



 **Parish Office:**
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Disciples
Making Disciples

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

The Beatitudes – Our Vocation

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
16 Feb 2025

Jer 17:5-8
1 Cor 15:12,16-20
Lk 6:17, 20-26

“The Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus’ preaching. They take up the promises made to the chosen people since Abraham. The Beatitudes fulfil the promises by ordering them no longer merely to the possession of a territory, but to the Kingdom of heaven” (CCC 1716).

They serve like an instruction manual to guide us to our ultimate home in heaven. Yet, when we pray “thy kingdom come” in the Lord’s prayer, the Beatitudes must also come to fore as the way to make the Kingdom of God present, here and now.

In this foundational teaching, Jesus reverses the understanding of blessedness for the people of his time. The belief then was that those who suffered poverty or were afflicted in other ways were bearing the effects of personal sin, or that of their ancestors. Conversely, wealth and power were signs of blessings and favour from God. Imagine how radical Jesus’ words would have sounded to the people listening, as he proclaimed, “How happy are you who are poor ... who are hungry ... who weep ...” (Lk 6:20-22). Even more provocative and challenging are the four corresponding woes that follow the blessings (Lk 6:24-26). What was Jesus trying to say here? The poor and suffering are blessed in his view because their poverty disposes



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them to depend on and receive the abundant providence of God, who came through Jesus to save the last, the least and the lost. The Kingdom of God is already among them. In contrast, the rich are warned that they risk losing the greatest treasure of heaven if they remain possessed by their possessions. When their riches become their gods, they will lose their salvation.

St. Thomas Aquinas, the great Doctor of the Church, explained that man cannot live without joy – that is why one deprived of spiritual joys goes over to carnal pleasures (cf. *Summa Theologica* I-II, Qn. 3, Art. 1). Authentic joy can only be found in God. But many desperately seek happiness through temporal gratification. Those who build their identity on such substitutes fall apart when they lose their riches or status – a hard lesson that God must always come first.

Jesus offers the Beatitudes – holy living – as the answer to our search for authentic joy. Perhaps he was describing himself in the Beatitudes as the role model for any disciple who wishes to be ‘blessed’. In the

present day, one of the most common substitutes for God is material wealth, the accumulation of things. To grow spiritually, however, we must let go of false attachments. St John of the Cross beautifully describes how detachment actually brings freedom. He explains, “To reach satisfaction in all, desire satisfaction in nothing; to come to the knowledge of all, desire the knowledge of nothing; to come to possess all, desire the possession of nothing; to arrive at being all, desire to be nothing” (*The Ascent of Mount Carmel*). “The Beatitudes confront us with decisive choices concerning earthly goods; they purify our hearts in order to teach us to love God above all things. The beatitude of heaven sets the standards for discernment in the use of earthly goods in keeping with the law of God” (CCC 1728-1729).

To live the Beatitudes in our lives, deep interior conversion is necessary to guard against self-centredness or a scarcity mindset, lest we hoard and contribute to social injustice. The Beatitudes also remind us of our connections with one another. God’s kingdom is established when divisions between people disappear, and we share our blessings – time, talent and treasure. Jesus’ teachings offer us an invitation and a choice. The path we choose will determine our happiness here and our destiny in eternity.

As we begin the Year of the Snake, we can ask the Lord to help us prosper in holiness and righteous living. Consider what to shed from our lives that does not serve God’s divine purpose. Pray to be exemplary stewards of our blessings, and to always seek God, the giver of those blessings first, so that his Kingdom here on earth can be established.

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

In preparation for Ash Wednesday, you may drop off your old palms in the designated boxes outside Foyer/ JPll Hall. **Please help to remove all plastic bags and rubber bands.**

GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend, being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a 2nd collection for Catholic Foundation's GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness programme). GIFT is a regular giving programme to rally support for and fund the Archdiocese's organisations and initiatives for youth, evangelisation, catechesis, formation and others. Please drop your contributions or GIFT envelopes into the collection boxes. Do consider signing up for a regular pledge, as it is the most reliable way of supporting the Church. Visit catholicfoundation.sg to contribute online or find out more.



SSVP COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend, SSVP was able to raise **\$11,246.65** for our Friends-In-Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of their activities.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 17 Feb, 8pm** at the Auditorium. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'Living the Life of The Spirit'. All are welcome!

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Join us on **Mon 17 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: **every Sun from 16 Feb to 30 Mar - except for a break on 16 Mar.**

BIBLE APOSTOLATE TEAM: MOTHER OF THE MESSIAH

Join SFXBAT for the 2nd and 3rd of 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: 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, specially designed for children aged 7 and below. It features engaging crafts, child-friendly journaling activities, and Outdoor Stations of the Cross, helping families spiritually prepare for Easter and experience a transformative Lenten season. For enquiries, please contact Lynnette at 9690 0750. Scan the QR code or sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/CLenten2025>.



FAMILY APOSTOLATE TEAM: PARENTING FOR PURITY, LIVE WITH JASON EVERT

Do you want to be the #1 influence on your child's sexual morality? In this special event, Jason Evert will be speaking to us LIVE by Zoom right from his hometown in Arizona, USA. He will enlighten us on 10 powerful strategies to safeguard the innocence of your children. There will also be a dedicated Q&A segment right after the talk, where you can submit your anonymous questions live to Jason. See you there!

Date: Sat 29 Mar
Time: 10am - 11.20am
Venue: SFX Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)



68TH BEGINNING EXPERIENCE (BE) WEEKEND

The 68th Beginning Experience (BE) Weekend is a live-in weekend for the permanently separated, divorced or widowed (for both males and females). The BE Weekend helps single-again individuals move on from the darkness of their grief into the light of a new beginning, to be healed and be free to love themselves, others and God. For registration or any enquiries, visit www.besingapore.org/BE_Event

Dates: 21 - 23 Mar (Friday night through Sunday afternoon)
Cost: \$230
For more information, please contact: 9693 0785 (Rodney)/ 9755 4310 (Mary)/ 9828 5162 (Jean)



MONTFORTIAN EXPERIENCE RETREAT: LOVE WITHOUT LIMITS

In order to draw closer to us and give us a more convincing proof of his love, eternal Wisdom went so far as to become one like us, even to become a little child, to embrace poverty and to die upon a cross for us. Will you let Jesus, friend of sinners, come to you and love you just as you are?

Dates: 7 - 9 Mar (Stay-in Retreat)
Venue: Montfort Centre
 (624 Upper Bukit Timah Rd)
Register: www.montfortcentre.org/events-1/love-without-limits



1Cor12 Fortify Camp

From 17-19 January, 40 youths and post-confirmation students from SFX attended a 2 day 1 night camp, where they learned about active discipleship and forged new Christian friendships. Through a balance of play and prayer, the youths gained a sense of ownership over their faith post-confirmation and understood the importance of community on their faith journey.

Fortify is the youth programme of SFX, open to those who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Join us as we explore what it means to be a disciple of Christ and walk with fellow brothers and sisters!

Do reach out to Sarah (8783 0504), Matthew (82286175) or 1Cor12@sfxchurch.sg if you have any further queries!

Here are some testimonies:

"I was initially hesitant about attending the camp as I did not know many of the Fortify members and I had a busy schedule. However, after getting to know

them through group activities, prayers and worship, it allowed me to further open my heart to God while also teaching me the importance of community in church."
 ~ Howard Lee, post-confirmation

"When I first received the invitation for the Fortify camp, I was hesitant, fearing I'd feel like an outsider in their close-knit community. Nevertheless, I decided to give it a chance. Like any camp, the activities were enjoyable, but what I couldn't have anticipated was the level of trust and vulnerability among everyone. They openly shared their struggles and insecurities and were met with hugs and encouragement. The warmth of everyone was incredibly welcoming, creating a safe space where I felt accepted. It was comforting to feel God's love so strongly through these people I had just met. It was even more moving how, despite distractions and challenges in their lives, everyone still showed up, brought together by our faith, and it made me appreciate the care and support found in community."
 ~ Sarah Kesavan, post-confirmation





"I felt that this Fortify retreat was a really fruitful time for me to reflect on my relationship with God. I related to one of the sessions where the presenter was sharing about the post retreat high and how it's very normal for this spiritual high to drop. I felt like this spoke out to me because whenever I serve retreats for the younger ones, I would always experience these post retreat highs. However, when the high is over I would often get very discouraged and would crave this feeling of spiritual high in my weekly cell group sharings. And when I don't, I get easily frustrated and feel disheartened or even abandoned.

Hearing the sharings of others who had also experienced these kinds of spiritual highs, I felt that throughout the retreat God has revealed to me that even at times where I am not feeling this spiritual high, he has always been by my side."
 ~ Timothy Tai, member of Fortify

St Jerome Library: New Children Books on the Mass

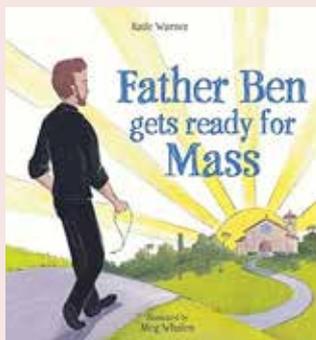
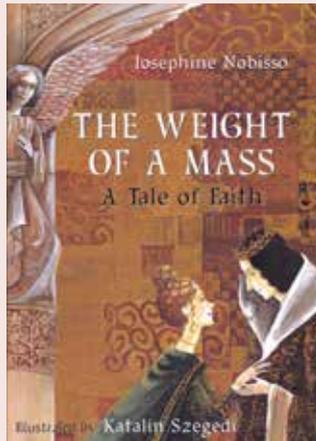
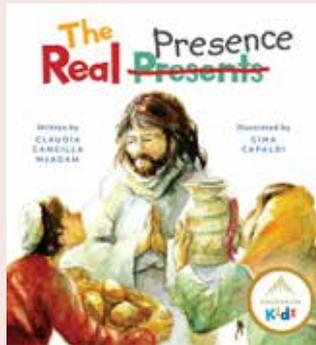
How can we help our children appreciate the wonderful miracle of bread and wine transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ at every single Mass?

Join Zedekiah and Abigail as they share in the first Eucharist with Jesus in the Upper Room in Jerusalem. They realised that just believing in Jesus' words that the bread and wine had now become His Body and Blood opened their eyes and helped them understand in "The Real Presence".

You can also join a poor widow in a bread shop when the baker mocks her Mass offering as payment for a piece of stale bread. Can you really weigh on a scale to find out the value of a Mass? Be totally surprised by Josephine Nobisso's touching story in "The Weight of A Mass".

Pop by St Jerome Library today to check out our new books on the Mass:

- "The Real Presence" by Claudia Cangilla McAdam
- "The Weight of A Mass - A Tale of Faith" by Josephine Nobisso
- "Father Ben gets ready for Mass" by Katie Warner



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