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

The Light of Nations

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
2 Feb 2025

Mal 3:1-4
Heb 2:14-18
Lk 2:22-40

"Christ is the light of the nations" (*Lumen Gentium* 1). He is the "true light that enlightens all men" (Jn 1:9) and a light for "all the nations to see" (Lk 2:32). Indeed, this theme of light that permeated the readings of the Christmas season reaches its climax today, on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which falls 40 days after Christmas.

The theme of light is explicitly visible in the unique rite of today's liturgy: the blessing of candles, which gives the feast its alternative name, Candlemas. The candles remind us that Christ has come into the world to dispel the darkness of night and to illumine our lives with hope and truth. In his novel *De Maanden* (The Months), the Flemish author Stijn Streuvels writes: "Candlemas brings to mind clarity and light. The six dark weeks are past; winter is fading. Candlemas: a prelude of the coming spring to which humans aspire and hope will be a liberation, a new beginning."

Importantly, Christ is not a light that remains distant, like a blazing star in a faraway galaxy that has no effect on us. Instead, Christ is like the sun, whose rays shine across the sky and whose heat we feel on our skin. Christ is the light

"Thus, as those everywhere who adore in holy activity, the laity consecrate the world itself to God" (Lumen Gentium 34).



that comes to encounter us and to give us life. It is for this reason that the Eastern Churches call today's feast *Hypapante*, which is Greek for encounter or meeting. In the liturgical text for today's candlelight procession, we hear that Jesus, in his presentation in the Temple, "was coming to meet his believing people". Jesus, the light of the world, has come to dwell among us, to encounter us, and to fill us with "the brilliance of perpetual light".

But what do we do, now that we have received this light? In its dogmatic constitution, *Lumen Gentium*, the Church tells us that we aren't meant to keep this light to ourselves; rather, we are called to "bring the light of Christ to all men" (*Lumen Gentium* 1). The goal of the Church is "[to] carry forward the work of Christ" (*Gaudium et Spes* 3), because all members of the Church share in Christ's mission just as we share in his life. Today's second reading tells us that Christ "[became] completely like his brothers" (Heb 2:17) and shared equally in "the same flesh and blood" (Heb 2:14) as all mankind. By taking on our human nature, Christ opens the doors for us to participate in his divine life and to share in the glory of him who is "the king of glory" (Ps 23:8).

As such, the lay faithful of the Church have a unique role in

bearing Christ's light to the world, as they "seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God" (*Lumen Gentium* 31). This means implementing the social teachings of the Church in our lives – including exercising our dignity in our work, caring for our common home, and upholding the rights of migrant workers. Our engagement with the affairs of the world is a part of our spiritual lives, not because the affairs are spiritual in nature, but because we are (c.f. *Gaudium et Spes* 43). We are the priestly people of God, who draw nourishment from the Church's life so that we "work for the sanctification of the world from within" (*Lumen Gentium* 31). In this way, we are like the "sons of Levi" (Mal 3:3) in the first reading, who "make the offering to the Lord" (Mal 3:3) by offering our lives as spiritual sacrifice. "Thus, as those everywhere who adore in holy activity, the laity consecrate the world itself to God" (*Lumen Gentium* 34).

Christ is the light of the nations, and we, who have encountered that light, are called to bring it to all mankind. By engaging with secular affairs with the right social values, we thus consecrate the world to God and permeate society with the light of Christ.

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.



COLLECTION OF OLD PALMS

Starting 8 Feb, you may drop off your old palms in the designated boxes outside Foyer/JPII Hall. **Please help to remove all plastic bags and rubber bands.**

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 may bring your candles to be blessed.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER

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 10 Feb, 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.

SUNDAY CATECHISM (JAN-MAR)

Parents and guardians, please note the following schedule for Catechism sessions on Sundays from January to March. Specific levels may have arrangements that deviate from this schedule. If in doubt, please contact your child's Level Coordinator.

The scheduled session dates are: **2 Feb, 9 Feb, 16 Feb, 23 Feb, 2 Mar, 9 Mar, 23 Mar** and **30 Mar**. **There will be a break on 16 Mar.**

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

In preparation for World Day of the Sick on **Tue 11 Feb**, coinciding with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, a day of healing and devotion to the Virgin Mary, we would like to invite you to write the names of sick family members and friends and place them in the box marked **'World Day of the Sick - Prayer Petitions'** at the icon of Our Blessed Mother from 1st Feb. We encourage all to attend the Mass on Tue at which we will pray for your prayer petitions and for all who suffer from illness and for their caregivers.

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>



OFFICE FOR CATECHESIS: FIVE STRATEGIES FOR LIVING OUT THE VIRTUES

The workshop covers components to explore how the above strategies [i.e. catechetical method] may be applied in our catechetical sessions using the Disciple of Christ Education in Virtue materials [i.e. content], developed by the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. Our OFC staff will also provide examples as to how virtues may be introduced throughout the year or when the opportunity arises.

Dates & Time: 15 & 22 Feb, 9am - 5pm
Venue: St. Francis Xavier Major Seminary
Register: www.catechesis.org.sg/courses-events/FCC-5SVP



**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS
FOR THE MONTH OF FEB
FOR VOCATIONS TO
THE PRIESTHOOD AND
RELIGIOUS LIFE**

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

IN THE MONTH OF JAN 2025

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couples:

1. Andrea Yong Shu Wei & Nick Ang Kok Ming
2. Kwek Wan Ching Amanda & Matthias Bennett Wong Tse Shang
3. Carolyn Keh & Wee Jun Hui Ryan

CONDOLENCES

We offer our prayers to the families of the following who have returned to the Lord:

1. Lauzar Vincent
2. Linda Chan Pui San

RCIA Retreat 2025



Over the weekend of 17-19 Jan, 28 catechumens and candidates from the RCIA attended a retreat at the St Francis Xavier Retreat Centre. Designed to further explore and deepen their faith, retreatants participated in a variety of activities including praise and worship, input and sharing sessions and a rosary walk. These activities built up to what could be described as a highlight for many retreatants- the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and an evening of adoration. For many, this was their first time encountering Jesus in such a personal way. Two inquirers and a candidate also underwent the Rite of Acceptance at the celebration of Mass, bringing the retreat to a fitting close. Here's what some catechumens and candidates had to say about their retreat experience:

"It was the first time in Adoration for me and I feel that the activities really helped us get into the mood. Adoration was the highlight of the retreat - how sacred and grand it felt to be there in God's presence!" - **Valerie Chew, Candidate**



"The rosary walk was one of the highlights of the retreat for me. We were blessed with good weather and the walk inspired me to do a rosary walk in my own time." - **Alvin Eng, Catechumen**

"I greatly appreciate the mapping activity that opened my group to sharing about the difficulties we went through, and to see how similar our journeys were. I felt like I was able to be there for them and to empathise. Being there for them and being a pillar of support made me feel happy." - **Jamie Cheng, Candidate**



"Being there in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, allowing myself to be in the moment and appreciate the time that I had with Jesus made me realize that He loves me unconditionally and is always there for me." - **Debbie Yee, Catechumen**

"It was good to map my spiritual life history. This exercise enabled me to notice the ups and downs in my life and how God had helped and blessed me throughout my life." - **Chee Teck Huei, Catechumen**



"I have learned to not worry, but to let go of my fear and believe that God will always guide me." - **Tristan Kyler Liew, Catechumen**

Let us keep our catechumens and candidates in prayer as they journey ever closer to baptism!



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

Lunar New Year 2025

Here are some highlights from our Lunar New Year celebration:



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:

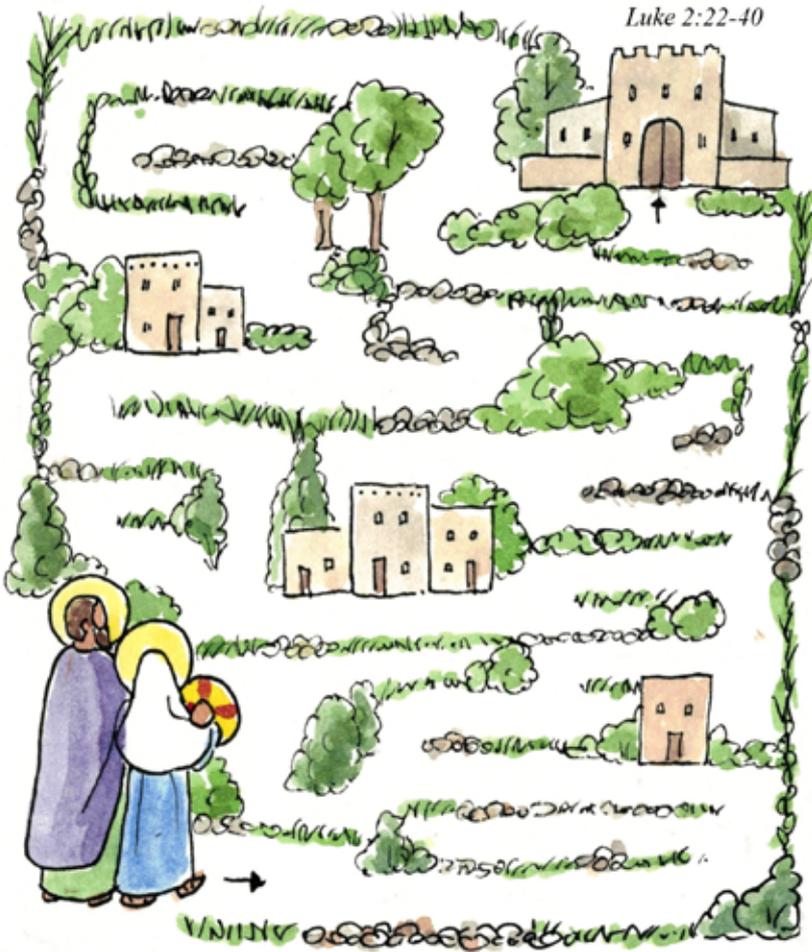
8.30am - 7.30pm

Closed on Public Holidays



Feast of the Presentation of Jesus February 2nd, 2025

Luke 2:22-40



Can you help the Holy Family find their way to the
Temple so that Baby Jesus can be presented there?

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