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*Making Disciples*

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[tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings](http://tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings)  
**UEN:** T08CC4033J  
**Reference:** Mass Collection

## Love: Our Call to Holiness

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
9 Feb 2025

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8  
1 Cor 15:1-11  
Lk 5:1-11

In the upcoming week, the world will be celebrating Valentine's Day. With shops and restaurants advertising special deals for this occasion, 'love' can easily be perceived as transactional. However, as baptised Christians, 'love' is beyond that - it is our primary vocation. It is the Call to Holiness, as Pope Paul VI describes in *Lumen Gentium* - a call to love God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength so that we may love each other as he loves us (cf. *LG* 40). Our readings today prompt us to consider the obstacles that might prevent us from genuinely upholding this vocation.

The main obstacle is sin, which "sets itself against God's love for us and turns our hearts away from it" (CCC 1850). The First Reading emphasises the importance of removing sin before we can be sent out on mission. When Isaiah recognised his own wretchedness, God then came to his aid through the Seraphim (cf. Is 6:6). This encounter illustrates God's infinite merciful love for us. Although we will continually sin, he offers to restore his friendship with us through the sacrament of reconciliation (Fr Antonio Fuentes, *Opus Dei*, January 1992). On our part, we need to humbly acknowledge our sins and shortcomings. As we seek to grow our relationship with

God, St Paul reminds us to remain with scripture, where the truth of God's love that "Christ died for our sins" (1 Cor 15:3), will firmly establish us in our call.

Sin can also lead to feelings of unworthiness. St Paul mentions that he too faced this, but encourages us to trust in God's grace as this was what strengthened him: "I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am" (1 Cor 15:9-10). Grace is "free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call" (CCC 1996), which can be obtained through the sacraments. The First Reading highlights that Isaiah was only able to respond to God's call to be his messenger after the Seraphim had brought the burning coal to him (cf. Is 6:5-8). In his exhortation *On the Orthodox Faith*, St John of Damascus wrote that the 'burning coal' prophetically signified the transformative power of the Eucharist to purify and commission us to be witnesses of the Word of God whenever we receive him. Thus,



*"Here I am Lord,  
send me!"  
(Is 6:8)*

we can turn to Jesus in the Eucharist to strengthen us. Additionally, we have to cooperate with grace by trying to nurture this ability to love in our day-to-day lives. Pope Francis suggests in *Gaudete et Exultate* that through small gestures, the holiness which the Lord calls us to will grow (cf. *GE* 16). For instance, we can help a stranger in need or refrain from gossiping. As long as we rely on and cooperate with grace to guide our lives, we will be equipped for this mission.

Admittedly, there will still be moments when we lack complete confidence, but God invites us to put whatever faith we have in him. We can follow Simon's [Peter] example in the Gospel. While he was washing his nets after an unsuccessful night of fishing, Jesus approached him and instructed him to try again (cf. Lk 5:4-5). Simon seemed to recognise that Jesus was someone with authority, and obeyed his instructions despite it being contrary to his own logic. His obedience resulted in his and his companions' nets being overwhelmingly full. Similarly, when we respond to Jesus' invitation to be 'fishers of men' (cf. Lk 5:10), we will be able to live meaningful and purposeful lives for him and for others. He generously extends his love and providence to those whom we entrust to him. It may seem like a huge undertaking to follow him, but Jesus assures us: "Do not be afraid" (Lk 5:10).

Holiness is a call for all. May we rely on God's grace to guide us so that we can confidently respond: "Here I am Lord, send me!" (Is 6:8).

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs



SCAN QR CODE  
FOR MASS HYMNS  
[www.sfxchurch.sg/mass](http://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](https://tinyurl.com/SFXFacilityReport).



### COLLECTION OF OLD PALMS

In preparation for Ash Wednesday, 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.**

### SSVP COLLECTION

There will be a second collection by Society of St Vincent De Paul this weekend to help the poor and needy in monthly rations and other aid programmes. Please give generously. For cheque payments or PayNow, pay to:

**Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)**  
• **OCBC Bank Account No:**  
686 596 768 001  
• **PayNow UEN:** S61SS0149B

### SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The 1Cor12 Communities and RCIY Ministry will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPII Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship.

### CHARISMATIC PRAYER

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 10 Feb, 8pm** at the Auditorium. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on "My Life is Not About Me" by Sr Elizabeth Sim. 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](http://www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer). All prayer requests will be kept confidential.

### CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

Join us for the candlelight rosary procession on **Thu 13 Feb, 8pm** in JPII Hall. The procession will take place within the church grounds. Bring your own waxless candle and join us in prayers as we honour our Blessed Mother. All are welcome!

### 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 **every Sun from 9 Feb to 30 Mar - except for a break on 16 Mar.**

### WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

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

### BIBLE APOSTOLATE TEAM: MOTHER OF THE MESSIAH

Join SFXBAT for this three-part study and learn how the Bible itself teaches that Mary is nothing less than the Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven and Earth, the New Eve, and the New Ark of the Covenant. No registration required. Join the WhatsApp community at <https://chat.whatsapp.com/CDPiQ4XjXqN62nuH2EBf3M>

**Dates:** 9, 16, 23 Feb (Sundays)  
**Time:** 9am - 10.30am  
**Venue:** Jeremiah Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)



### UPPER ROOM

As we prepare our hearts for Lent, the community of In One Spirit (IOS), a part of the 1Cor12 Communities invites you to step away from the noise of life and into a sacred space where you can encounter God's peace and presence. Whether you're coming to pray, or to simply be, IOS hopes that the Upper Room session will offer you a place of refuge to encounter the Lord and renew your spirit. Join us for a night of prayer and adoration on **Fri 21 Feb, 8.45pm** at **SFX Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)**. For any questions, please reach out to @raphaeltheseira and @matthewkwan on Telegram. Register now at <https://tinyurl.com/sfxiosuprs>



### LENTEN FAMILY INVITATION: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Join our Lenten programme that is designed for children up to 7 years old. It features engaging crafts, child-friendly journaling, and Stations of the Cross, to help your family spiritually prepare for Easter and experience a transformative Lenten season. Scan the QR code or sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/CLenten2025>. For any enquiries, WhatsApp Lynnette at 9690 0750.



### SCHOOL OF WITNESS 2025

For all those in the Serangoon district, don't miss the School of Witness (SOW) 2025 Serangoon District outreach hosted by St Anne's Church. SOW is a two-month live-in discipleship programme run by the Office for Young People. Participants learn to grow in faith, discover who God is and their identity in him. This outreach is for the participants to share the Good News and all that they've received through the school so that many more may encounter Christ and his love! Each outreach will have elements of prayer, preaching, and creativity! Come and see how Christ can transform your heart as the participants testify to him — the Way, the Truth and the Life! All between the ages of 16 to 35 are welcome to join us. Invite your friends along and we'll see you there!

**Date:** Sat 22 Feb  
**Time:** 7.30pm - 10.30pm  
**Venue:** St Anne's Church  
**Register:** [tinyurl.com/sow25-srg](https://tinyurl.com/sow25-srg)



# A Renewal of Baptismal Covenant



**On 26 Jan, approximately 135 participants – including Level 9 Catechetical candidates, parents, and godparents – gathered at the SFX Auditorium for the Covenant Ritual. This para-liturgy served as a poignant reminder of the candidates' baptism, recalling the symbolic significance of water as a means of cleansing and renewal. It also reaffirmed their threefold baptismal calling as priest, prophet, and king.**

Before the para-liturgy commenced, the Level 9 Catechetical Coordinator provided a short catechesis on the meaning of the covenant, its connection to baptism, and the call to missionary discipleship. The candidates were encouraged to embrace this journey through daily prayer, scripture reading, regular confession, and weekly Sunday Mass – commitments expressed in the Discipleship Commitment Card.

During the para-liturgy, time was set aside for parents and godparents to share personal reflections on their own Sacraments of Initiation and how these encounters with Christ have shaped their lives. In turn, the candidates shared their aspirations and vision for their faith journey as they prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. One of the highlights was a moving testimony by Jane Lee, who shared how she encountered God's unconditional love through the vocation of motherhood.



The ritual culminated in a powerful moment when parents poured water over their child's hands – a symbolic act of renewal – before the candidates pinned their Discipleship Commitment Cards onto the Discipleship Commitment Board. Each card contained a personal prayer written by their parents or godparents, affirming their support for the candidate's discipleship journey. The Commitment Board now stands as a visible sign of encouragement, reminding the Level 9 batch to walk together in faith, and support one another in their mission as disciples of Christ.

Let us continue to pray for these young candidates as they deepen their commitment to Christ and his Church.

*"Attending the covenant ritual as we stood before God together with the church community, we are reminded that we are not alone in our spiritual journey. Our family and the church community are here to support and guide us. Most importantly, the Holy Spirit is with us, equipping us with wisdom, strength, and courage to live out our faith daily. Choosing to say 'yes' to God is truly the most humbling and empowering decision in our lives."* - **Chace Ang, and his parents, Jason Ang and Ophelia Tan**



*"It was a moving experience for us as parents because it reminded us that we are our children's first catechists. During the session we were also reminded that we are God's beloved, of his immense unconditional love for us, that he chose us first, and not the other way around. The act of recommittting ourselves in front of the entire cohort to carry out our duties to prepare our child spiritually was particularly poignant and empowering. We pray for all families present that they are guided and led by the zeal of the Holy Spirit to bring up the next generation of our Catholic community."* - **Clarice Glass, and her parents, Leslie Glass and Cecilia Yee**



*"This covenant ritual was a meaningful experience that helped us better understand the path towards our Confirmation next year. Through the session, we felt closer to our parents, godparents, and God, not only physically but also spiritually. We are thankful that they could witness this celebration with us. This is truly an experience worth partaking in and remembering. Thank you Catechists, for organising this for us!"* - **Bryce Yeo & Luke Yeo**





*"How did I celebrate my Confirmation?" was the question that struck me because, like many others, it never occurred to me that this Sacrament had to be celebrated. But the ritual reminded me of the excitement that my child is going to encounter the Holy Spirit, the one in the Holy Trinity that is hardly known. I am not sure how or when, but looking at the room full of facilitators and other children with their parents and godparents, it's already worth celebrating that my child is not going to be alone." - Michelle Ngern, mother of Isaac Goh*

## Ordination to the Diaconate of Br Timothy Soo

Congratulations, Br Timothy! Check out these joyful moments from his Ordination to the Diaconate on Fri 24 Jan! Let us as one parish community continue to pray for him as he continues on his vocational journey. May God continue to strengthen him in his ministry. St John Vianney, pray for us.



Looking for more Information?  
visit [www.sfxchurch.sg](http://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](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)