



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Online Mass Offering:
tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings
UEN: T08CC4033J
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Walking in Hope, Seeking the Lost

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday of the Word of God
25 Jan 2026

Is 8:23-9:3
1 Cor 1:10-13,17
Mt 4:12-23

Since 2019, the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time has been designated by Pope Francis as “Sunday of the Word of God”. Instituted to help the Church “experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word” (*Aperuit illis*, 30 September 2019, #2). It can be tempting to focus solely on prayer and the sacraments to enrich our spiritual lives and to anchor our relationship with the Lord. However, without a diligent study of the Word, we may fall prey to a faith that is largely formed by feelings or tangible experiences, rather than one grounded in truth. The Word of God forms disciples who are not only comforted but sent.

As we recommit to the study of Scripture, we look to today's Gospel, which describes the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in the northern regions of the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali. These were the first two tribes of Israel to be scattered and lost during the Assyrian conquest in Israel's early history. By beginning his public ministry there, Jesus fulfils Isaiah's prophecy proclaimed in the First Reading, making clear his intention to reclaim the lost tribes. Through his call to repentance, Jesus unveils the coming of the kingdom of heaven, which was understood by the Jews as the reunification of the tribes of Israel. This was echoed and symbolised in the



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calling of the first 12 disciples, sent to participate in his work of redemption.

Today's readings proclaim a message of hope and comfort in the salvation promised by Jesus. Isaiah's prophecy may sound familiar, as we last heard it during the readings on Christmas Night. We are thus drawn back to the hope-filled message of Christmas — the birth of Jesus, our saviour. Yet, as January progresses, Christmas can feel like a distant memory. Having been swallowed up by the routines of daily life, the joy and peace experienced during the Christmas season may seem long detached and forgotten. It may even feel like we have stepped back into the darkness after the light of Christmas has faded. The challenges of our lives and the struggles faced by the world continue, often making hope seem naïve. Hope can feel fragile, even unrealistic. Many around us — family members, colleagues, neighbours — continue to live in quiet darkness: wounded by disappointment, burdened by fear, or distant from faith altogether.

Fortunately, today's readings are a reminder that hope is not lost. We are invited to centre and ground ourselves in hope again, reclaiming the Christmas message — not just as a memory, but

as a mission. Just as Jesus calls his disciples to follow him, so too does he extend that same call to us — to follow him so that we may shine his light upon the lost around us — to carry that light into places of confusion, loneliness, and despair.

St Paul's appeal to the Corinthians in the Second Reading underscores this mission. A divided Church cannot credibly proclaim a unifying Christ. Our witness begins with unity — unity in faith, in hope, and in love - the foundations from which we share the light of Christ with others.

As we do so, we will then always be ready to testify to the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus (cf. 1 Peter 3:15). A life of hope requires a relationship of trust in the Lord — a trust that is established and nourished through frequent reception of the sacraments, a deep and robust prayer life, and a dedicated study of the Word of God. Through these means, we continually encounter the true reason for our hope, which is Jesus himself, and learn to cling to his light. As we journey through this year, may we not falter in our call to walk in the light of Christ, bringing his love and mercy to those who are lost.

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.

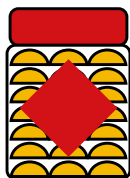


COLLECTION OF OLD PALMS

Old palm branches may be returned to the box outside JPll Hall for the preparation of Ash Wednesday ashes. Please remove all plastic bags and rubber bands.

COOKIES SALE BY ALTAR SERVERS

The Altar Servers Ministry will be selling Chinese New Year cookies outside JPll Hall this weekend and the next few weekends. Come and give them your support!



FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (2 FEB)

There will be the blessing of candles on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. You may bring your candles for blessing during Mass.



SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Altar Servers will be serving breakfast this Sunday at the JPll Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship. Love offerings are welcome!

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 26 Jan, 8pm** at the Auditorium. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Holy Mass celebrated by Fr Edward Lim. All are welcome!

INTERCESSORY

Join us on **Mon 26 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.

PIETA: JANUARY PRAYER SESSION

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who have united in faith to seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope. A monthly session led by bereaved parents is held for parents to pray, reflect and break open the Word of God. We invite any parent who has lost a child (regardless of age and no matter how recent or long ago) to unite with them in faith. The next session on **Tue 27 Jan 2026** will be on Zoom and will be from **7.30pm to 9.15pm**. If you wish to join, please email them directly at pieta.singapore@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

CARITAS SINGAPORE: MY PERSONAL COMPASS BY FR DAVID GARCIA, OP

My Personal Compass returns as a set of 10 sessions. Get introduced to the basics of morality, which are applicable to all and not just Christians. Come and build an ethical foundation so you can journey towards fulfilling your potential as a person made in the image of God. For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at formation.cst@caritas-singapore.org

Dates: Thurs 5 Feb - 16 Apr (No class on 2 Apr)

Time: 8pm - 9.30pm

Venue: CANA (55 Waterloo St, Level 2)

Register: www.bit.ly/perscomp-feb26



CATHOLIC PRAYER SOCIETY: LUNCHTIME MASSES

Wednesdays, 12.15pm Medical Alumni Association
2 College Road, Level 1 Theatrette Singapore 169850

Fridays, 12.15pm One Raffles Quay
Level 49 North Tower Singapore 048583

Fridays, 12.15pm Orchard Rendezvous Hotel (*f.k.a. Orchard Parade Hotel*)
1 Tanglin Road Singapore 247905

CENACLE LENTEN RECOLLECTION 2026

We spend this day of prayer reflecting on the meaning of God's Grace and Love in our lives, context and time. In this Lenten journey into God's relentless love, may we find the friendship of Jesus who calls us "Beloved"; and in response we may proclaim "We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19) so that all our works of mercy, alms-giving, prayer and fasting be rooted in this primary affective Love relationship.

Date: Sun 22 Feb 2026 **Time:** 9-5pm (including Sunday Mass)

Venue: La Salle House (490 E Coast Rd, Singapore 429058)

Contribution fee: \$100/pax includes lunch and 2 tea breaks

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/CenacleLentenRecollection2026>



If you need financial assistance, please do not hesitate to send them a request for subsidy via email: cenaclesingapore@gmail.com.

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>

RCIA 2026 Retreat

Over the weekend of 16 - 18 January, a group of 20 Catechumens and Candidates from RCIA attended a retreat at the St Francis Xavier Retreat Centre.

The retreat was planned to facilitate the deepening of their faith and to support them on their journey towards full initiation into the Church. Throughout the weekend, participants engaged in praise and worship, input and sharing sessions, and a rosary walk. These moments of reflection and fellowship - the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and an evening of adoration - led to a deeply prayerful highlight for many.

The retreat concluded with Mass, during which two inquirers underwent the Rite of Acceptance, marking an important step in their faith journey.



Here is what some of our Catechumens and Candidates shared about their retreat experience:

"What struck me during the retreat was that God has a plan for us from the time that we are conceived in the womb. Every point in our lives, he has planned it. I may have doubts about it, but it is a path that He wants me to take as it will bring me on a new journey. Eucharistic adoration gave me the ability to sit and be quiet with Him. All the words and thoughts I have, He is able to hear them. Having the monstrance brought in front of us individually was a very significant moment as I was able to see Him really up close with me." – **Brenda Lim, Catechumen**



"The Eucharistic adoration was very impactful for me. I felt like I was only there for 10 minutes. Time passed so quickly... I also learnt to surrender myself and to accept whatever was happening. I really enjoyed the whole retreat!" – **Elizabeth Eu, Catechumen**

"Reflecting on the Apostles' Creed resonated with me - knowing that everyone is doing life for the first time and we all go through our own challenges, and our prayers are all meaningful no matter what they are. One insight I gained from the retreat is being able to be still and open. I think God wants to speak to us in many ways, but we have to be open to him and block out any noise." – **J'yi Leaw, Catechumen**

"Jesus will not abandon us even at our lowest point. What we are trying to seek: sometimes belonging, acceptance and approval can only be filled by Jesus." – **Jasmine Lee, Catechumen**



"When I had the time to reflect and recall my life journey and mapping out my timeline, I was amazed by how God was with me throughout. I trusted and believed that God would help me to experience this retreat. AND HE DID!" – **Isabelle Lim, Catechumen and expectant mother**



"What was most meaningful about Eucharistic adoration was that I was able to have alone time with Jesus and share my thoughts, worries and questions with Him. What I enjoyed about the retreat were the praise and worship segments and the reflection on the Apostles' Creed-listening to everyone's perspectives and the sharing from the facilitators." – **Shaun Lian, Catechumen**



More testimonies from Catechumens



"The rosary walk was refreshing, walking and praying allowed me to be more present in a way I don't often experience during indoor rosary gatherings and fellowships previously done many years back. Also, I have been going to the Adoration Room to pray and initially I had constant thoughts in my head on what to say but this particular Eucharistic adoration brought me a deep sense of peace. When Father Ben brought the monstrance close, I found myself quietly crying."
– Winnie Low, Candidate

"The sessions during the retreat struck me because it felt very relevant to my RCIA journey.

Isaiah speaks of God's faithfulness over a lifetime, while the account on Jesus and the Samaritan woman shows what happens when someone encounters Jesus honestly. It reminded me that conversion is not about perfection, but about letting God meet me in my thirst and shape me over time. I realised that surrender is an act of trust, not weakness. The retreat helped me see that I need to surrender without fear and stop overanalyzing, allowing God to work in His timing." – Div Peiris, Catechumen



"One defining moment for me was looking back at my life and seeing God's will and hand in it, and to learning to trust Him more going forward."
– Robin Chan, Catechumen

"An insight I gained is to be forgiving, open, not carry the burden and let go. What resonated with me is how I know that I am not alone anymore, God is always beside me."
– Karin Tan, Catechumen



Dear parishioners, please keep our Catechumens and Candidates in your prayers as they journey ever closer to baptism!

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