



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Sunday of the Word of God

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
21 Jan 2024

Jona 3:1-5, 10
1 Cor 7:29-31
Mk 1:14-20

Pope Francis established the Sunday of the Word of God on 30 September 2019 so that a Sunday can be “given over entirely to the word of God, in order to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in the constant dialogue between the Lord and his people” (cf *Aperuit Illis*, 2).

St Jerome once said that “ignorance of Scriptures is ignorance of Christ” and indeed, having a better appreciation and understanding of the Word of God at any level brings us to a better understanding of the will of God for us as individuals and as a community which is his Church. This in turn strengthens our faith to see us through difficult personal and worldly circumstances which might otherwise cause us to abandon the way of Christ and his one, holy and apostolic Church. With faith, and by the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can place our trust in Christ’s promises and not rely on our own strength (CCC 1817) which gives us the hope of eternal life and happiness in the Kingdom of Heaven, enabling us to live a life of charity.

The Word of God comes to us first and foremost in the person of Christ, the Word made flesh, through whom we have access to the Father and come to share in his divine nature by the Holy Spirit. Through Christ, God speaks to men as friends and lives amongst them so that he might invite them into fellowship with him (cf *Dei Verbum*, 2).

Christ chose twelve Apostles whom he would commission to “preach to all men that Gospel which is the source of all saving truth and moral teaching and to impart to them heavenly gifts.” Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles faithfully fulfilled this commission “by their oral preaching, by example, and by observances” handing on what they received from Christ’s own lips and through living with him. The commission was further fulfilled by those Apostles and apostolic men who under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, committed the message of salvation to writing (DV 7).

We can believe in the words of Sacred Scripture because in them God reveals himself by deeds and words which have an inner unity: “the deeds wrought by God in the history of salvation manifest and confirm the teaching and realities signified by the words, while the words proclaim the deeds and clarify the mystery contained in them.” (DV 2)

Sometimes, contradictions in scripture cast doubts and confusion.



***“Ignorance of
Scripture is
ignorance of Christ”
- St. Jerome***

A case in point is today’s gospel reading where Jesus calls his first Apostles (Simon and Andrew) whilst they are going about their business as fishermen. This seems to contradict last weekend’s gospel reading of John whereby two disciples of John the Baptist on his prompting decided to follow Jesus, staying with Jesus for the night. One of them, Andrew, then called his brother Simon whom Jesus would name as *Cephas* (Jn 1:35-42).

So which version is true or is it all made up? The answer is both versions are true. Attentive reading of today’s gospel informs us that the two episodes are chronologically different. The gospel of John relates an event when John the Baptist was still a free man, whilst Mark’s version happens after John the Baptist’s arrest and jail by Herod (Mk 1:14).

The event in John’s gospel gives us clues as to why the fishermen would immediately drop all that they are doing to follow Christ in Mark’s gospel: Andrew is a follower of John the Baptist who points him to Jesus. When John the Baptist was arrested and jailed by Herod, he probably was despondent and went back to his previous livelihood as a fisherman. But Andrew’s discipleship with John the Baptist would have predisposed him to respond to Jesus’ call to follow him. Simon Peter on the other hand was probably already deeply moved by his first encounter with Jesus, cited earlier.

The word of God recorded in Sacred Scriptures, vouchsafed by the one, holy and apostolic Church and corroborated with Sacred Tradition handed down by the Apostles and their successors, gives us the sure hope that our faith is not in vain. It is more sure than all the forms of this world which is passing away. We will do well to keep it close to our hearts.

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



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

It is available via appointment only. You may contact the Parish Office to make an appointment for the following time slots:

Fridays: 4pm - 6pm

Saturdays: 10am - 12pm

COLLECTION OF OLD PALMS

Drop off your old palms in the boxes located at the Church Foyer and outside JPIL Hall. Please help to remove all plastic bags and rubber bands.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 22 Jan**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'The Purpose Driven Life, A Catholic Perspective'. All are welcome!

Venue: SFX Auditorium
(Parish Centre, Level 3)

Time: 8pm - 9.30pm

INTERCESSORY

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

Date: Mon 22 Jan

Time: 8pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Rm

SALE OF CHINESE NEW YEAR COOKIES

The Altar Servers will be having a pre-order for Chinese New Year cookies this weekend. They will be selling keropok on **20-21, 27-28 Jan and 3-4 Feb**. Please come and support them outside JPIL Hall!



GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend's GIFT (Giving in Faith and Thankfulness) contributions will support the Catholic Hub building project — a spiritual oasis with prayer spaces, retreat facilities, a multi-purpose hall and a senior clergy residence. Please give generously to build a more vibrant, evangelizing and missionary Church! Learn more at www.catholicfoundation.sg/the-catholic-hub.

AUDITION TO BE AN SFX ORGANIST!

SFX is eager to recruit more organists. Interested applicants will be auditioned and then shortlisted for 15 sessions of music training, which will be held on Saturday afternoons. **Those interested must have at least Grade 2 ABRSM or Yamaha Grade 9 Electone music background.**

There will be training fees for successful applicants. This will be fully refunded upon the applicant's successful completion of the program.

For more information, please contact Kenneth at 9733 9150.

AUDITION

Date: Sat 27 Jan

Time: 2pm - 5pm

Venue: SFX Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)

Register: tinyurl.com/SFXAudition2024



PIETA: JANUARY 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. If you wish to join us, please email us directly at pieta.singapore@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Date: Tue 23 Jan

Time: 7.30pm - 9.15pm

CATHOLIC DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP: SURVIVING DIVORCE

"Surviving Divorce" by Rose Sweet is organised by CDSG - Catholic Divorce Support Group SG. The programme addresses some of the challenges experienced during and after divorce or separation. 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: 1 Feb - 2 May (Thursdays)

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Contribution: S\$60 (non-refundable)

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/CDSG2024>



CATHOLIC PRAYER SOCIETY LUNCHTIME TALK: EUCARIST EXPLAINED

Join Rev Fr Terence Pereira as he walks us through the most important ceremony in the Catholic Church. Discover the significance of this sacred ritual and gain a better understanding of its central role in our faith.

Dates: 29 Jan, 19 & 26 Feb 2024 (Mondays)

Time: 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Venue: Cecil Building (137 Cecil Street, #04-01, Singapore 069537)

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/CPSTalksEC>



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND: RESTORE, REKINDLE, RENEW YOUR MARRIAGE

Good marriages can always be made better! To deepen your couple relationship, do sign up for a Marriage Encounter Weekend scheduled for **1 - 3 March 2024 or 5 - 7 April 2024** by contacting Reenie at 9676 7889 or email at mewkend@gmail.com.

THE CENACLE SISTERS: PRAYING OUR BELOVEDNESS

It is an invitation to reclaim the truth of our belovedness. As Henri Nouwen said, "Our true spiritual work has to do with letting ourselves be loved fully, completely by God and to trust that in this Love, we come to the fulfillment of our vocation."

This stay-in weekend retreat is a journey of coming home to the reality of the First Love in our lives; that Love that has existed from eternity and abides for eternity. This is facilitated by Sr Bubbles Bandojo, RC and team. There will be input sessions, quiet personal time for prayer and reflection with faith-sharing.

Dates: Sat 17 Feb - Sun 18 Feb
Venue: LaSalle House
 (490 East Coast Road, Singapore 429058)
Register: <http://tinyurl.com/cenacle2024>



How Can I Connect More Deeply with Mass?

Mass is the central act of worship in the life of a Catholic. Going to Mass is about spending time with God and also receiving his graces (inner strength to live the Christian life). For all those who feel like they get nothing from attending Mass or simply treat it as an obligation to be endured, here are some ways to get the most out of Mass.

Prepare ahead of time

Read the readings before you go to Mass, asking God to speak to you in them.

Pray and focus

Before Mass begins, ask God to open your ears to his word, your eyes to see him in the parishioners around you, your heart to receive his message and your mouth to joyfully praise him. During Mass, do not allow yourself to be distracted trying to entertain your children or glaring at the screaming baby! Put aside your handphone! Give your attention and heart fully to Jesus. Allow him to speak to you.



Behold the crucifix

Many of us are desensitized to the agony of the crucifixion. Because its semblance hangs over us every Sunday at Mass, we hardly notice or think about it. As you enter the church, before scanning the pews for familiar faces or empty seats, focus on Jesus on the cross. Greet and honour him.

Imagine Jesus is present, because he is

How would our attitude at Mass change if we were to envision Jesus himself sitting in one of the pews, standing at the altar, or proclaiming the readings? How much more would we pay attention? With how much more fervor would we profess our faith?

Refine your search criteria

What are you searching for in Mass?

Is it an inspiring homily? When history tells me not to expect a particular homilist to wow me, I listen more attentively, actively clinging to every word of the priest or deacon to squeeze out God's message for me for the day. Sometimes, just a word or two can speak to a question I had asked the Lord. After Mass, discuss the readings with family or friends for their insights.

Is it music? Consider attending Mass at a time where you enjoy the choir or its selection of hymns.

As you search for what inspires you, converse with the Lord, asking for help and guidance.

Sing like you really mean it!

Singing has a special way of pulling together your heart, soul and mind to focus completely on God. Apart from the fact that there is power in prayer and worship, fellowship in God's presence is an occasion for celebration. Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Be thankful

The word "Eucharist" means thanksgiving. We are indeed so blessed to be in the presence of God and to receive him in the Eucharist. It is not something to be taken lightly. In many parts of the world, lives are still at risk for practising our faith. But here in Singapore, we get to celebrate Mass. Instead of thinking, "I *have* to go to Mass," proclaim, "thank you, Lord, that I *get* to go to Mass today."

Get involved in church

A church feels more like a home when you get to know the people in your community. Also, your spiritual life can be enriched when you serve in church. For instance, when I was a catechist and spent much time preparing sessions and activities for the youth, I began to have a deeper understanding of our faith.

Leave Mass with a mission

Think about how God has spoken to you this day. What is he calling you to do? To forgive your spouse? To reach out to help someone? To trust in God even when you don't understand? Try to commit to at least one small, concrete way to live the Mass.

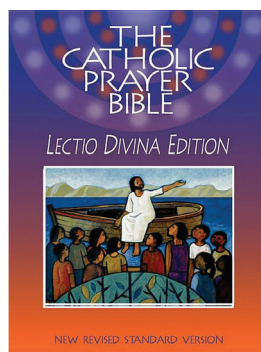
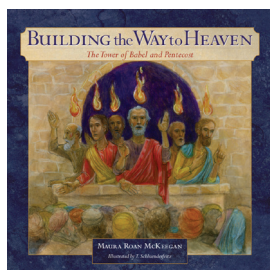
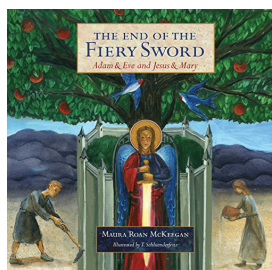
ST. JEROME LIBRARY-

Books for Sunday of the Word of God (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

We all know that the Bible is not to be read like a science textbook or even as a "textbook" on Christianity. The Bible is first and foremost, God the Father's invitation to everyone to share his love and life by knowing his Son, Jesus.

God inspired many people to write his message of love through different creative and captivating styles. The style of **typology** is often found in the Old Testament. This is where a character or event is actually a "**type**" - it is pointing to Jesus and something marvellous that he would do for us. Award-winning writer, Maura Roan McKeegan, has written a number of children's books highlighting some of these typology stories. Drop by St. Jerome Library today to borrow "*The End of the Fiery Sword - Adam & Eve, Jesus and Mary*" and "*Building the Way to Heaven - The Tower of Babel and Pentecost*".

Also, start a Bible Study and Prayer habit today with "*The Catholic Prayer Bible - Lectio Divina Edition*". This is highly-recommended by our librarian, Vanessa, who has experienced deep spiritual nourishment from being guided by this Bible's Reflect-Pray-Act responses.



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

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

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

St. Jerome Library is open Sundays 8am - 1pm