



Disciples
Making Disciples

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Love Makes Us Diligent Stewards

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
19 Nov 2023

Prov 31: 10-13; 19-20; 30-31
1 Th 5: 1-6
Mt 25: 14-30

A talent is an innate gift, or a propensity for some good that God lends to every person, though not in the same form or extent. Lend, because we are merely stewards, not owners, as everything we have belongs to him.

In today's Gospel, the first and second servants doubled the talents their master gave them. One had five and the other only two, but they both made fruitful use of the talents and received the same reward – a place in the kingdom of God, where they are told to “come and join in your master's happiness” (Mt 25: 21).

This tells us something important about the essential aspects of Heaven – which is being joyful for all eternity. Joyful eternity is what is at stake for us too.

Knowing this, dare we still live like the third servant, who conveniently hid his one talent and did nothing with it? He who was cast “into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth”? (Mt 25: 30)

What does it mean to multiply our talents? True or false modesty may have many of us say, “But, we have no talents!”

Abilities and wealth are not the only definitions of talents. They include our duties of state as spouses, parents, children, friends, teachers, students, preachers, healers, administrators, as well

as everything else that God has enabled us to do in life, whether as musicians, writers, business people, or philanthropists; talents also include the time on our hands, and our sufferings.

We are all called to different vocations that may not seem spectacular, but are nevertheless life-giving and necessary to the salvation and care of others. Are we diligently, faithfully carrying them out, fulfilling them day in and day out, like the valiant, virtuous, hardworking wife in Proverbs 31? The most seemingly ordinary and mundane gift from God can be extraordinary, far-reaching, and transformative, when we have the wisdom to attentively cultivate it and use it for the good of others.

It is tempting to do nothing with our charism and be lax in our vocation. It is easier not to make the effort to extend ourselves, to mind our own beeswax. Doing so is to commit the grave sin of omission (CCC 1853). This has consequences. If we do not “invest” our gifts from God, we commit spiritual sloth. Sadly, this is pervasive in our culture – failing to act when we should; failing to utilise the spiritual and physical gifts that God has given us.

Alas, stewardship *is* hard; it is a daily grind till our last breath. It is exhausting and difficult, it takes discipline and steadfastness; sometimes it is thankless and dangerous. In adversity, stewardship is near impossible.

God does not give the same talents to everyone, or even the same amount of it – but we are all anointed in one way or another, with gifts that are life-giving. Are we nurturing them to nurture others? Are we living with great love?

Indeed, what makes stewardship effective and rewarding is love. Only love helps us to make the best use of our talents.

The third servant had no love for his master, and so he was unfaithful and self-loving. He did not take the time and effort to truly know his master, therefore he could not serve him. When you know someone well, you will find it easy to love him, and when you love him, serving him becomes second nature. When love is absent, serving becomes extremely difficult.

Love is the only thing that motivates someone to give true service. Laziness is the result of a failure to love. And enduring stewardship is the only form of preparedness we can have for the Lord's unexpected arrival. For no one knows the day or the hour when the Lord will come like a thief in the night (cf Mt 24:42-43). As Christians, we must live in this tension through loving vigilance.

St Paul tells the Thessalonians, “we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping” (1 Th 5: 5-6). We need to assiduously keep awake because “this eschatological coming could be accomplished at any moment, even if both it and the final trial that will precede it are ‘delayed’” (CCC 673).



Only love helps us to make the best use of our talents

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



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 initiatives for youth, evangelisation, catechesis, formation, and others. 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 to contribute online or find out more.

INTERCESSORY

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

Date: Mon 20 Nov
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Rm

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 20 Nov 2023**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on "Living Spirit-Filled Lives" by Martin Fernandez. All are welcome!

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

FEAST OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER (DEC 3): CRUCIFIX CRAB PLUSHIE GIVEAWAY



As part of our Feast Day celebrations on 3 December, 30 Crucifix Crab plushies will be given away in a colouring, drawing and quiz activity open to children 12 years and below.

Come by St Jerome Library to pick up the official entry form starting from this weekend. Please submit your entries by **26 Nov** to St Jerome Library. St Jerome Library is open **Sundays 8am - 1pm**.

FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS 2023

Disciples making Disciples

We are excited to announce the upcoming celebrations of our 64th Anniversary Triduum and Feast Day, with this year's theme being "Disciples Making Disciples." Join us for a time of adoration, reflection, Mass and fellowship as we honour this milestone in our parish's journey.

Wed 29 NOV

TRIDUUM DAY 1

Heart of the Disciple

Eucharistic Adoration: 7.30pm (Led by 1Cor12)
Mass: 8pm (Mass Celebrant: Fr Sam)

Thur 30 NOV

TRIDUUM DAY 2

Formation of the Disciple

Eucharistic Adoration: 7.30pm (Led by 1Cor12)
Mass: 8pm (Mass Celebrant: Fr Terence)

Fri 1 DEC

TRIDUUM DAY 3

Reaching out as a Disciple

Eucharistic Adoration: 7.30pm (Led by 1Cor12)
Mass: 8pm (Mass Celebrant: Fr Jude)

Please note that there will be no 6.30pm Masses from Wed 29 Nov - Fri 1 Dec.

Sat 2 DEC

FEAST DAY

Mass: 5.30pm
Mass Celebrant:
HE Cardinal William Goh



Dinner will be served after the Feast Day Mass.

Light refreshments will be provided after the Triduum Masses.
Celebration meals will be provided after the morning Masses on Sun 3 Dec.

SFX CHRISTMAS PAGEANT RECRUITMENT

The Children's Liturgy Ministry is calling upon both the young and the young-at-heart to take part in this beautiful celebration. Our enchanting Christmas Eve Pageant will unfold on **Sun 24 Dec** at **8.30pm**. Let us all come together to make this Christmas truly magical! Scan the QR Code or sign up at tinyurl.com/SFXPageant2023.



Practices will be on **11 Dec, 13 Dec, 18 Dec and 20 Dec (Full Dress Rehearsal)** from **8pm to 10pm**. For enquiries, please contact Cathie at 9846 1199.

THE EMMANUEL EXPERIENCE: CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Join us for "The Emmanuel Experience" at the Auditorium this Christmas Season! Our Music Ministry will be staging 2 performances of Christmas carols. Bring a non-Christian friend and let them experience the joy and wonder of Christmas through music. Don't miss this opportunity to spread the message of love and hope. For further enquiries, please contact the Parish Office to find out more.

Sat 16 Dec, 7.30pm:
Emmanuel: Come Let us Worship
by St Augustine Music Ministry



tinyurl.com/SammChristmasConcert

Sat 23 Dec, 8pm:
Enter His Presence
by the SFX Youth Choir



tinyurl.com/SFXYCConcert2023

APPEAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AID FOR GAZA CRISIS

Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS) is making an appeal for those affected by the conflict in Gaza and the surrounding region. You can donate in the following manner:

- Via credit card or PayNow through the CHARIS website.
- Send a crossed cheque payable to "Humanitarian Aid Fund", indicate "Humanitarian Aid to Gaza" at the back of the cheque to: CHARIS, 55 Waterloo Street, #07-02, Catholic Centre, Singapore 187954.



Please contact CHARIS at 6337 4119 or scan the QR code to visit their website for more information.

PIETA - NOVEMBER MONTHLY SESSION (ZOOM)

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who have united in faith to seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope. A monthly session, run by bereaved parents, is held to pray, reflect and break open the WORD OF GOD. We invite any parent who has lost a child (regardless of age and no matter how recent or long ago) to unite with us in faith. Our next session will be on **Tue 28 Nov 2023, 7.30pm - 9.15pm**. If you wish to join, please email us directly at pieta.singapore@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

CENACLE SISTERS: ADVENT RECOLLECTION

An invitation to spend a day of prayer to prepare for the feast of the Nativity of the Lord (Mass included). This day, we will reflect and pray on the themes of CONTRASTS and CONFLICTS as we follow the Advent Scripture narratives being re-told in our daily living. This retreat is facilitated by Sr. Linda Lizada & Team.

Date: Sat 16 Dec 2023
Time: 8am - 5pm
Venue: Church of the Holy Family (Pastoral Centre, Level 3)
Register: tinyurl.com/cenacle-advent



WELCOMING HOME CATHOLICS SEEKING A RECONNECTION

Landings Singapore presents a new 10 week programme for Catholics seeking a reconnection to the faith. It runs from **15/16 Feb through 9/10 May 2024**. All sessions will be held in person at Church of St Ignatius on Thursdays from 8pm to 10pm or Cathedral of the Good Shepherd on Fridays from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm. We invite you to register your interest at returning@landings.org.sg or visit www.landings.org.sg.

SCHOOL OF WITNESS 2024: JESUS THE LIGHT OF LIFE

Young people, is the Lord calling you to turn to Him, to live in Him and for Him? Be courageous and allow the Lord's light to shine in you and commission you to bring His light to others! Sign up for the School of Witness at bit.ly/sow24 by **Mon 4 Dec 2023!**

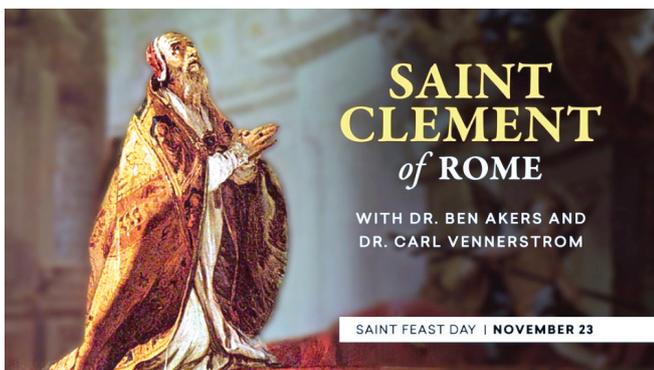


This live-in discipleship school is for young Singaporeans aged between 18 - 30 years and runs from 9 Jan to 2 Mar 2024 (with a Chinese New Year break). For Enquiries, please contact Juliana at 6285 2571 or email juliana.oyy@catholic.org.sg.



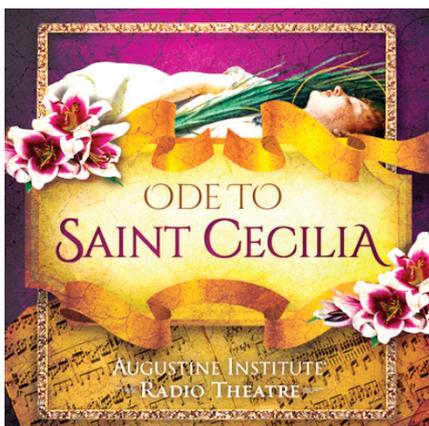
THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

PICK OF THE WEEK



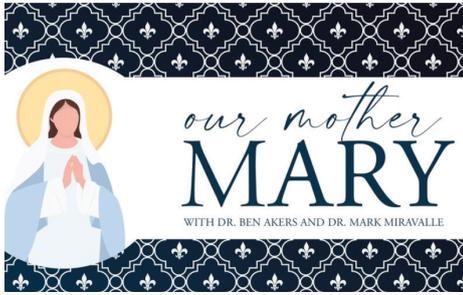
St. Clement of Rome | Catholic Saints

Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Carl Vennerstrom as they discuss Pope St. Clement of Rome, who was an early Church Father and the third successor to St. Peter.



Ode to Saint Cecilia

The lives of the saints are epic stories and particular expressions of God's grace in humanity. Celebrate St. Cecilia with this audio drama by the Augustine Institute Radio Theatre.



Our Mother Mary

What is Mariology? Learn about this fascinating topic in this interview with Dr. Mark Miravalle, Saint John Paul II Chair of Mariology at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

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
Closed on Public Holidays after 9am Mass

BACK GATE

Mon - Sun:
5am - 1am
Closed on Public Holidays after 9am Mass

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



Using the Master's Talents

- sort out the pictures -

How well do you know the parable from today's Gospel?
Put the numbers 1 to 6 in the boxes
in the correct order of the story.



Answer: (left to right) Top: 6, 2; Middle: 4, 1; Bottom: 3, 5

ANOIDING 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