



**Disciples
Making Disciples**

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

“The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me”

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
26 Jan 2025

Neh 8:2-6, 8-10
1 Cor 12: 12-30
Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

As we reflect on this weekend's readings, we are led into the law of the Lord and why we should rejoice in it. Prophet Nehemiah illustrates how encountering God's Word can evoke deep emotional and spiritual responses, leading to renewal and rejoicing. As we ponder on this week's readings, let us rejoice in the Good News of Jesus Christ and the new law he has laid in our hearts.

In the first reading, the prophet Nehemiah highlights to us how the old Law of the Lord was received by the people who listened and said: "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord" (Neh 8:6). The people were truly touched by what the law meant to them and what the Lord was communicating to them. Their eyes were "all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law" (Neh 8:9). We can ask ourselves how many times we have been moved to tears by the law of the Lord and the words of Scripture. Have we bowed and prostrated ourselves before the Lord? In this modern world of constant communication, how many words have touched our hearts and made us cry?

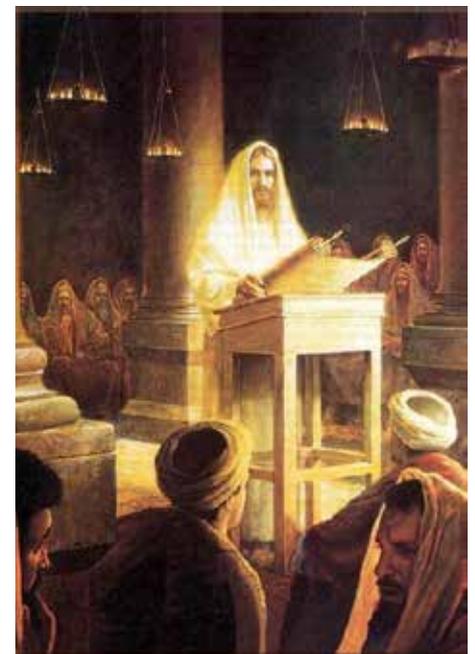
In the second reading, St Paul emphasises the interdependence of the members of the Church, likening it to the different parts of the body. He illustrates the importance of each member of the Church and the necessity of unity and cooperation among its diverse parts. He states clearly: "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you', nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you'" (1 Cor 12:21). His key message is: unity and diversity are essential to the life of the Church, since all of us are baptised and united by the same Spirit.

In the Gospel, Jesus is the culmination and the fulfilment of the Word of God concerning the Messiah. His mission brings about a new covenant, rooted in the same Scriptures that the people of Nehemiah's time revered. CCC 1966 explains that the new covenant brings about a higher law: "The new law is the grace of the Holy Spirit given to the faithful through faith in Christ". The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love: "The New Law is called a law of love because it makes us act out of the love infused by the Holy Spirit, rather than from fear" (CCC 1972). This new law puts into practice all our works of love, enabled by the grace bestowed by the Holy Spirit, so that we may understand our role in the church and our role in the world. We should not be afraid to live life in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said in the synagogue: "The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me" (Lk 4:16). Jesus confirms what his mission on earth is; to give us a new law that will not just be written in the scrolls and in books but in our hearts. We are no longer poor and

blind; we can see and now we can also live our life in the Holy Spirit and act in love as we have been given a great gift. After Jesus had preached and sat down, he said to the people "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen" (Lk 4:21). He tells us these very words today as we sit in the pews of our own church.

As we go about our lives, we can become deaf and blind to the words of the Lord, thus, let us take some time to rejoice in this new law we have been given and to live our lives in the Holy Spirit. Live in charity with others and ourselves so that we can truly be who God meant us to be.



**“The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me”
(Lk 4:18).**

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.



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note the Parish Office operating hours:

- 28 Jan: 9.30am - 12pm
- 29 & 30 Jan: Closed

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

In conjunction with SOTWOG (Sunday of The Word Of God), The Bible Apostolate Team (BAT) will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPII Hall. Look out for your usual favourites plus some new offerings like porridge, chicken sandwiches and WOG cookies (fortune cookies with a twist). **Taste and see that the Lord is good - Psalm 34:8.**

BLESSING OF CANDLES

On the Feast Day of the Presentation of the Lord, we will have a special blessing of candles on 1 - 2 Feb. You're invited to bring your candles to be blessed.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER

There will be no Charismatic Prayer session on 27 Jan. The next Charismatic Prayer session will be on **Mon 3 Feb, 8pm** at the Auditorium. There will be Praise & Worship followed by praying over by CPG Team. All are welcome!

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Join us on **Mon 27 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.

Fr Benedict, Fr Edward and all staff would like to wish all our parishioners a joyous & blessed Chinese New Year!

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 of pre-packed oranges and blessing of oranges.

COME AND SERVE: L10 RETREAT

Come join us on **15 to 17 Mar** for our stay-in Catechetical L10 retreat 2025. We're looking for young adults and youths who could help facilitate, aid in logistics or help intercede for the participants. In preparation for the camp, we will have sessions to pray, train and prepare our hearts and minds on **15 Feb** and **1 Mar**. If you have that interest and excitement in your heart, don't hesitate! Join us today by scanning the QR code to sign up.

If you have any queries, you may contact:

- Natalie Chow, 9048 1660, @Natchowow
- Hannah Chew, 9751 2883, @hannaheliora
- Keagan Wong, 9073 0680, @kkeagan



CATHOLIC PRAYER SOCIETY (CPS) LUNCHTIME TALK: HOW DO WE FULFILL OUR BAPTISMAL CALLING TO BE A KING IN GOD'S KINGDOM?

Through baptism, the faithful are called to participate in the roles of priest, prophet and king, reflecting Christ's work in our own lives. Join us as Fr Andre shares how each of us can be a king in God's Kingdom.

Dates: 11, 18, 25 Feb and 4 Mar (Tuesdays)

Time: 12.30pm - 1.30pm

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

Register: tinyurl.com/CPSTalksKing



THE CENACLE SISTERS SINGAPORE: CREATING SAFE SPACES IN COMMUNITIES AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

This two-day workshop seminar introduces Safeguarding as a Charism and Spirituality. Starting with its theological and spiritual foundations, including the dynamics of victimisation and offending, all forms of abuse will be explored. This workshop is highly recommended for all who hold leadership positions in the Church. As Pope Francis insists, *"We are a sign that the ministry of safeguarding belongs to all of us as it is part of the Church's ministry, indeed of evangelization itself,"* and without safe spaces and interior freedom from the heart, our Church will never be safe where the Gospel is freely proclaimed.

Dates: 22 - 23 March 2025

Venue: La Salle House

Register: <https://forms.gle/TKeRHkzrdqrsWepa9>



WELCOME HOME CATHOLICS!

Thinking about starting your journey back to the Church in 2025? Are you searching for a journey back to the heart of the church? It's time to answer the call. Landings, a reconciliation ministry built for returning Catholics, is conducting a 10-week programme at two locations: Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour (OLPS) on Tuesday evenings, **8pm - 10pm** beginning **4 Mar** and Cathedral of the Good Shepherd (CGS) on Friday evenings **7.30pm - 9.30pm**, beginning **7 Mar - 30 May** with a weekend Retreat. Recover the faith that never left you! Register to find out more at <https://landings.typeform.com/comehome>



CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CENTRE

Effective leadership - whether on the job, in the community, at church or in the home - starts with our inner self. Knowing who we are and to whom we belong to, helps us with our relationship with Christ and our life purpose. To register or find out more for both training courses, go to www.catholicleader.sg

Catholic Leadership Centre: Lead Like Jesus (LLJ)

LLJ is a foundational module based on the servant leadership modelled by Jesus Christ. It explores the 4 domains of leading like Jesus: the heart, head, hands and habits.

Dates: 15 & 22 Feb (1st run); 15 & 29 Mar (2nd run)
Venue: Agape Village
Cost: \$200/- per pax including GST & lunch and tea break for 2 sessions and personal workbook

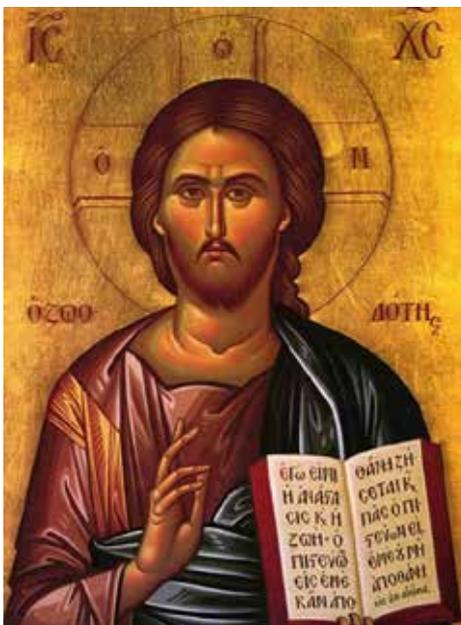
Catholic Leadership Centre: Building Trust (TRU)

Through conversations and interactive group activities, participants will develop a deeper understanding of trust and take personal responsibility for how they can develop trust at an inter-personal and group level.

Dates: 8 Mar or 12 Apr
Venue: Agape Village
Cost: \$100/- per pax including GST & lunch

What is Sunday of the Word of God?

Sunday of the Word of God is a celebration instituted by Pope Francis in 2019 through his Apostolic Letter *Aperuit Illis*, to emphasise the importance of sacred Scripture in the life of the Church and of every Christian. The day is celebrated on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.



**Read the Word.
 Consume the Word until
 it consumes you.
 Believe the Word.
 Act on the Word.**

Pope Francis instituted this day to encourage Catholics to develop a closer relationship with the Bible and to emphasise that God's Word is at the centre of the Church's life and mission.

In the Gospel according to Matthew 4:4, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8:3, saying, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' This emphasises the essential role of God's Word in nourishing our spiritual life.

St. Jerome, a Church Father, famously said, 'Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.' This highlights the importance of being familiar with sacred Scripture to deepen our relationship with Christ.



Pope Benedict XVI, in his apostolic exhortation *Verbum Domini*, stressed the need for a deepened appreciation of the Word of God, highlighting that listening to and meditating on Scripture is essential for Christian life.

The celebration takes its name from Luke 24:45, where the risen Jesus "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures." Through this annual observance, the Church seeks to remind the faithful that regular engagement with Scripture is essential for spiritual growth and understanding of the faith.

***"For the word of God
 is living and active,
 sharper than any two-
 edged sword, piercing
 to the division of soul
 and spirit, of joints and
 marrow, and discerning
 the thoughts and
 intentions of the heart."***
 - Heb 4:12



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!

RCIY Retreat

From 10 to 12 Jan, the SFX RCIY participants gathered for their second retreat - on the theme of attachments, based on the encounter of the Samaritan woman with Jesus in John 4. The participants were led to reflect on their everyday attachments, and to recognise those that might be unhealthy and disordered. Jesus reveals to the Samaritan woman that he comes to offer us living water, a spring that wells up to eternal life. Jesus also thirsts - not for the water at the well, but for our love and devotion, as he expressed on the cross. Ultimately, the focus was on how God comes to free his people from these attachments which brings no life, and to learn to grow dependent on him from whom all life comes.

The retreat was a wonderful time of prayer, spiritual input from Scripture, games and fellowship.



"In this retreat, I have learned so many new things about God. I was unaware of his thirst for us and how often he calls upon us to love him. I learnt more about my attachments and how God can take away these attachments. I feel much closer to God especially after writing a letter to him. I now understand how much God loves me, no matter what sins I have committed, as I continue my faith journey." - **Leanne**

"This retreat was a reminder of God's presence in my life. I realised how often I let worries and distractions keep me from truly appreciating the blessings he pours out on me every day. I have drawn closer to God through consistent prayer and spending time meditating on Scripture. I want to live a life that reflects the love and kindness that God has shown me and share that goodness with others. I realised that I am stronger than I believe and that God equips me with all I need." - **Chloe**

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