







Disciples
Making Disciples

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 **Online Mass Offering:**
tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings
UEN: T08CC4033J
Reference: Mass Collection

Chosen and Loved

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
19 Jan 2025

Is 62:1-5
1 Cor 12:4-11
Jn 2:1-11

As we begin this season of Ordinary Time, we are drawn into the public ministry of Jesus – beginning with the first miracle of the wedding at Cana. The familiarity of this story may lead us to assume that it is only about marriage, but it is much more than that.

Apart from being the first miracle performed by Jesus, “[t]he Church attaches great importance to Jesus’ presence at the wedding at Cana. She sees in it the confirmation of the goodness of marriage and the proclamation that thenceforth marriage will be an efficacious sign of Christ’s presence” (CCC 1613). As a sign of God’s presence, we can pay close attention to St John’s commentary at the end of today’s gospel: “He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him” (Jn 2:11). In the Gospel narrative, everyone plays a role in the wedding, from the bride and bridegroom, to Mary, Jesus and his disciples, and the servants. But regardless of their role, they are brought together to be a part of and bear witness to God’s works. This echoes what is said in *Lumen Gentium*: “Rather has it pleased him to bring men together as one people, a people which acknowledges him in truth and serves him in holiness” (LG 9).

The call to serve is tied to what we are blessed with. In the second



reading, St Paul shares that God gives a variety of gifts that work in “all sorts of different ways in different people” (1 Cor 12:6). Be it at home, in the workplace or the parish, we are blessed with charisms for the roles we play. But these charisms are not gifts that we have developed by our own strength, but rather gifts that were given to us by God, and we are chosen and loved for each different gift. At times we may feel envious of the gifts of others, but we are called to remember that “the particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good person” (1 Cor 12:7). We are called to use these gifts not for our own glory, but for the glory of God.

These gifts draw us into the matrimonial imagery presented in the Gospel and first reading. The wedding at Cana can be viewed as a microcosm of God’s desire for us. “[The] mutual love [of spouses] becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God loves man” (cf. CCC 1604). With God as the bridegroom and us, the Church, his bride, we come with our different gifts to bear witness to how much God loves us. The shortage of wine at the wedding in Cana is an opportunity for God’s glory to be shown. In our lives, are

*“... as the bridegroom
rejoices in his bride, so
will your God rejoice in
you” (Is 62:5).*

we sensitive to the opportunities for God’s glory to be shown? This call is emphasised in the two options of the Gospel acclamation: “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life” (1 Sam 3:9; Jn 6:68) or: “Through the Good News God called us to share the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Th 2:14). When we recognise that we are chosen and loved by God, we take on the identities that God gives us.

The first reading from the prophet Isaiah shows that God has chosen us for a personal intimate relationship through matrimonial imageries. As the prophet tells us: “[N]o longer are you to be named ‘Forsaken’, nor your land ‘Abandoned’, but you shall be called ‘My Delight’ and your land ‘The Wedded’” (Is 62:4). The names that speak of rejection and distance from God and others would be replaced by names of belonging and union with God. To be chosen is a calling to be set apart, and we are set apart by the Lord to be his.

As we begin another season of Ordinary Time, let us return to this often-forgotten reminder: that God chooses us and loves us, and we are called to choose God and love him.

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's GIFT (Giving in Faith and Thankfulness) contributions will support the Catholic Hub building project – a catalyst of spiritual growth in our Archdiocese with prayer spaces, retreat facilities, a multi-purpose hall and a senior clergy residence. Give online or drop GIFT envelopes into the collection box. Please give generously to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Learn more at www.catholicfoundation.sg/the-catholic-hub.



SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Small Christian Communities will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPil Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Join us on **Mon 20 Jan, 8pm** at the **Mount Tabor Adoration Room**, where we will pray together in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Submit your prayer requests at www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. All prayer requests will be kept confidential.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 20 Jan, 8pm** at the Auditorium. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'The Life and Values of St Francis Xavier'. All are welcome!

ALTAR SERVERS SOCIETY RECRUITMENT & CHINESE NEW YEAR COOKIES SALE

The Altar Servers will be selling Chinese New Year cookies, as well as beautiful gift boxes perfect for sharing outside JPil Hall and Church Foyer. This is a wonderful opportunity to support our Altar Servers! They will also be handing out recruitment forms for those interested in joining the Altar Servers Society, so do come and find out more.

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE OF BR. TIMOTHY SOO

*By the Grace of God and the Laying of Hands by
His Eminence, William Cardinal Goh*

*"You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you
to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last." - John 15:16*

Friday, 24 January 2025

On the memorial of
St Francis de Sales

**Church of the Nativity of
the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Parking space will be limited

Mass will begin at 7pm

Followed by reception

**Transportation to/from Br. Tim's
Diaconate Ordination**



We are excited to announce that our Parish will be arranging two-way transport to and from the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. From 11/12 Jan weekend, you may secure your bus ticket from the Parish Office on a first-come, first-served basis!

Date: Fri 24 Jan (There will be no 8pm Mass)

Pick-up: 6pm sharp; Leave Nativity at 9pm

Deadline (for booking of bus tickets): Mon 20 Jan

Ticket price: \$5 per person (transferrable)

CHINESE NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

Tue 28 Jan (CNY Eve): 6.30am, 4pm*

Wed 29 Jan (CNY Day 1)*: 9am, 11am

Thu 30 Jan (CNY Day 2): 9am



*There will be distribution and blessing of oranges.

CATECHETICAL: L10 SERVICE TEAM SIGN UP

Calling anyone who is able to give of their heart for our upcoming L10 retreat. We're looking for volunteers who could help facilitate, aid in logistics or help intercede for the participants. In preparation for the retreat, we'll get together to pray and learn on **15 Feb, 1 Mar and 14 Mar**. If you have that interest and excitement in your heart, don't hesitate! If you have any queries, you may contact 9048 1660 (Natalie Chow)/ 9751 2883 (Hannah Chew)/ 9073 0680 (Keagan Wong).

Dates: 15 - 17 March (stay-in)

Venue: Church of St Francis Xavier

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/2025SFXL10ST>
(signs ups close on Sun 9 Feb 2025)



BECOME A CATECHIST

The Catechetical Year 2025 was launched just last weekend. The theme for this year is Embracing Hope! And it is with hearts full of hope that we appeal for fellow parishioners to come forward to serve in the Catechetical Ministry. Inspired by Pope Francis' prayer intention this month for the right to an education, we would also like to also ensure that our children exercise their right to a fruitful and engaging Catechesis journey. To do that, we continue to seek support from you all to join the journey. We would like to appeal for help for the upper primary levels (L4 - L6). If you feel the Lord's nudging, you can reach out to Dan Lai at 9749 1635 to find out more.

APICC WORKSHOP: TALKING SEX AND GENDER WITH CHILDREN

The workshop addresses the topic of having difficult conversations with children and adolescents about sex and gender. The closing date for registration is in two weeks and we would like to extend the invitation specifically to Christian parents, youth group leaders, Sunday school teachers, and pastors involved in family ministry.

Date & Time: Sat 25 Jan, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Venue: API (20 Aljunied Road)

Register: <https://apicarecounselling.com.sg/event/workshop-can-talk-meh-talking-sex-and-gender-with-children/>



Ideas for Catholics to Carry Out During the Jubilee Year

As we step into 2025, we're not just ticking off another year on the calendar; we're marking a deeply significant milestone. It's the Church's Jubilee Year with the theme of hope, a time to celebrate, reflect, and renew our connection to God, others, and ourselves. And we're also completing the first quarter of the 21st century — a moment to recognise the opportunities and challenges of our time and to embrace the path forward with purpose.

The Jubilee invites us to look toward the future with renewed hope and faith in God's plan. It also encourages us to live a fuller, more intentional life, so we've created a list of some ways to make this year truly count.



Go on a Pilgrimage

Travel to a sacred site, whether it's the Vatican, Lourdes, or our Cathedral. Pilgrimages are a chance to pause, pray, and renew your sense of purpose. If it's not possible to physically visit a site, you can look at online tours of sacred places and get a better understanding of their importance in the Catholic Church.

Perform a Work of Mercy Every Month

Choose one corporal or spiritual work of mercy to focus on each month. It could be feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, or counseling the doubtful. Small acts of kindness can create ripples of grace and can have a lasting impact on those on the receiving end.

Explore the Jubilee Indulgence

The Church offers indulgences during Jubilee years for pilgrimages and acts of mercy and penance. Learn about the conditions and embrace this spiritual opportunity for yourself and others.

Revisit the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Use this Jubilee year to embrace God's mercy by going to confession. It's a profound way to reset your spiritual compass at the start of the year and can really help you look forward to 2025 with hope in your heart.

Learn More About Pope Francis' Vision of Hope

To help you understand the significance of this special year in the Church, you could take the time to read the pontiff's latest writings, especially those tied to the Jubilee, to better understand his message of care for creation, solidarity, and joy.

Embrace Sustainability

It's so easy to get caught up in the world of consumerism, but if we echo Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*, and try to make eco-friendly changes in our

lives — reduce waste, recycle more, assess what we really need compared to what we buy — we can focus on life's genuine pleasures and become the stewards of God's creation that we are called to be.

Read the Bible in a Year

Join a Bible-reading plan or podcast to journey through Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. It's a fantastic way to see the bigger picture of God's story. Thankfully there are plenty of apps available, too, that can help you read the Word of God in a year.

Practice a Daily Gratitude Journal

At the end of each day, write down three things you're thankful for. Gratitude can shift your perspective and bring joy even in tough moments. And at the end of the year, you can read back and reflect on everything you've been blessed with and you'll certainly see you were right to have hope.

Volunteer in a Community

Give your time to a cause that serves the marginalised — homeless shelters, food banks, or mentoring programmes. Serving others is faith in action, it also gives those less fortunate the ability to live with hope, too.

Host a Jubilee Celebration

It's always important to celebrate the positive things in life. Therefore, why not organise a gathering for family, friends, or parish members? Celebrate hope, share stories, eat cake, and inspire one another for the year ahead.

Dedicate a Day to Silence and Reflection

In our noisy world, silence is a gift. Spend the day away from all your screens and reflect on your life, family, your relationship with God. You could also try going on a silent retreat to really focus on what's important.

Discover a New Devotion

It's important to nurture your spirituality, and one way of doing this is to try something new in your prayer life. From the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the *Lectio Divina*, or the Examen, there are many ways you can deepen your prayer life.

Learn About a New Saint

It's important to stay educated and one way of doing this is to read the biography of a saint you don't know well and let their life inspire your own journey. As there are thousands of saints in the Catholic Church, you have so many impressive holy men and women to learn about. It's definitely an education that can take a lifetime.

Write Letters of Hope

You can't beat a little tradition now and then. Therefore, why not send handwritten letters or notes of encouragement to friends, family, or even strangers who need a little extra light in their lives.

Take Care of Your Body

While we can take care of our mental and spiritual development, it's important to also nurture our bodies. Exercise regularly — even if it's a speedy 10-minute daily walk — eat well, and sleep enough (we appreciate that this isn't always easy, especially if you have little ones who enjoy socialising in the early hours!). Caring for the temple of your body is an act of gratitude to God for the gift of life.

Mentor Someone Younger

The world changes so quickly and for young people it can be quite comforting to have the wisdom of someone older to reassure them. Therefore, try passing on your wisdom and faith by mentoring a younger person in your family, parish, or workplace.

Participate in Jubilee Events

Check out local or global events tied to the Jubilee and join in the communal celebration of hope and renewal.

Try a Digital Detox Weekend

We appreciate that this is easier said than done! However, try to take a break from screens to focus on relationships, prayer, and meaningful activities. If you manage one whole weekend you can congratulate yourselves and see if you can manage a few more throughout the year.

Make Forgiveness a Priority

Forgive someone you've held a grudge against or seek forgiveness from someone you've hurt. Reconciliation offers hope and is at the very heart of the Jubilee.

Learn About a Social Justice Issue

It's important to know what's going on in the world and the injustice others live with on a daily basis. In fact, the Church is full of saints, such as St. Martin de Porres, who were the original social justice warriors! Take the time to deepen your understanding of an issue like poverty, migration, or environmental justice. Pair learning with action.

Celebrate Small Wins

And most importantly, take the time to celebrate the little victories in life, whether personal or shared. A spirit of joy makes the year even more meaningful. 2025 offers a unique opportunity to live intentionally, balancing faith, hope, and everyday life. By weaving spiritual practices with personal and communal growth, you can honour the Jubilee while stepping confidently into the next chapter of this century. Here's to a year of purpose, joy, and meaningful action!

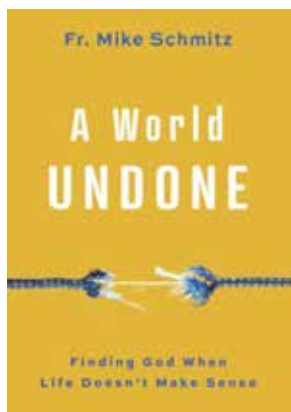
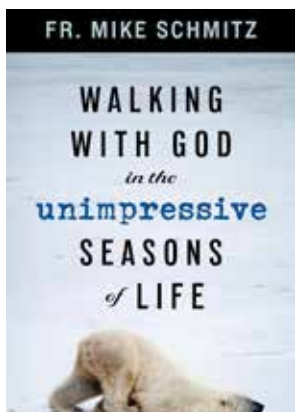
Adapted from <https://aleteia.org/2025/01/09/25-essential-things-for-catholics-to-carry-out-in-2025>

St Jerome Library: Books by Fr Mike Schmitz

Fr Mike Schmitz is known to many Catholics the world over for his highly-rated podcasts, "The Bible in a Year" and "The Catechism in a Year". In addition to being a very charismatic social media personality, Fr Mike is also a prolific writer!

St Jerome Library has started a modest collection of Fr Mike's books. Pop by the library to check out "It's Personal - Cultivating your Relationship with God", "Walking with God in the Unimpressive Seasons of Life" and "A World Undone: Finding God When Life Doesn't Make Sense"

"The whole Bible and everything we do as Catholics is about being brought into covenant, being brought into personal relationship with God...We have a Bible and can read God's Word, but there's nothing personal there. Why? Because so many of us just go through the motions." - P2, *It's Personal - Cultivating Your Relationship with God*



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

Sat: 4.20pm - 5.20pm
Sun: 8am - 1pm

COLUMBARIUM

Mon - Fri:
10am - 7.30pm

Sat - Sun:
8.30am - 7.30pm
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 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