



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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

Meeting Christ More Often

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
11 Jan 2026

Is 42: 1-4, 6-7
Ac 10: 34-38
Mt 3: 13-17

The readings today offer insights into our faith through the many questions they immediately raise: Why did Jesus need to be baptised by John the Baptist? What is the significance of his baptism? Why did the heavens open up? How does all this relate to our own baptism?

To answer the first question, we have to go back to the Jewish practice of baptism, which preceded John. It was a rite then for Gentiles who were converting to Judaism to cleanse them of their unrighteousness as they prepared to embrace their new faith. John followed the practice but with a revolutionary twist: He performed it on Jews as well, as an act of repentance for their sins. In this way, he was preparing for the teaching of our Lord that all, Jews and Gentiles, needed to be rid of their sins through him.

But Jesus was sinless, so why did he need to be baptised by John? In effect, it was the ultimate act of love and sacrifice to identify with all of us who are sinners in need of repentance. In allowing John to baptise him, he united himself and his divinity with humanity and gave power to every act of repentance from then on.

When we are baptised, we begin this communion with God, which is renewed every time we repent for our sins. The Feast of the Baptism of our

Lord today is a celebration of this new beginning in our lives.

Why did the heavens open up? According to the Gospel reading, "he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him'" (Mt 3:16-17).

As Pope Francis explained in a homily in 2024: "Jesus receives approval from the Heavenly Father who sent him precisely that he might share our condition, our poverty. Sharing is the true way to love. Jesus does not dissociate himself from us...This is the revelation and source of true love" (Pope Francis, 12 Jan 2014).

All three persons of the Trinity are present at that moment, the Spirit descending and the Father speaking, confirming the divinity of Christ who submits to his Father's will.

Hence, when we repent, we not only meet Jesus anew but receive outpourings from the Holy Spirit and affirmation of God's love. All the barriers that separate us from God are removed at that moment as the heavens open up. It is the perfect example of how the Holy Trinity works.

Jesus' baptism points forward to our own. When we are baptised, we renounce all sins. But our liberation from sin and its consequences depends entirely on Christ's redemptive work. Repentance is hence not about being psychologically cleansed of one's guilt. It is not a therapeutic act, even though you might feel good about admitting your wrongdoings. It is infinitely more than this because it is not about ourselves. Every time we repent, we encounter Christ anew and receive a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Through this process, we participate

in his death and resurrection, rising to new life in him.

As the Church explains: "Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments" (CCC 1213). It is a gift from God that most of us have not unpacked fully. When we do, we might want to repent more often to meet Christ every time. He suffered and sacrificed his life so that we have this opportunity to confront our sins and atone for them.

On this Feast day of the Baptism of our Lord, let us reflect on God's wonderful present and how it enables us to live a life of love and holiness.



"Jesus receives approval from the Heavenly Father who sent him precisely that he might share our condition, our poverty. Sharing is the true way to love"

(Pope Francis, Homily
on 12 Jan 2014)

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 Dad's Army & Friends Group will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPll Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship. Love offerings are welcome!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

It is available via appointment only. You may contact the Parish Office to make an appointment at the following time slots:

- Fridays: 4pm - 6pm
- Saturdays: 10am - 12pm

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy session will begin **Sun 11 Jan** at the **11am** Mass.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 12 Jan, 8pm** at the Auditorium. There will be Praise & Worship followed by praying over. All are welcome!

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

Join us for our monthly candlelight rosary procession on **Tue 13 Jan, 8pm**. The procession will take place within the church grounds. Meet at the Grotto, bring your own waxless candle and join us in prayer as we honour our Blessed Mother. All are welcome!

SFX YOUTH CHOIR FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Come and celebrate God's Blessings at the fundraising concert staged by the SFX Youth Choir on **Sat 31 Jan, 8pm** at the **SFX Auditorium** (Parish Centre, Level 3). All funds and sponsorships will go towards the building of the Church of St Jude Thaddaeus. Tickets are priced at \$30, \$100 and \$1000. There's an early bird special of \$50 for two tickets if they are purchased before 14 Jan.

Scan the QR code to make bookings or visit <https://tinyurl.com/SFXYCBlessings2026>. For inquiries, contact Denis at 9663 9274.



NOTICE: RENOVATION AT LITTLE SHEPHERD'S SCHOOLHOUSE

Renovation works will be carried out at the Little Shepherd's Schoolhouse over the next four weekends, from 8.30am - 6.30pm:

- 10 & 11 January 2026
- 17 & 18 January 2026
- 24 & 25 January 2026
- 31 January & 1 February 2026



During this period, a skip tank will be placed at the current handicap parking lots. Handicap parking will be temporarily relocated to the new lots, as illustrated. Parishioners who drive are advised to plan accordingly. Please navigate the area with caution and follow the guidance of the wardens on duty. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM AND THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

What is "faith"? Is it merely a kind of 'intellectual assent' to the truth taught by the Gospel? What does the Bible tell us about the mystery of faith in the life of Abraham? According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, in all of the Old Testament, it is Abraham who is "the model" of what it means to have faith in God (CCC 144). Presented by the SFX Biblical Apostolate Team, this study walks you through the ups and downs of Abraham's life of faith:

- The Call of Abram and his Journey in Faith
- The Faith of Abram and his "Righteousness"
- The Dark Night of Abram and the Mysterious Sacrifice of Animals
- Hagar the Concubine and Abraham's Son Ishmael
- The Mystery of Circumcision
- The Mystery of the Sacrifice of Isaac
- How the Sacrifice of Isaac points us to the Mysteries

Date: Sun 18 Jan 2026

Time: 9am - 10.30am

Venue: Jeremiah Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)

Q&A Chat link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Hd4sNKxlqLM6qSJ95LKzZA>

STONYHURST INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PENANG

The sister school of the oldest Jesuit school in the world - Stonyhurst College - which was founded some 430 years ago, is inviting Catholic families who may be interested in an overseas Jesuit education to attend a Singapore information night on **Fri 30 Jan, 7.30pm** at the Church of St Ignatius. More details are available on the website: <https://www.stonyhurstpenang.edu.my/>

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION: GOD, MONEY AND ME

Worried about providing for your family? Regretting past purchases or investments? Stressed because your savings never seem to grow? You're not alone, and you don't have to stay stuck. "God, Money & Me" is a transformational course that helps you make financial decisions with clarity, confidence, and faith. Hear from Fr David Garcia, OP and past participants who found freedom in seeing money the way God invites us to. If you're ready for a fresh start in 2026, this is your next step. Registration closes on Fri 16 Jan. Limited seats available.

Orientation: Sat 24 Jan, 11am-12pm

Sessions: 28 Feb, 7 Mar, 14 Mar, 21 Mar, 28 Mar (Saturdays, 9am-1pm)

Venue: Catholic Centre

Register: www.catholicfoundation.sg/god-money-and-me

MONTFORTIAN EXPERIENCE LENTEN RETREAT: NO CROSS, WHAT A CROSS!

What does the Cross mean in your life - a burden to avoid or the very source of God's wisdom and power? This Lenten retreat invites you to rediscover the Cross through the words of St Paul and the spiritual insight of St Louis Marie de Montfort, who teaches that God has enclosed in the Cross an abundance of grace, life, and even joy, known only to those who befriend him. What the world calls foolishness, God transforms into salvation, reminding us that perhaps the greatest cross of all is not having one.

Dates & Time: Fri 6 Mar, 7pm to Sun 8 Mar, 1pm

Venue: Montfort Centre (624 Upper Bukit Timah Rd, S678212)

Register: <https://www.montfortcentre.org/events-1/no-cross-what-a-cross>

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2026

"There is one body and one Spirit. Just as you are called to the one hope that belongs to your calling."
- Ephesians 4:4

This is an invitation to all Christians to come and join in prayer and reflection and fellowship. Love offerings are welcome!

Mon 19 Jan, 12pm
The Bible Society of Singapore

The Bible House,
7 Armenian Street S179932

Wed 21 Jan, 8pm
Armenian Apostolic Church of St Gregory the Illuminator

60 Hill Street S179366
Guided tour of Gallery at 7.15pm. Sign up is required at bit.ly/WPCU26tour

Thu 22 Jan, 8pm
Blessed Sacrament Church
1 Commonwealth Drive S149603

Fri 23 Jan, 8pm
Queenstown Lutheran Church (Mandarin Service)
709 Commonwealth Drive S149601

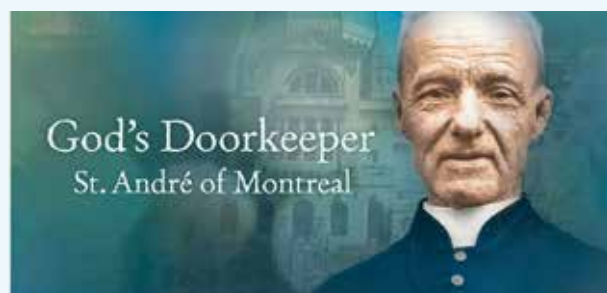


Week of 11 January 2026

A Catholic Guide to New Year's Resolutions

As a new year approaches, many people reflect on who they want to become, but how should Catholics think about New Year's resolutions? In this episode of Practicing Catholic, explore why starting fresh matters in the Christian life and how resolutions can be a meaningful part of growing in holiness.

<https://watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed/videos/a-catholic-guide-to-new-year-s-resolutions>



God's Doorkeeper: St André of Montreal

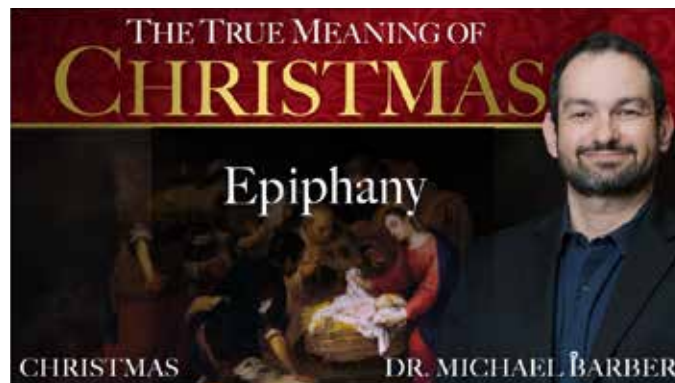
For 40 years, Brother André Bessette of the Congregation of Holy Cross welcomed people at the door and became known as a miraculous healer. God's Doorkeeper looks at the heart and legacy of Brother André – as a man of prayer, hospitality, and compassion. Learn how this man became a great saint through his small acts of love!

<https://watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed/videos/god-s-doorkeeper-st-andre-of-montreal>

Epiphany: The True Meaning of Christmas

Have you ever wondered what the Epiphany is? In this engaging episode, join Dr Michael Barber to find out what the Epiphany is.

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



(For Kids) The Three Wise Men

Ms Kim explains the Solemnity of the Epiphany and the importance of the wise men's gifts by teaching students how to draw the three magi. She challenges kids to do an act of kindness for someone, offering it as a gift to Jesus.

<https://watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed/videos/drawing-closer-to-god-season-1-episode-6>

Free Access for SFX Parishioners

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>

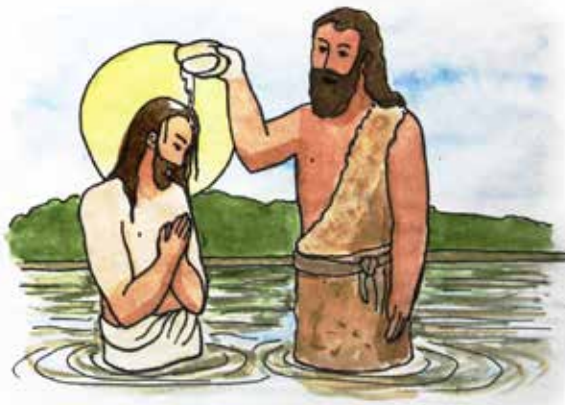




Looking for more information?
Visit www.sfxchurch.sg



Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday January 11th, 2026



*What did Saint John the Baptist see
that showed him that Jesus was the Son of God?
Connect the dots to find out!*

A Bit About... Baptism



A sacrament is an outward sign of a grace that God gives us in our soul. When we are baptized, water is poured on our head as a symbol of the sin being washed out of our soul.

You might be wondering if babies need to get baptized when they haven't even done any sins yet. But baptism also takes away original sin, which comes to us from Adam and Eve. Baptism also gives us the grace we need to live a good Christian life. Of course babies can't sin when they are very young, but Baptism will give them grace when they need it.

Why do you think that Jesus got baptized, since He didn't have original sin or actual sins? Jesus didn't need to get rid of any sins, but He was baptized to give us an example.



Answers to Cross-Word: Across: 1. John
6. heavens 7. me 8. water 9. Son 11. Is
12. after 14. unite 16. Jordan 19. fold
Down: 1. Jesus 2. need 3. show 4. Baptist
5. heard 10. out 11. into 13. river 15. God
17. at 18. no

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:
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