



THE MANNA

Church of St Francis Xavier

63A Chartwell Drive,
Singapore 558758



Disciples *Making Disciples*



Parish Office:
6280 6076, secretariat@sfxchurch.sg



Parish Priest:
Rev Fr Benedict Chng
6288 0484
benedict.chng@catholic.org.sg



Little Shepherds' Schoolhouse@St Francis Xavier:
6011 1076, lss-cosfx.admin@catholicpreschool.edu.sg

Assistant Priest:
Rev Fr Edward Lim
6282 3151
frelim@catholic.org.sg



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

The Joy of Finding Jesus

3rd Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday
14 Dec 2025

Is 35:1 – 6a, 10
Jm 5:7 – 10
Mt 11:2 – 11

A recent *Straits Times* article reported that among Google's top searches for Singapore in 2025 are AI tools, influencers, mortgage rates, vouchers, new phones, health scares and wars. Behind these search trends lie hearts hungry for security and anxious about the future, hearts that are wondering whether anyone or anything can truly hold our fragile lives together. It is within this climate of restlessness that the Church leads us into the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday – a day that dares to speak of joy not because doubts and fears disappear, but because God's promise has already taken flesh. Advent reminds us that the fulfilment we long for is not a lifestyle upgrade, but a Person: Jesus, the humble yet mighty Word that trumps each and every one of our deep searches.

This restlessness goes deeper than our news feeds and search histories. Pope Leo XIV recently told his confreres in a USCCB video recording that "so much of who I am I owe to the spirit and the teachings of St Augustine", and that through grace, St Augustine "found the way to peace for his restless heart". Yet, in a world flooded with noise and competing messages, our "heads and hearts" can be overwhelmed, fuelling our restlessness and

stealing our joy. Our digital searches and constant refreshing of information are echoes of a deeper spiritual disquiet – not for instant answers, but for God Himself.

This restlessness—our sorrow, fear and unanswered questions—is exactly what Advent names. The Messiah has come and begun his saving work, yet our lives are still marked by fragility and waiting. Isaiah foretells a day when the blind see, the deaf hear and the lame leap for joy (cf. Is 35:5–6). In the Gospel, when St John the Baptist sends his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come?", Jesus points to what is happening: the blind see, the lame walk, the dead are raised, and the poor hear Good News. Isaiah's promises are already being fulfilled in Jesus' ministry – and yet St John is in prison, and the prophet's words about everlasting joy and the flight of all sorrow (cf. Is 35:10) are clearly not yet realised. This is the Advent tension: Christ has come and begun his saving work, but sorrow, captivity and questions remain, so like St John (and as St James reminds us) we are called to "be patient... make [our] hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand" (Jm 5:7–8).

Here the figure of St John the Baptist consoles us. Doubts in themselves are not sins; they are often experienced by a heart that takes God seriously. Like a patient artist, God uses even our restlessness and confusion to draw us deeper into himself, shaping us into what C.S. Lewis called "everlasting splendours". Our task in this in-between time is not to achieve certainty, but to stay in the story: to bring our questions to Christ as St John did, to let his works and his

Word answer us, and to keep saying a small, faithful yes in the dark.

All of this leads to the heart of the promise of Advent. Isaiah proclaims, "Here is your God... He comes to save you" (Is 35:4). God comes personally—first at Bethlehem, now in the visible Sacrament and the hiddenness of grace, and one day in visible glory at his second coming. The Psalm assures us that the Lord keeps faith for ever. His promise is, in effect: I, the Lord, will always be faithful to you, even when you are restless, fearful or doubting. Gaudete Sunday invites us to rejoice not because every search has found its answer or every wound has been healed, but because the One who is the Answer has already entered our history and will one day complete what He has begun. Between the manger and his final coming, we are asked to be faithful and to trust him, letting our hearts learn to rest in the God who comes to save.



*Advent reminds us
that the fulfilment
we long for is not a
lifestyle upgrade, but
a Person: Jesus...*

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.



2026 CATHOLIC NEWS DESKTOP CALENDAR SALE

The Catholic News Calendar 2026 is now available. Drop by the Parish Office to get a copy at **\$10**, while stocks last!

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Agape Group will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPII Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship. Love offerings are welcome!

SSVP COLLECTION

There will be a second collection by the Society of St Vincent De Paul this weekend to help the poor and needy in monthly rations and other aid programmes. SSVP members will be at the atrium area. 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**

INTERCESSORY

Join us on **Mon 15 Dec, 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.

ADVENT PRAYER TREE

What better gift for someone in need this Christmas than the gift of intentional prayer? Just as we did in previous years, think of someone to pray for - either to return to Church or be open to knowing the Lord. The prayer tags will be available for you to write their names and hang the tags on our Advent trees. As a community of faith, we will pray for all throughout Advent.

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Wed 24 Dec (Christmas Eve):

- Children's Pageant: **5.30pm**
- Vigil Mass: **6pm, 9pm*, 12am***

Thu 25 Dec (Christmas Day)*:

9am, 11am

**There will be carolling before Mass*



PARISH T-SHIRT SALE

Purchase your new parish t-shirt this weekend for just **\$21** from the Parish Office, while stocks last. Payment can be made via UEN (**T08CC4033J**). Goods are non-exchangeable and non-refundable.

COLLECTION OF DONATION CARDS FOR PARISH FUND-RAISING WALK FOR THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH OF ST JUDE THADDAEUS

We thank all parishioners who have participated and supported the Parish Project. Parishioners may return the Donation Cards and collected funds at the JPII Hall after Mass this weekend, **13 - 14 Dec 2025**. **All Donation Cards must be returned by Mon 15 Dec 2025 to the Parish Office during office hours.** For any donation-related matters, please contact Alfred Goh at 9822 2695.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER YOUTH CHOIR: CHRISTMAS OUTREACH 2025

Celebrate the joy of the season with us! Come soak in the Christmas spirit through beautiful carols performed by the St Francis Xavier Youth Choir on **Fri 19 Dec, 7pm** at MyVillage (1 Maju Ave, Singapore 556679). Bring your family and friends and share the warmth and hope of Christmas together!

ST AUGUSTINE MUSIC MINISTRY FUNDRAISING CONCERT: FIND US READY, LORD. A CHRISTMAS OF HOPE

Join us for an evening of song and Christmas cheer as we await the coming of our Lord. All proceeds will go towards the Church of St Jude Thaddaeus building fund. For further enquiries, please email samm@sfxchurch.sg. **Last chance to book your tickets now!**

Date & Time: Sat 20 Dec, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Venue: SFX Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)
Cost: \$30/ticket
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/SFXPR25>



PIETA DECEMBER PRAYER SESSION

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who have united in faith to seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope. The monthly session, run by bereaved parents, is for prayer, reflection and the breaking open of the Word of God. Any parent who has lost a child (regardless of age and no matter how recent or long ago) is invited to the sessions to journey together in faith. The next monthly session will be face-to-face. For further enquiries, email pieta.singapore@gmail.com or visit <https://pieta.familylife.sg> to find out more.

Date & Time: Tue 16 Dec, 7.30pm - 9.15pm
Venue: Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre
2 Highland Road, unit LG-01, Singapore 549102
(next to the Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary)*

**Please email PIETA for directions*

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT: A CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION OF FAITH AND HOPE BY 10 ARTISTS

Organised by Carlo Catholic Services (CCS), join us, in viewing the artworks by "Canvas of Christ" artists for a heartfelt Christmas Exhibition at CCS, Level 2 from **20 to 27 Dec** (closed on Christmas day). Through the birth of the Holy Infant, may we celebrate the light of hope that shines upon the world revealed in the beautiful weaving of art and faith. Scan the QR code or visit <http://bit.ly/ChristBeOurLight2025> for more info.



Parish Feast Day Walk

In celebration of our Parish Feast Day, 72 parishioners joined a guided walk to Tengah, reflecting on the life of Christ while supporting our fundraising efforts for the Church of St Jude Thaddaeus. The journey offered moments of prayer, meditation and community, making the day both spiritually enriching and heartwarming. Here are some sharings from our fellow participants:

The Parish Feast Day Walk was extremely well organised, with the safety of all the hikers at the forefront. Fruits and isotonic drinks were also available for us to rehydrate.

It was definitely a spirit-filled hike, with reflection questions and the opportunity to pray the rosary while pondering its mysteries - quite possibly in the same way St Francis Xavier might have done in his time as he travelled the seas.

All in all, it was a very enriching experience and I would do it again in a heartbeat!

- Vanessa



What a joy it was to witness our parishioners of St Francis Xavier coming together for the Feast Day Walk last Saturday. As I moved among familiar and new faces, I felt a deep sense of gratitude for the spirit of unity that filled every step. The morning air seemed gentler, the conversations warmer, and the laughter more vibrant - almost as if St Francis Xavier himself was walking with us, encouraging us in mission, fellowship and joy.

During the 16 km walk, I found myself reflecting on how simple moments like these weave the fabric of our parish life. The walk was more than a physical journey; it was a reminder of the shared path we take as a community of faith. The Youth walked with energy and excitement while Seniors moved steadily with prayerful hearts. In their own ways, each person embodied the missionary spirit of St Francis Xavier; one of perseverance, openness and love for God's people.

As we concluded the walk, I sensed a renewed strength among us. The smiles, greetings and small gestures of kindness were signs of the grace we experienced together. I hope that all who participated returned home not only refreshed in body but uplifted in spirit!

- Augustine Aw



Looking for more information?
Visit www.sfxchurch.sg

Advent: A Season of Hope

WEEK 3 - THE JOY OF SALVATION



The third week of Advent focuses on JOY, the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see the Messiah in Bethlehem, even before the Wise Men. The coming of Jesus brings lasting joy beyond temporal happiness, as shown by the shepherds' wonder and the lighting of the rose candle. This week, let us:



Pause and rejoice

Find deep, faith-based joy even amidst the challenges we face.



Embrace the Good News

Prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ by focussing on the hope and salvation he offers.



Share the Joy

Like the shepherds did after their encounter with our Lord, pass the message of joy on to others.



May our hearts be flooded with JOY this week as we reflect on and share the Good News of Jesus' birth.

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 - 11pm

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