



Disciples
Making Disciples



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

Kinship to Freedom

2nd Sunday in Lent
16 Mar 2025

Gen 15:5-12, 17-18
Phil 3:17 - 4:1
Lk 9:28-36

This Sunday's First Reading beautifully depicts God's covenant with his people through his third chosen covenant mediator, Abram. In a covenant, persons who are not related give themselves to each other, they form an unbreakable bond and become family. In this instance, God implicitly shows Abram: I AM yours and you are mine. In this passage too, God demonstrates unambiguously what happens when one party breaks the covenant oath. Death – as represented by the carcasses consumed in flames (cf. Gen 15:9) – is the consequence.

Why then would we, as descendants of Abraham, want to break this holy kinship that is a total gift from God? Why, when in keeping it, we obtain, through God's complete generosity and grace, the freedom to live as God's children, following his commandments and his Son's law of love and mercy? This is tantamount to experiencing, for life, an exodus from slavery to sin, and having hope of a blessed eternal life, because contrary to secular beliefs, authentic freedom is not about doing as we please, putting ourselves first, storing up material possessions, chasing power and popularity, but willing the good of the other, even to the point of suffering and sacrifice on our part.

Freedom as defined by the world is in fact a false freedom. It is a

euphemism for slavery to our worldly passions, that which leads to sin. As St. Paul in the Second Reading tells the Philippians, "behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ" ... we are "destined to be lost" (Phil 3:18-19). "When the things [we] think important are earthly things" (Phil 3:19), we begin to turn them into false gods that we idolise, at the risk of breaking covenant and losing our divine inheritance as sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father. When we allow our bodily desires to dictate how we live, when we choose to feed our self-focused wants and disordered wills, we are worshipping our appetites and being subjugated by sins of lust, anger, pride, envy, sloth, gluttony and greed. Imprisoned by the cycle of sin, we separate ourselves from God and allow our souls to be conquered and then mortally wounded.

Salvation history – as it is still unfolding – shows us that time and again, we trade God's love, protection, and providence for the "freedom" to exercise our own will. For our sake, God sent us his only Son Jesus, as the last covenant maker-mediator; Jesus who is both the perfect man who mediates and the God who alone can atone on our behalf; Jesus, who redeems us from slavery to sin, death and eternal damnation.

The luminous mystery of the Transfiguration in the Gospel foreshadows the glory of the New Exodus that Christ in his Passion, Resurrection and Ascension leads us through. The glory of the Godhead shines on the face of Christ on Mount Tabor to the utter awe of the three Apostles. Desire for holiness is the fruit of witnessing such divine splendour. Like Peter, James and John, we experience being in the glorious presence of God at Mass, when we consume Jesus, at

Adoration, and every time we make present the Kingdom of God by doing his will.

Even as Christ is affirmed by the Father and his divinity is displayed at the Transfiguration, he sets his face to Jerusalem and the Cross. At the Cross, he delivers us once and for all from sin and death, which no longer have a hold on us, except when we refuse to take up our crosses and follow him.

How Christ loved us at Calvary becomes the New Covenant replacing the old. At every Mass, the Eucharist we consume is divine provision for our New Exodus journey. This enables us to walk freely, as pilgrims travelling towards the Heavenly Jerusalem, our ultimate home.

May we remember that every day – not just the 40 days of Lent – should be a "practice drill" in holy waiting for "[seeing] the Lord's goodness in the land of the living" (Ps 26: 13). "[Let us always] hope in him, hold firm and take heart" (Ps 26:14).



"...contrary to secular beliefs, authentic freedom is not about doing as we please."

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, being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a 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 box. 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Join us **every Friday** during the Lenten season as we contemplate the love and sacrifice of Jesus at **8pm** for Stations of the Cross, followed by Mass.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Children's Liturgy Ministry will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPIL Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER

Please note there will be no session on 17 Mar. The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 24 Mar, 8pm** at the **Auditorium**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Holy Mass celebrated by Fr Edward Lim. All are welcome!

MINISTRY AWARENESS & OUTREACH DRIVE

This weekend, join us after Mass outside JPIL Hall to explore **Infant Baptism, Small Christian Communities (SCC), Wardens, and Choirs**. Discover how you can be a part of our vibrant parish community!

PLACING OUR MEN OF SIGNIFICANCE UNDER THE CARE OF ST JOSEPH

Please write the names of your **husbands, fathers, spiritual fathers and other men of significance** in the book provided in Church, in front of Mother Mary's stained glass icon. On the Solemnity of St. Joseph (**Wed 19 Mar**), a prayer of blessing will be offered for them at both the morning and evening Masses.



BIBLE APOSTOLATE TEAM (BAT) THE PASSION OF CHRIST IN LIGHT OF THE SHROUD OF TURIN

Join us for a fascinating deep-dive into the world's most studied religious artifact. Discover what modern forensics, medical analysis, and advanced imaging reveal about this mysterious cloth. Learn of the latest revelations that add to the mountain of evidence that continues to challenge scientists and theologians today. Limited seats available. No registration required.

Date: Sun 23 Mar

Time: 9am

Venue: Jeremiah Room, Parish Centre, Level 2

Join: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/JSmZoA9fsT8FIZP61slcl9>



LIFE: "RETURN" WITH FR JOHN BURNS

"Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks – come back to me with all your heart, fasting, weeping, mourning. Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn, turn to the Lord your God again..." (Joel 2:12-13)

Reorient your mind and heart this Lent so you can more fully experience the joy of Easter – Christ's victory over sin and death. We continue with our "Return" episodes as Fr John Burns invites you to strip away your confusion, attachments and sin, so that you can return to the Lord and undergo real and lasting conversion.

Dates: 21, 28 Mar (Fridays)

Time: 8pm – 9.30pm

Venue: JPIL Hall

Enquiries: Brian Rezel (9789 2253) or Monica Yap (9669 6781)



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.

Date: Sat 29 Mar

Time: 10am - 11.20am

Venue: Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/SFXPEP2025>



BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

1Cor12 (BASIC) invites parishioners of all ages to a Lenten half-day of recollection! Come spend some time this Lent with Jesus through prayerful and fun art, music and movement workshops, ending with Adoration. Rediscover the freedom and joy of coming to Jesus just like a child, just as you are. For enquiries, please contact Mary Ann at 9168 9602 or Matthew Lim at 9296 9687.

Date: Sat 5 Apr

Time: 9.30am - 12.30pm (refreshments will be provided after)

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/sfxbasicdor25>

(Do dress comfortably as there will be lots of movement & Adoration)



SSVP: LOVE THE TOTS COLLECTION

On behalf of the little from the SSVP Milk and Diapers programme, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your incredible generosity. Your kind contribution of **\$16,411** will go a long way in providing essential care, enabling us to sustain 9 infants for the entire year ahead. Your generosity is a beacon of hope for these little ones and their families. We are deeply grateful for your trust and support!

CARITAS: DISCUSSION NIGHT FOR YOUNG ADULTS ON DIGITAL CONVERSATION

Join Caritas Young Adults for pizza and ice-cream as we discuss online communication at a time rife with division and misinformation. We will ponder what we can do and how our faith can inform our action. For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at formation.cst@caritas-singapore.org.

Date: Thu 3 Apr
Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Venue: CANA (55 Waterloo St, Level 3)
Register: www.tinyurl.com/cotsretweet



CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE: KNOWING ME & KNOWING YOU

Did you know that 1 in 4 marriages in Singapore ends before the 20th anniversary, with most breaking down between the 5th and 10th years? (Source: Singapore Department of Statistics) The main culprits? Communication breakdown, unresolved conflicts, parenting stress and personality clashes. But here's the good news — you can prevent these pitfalls by truly understanding your partner.

What you'll gain from this talk:

- Master communication in your marriage
- Turn clashes into connections
- Build a resilient, lasting bond

Date & Time: Wed 11 Apr, 8pm - 10pm
Venue: CANA (St Flora, Level 2)
Cost: \$20 per pax, \$35 for two
 (Light Refreshments will be provided)
Register: www.familylife.sg/KMKY_Reg



CHARITIES WEEK 2025

Please support and donate generously towards Charities Week 2025, an Archdiocesan annual fundraising project. The funds raised will enable the Caritas Singapore Family to provide vital programmes and services to serve the poor and elderly, persons with disabilities or special needs, migrants, youth-at-risk, lower-income families and more. Let us walk together with our brothers and sisters in need. Pick up a Charities Week 2025 envelope to donate and mail it to Caritas Singapore (for cheques only), or drop it into our Mass Offering Box outside JPII Hall. For walk-in donations to the Caritas Singapore office, please visit us at **Caritas Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh, #04-01, Singapore 319264**. Your Charities Week donations (\$10 and above) are eligible for 250% tax deduction. You may also wish to donate online by scanning the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/cw25bulletin>. Your contribution will make a difference to the lives of those in need. For more information, please contact us at **6801 7400** or visit our website at www.caritas-singapore.org.



Book recommendations from St Jerome Library

Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

"Thanks to his role in salvation history, Saint Joseph has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people. This is shown by the countless churches dedicated to him worldwide..."

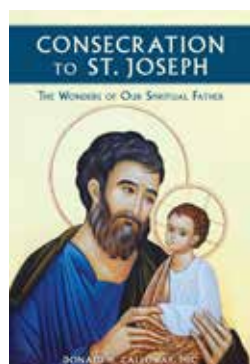
- Pope Francis, Patris Corde
 (With a Father's Heart), 2020

"...turn to St. Joseph with greater fervor and invoke his patronage with trust... keep before [your] eyes his humble, mature way of serving and of 'taking part' in the plan of salvation."

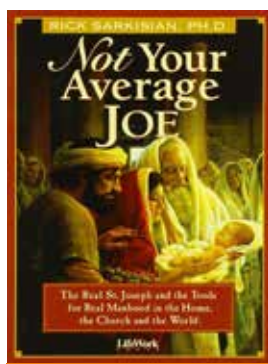
- Pope St John Paul II, Redemptoris Custos
 (Guardian of the Redeemer), 1989

The Gospels do not record any word ever spoken by St Joseph but many bible scholars say it is precisely through St Joseph's "silence" and his acts of faith-filled obedience that we see a very special eloquence.

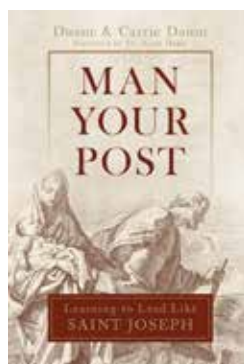
Pick up a book or two on our Spiritual Father, St Joseph, and celebrate more deeply his Solemnity this Wed, 19 March.



"Consecration to St Joseph - The Wonders of our Spiritual Father" by Fr Donald Calloway, MIC



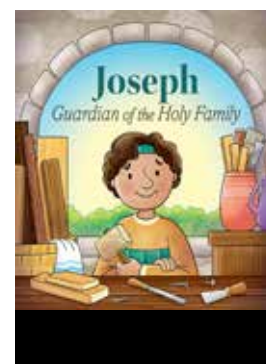
"Not Your Average Joe: The Real St Joseph and the Tools for Real Manhood in the Home, The Church and The World" by Dr Rick Sarkisian



"Man Your Post: Learning to Lead Like St Joseph" by Carrie & Duane Daunt



"The Seven Sorrows & Joys of St Joseph" edited by Fr Joe Lopez Carpio



"Joseph, Guardian of the Holy Family" by Sr Marlyn Monge, FSP



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

Mini MANNA

Jesus shone like
the sun when He
took his three
friends up the
mountain.

Luke 9:28-36



Peter was confused and
said something without
thinking. What did he
say he could make?

Connect the dots to find out!

St Joseph's Puzzle

The Gospel tells us that Saint Joseph was just a man. What
did he do? Match the things that he did (on the right) with the
circumstances on the left.

1. Before they were
married and he found out
that Mary was expecting
a baby ____

2. When the angel came
in a dream and told him
to take Mary as his
wife ____

3. When the government
said that everyone had to
register in their home
town ____

4. When an angel came
in a dream and told him
that the soldiers were
coming to kill baby
Jesus ____

5. When Jesus stayed in
the Temple instead of
coming home with him ____

6. While Jesus was
growing up ____

A. St. Joseph taught Jesus
to be a carpenter.

B. St. Joseph looked for
Jesus for three days until
he found Him.

C. St. Joseph took Mary
and baby Jesus to Egypt
right away.

D. St. Joseph went to
Bethlehem with Mary.

E. St. Joseph planned to
break off his engagement
quietly so that Mary
wouldn't be ashamed.

F. St. Joseph married Mary.



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

Mass Times

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Thu:
6.30pm

Tue - Sat:
6.30am

Lenten Fri:
Stations of the Cross
8pm
followed by Mass

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