



Disciples
Making Disciples



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

To Kneel or to Cling?

The Epiphany of the Lord
4 Jan 2026

Is 60:1-6
Eph 3:2-3, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12

Epiphany confronts us with a disarming question: What do we do when God does not come as we expect? Divine glory is revealed not in domination but in dependence, not in a palace but in a manger.

In this regard, the Gospel gives us valuable lessons through the contrasting responses of the Wise Men and King Herod. Both hear the same news — a child has been born who is the king — yet their responses could not be more different.

The Wise Men exemplify true seekers of God. They teach us that faith begins not with certainty, but with longing; desire comes before understanding. Drawn by a light they do not fully grasp, they leave behind comfort, status, and control, only to discover that God's self-revelation comes not in strength, but in an infant — utterly dependent and vulnerable.

In this smallness and fragility, they perceive holiness and divinity — they are not blinded by worldly preconceptions of kingship and power. They show us that true worship is the surrender of hearts, minds, and lives. They understand that God comes to seek us, not things. Gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh are tokens of reverence, but more precious is the gift of themselves. Having encountered Love made flesh, they are transformed. Rather than recoil, they fall on their

knees in worship. Rather than trust Herod, they follow "a dream", returning home by "another way" (cf. Mt 2:12).

In stark contrast, Herod is the false seeker of God. He manipulates knowledge from the Scriptures and feigns reverence for the infant king (Mt 2:4-8). Fixated on preserving his own authority, he is unable to humble himself. He hardens his heart, clings to power, and rejects God. His fear and pride ultimately lead to violence and the slaughter of the "holy innocents" (cf. Mt 2:16-18).

In life, nothing is more precious than the Eucharist in which God comes to us mysteriously in the form of bread and wine. We may not fully understand transubstantiation, but we trust Jesus' promise. If God chose to become an infant in history, why could he not choose to come to us in mystery through the Eucharist? Like the Wise Men, we can be transformed by Christ's



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humility and loving vulnerability — or, like Herod, fall into an ego trap, clinging to worldly notions of power and control.

Epiphany is more than God's self-revelation as an infant — it's about how he loves. God's love does not wait for humanity to get its act together. In Christ, love stoops to meet us where we are — entering our mess without judgment, lifting us, and healing what we cannot heal ourselves.

This divine paradox — infinite, yet an infant; powerful, yet lovingly vulnerable — poses a piercing question: Do we desire a God who enters our lives, disrupts our self-sufficiency, and calls us to love beyond comfort? If the answer is "no," then faith becomes an inconvenience, a burden or a threat, as it was for Herod. Only when the answer is "yes" do our lives begin to be rightly ordered toward love.

St Paul reminds us that this mystery — God's self-giving love offered to all — has now been revealed and continues to be revealed through us. We are called to be attentive to the needs of others — to be kind and compassionate, not cold or indifferent. We are to love in ways that actually cost us time, resources, patience, comfort, and forgiveness. It is there, in love that is lived, that Christ's love becomes real in us, making us small epiphanies of joy, hope, and peace for others.

Where are we being called to humble ourselves? Whom are we invited to accompany with compassion rather than judgment? Like Christ, we should not wait for others to get their act together first.

The light of Christ has appeared. It does not overpower — it invites. Each of us must choose: to kneel in trust or to cling in fear.

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.



SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE GENERAL MAINTENANCE & OPERATION OF THE CHURCH

There will be a second collection this weekend and all funds raised will go towards the general maintenance and operation of our parish. If you would like to donate digitally, please PayNow to our UEN "T08CC4033J" and indicate in the reference 'maintenance'. We thank you for your generosity.

NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please note that, with immediate effect, the Parish Office hours on Saturdays have been revised to **9.30am – 1pm**.

CATECHISM NOTICE

Catechism for 2026 starts on **Sun 11 Jan**. We will have a kick off session with all parents and children. Level Coordinators will share details on venue and timing to the parents soon.

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 5 Jan, 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.

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.

WELCOME REV FR GABRIEL WONG

We are delighted to welcome Rev Fr Gabriel Wong, who has returned from his studies in Taiwan. He is posted to our Parish with effect from **1 Jan 2026**. As a parish community, let us extend our warmest greetings when we see him around our parish.



THE TEMPTATIONS OF JESUS AND THE REDEMPTION OF ADAM

This is presented by the SFX Biblical Apostolate Team and is 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: 4 Jan 2026

Time: 9am - 10:30am

Venue: Jeremiah Room, Parish Centre L2

Q&A Chat link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/ljADH1CdhKs7h5LunLRF4y?mode=hqrt3>

EMMANUEL: STILL WITH US

Christmas isn't over yet! The St Maximilian Kolbe Choir Family (Sun 11am) warmly invites you to join us for a special Christmas prayer programme. Let us worship the Lord through scripture, song, and Eucharistic Adoration!

Date: Sat 10 Jan

Time: 4pm - 5.15pm

Venue: Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)

ST FRANCIS XAVIER YOUTH CHOIR FUND-RAISING CONCERT

The St Francis Xavier Youth Choir presents Blessings, a concert in support of the building of the Church of St Jude Thaddaeus. Join us for an evening of uplifting music as we come together to support this meaningful cause. Scan the QR code to book your tickets.

Date: Sat 31 Jan, 8pm

Venue: SFX Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)

Tickets: \$30/ \$100/ \$1000 (Early bird specials available)

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/SFXYCBlessings2026>



CALL FOR CREATIVE VOLUNTEERS

Do you enjoy design, photography, or visual storytelling? We are looking for creative volunteers who are proficient in Adobe software to help with designs and event photography for parish activities. If you have a passion to serve using your creative gifts, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg for more details.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER 2026 WEEKENDS

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter (ME) Weekend is an enrichment programme for all married couples who want to get more out of their relationship. It is as much for good marriages to be better as it is for dull marriages to be refreshed. Many couples find it meaningful to come to ME in their anniversary months. Couples married 3 years or more will especially appreciate this wonderful gift.

The Weekend also provides couples an opportunity to look at their relationship with God and to better appreciate Marriage as a Sacrament of the Church. The Stay-in Weekend is conducted primarily in English throughout the year. There are also Mandarin and Bahasa Indonesia weekends on some months of the year. The Weekend begins on a Friday, 8 pm and ends on Sunday evening with Mass. The Worldwide ME has transformed thousands of marriages over 50 years in almost 100 countries. Find out more at <https://www.wmmesg.org/>

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE 2026

MPC is an apostolate of the Archdiocese's dedication to preparing couples for marriage in the Catholic Church. This course, spanning over 6 half-day sessions on weekends, is designed to help couples build a strong foundation for a lasting and fulfilling marriage. Couples intending to marry in the Catholic Church are required to attend MPC and should do so as early as possible before your wedding date. Dates are now open for registration:

- Q1:** 11 Jan to 1 Mar 2026
Q2: 12 Apr to 17 May 2026
Q3: 5 Jul to 16 Aug 2026
Q4: 20 Sep to 25 Oct 2026

Register at <https://mpcsingapore.com/registration/>



Week of 4 January 2026

Mary of Nazareth

Mary of Nazareth is an epic motion picture on the life of Mary, Mother of Christ, from her childhood through the Resurrection of Jesus. Shot in high definition, it was filmed in Europe with outstanding cinematography, a strong cast, and a majestic music score. Actress Alissa Jung gives a beautiful, compelling, and inspiring portrayal of Mary.

<https://watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed/videos/mary-of-nazareth>



John of the Cross: The Living Flame of Love

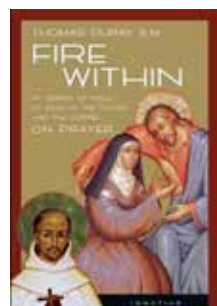
As a young priest, John of the Cross (1542-1591) is confronted with the corruption of his Carmelite Order, and sets out to live a truly contemplative life. His religious brothers, resenting his holiness and asceticism and his efforts to reform the order, imprison him in a closet for nine torturous months. Undaunted, there he composes much of his immortal poetry, and enters into a mystical union with God. His harrowing escape is miraculous. The saint's moving poem, "The Spiritual Canticle," weaves throughout the film, enriching the story and granting insight into what it means to persevere in love when confronted with suffering.

<https://watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed/videos/john-of-the-cross-the-living-flame-of-love>

The Star (Parts 1 & 2)

The kids are getting ready for the annual Christmas pageant when they get lost and must work together to get back in time for the play.

<https://watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed/videos/the-star>



Fire Within by Fr. Thomas Dubay, SM

This book is the fruit of Fr. Dubay's many years of study and experience in spiritual direction and in it he synthesizes the teachings on prayer of the two great doctors of the Church on prayer--St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila--and the teaching of Sacred Scripture.

<https://watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed/videos/fire-within-by-fr-thomas-dubay-sm>

1. Go to formed.org/signup
2. Search for SFX's parish by Postal Code (558758). Click on our parish.
3. Register with your first and last name, and email address
4. Your account will be created, and you will automatically be signed in.

Access these resources at: <https://watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed>

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: Wed 28 Jan 2026

Time: 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



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION
FOR THE MONTH OF JAN

FOR PRAYER WITH THE WORD OF GOD

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

IN THE MONTH OF DEC 2025

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couples:

1. Soh Jing Cheng Jeremy & Fiona Yeo Liyi
2. Gerald Lai Wen Hao & Amanda Rachael De Souza

CONDOLENCES

We offer our prayers for the families of the following who have returned to the Lord:

1. David Vincent Jayaraj
2. Tessie Tan Siang Guek
3. Nadarajan Anthony

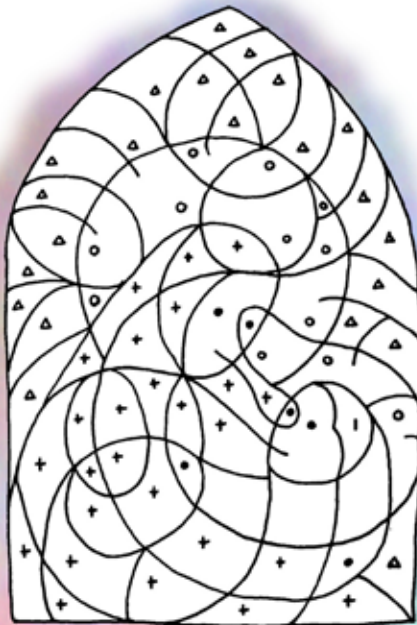
BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. James Koh Ang Kai
2. Elliot Ho Yi Ming
3. Tan Yunhui Sophie
4. Scott Avery Seow Kai Zhe



Looking for more information?
Visit www.sfxchurch.sg



Whose feast is it on New Year's Day?
Colour in the spaces to see! Here's the code:

- + Blue ▲ Pink ○ Yellow
 † Brown • Skin colour

Octave of Christmas Word-Find

Can you find all the words in the list in the puzzle below?
Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

ANGELS	GLORY	PRaise
ANIMALS	GOD	SAVIOUR
BABY	HOLY	SHEEP
BARN	JESUS	SHEPHERDS
BETHLEHEM	JOSEPH	SING
BORN	MANGER	SKY
COLD	MARY	STABLE
FIELDS	MOTHER	WONDER
FOUND	NIGHT	WORSHIP

W P M S I N G N I G H T
 O R A T A N I M A L S B
 N A S A N G E L S R H E
 D I A B M O T H E R E T
 E S V L A D J O S E P H
 R E I E R Y E L T H H L
 G L O R Y E S Y M O E E
 F B U T H E U S K Y R H
 O A R W O R S H I P D E
 U B A R N F I E L D S M
 N Y R M A N G E R O F G
 D O D C O L D P B O R N

On the eighth
day of
Christmas we
honour in a
special way

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 - Fri:
9.30am - 6.30pm

Sat & Sun:
9.30am - 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 JPll 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