



## Disciples *Making Disciples*



**Parish Office:**  
6280 6076, [secretariat@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:secretariat@sfxchurch.sg)



**Parish Priest:**  
Rev Fr Benedict Chng  
6288 0484  
[benedict.chng@catholic.org.sg](mailto:benedict.chng@catholic.org.sg)



**Little Shepherds' SchoolHouse@St Francis Xavier:**  
6011 1076, [lss-cosfx.admin@catholicpreschool.edu.sg](mailto:lss-cosfx.admin@catholicpreschool.edu.sg)

**Assistant Priest:**  
Rev Fr Edward Lim  
6282 3151  
[frelim@catholic.org.sg](mailto:frelim@catholic.org.sg)

## Dressing Right for the Wedding Feast

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
15 Oct 2023

Is 25:6-10A  
Phil 4:12-14, 19-20  
Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

Today's scripture readings are centred around God's plan to rescue and welcome us into the kingdom of heaven. The First reading from Isaiah presents a picture of a loving Father who goes out to provide a rich feast of food and wine for his people, to free them from their pain and hardships and show that he is the one true God who comes to redeem them.

Jesus in today's Gospel of Matthew, likens the "kingdom of heaven" to "a king that gave a wedding feast for his son". This is an invitation from the King who is God the Father himself to us to partake in the abundance and celebration of love and communion with his only son Jesus.

It is also a sobering reminder that we have a choice in accepting the Father's invitation to join in the heavenly celebration. As the parable goes, the first invited guests (some liken them to be synonymous with the early believers) refused to go because they had other more pressing matters on the "farm" and "business" that is of the world. Those men had accepted the invitation but then decided that it meant nothing to them: they were self-sufficient; they had no desire to change or to allow the Lord to change them.

As is often the case, worldly concerns and pursuits can push out God's call.

But God does not stop at those who refuse or reject him. It is a choice both theirs and ours. God moves on because he has a plan for the inclusion of all peoples and all nations and not just with the first guests. Like the King pronounced, "the feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find ... and they found, bad and good alike".

As we will see, this invitation is not carte blanche. In fact this wedding feast is like no other because it demands that we come dressed "right" in a "wedding garment"-because anything less than that will see the King casting the "guest" out into the "darkness outside where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth" to a place of eternal separation from God.

What are we to make of this "wedding garment"? Here it signifies the disposition a person needs for entering the Kingdom of heaven. Even though we may belong to the Church, if we do not have these dispositions we will be condemned on the day when God judges all mankind. The wedding garment is righteousness that the grace and mercy that God freely gives us that allows us to take a step forward in Christian life. Everything is grace but we need to act on our faith.

This is tantamount to saying that believing and having faith is necessary but not enough. To be saved and enter into the heavenly banquet, we need both faith and good works. Therefore, accepting God's grace means opening our lives to a journey of conversion, which changes the heart and dispositions. We respond and allow God's grace to



***"Many are called,  
but few are chosen"***  
(Mt 22:14)

work in and through us to perform the works that bear out our faith.

Allowing for God's grace to work through us, Pope Francis in his Angelus Address on 11 October 2020, calls the Church to go beyond those we can "see" to the "peripheries of humanity, those places at the margins where 'remnants of humanity live'. It is the call to open the doors of our hearts and our communities to everyone, because the Gospel is not reserved to a select few. Even those on the margins, those who are rejected and scorned by society, are considered by God to be worthy of his love. He prepares his banquet for everyone: the saints and sinners, good and bad, the rich and the poor.

God in his infinite wisdom gives man free choice and respects his freedom. Our cooperation with God's grace can lead us "to do all things in him who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13). St. Paul assures us that "God will fully supply every need of ours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:19) so that while "many are called" we may work to be among the "few (who) are chosen".

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs



**SCAN QR CODE  
FOR MASS HYMNS**  
[www.sfxchurch.sg/mass](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/SFXFacilityReport)



## GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend, there will be a 2nd collection for Catholic Foundation's GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme.

GIFT is a regular giving programme to rally support for and fund the Archdiocese's organisations and building projects to further the mission of the Church. One key initiative is the Catholic Hub building project. Scan the QR code for the Catholic Hub video to see how it will be a spiritual oasis that provides for our Archdiocese. Please drop your contributions or GIFT envelopes into the collection box. Do consider signing up for a regular pledge, as it is the most reliable way of supporting the Church. Visit [catholicfoundation.sg](http://catholicfoundation.sg) to contribute online or find out more.



## INTERCESSORY

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

**Date:** Mon 16 Oct  
**Time:** 8pm - 9.30pm  
**Venue:** Mount Tabor Adoration Rm

## OCTOBER: CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

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 and meet at the Grotto. *Please note that there is no procession on 31 Oct.*

**Mon - Thurs, Sat - Sun:** 8pm  
**Fri:** 6.30pm

## CHARISMATIC - GROWTH SERIES

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 16 Oct 2023**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'Spiritual Warfare' by Fr Edmund Chong. All are welcome!

**Time:** 8pm - 10pm  
**Venue:** SFX Auditorium  
(Parish Centre Level 3)

## SSVP COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend, SSVP was able to raise **\$57323.80** for our Friends-In-Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of their activities.

### Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)

- OCBC Bank Account No:  
**686 596 768 001**
- PayNow UEN: S61SS0149B

## MASS FOR THE SICK - WITH ANOINTING

In conjunction with our Parish Feast Day celebrations, 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). 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.

Mass for the Sick with Anointing will be on

**Sun 26 Nov from 2pm**

- **3.30pm**, Confessions

from 1pm. Sign up at [tinyurl.com/SFXMFTS2023](http://tinyurl.com/SFXMFTS2023) by Mon 20 Nov 2023.



Volunteers are needed to provide transportation to and from church, and serving refreshments after Mass. Please register at

[tinyurl.com/MFTS2023Volunteers](http://tinyurl.com/MFTS2023Volunteers) by Mon 13 Nov 2023.



## LIFE MINISTRY:

### REBORN - YOU, YOUR CHILD AND THE HEART OF BAPTISM

Explore the profound effects and mission of the Sacrament of Baptism through a three-part video series with LiFE. Examine the essential role of Baptism in God's salvation plan and discover your baptismal calling to share in the mission of Christ to which all the baptised are called.

**Dates & Time:** 27 Oct, 3 Nov, 10 Nov (Fridays), 8pm - 9.30pm

**Venue:** JPPII Hall

**Enquiries:** Contact Desmond (9011 5076)

## ST JEROME LIBRARY

*"...the LORD sent a great fish to swallow Jonah, and he remained in the belly of the fish three days and three nights...." (Jon 2:1)*

*"...everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear..." (1 Sam 17:47)*



Calling all parents of young children!! Now you can tell the stories of Jonah and the Whale & David and Goliath with these plushie-book combos now available for loan from St Jerome Library. Introduce your little ones to the characters in these narratives and most of all - let them know that God is always guiding and teaching us and He protects and gives strength to those who do his will! St Jerome Library is open Sundays, 8am - 1pm.



## CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY CENTRE: INTERCESSION RETREAT #8

Come and see - as you imitate Jesus and Mary in prayer and understand the power of intercession. As you understand the qualities of an intercessor, learn to intercede as a community.

**Dates & Time:** Sat 21 Oct, 8.30am - 9pm | Sun 22 Oct, 8.30am - 6.30pm

**Retreat Fee:** \$110 (Inclusive of 8% gst)

**Conducted by:** Vincent Lee & the CSC Retreat Team

**Register:** <https://bit.ly/cscIntRet8>

## GETTING TO KNOW...

We are fortunate in SFX that we have many parishioners in our ministries who help our church in various ways. While some deal with the formation aspects eg BAT (Bible Apostolate Team) and LiFE (Living in The Faith Everyday), other ministries help with the liturgical (Altar Servers and Choirs) and outreach areas. There are some informal groups that help the church in flower arrangements, cleaning and other areas.

This week, we focus on two ministries that play a big part in helping our priests every week during the liturgy - the **Wardens** and the **Communion Ministers (CMs)**.



### *The Wardens Ministry*

Our wardens help to ensure the smooth flow of traffic into and out of church. They usher parishioners to empty seats, do the collection of offertory during masses and generally serve the church by keeping order, peace and tranquility for worship in Church.

The ministry's most senior warden is Anthony who is 87 years young and when asked why he is with the ministry, his simple answer was that he just wanted to serve God. And how else to serve God than by serving His people? Anthony also shared that he became a more devout Catholic after being a warden and that he had received many countless blessings, without even realising it.



Shawn, 31 years old, is the youngest warden and when asked why he joined the ministry, he said, "I grew up in SFX and joined the ministry as part of my catechetical attachment at the age of 15. The attachment was meant to last for 4 weeks but the experiences and fellowship that I shared with everyone, and the calling to humbly serve the parishioners has led me to serve for the last 16 years."

For Shawn, this ministry gave him the opportunity to give back to the community. Simple greetings and small acts of kindness bring a smile to everyone and that's one good experience that resonates with him. Besides the close bonds with the other wardens and their families, Shawn has had the honour to serve the wider Catholic community through major events such as the Lourdes Experience and the Archbishop's Episcopal Ordination. He added, "I was proud to have been a part of them."

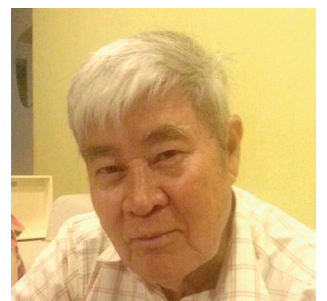


### *The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*

The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion or commonly known as Communion Ministers (CMs) are appointed by the Parish Priest and commissioned to assist the priests to distribute Holy Communion during Mass and bring the Holy Eucharist to the sick or homebound parishioners.

One of the oldest CMs would be Patrick Ee, who has been helping in this role for the last 25 years. Patrick is also involved in RCIA and the St Pio prayer group and was in the church building committee for many years. During SFX's 50th anniversary, Patrick was awarded the long service award for having served 25 years in church.

Lionel Tan has been a CM for 2 years and for him, it has been a blessing that he has been able to partake in and be a part of Jesus' own giving of His self in the Eucharist. As Lionel gives Jesus to each person, he is reminded of the primacy of the Eucharist and also how Jesus is present and the source of each life.





Looking for more Information?  
visit [www.sfxchurch.sg](http://www.sfxchurch.sg)

# The Proper Attire

## Inside a Church

What is proper attire to wear to church? And especially in our hot and humid weather in Singapore, do we really need to be in long sleeves or fancy gowns? While it is difficult to suggest what would be a correct dress code, most would agree that certain items of clothing would be inappropriate e.g. singlets, shorts, string or spaghetti tops, low cut tops, miniskirts, very tight or see-through clothes.

Here is what the Catechism of the Catholic Church has to say about dressing properly for Mass: "To prepare for worthy reception of this sacrament, the faithful should observe the fast required in their Church. Bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) ought to convey the respect, solemnity, and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest." – CCC 1387.

So while you get your OOTD (outfit of the day) ready each day, spare a thought for your OOTD for church. Check the infographic below for what's proper and improper attire in keeping with our dignity as baptised children of God.

### PROPER ATTIRE

1. Collared shirts or tee shirts
2. Jeans or pants
3. Long sleeves or collared blouses
4. Corporate attire or Office or School Uniforms
5. Dresses or long skirts



### 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](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)

### IMPROPER ATTIRE

1. Caps or hats should be removed
2. Jersey shorts or sports attire
3. Spaghetti or tank tops
4. Skimpy shorts or skirts
5. Low cut or plunging necklines

