



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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

The Father Listens

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
World Day for Grandparents
and the Elderly
27 Jul 2025

Gen 18:20-32
Col 2: 12-14
Lk 11: 1-13

Do we remember that we are children of God? As we age, we move from school to work, from work to retirement, from only being sons and daughters of our parents to being fathers and mothers of our own. But amidst these changes, our identity as children of God remains — it is never taken away from us. This weekend's readings serve as a reminder of that identity and how to hold on to it, especially in times of need.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we return to a familiar prayer where Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray. When one of them asks, "Lord, teach us to pray," Jesus replies, "Say this when you pray: 'Father...'" (Lk 11:2). How striking it is that Jesus simply directs us to speak to God as 'Father'. Reflecting on this, Pope Francis said: "Jesus says that the first thing necessary for prayer is to be able to call God 'Father'. If I cannot say 'Father' to God, I can't pray. We have to learn to say 'Father,' that is, to put ourselves into his presence with filial confidence." (Pope Francis, General Audience, 15 Nov 2017).

When we pray the Our Father, do we realise what we are saying? Or are we so familiar with the words that they slip from our lips without much thought?



***"How much more will
the heavenly Father give
the Holy Spirit to those
who ask him"***

(LK 11:13)

The depth of this relationship is further revealed in our readings: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Lk 11:13).

The gift of the Holy Spirit is not merely a blessing or benefit — it is God himself, given to dwell within us. We are encouraged to pray with persistence and trust in the Father's love. We see this in the First Reading, where the Lord responds to Abraham's plea to spare the town even "for the sake of the ten" (Gen 18:32). This gives us the confidence that the Lord listens and hears the cry of our heart. With the psalmist, we too can say: "On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord" (Ps 138:3).

Yet in our sinfulness, we may sometimes feel unworthy of the Father's love. In the Second Reading, Paul reminds us that through baptism, we have been buried with Christ and raised up with him through the power of God (cf. Col 2:12). Through God's love, we are brought back to life in Christ. But our relationship with God cannot be separated from our relationship with one another. As the Catechism teaches: "Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ: 'Therefore . . . we are members one of another.' Baptism incorporates us into the Church" (CCC 1267).

The Our Father is therefore not a prayer that isolates but a prayer that expresses the deep spiritual reality that we are all children of God. In Christ, we become brothers and sisters, called to love and listen to one another with the same love and attention that God shows us.

Pope Benedict XVI, reflecting on the Lord's Prayer, once said: "We have before us the first words of Sacred Scripture that we learn in childhood. They are impressed in our memory, mould our life and accompany us to our last breath" (Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, 25 July 2010).

Fittingly, his final words were "Lord, I love you!" — a moving testament to his love for the Lord, right to the end.

Our celebration of World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly draws our attention to the reality that we are always God's children regardless of our age. God continues to listen and to love us. To grow old is to have the opportunity to be witnesses of God's goodness and love throughout our lives — a legacy for children, grandchildren, or even great-grandchildren to see and be blessed by.

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.



SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The 1Cor12 Community will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JP11 Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 28 Jul, 8pm - 9.30pm** at the Auditorium. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Holy Mass celebrated by Fr Edward Lim. All are welcome!

BEWARE OF IMPERSONATION SCAMS

We have recently observed a rise in sophisticated email scams impersonating our clergy. These deceptive communications often mimic genuine conversations, building false trust over several messages before initiating a scam. Beyond email, vigilance is crucial on platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, and Telegram, where scam activities are also on the rise. We must collectively safeguard our community from those who seek to exploit it.

To protect yourselves and our community, we urge you to read the full advisory at <https://www.catholic.sg/advisory-online-scams>. Let us remain vigilant and prudent to protect one another from deception.

NOTICE FOR COLUMBARIUM VISITORS

Please be advised that the columbarium is reserved for Catechetical sessions every Sunday from 3pm to 4.30pm. We kindly request that parishioners plan their visits before or after this scheduled time to minimise disruptions to the sessions. If visiting during the Catechetical session, we appreciate your consideration for the children's formation activities taking place. Thank you for your understanding.

INTERCESSORY

Join us on **Mon 28 Jul, 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.



5TH WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

Blessed are those who have not lost hope (cf. Sir 14:2)

All are invited to come for Mass and breakfast. To our dear grandparents and elderly, do come by to collect a Prayer Card and have a cute portrait of yourself drawn at the Doodle Station. There will also be an appreciation activity for all to participate in, to bless our grandparents and elderly.

DO SOMETHING GRAND

The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is celebrated on Sun 27 Jul 2025, on the 4th Sunday in July, close to the liturgical feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. Pope Francis instituted this annual event to honour the elderly and their role in families and communities. This year's theme is **"Blessed are those who have not lost hope"** (cf. Sir 14:2).

As we celebrate this day, we remember what Pope Francis has said in past addresses, "The elderly are not leftovers from life; they are living signs of God's presence." This year's theme reinforces his vision of ageing as a time of faith, wisdom and hope. See page 4 for this year's prayer.

So do something grand this day for your grandparents or the elderly in your neighbourhood or home. Give them words of affirmation, spend some quality time with them, do random acts of service and pray with and for them. After Mass on Sunday, don't rush off. Stay and participate in the many activities that the parish has lined up for our grandparents and elderly.

BIBLE VERSES FOR THE ELDERLY

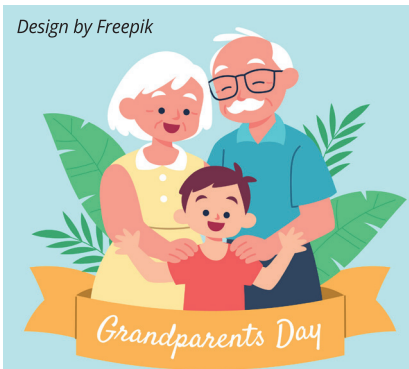
"Even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save." - Isa 46:4

"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever." - Ps 73:26

"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer man is wasting away, our inner man is being renewed every day." - 2 Cor 4:16

"They still bring forth fruit in old age, they are ever full of sap and green." - Ps 92:14

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Date: Sun 27 Jul
Time: 8am - 12.30pm
Venue: JP11 Hall /
Outside JP11 Hall

SACERDOTAL ORDINATION OF DEACON TIMOTHY SOO



"Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother"
John 19:25

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
The ordination to the sacred order of priesthood of
Deacon Timothy Soo Zhi Ren

— — — — —
MASS OF ORDINATION
9 Aug 2025, Saturday
10am, Church of St. Francis Xavier
celebrated by His Eminence
William Cardinal Goh

▶ Livestream: youtube.com/@SFXChurchSG

PLEASE NOTE:

- All are welcome to attend the Mass of Ordination and the lunch reception that follows.
- Church doors will open at 8.30am.
- On-site parking is limited to guests with issued parking decals.
- Parishioners are encouraged not to drive. If necessary, kindly park only at designated public lots.

Let us keep Deacon Timothy in prayer as he prepares for his sacerdotal ordination.

GET TO KNOW *Deacon Timothy Soo* PART 2

Deacon Timothy Soo, who is from our parish, will be ordained a priest on **Sat 9 Aug, 10am** in our church. In the second of a three-part series, let us see what Deacon Timothy was like in his youth(ful) days.

Can you tell us more about your involvement with the SFX youth communities?

Deacon Timothy: My confirmation batch formed a youth community, Leaven of God (LOG), right after we were confirmed in 2004. We were mentored by and journeyed with members from the Mustard Seed Community (MSC). Subsequently, other youth communities formed as well, and we all came together under the umbrella body 1Cor12. Serving in catechetical camps was a big part of our service to the Parish!



Confirmation day



With his family and godparents at confirmation day.



Having fun at camp



The community of LOG

What aspects of priestly life are most appealing to you?

Deacon Timothy: The total availability (self-gift) of the Diocesan priest to the People of God, from womb to tomb, in imitation of Jesus Christ who sacrifices Himself on the cross to reconcile humanity to the Father, draws me. It is a privilege and humbling experience to be invited into the lives of other persons to give them Jesus, and to grow into spiritual fatherhood.

Which is your go-to scripture passage or Bible verse?

Deacon Timothy: Romans 8:28 "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose" (RSV)

How do you see yourself serving the community as a priest?

Deacon Timothy: I would say - in all ways that the People of God need me to, and in the manner the Lord directs and guides. It is not so much how I want to serve or about personal preference, but to avail myself as much as possible according to what is presented to me via obedience to the Bishop.



Serving with his community friends

Continued on Page 4

How do you plan to balance the demands of priestly life with your personal well-being?

Deacon Timothy: Daily prayer and intimacy with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, regular spiritual direction sessions, and honouring my rest day as much as possible. Ultimately, knowing and trusting that all things are in the hands of Jesus. Definitely easier said than done!

What advice would you give to someone considering a similar path?

Deacon Timothy: **Fall in love with Jesus, stay in love with Jesus, grow in love with Jesus** - this is the foundation of discernment of the call to priestly life. It is not we who call ourselves, but the Lord! At the same time, it is our free response in love to give of ourselves.

Join us in celebrating the Sacerdotal Ordination of Deacon Timothy Soo on Sat, 9 Aug, 10am at SFX.

Parish Prayer

FOR DEACON TIMOTHY

Heavenly Father,
we thank You for calling Deacon Timothy Soo to the gift of the priesthood.
As he prepares to offer his life in deeper service to Christ and the Church,
we lift him up to You with love and gratitude.

Grant him a heart rooted in prayer,
hands made ready for the sacraments,
and a spirit open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
May he walk in humility and courage,
finding strength in the Cross and joy in Your will.

United as a parish family,
we entrust Deacon Timothy to Your care and protection.

O Jesus, we surrender Deacon Timothy to You.
Take care of everything! Amen.

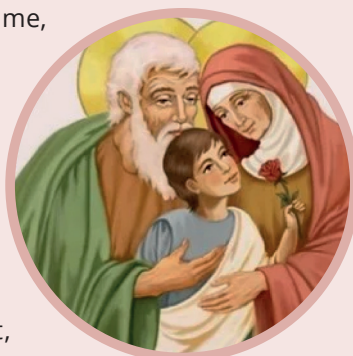


Prayer for the Fifth World Day FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

How beautiful are these words of yours, Lord!
Help us to continue our pilgrimage through time,
animated by the hope that comes from You!
Help us in this divisive world,
to bring the hope of communion.
Help us in this world, wounded by wars,
to bring the hope of peace.
Help us in this world, which is dehumanizing,
to bring the beauty of an ancient smile.
Help us to be, for our grandchildren,
for our loved ones and for everyone we meet,
the memory of your tenderness.
Help us to bring, in a world distracted from You,
the Hope of a new life that only You can give!

For in You, Lord, nothing is lost
For in You, Lord, everything begins again! Amen

Source: <https://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/eventi/2025/fifth-world-day-for-granparents-and-the-elderly.html>



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