



THE MANNA

Church of St Francis Xavier

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Disciples
Making Disciples



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

Let Love Enter (and dwell)!

4th Sunday of Advent
21 Dec 2025

Is 7:10-14
Rm 1:1-7
Mt 1:18-24

When a couple is expecting a child, their lives begin to revolve around the pregnancy: Medical appointments, dietary adjustments and buying essentials like diapers. Once the baby is born, pregnancy duties end, but the duties of parenthood begin. The Christian life mirrors this journey. Following Christ is a lifelong commitment and not just a seasonal affair. Today's readings encourage us to continue nurturing our faith beyond Advent with the same dedication as we do during Advent.

Firstly, we are called to let go of anything that prevents us from fully trusting God. As the year ends, some may feel anxious about the uncertainties of 2026, while others may rest on their laurels if the past year has gone smoothly for them. The First Reading warns against relying solely on ourselves. King Ahaz, preoccupied with protecting his kingdom and status, ignored Isaiah's warning and refused God's offer of a sign (cf. Is 7:10-12). His hardened heart led to the destruction of Judah and his own dishonour, showing how complacency and fear can block us from experiencing the fullness of God's plan. In contrast, St Joseph in today's Gospel exemplifies openness and trust in God. Though he planned to divorce Mary quietly,

he listened to the angel's message and took her into his home, trusting God to guide them through the unknown (cf. Mt 1:19-24). While trusting God does not guarantee an easy life, it brings clarity in discerning and doing his will. As St Alphonsus Liguori says, "He who trusts himself is lost. He who trusts in God can do all things." Therefore, we are invited to fully trust in God despite having reservations.

Secondly, we need not hesitate to continually ask God for the graces we need. Amid the busyness of the festive season and preparations for the new year, we may be tempted to abandon our Advent resolutions. However, if these practices have drawn us closer to Jesus, they are worth continuing. As Christians, we celebrate Christmas because we are reminded of God's great love for us. Despite knowing that we would keep rejecting him like King Ahaz did, God still chose to dwell among us (cf. Is 7:14). However, this does not mean we can take his love for granted. We have to actively nurture our relationship with him, just as we invest in relationships that matter to us. Persevering in our Advent practices and praying daily with scripture can help us become more attentive to his presence in everyday moments – just as St Joseph recognised God speaking through his dream (cf. Mt 1:24). By continually asking for what we need, we learn to cherish not only God's gifts, but more importantly, him as the Giver. We trust in his promise that although we cannot see him as we see each other, he is truly Emmanuel, "God-with-us" (Is 7:14).

Lastly, the four candles of the Advent wreath lit together remind us that hope, peace, joy, and love

are not just for Advent – they mark the beginning and renewal of our apostolic mission. As St Paul reminds us, this mission is to bring Christ's presence to everyone we encounter (cf. Rm 1:5), even to those who seem distant or closed off. We can do so in small ways like giving our seat to someone in need on a crowded train or greeting the bus or taxi driver. While these gestures may seem insignificant, we remember that Jesus himself entered the world as a vulnerable baby – and he changed history forever. As Mother Teresa said, "It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you." Sharing hope, peace, joy, and love also means stepping into places where these virtues may be lacking. This can be daunting, and we may encounter people who show resistance, like King Ahaz (cf. Is 7:12). But let us not be discouraged, for God will grant grace and peace to sustain us (Rm 1:7).

As we enter into the Christmas season, let us welcome Jesus – who is Love himself – into our hearts, and allow him – Emmanuel – to remain with us always.



***"It is Christmas every
time you let God love
others through you."
- Mother Teresa***

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, there will be a 2nd collection for the Catholic Foundation's GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme. The GIFT programme supports mission of our Archdiocese, the work of several organisations, the building of the Catholic Hub and other key projects. Pick up a GIFT 2025 envelope or visit catholicfoundation.sg/give.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note the Parish Office operating hours:

- **24 Dec & 31 Dec:** 9.30am - 12pm
- **25 Dec & 1 Jan:** Closed

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

SSVP COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend, SSVP was able to raise **\$10,272.45** for our Friends-In-Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of their activities.

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)

- **OCBC Bank Account No:**
686 596 768 001
- **PayNow UEN:** S61SS0149BSFX

INTERCESSORY

Join us on **Mon 22 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.

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*



New Year's Eve & New Year Day Mass Schedule

Thanksgiving Mass

Wed 31 Dec (New Year's Eve): 11pm

There are 6.30am & 6.30pm Masses.

Thu 1 Jan (New Year's Day): 9am only

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.

THE TEMPTATIONS OF JESUS AND THE REDEMPTION OF ADAM

Presented by the SFX Biblical Apostolate Team. What does it mean to be a Man? How does Christ reveal to us the perfect model of Manhood? In this study, we will use the Bible to show how Jesus was not just the Messiah, but the New Adam, the Perfect Man, who came into the world to redeem it from Original Sin and the Fall.

Dates: Sun 28 Dec 2025 and 4 Jan 2026

Time: 9am - 10:30am

Venue: Jeremiah Room, Parish Centre L2

Q&A Chat link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/IjADH1CdhKs7h5LunLRF4y?mode=hqtr3>

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.



OFFICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: RENEW

Calling all recent secondary school graduates and current/recently graduated A-levels/IB students — come and join us on 9 Jan 2026 for RENEW, a day of recollection organised by the Office for Young People (OYP)! As we step into a new year, RENEW invites you to come just as you are — with your doubts, questions, unknowns — and to place them gently before God. This is a day to rest in His presence and to receive a renewed faith in Jesus Christ! So come and join us for a time of prayer, lunch, fellowship, and Mass! Bring your friends along as we begin this new journey together. Have questions? Reach out to Gaby (@gspykerman) or Kristen (@kristenyeo) on Telegram.

Date: Fri 9 Jan 2026

Time: 10am – 6pm

Venue: L8, Catholic Centre (55 Waterloo Street, S187954)

Register: tinyurl.com/OYPRENEW26 (Sign ups close 6 Jan 2026)

APPEAL FOR ASIA FLOOD

Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS), is making an appeal for those affected by the recent flood in the region of Asia. In November, heavy rainfall has unleashed widespread flooding and landslides across Asia. Countries including Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka have all been severely affected.

You can donate via credit card or PayNow through the CHARIS website. Alternatively, you can send a crossed cheque payable to **"Humanitarian Aid Fund,"** indicating **"Asia Flood Relief"** at the back of the cheque, and mail it to:

CHARIS

55 Waterloo Street, #07-02 Catholic Centre,
Singapore 187954

For more information, please contact CHARIS at 6337 4119 or scan the QR code or visit go.charis-singapore.org/AFR. Your generosity will provide critical aid to those in need. Thank you for your generosity!



Advent: A Season of Hope

WEEK 4 - THE TRUE MEANING OF ADVENT



As we light the final candle of Advent, also known as the **"Angel's Candle"**, we are approaching the end of our Advent preparation. What does the Advent journey mean to you? Is it about putting up the Christmas decorations, the Christmas tree and presents, or stocking up on the Christmas goodies of turkey, ham and drinks?

Advent prepares us to celebrate the greatest gift ever given. We are asked to reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the angel Gabriel. Jesus, the Messiah, came to bring us into a relationship with God, to be our Saviour, and to give us eternal life. Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's love. He came to show us that love is stronger than hate, forgiveness is stronger than sin, and life is stronger than death.

This is the last week to prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas. May our hearts be filled with wonder, gratitude and love. May we echo the angels' song, *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all people."* As we celebrate Christmas, let us not forget the true meaning of Advent: Jesus is Emmanuel, God is with us, and He remains with us forever. Are you ready?

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16



*The Parish Priests and Staff of the Church
of St Francis Xavier wishes all Parishioners
a blessed and Joyous Christmas!*





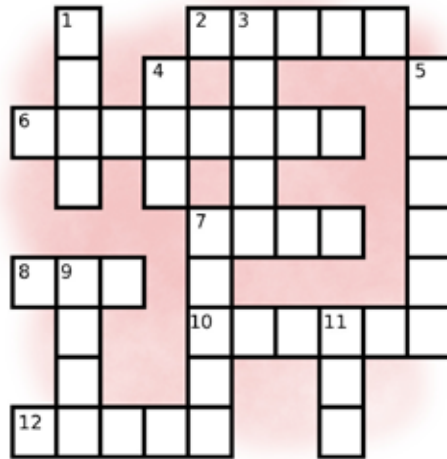
Looking for more information?
Visit www.sfxchurch.sg



Isaiah 7 Cross-Word

Find the words that fit into the spaces in today's first reading, and then fit them into the puzzle. A=Across and D=Down.

HOUSE
VIRGIN
HIGH
SHEOL
CHILD
THE
DAVID
HEAVEN
NAME
DEEP
IMMANUEL
GOD
MAN



8A LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your 11D; let it be 7A as 2A or 9D as 5D." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O 3D of 7D! Is it too little for you to weary 4D, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the 10A shall be with 12A, and bear a son, and shall 1D him 6A.



Answers to Cross-Word: Across: 2. Sheol 6. Immanuel 7. deep 8. the 10. Virgin 12. child. Down: 1. name 3. house 4. man 5. Heaven 7. David 9. high 11. God

Source: The Kids' Bulletin



The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.

Colouring page - Source: thebestideasforkids.com

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 JPPII 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