim and Anne. To celebrate this special day, we are offering an exclusive dinner catered from Jack's Place for you to serve your grandparents/elderly. Tickets are now available at the Parish Office on a first-come, first-served basis and only while stocks last. Please bring the exact cash amount and there will be no advance/phone bookings.

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

CATHOLIC DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP (CDSG): SURVIVING DIVORCE

The programme addresses some of the challenges experienced during and after divorce or separation. We will help you navigate the commonly asked questions. Navigate the emotional turbulence to find personal healing and hope. Discover a deeper understanding of God's love for you. Look to the future with hope and forgiveness. To learn more, email us at catholicdivorce.sg@gmail.com.

Dates: 4 Jul - 26 Sep 2023 (Tuesdays)
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: Zoom
Contribution: \$60
Register: bit.ly/SD-register





HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

FOR A EUCHARISTIC LIFE

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

IN THE MONTH OF JUNE 2023

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couples:

1. Lee Liang Zhi & Sylvia Chung Kah Men
2. Reuben Te Hui Theseira & Ng Tze Yi
3. Sing Nathan Jon & Low Jia Min Abigail
4. Jerome Mao Youming & Lim Yi Xian
5. Yong Chun Yee & Queenie Tan Jia Yi
6. Cheng Weijing & Rachel Sng Wei Lin

CONDOLENCES

We offer our prayers to the families of the following who have returned to the Lord:

1. Larry Lim Sun Kee
2. Camille Loh Siew Tho
3. Jennifer Magdalene D'Cruz
4. Anthony Tan Kee Kiap

BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Liv Angsari
2. Yeo Rui Han, Ruth Annie
3. Zoe Alana Deering
4. Mason Yang Hao Jun
5. Colette Tan Kai En
6. Kimberlyn Ang Shi Yun
7. Tay Si Yan Elizabeth
8. Tay Si En Claire

CARITAS: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: VERSATILE TOOLS BY FR DAVID GARCIA, OP (VIRTUAL EDITION OVER ZOOM)

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? Jesus challenges us in the gospel to interpret the signs of the times. Come and turn to the Church's social teachings so we can obtain the tools to think about today's social issues! For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at mpmc@caritas-singapore.org

Date: 4 Jul - 1 Aug 2023 (Tuesdays)

Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Fee: \$25

Register: <https://forms.office.com/r/nGUgwMqvZa>



10 STEPS TO FORTIFY THE DOMESTIC CHURCH



The first institution in the world ordained by God Himself is that of the family. There are many names for the family. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council define the family as "The Domestic Church" — the Church in miniature. Pope Saint John Paul II stated that the family is the basic cell and building block of society. He also asserted that the society will follow the way of the family. World history has given proof of the primary importance of the family, as well as the unraveling of the family. When the family falls apart, it is just a matter of time until the society declines and disintegrates.

Considering the sublime and indispensable importance of the family, let us highlight several positive steps that should be taken to sustain, support, and both defend and protect the family against the multiple attacks on this basic God-given institution. May each and every one of us strive to do our share for the sake of wholesome, holy and strong families!

1. Holy Matrimony

Unfortunately, it is becoming a real plague for many young people to live together in cohabitation or a civil-union without receiving the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, well received and lived out, confers a specific sacramental grace to help a married couple grow in love with each other, be faithful to each other, be open to life in having and raising children, and to love God and all that He desires for us.

2. Prayer in the Family

Of paramount importance for the sanctification of the family is the indispensable need for prayer. The famous Rosary-priest, Father Patrick Peyton, launched a Rosary-crusade for the salvation of the family. His intention and desire were to motivate all families to pray the Rosary with the famous proverb: "The family that prays together, stays together." This man of God, enamoured with Mary and the Rosary, rallied between 2-3 million people in the Philippines, exhorting them to pray the Rosary for the salvation of their families and society.

3. Sacramental Life

Not only should the couple receive the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, but the family should live out their Catholic faith by the frequent, fervent and faith-filled reception of the Sacraments. Most especially, the family should attend Holy Mass every Sunday, and receive the most Holy Eucharist, the sublime Sacrament of the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. God is love and the love of God will be poured into the family through the most Holy Eucharist.



4. Be Open to Life

Years ago, our ancestors would marry, eagerly desiring the children that God would send them, even if it was a numerous family. Today there is a contraceptive mentality permeating the society as a whole. All too often, this anti-life mentality manifests itself through the practice and use of contraception. Let us change the tide and foster, with the help of God's grace, the acceptance and formation of larger families.

5. Mercy and Forgiveness in the Family

One of the most poisonous and pernicious enemies of the salvation of the family is that of growing resentments. Let us learn to forgive, not once or twice, but 70 times 7 times! As the English poet, Alexander Pope, penned so eloquently: "To err is human; to forgive is divine." The key to forgiveness is to forgive right away and have recourse to prayer to win the battle at the outset.

6. Communication

A huge number of families suffer due to a lack of honest, frequent, and fluid communication. Without this basic concept of communication between husband and wife, children and siblings, family life suffers gaping wounds. All too often, parents believe they can win the affection and love of their children by buying their children whatever they want. Much more important is giving to the children their time over their money!

7. Meal-Time: Prime Time for Communication

The aim and goal is for Dad and Mom to bring the whole family together, every day if possible, for meal-time. Now here is the big challenge: during the meal (maybe it will be a mere half hour, hopefully much longer) there should be no electronic devices at the table. That is to say, no TV, radio, or phones. None of these, so that the family can come together to talk and listen and laugh and enjoy each other's company. From the youngest to the oldest, let there be free speech and attentive listening. Respect and love for each member of the family!

8. Renew the Courtship & Honey-Moon Spirit

Before marrying, most couples enjoyed spending long hours and even days with their future spouse. Unfortunately, once married, all these important activities of emotional bonding go by the wayside. Therefore, to maintain the bonds of friendship, love and growth, the married couple should get away from time to time, to be alone with each other, so as to cast wood on the fire of their love-relationship.

9. Sunday: The Day of the Lord and Family Day

Pope Saint John Paul II in one of his documents, *Die Domino* (The Day of the Lord) insists on the importance of rediscovering and redeeming the importance of living out Sunday — the Lord's Day. The saintly Pontiff stated that Sunday should be the day to attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to praise and worship the Lord. However, the Pope insists that this should also be family day. The day that family activities can be organised and lived out. Sunday indeed is the Lord's Day and family day. Let us live it out!

10. Mary and the Family

Finally, let us consecrate our families to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, the Mother of the Church, the Mother of each one of us, and the Mother of our families! Let us consecrate our families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

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

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 and outside JP II 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