



Disciples
Making Disciples



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

Holiness in the Ordinary

Feast of the Holy Family
28 Dec 2025

Ecc 3:2-6, 12-14
Col 3:12-21
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

The Feast of the Holy Family is always celebrated on the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas. Perhaps marking it so close to Christmas is intentional. In our Collect today, we acknowledge the “shining example of the Holy Family”, praying to “imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity”. Its placement in the liturgical cycle also reinforces the mystery of the Incarnation – God entering a human family.

Very little is known about Jesus’ growing years though it was marked with its own drama – the family’s hurried flight to Egypt, their return to Nazareth and his disappearance at age 12 on their trip to Jerusalem. Notwithstanding his divinity, we can imagine Jesus growing up in a regular household, with a carpenter father and a home-maker mother. One wonders what it took for Joseph and Mary to bring Jesus up to be the man he was. Luke’s gospel mentions how Jesus “was obedient to them” during all those years growing up in Nazareth (Luke 2:51-52). Dwelling on this brief one-liner, one cannot help but be awed at how God chose to be born into and grow up in a human family. He chose the ordinary setting of a humble family to be his first encounter with humanity, showing us also that it is here that we can nurture holiness.

So, what makes a family holy? We can look to Sts Louis and Zélie Martin –

the first married couple with children canonised together by Pope Francis in 2015, as a modern-day example for inspiration. Their canonisation sent a powerful message much needed today – that holiness is indeed attainable in spite of the overwhelming stresses of marriage and family life. Life was very hard for the Matins. Louis ran a



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watch shop and Zélie, a lace business, juggling the demands of making a living with bringing up nine children, four of whom died very young. Zélie lost her own battle to breast cancer at 45, leaving Louis to raise five young girls. They loved each other deeply, but it was evident they loved God first. Their single-minded devotion to God directed their vocations as spouses, parents and workers. They

created a home where they nurtured their children’s vocations in turn; all surviving children became nuns, with their youngest, St Therese canonised in 1925 and named Doctor of the Church in 1997. Her memoirs are filled with memories of life at home, where fasting and sacramental life were part of regular routine, and where genuine affection and tenderness for one another prevailed, despite the grind of daily life. The Matins’ letters tell of their intense struggles, yet what stood out in them was their unwavering trust in God. Zélie, endearingly relatable in her human frailty, spoke of her longing for rest, and worry over little things that ordinary mothers fret over. The Matins’ deep heartbreak over the loss of their four children taught their surviving children powerful lessons in enduring suffering with faith.

A key takeaway from today’s Feast is that children are a gift to the family that God has entrusted into our care for the sake of the Kingdom. Going back to the Collect for today, we pray “to delight one day in eternal rewards”. Holiness is cultivated by fulfilling our responsibilities and seeking God’s will daily. It is not reserved for a select few but formed within the challenges of everyday life. With God’s grace, even imperfect families can bear witness to faith. The vocation of the family is very simply, to support one another on our journey to heaven; in the efforts or sacrifices made to this end, we find holiness present. The family is truly the domestic church where saints are formed. With God’s grace and help, all families can witness to the world even in their imperfections. May the Holy Family inspire and model for us how to live; together with Sts Louis and Zélie, may they intercede for all families aspiring to imitate them in holy living.

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

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note the Parish Office operating hours:

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

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

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

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!

INTERCESSORY

Join us on **Mon 29 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.

ST AUGUSTINE MUSIC MINISTRY FUNDRAISING CONCERT COLLECTION

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and supported the St Augustine Music Ministry fundraising Concert held on Sat 20 Dec! We are excited to share that together, we raised **\$511,180.00** for the Church of St Jude Thaddaeus.

PARISH FEAST DAY WALK COLLECTION IN AID OF THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH OF ST JUDE THADDAEUS

Through the providence of God, the collaboration and generosity of parishioners and benefactors, we raised **\$208,598.77**. Indeed, the fruits of our unity had motivated us to help build the Church of St Jude Thaddaeus in Tengah and it is not just the physical church but also to be in union with the Christian community of Tengah. Our heartfelt gratitude to all who participated in the project.

The Parish Priests and Staff of the Church of St Francis Xavier wish all Parishioners a blessed Christmas and New Year! May God's peace, love, and hope be with you throughout the new year.

New Year's Eve & New Year Day Mass Schedule

Thanksgiving Mass

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

Join us for a time of reflection at 10.30pm. This will be followed by the Countdown Mass during which we can give thanks to God for the past year, and what we can offer to God for the new year ahead.

**There will also be Masses at 6.30am and 6.30pm.*

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Thu 1 Jan: 9am only

THE TEMPTATIONS OF JESUS AND THE REDEMPTION OF ADAM

Presented by the SFX Biblical Apostolate Team aimed at preparing participants for Lent. 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/ljADH1CdhKs7h5LunLRF4y?mode=hqrt3>

LANDINGS SINGAPORE

Feeling distant from your faith? Landings is a gentle 10-week journey for Catholics who have been away from the Church and are considering a return. It is a safe, non-judgmental space to reflect and explore — without pressure or expectations. Visit landings.org.sg to learn more.



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)

EMMANUEL WALKING WITH GOD IN OUR GOLDEN YEARS

Organised by Catholic Family Life. Are you approaching retirement or already navigating the joys and challenges of your golden years? We invite elderly parishioners to join us for a meaningful time of reflection as we explore how to navigate this stage of life with confidence and clarity.

Date & Time: Wed 28 Jan 2026, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Fee: \$20 for 1 pax and \$35 for 2 pax

Venue: Church of St Michael (St Michael's Room, L2)

Register: http://bit.ly/EWWG_CSM



10 Simple Spiritual Resolutions for the New Year

Losing weight, eating healthier, exercising more regularly, getting more sleep, or quitting a bad habit probably top your New Year's resolution list for 2026. Have you thought about making a spiritual resolution for 2026? It's great to focus on physical health, but what about your spiritual health?

What might a spiritual resolution look like? Here are a few examples:

1 START WITH A MORNING OFFERING

Begin your day by rising promptly and offering everything — your prayers, work, joys, and challenges — to God. The traditional Morning Offering prayer is a beautiful way to dedicate your day to Him.

6 READ A SPIRITUAL BOOK

Commit to reading at least one Catholic book this year to deepen your knowledge of Jesus, Mary, the Church, the saints, and other topics relevant to Christian living. Explore works from publishers like Ave Maria Press, Ignatius Press.

2 PRAY THE ROSARY

The rosary helps us reflect on the lives of Jesus and Mary while praying with Scripture. Start small with one decade a day, then work toward weekly or daily prayer. Mary asked at Fatima for daily rosaries for peace — make this a priority in 2026.



7 READ OR PRAY WITH THE BIBLE

Set a goal to read Scripture — start with the Gospels or letters of St. Paul. Try *Lectio Divina*, in which one reads a passage and meditates on a word or phrase, or thinking deeply with the Scripture passage. Through this prayer, God speaks in a deeper way to our souls about the Scripture contemplated.



MEATLESS FRIDAYS

Abstaining from meat on Fridays is a long-standing Catholic requirement of penance, not just during Lent but year-round. By being intentional about our Friday meals, we participate in this shared discipline of sacrifice.



8 GO ON A PILGRIMAGE

Pilgrimages renew our spiritual journey and remind us that life itself is a pilgrimage toward heaven. For Christians throughout time, one of the most coveted places to go on a pilgrimage was to the Holy Land. Consider visiting holy sites like Marian shrines, or a place dedicated to the saints.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

If meatless Fridays aren't possible, Canon law also suggests some other suitable form of penance in place of abstinence — such as praying the Stations of the Cross. This devotion recalls Christ's passion and reminds us why we practice sacrifice. The Stations aren't just meant for Lent, you can pray them anytime of the year.

9 CHOOSE A SAINTLY INTERCESSOR

Catholic author Jen Fulwiler has a saint generator to help you to choose a patron saint to accompany you in the new year and seek their intercession. You can even learn more about their life or use tools like [SaintsNameGenerator.com](https://www.saintsgenerator.com) for inspiration.

5 PRAY WITH A DEVOTIONAL BOOK

There are many devotional books, filled with meditations that will help us deepen our relationship with God. E.g. *Called: Becoming an Everyday Disciple*, *52 Weeks with Saint Faustina*, or *A Heart Like Mary's* for Marian meditations.

10 END YOUR DAY WITH AN EXAMEN

Close your day by reflecting on God's presence and your actions. The Examen isn't just about faults — it's about gratitude, grace, and preparing to live better tomorrow. Just as we begin our day offering it to God, it's just as good to end our day asking, "How did I live for God today?"



POPE LEO XIV:

*Even as Jubilee
ends, we remain
pilgrims of hope*

As the Jubilee Year draws to a close, Pope Leo XIV reminded the faithful that its deepest gift endures. Hope, he says, continues to shape the Church's journey, calling all to remain pilgrims who generate life and renewal.

With just days left in the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, the Church is preparing for a powerful ritual: the closing of the Holy Doors. Since the first one was opened by Pope Francis on December 24, 2024, nearly 30 million pilgrims have crossed their thresholds — seeking mercy, healing, and renewal.

From the majesty of St. Peter's to the quiet dignity of Rebibbia Prison's special door, these sacred thresholds have welcomed everyone from cardinals to convicts.

The closing ceremonies started last Christmas Day, as the Holy Door at St. Mary Major shut. Over the following days, each of Rome's basilicas will hold a final celebration, until January 6, 2026 — when Pope Leo XIV will close the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica and mark the official end of the Jubilee.



Unless Pope Leo decides to declare an extraordinary jubilee, it is expected that the next jubilee year will be in 2033, celebrating the 2,000th anniversary of Christ's death and resurrection, which tradition holds occurred in the year 33 AD.

The next ordinary jubilee, following the tradition of every 25 years, will be in 2050.

So what do you do at this moment?

You pause. You give thanks. And most importantly, you carry it forward. Because while the doors may close, the grace they represent doesn't disappear. This Jubilee has been a year of extraordinary mercy, of reconciliation, of millions returning to the sacraments and rediscovering hope. And that kind of spiritual movement doesn't end with a ceremony.



It continues in your heart — if you dare to let it stay open. And if the Jubilee has taught you anything, it's that the greatest openings don't happen in basilicas, but in souls. And that hope, when rooted in faith, is never dependent on dates or doors.

So yes, the Holy Doors will be sealed. But the legacy of this Jubilee year — the confessions you've made, the prayers you offered, the steps you walked, even if just in spirit — remains.

As Pope Leo said at the last Saturday Jubilee audience:

"The Jubilee is coming to an end, but the hope that this year has given us does not die. We will remain pilgrims of hope!" he assured, echoing the motto of this Holy Year.

And if you choose to live with that same spirit of welcome, mercy, and trust, then you carry the Jubilee with you. In your home, parish, ordinary daily life. Every act of forgiveness, every decision to begin again, becomes its own open door. Do not let anyone steal your hope! Because when your heart stays open, so does hope.

On to 2033!

Sources:

- <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-12/pope-leo-xiv-jubilee-audience-pilgrims-hope.html>
- <https://aleteia.org/2025/12/22/a-final-message-from-the-holy-doors-and-whats-next/>



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 - 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