



Disciples
Making Disciples



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

Seized by God – Seizing him

4th Sunday of Lent
Laetare Sunday
15 Mar 2026

1 Sam 16:1,6-7,10-13
Eph 5:8-14
Jn 9:1-41

Laetare Sunday takes its name from the Latin word '*laetare*', which means "rejoice." Violet gives way to rose. We are allowed a glimpse of Easter before we arrive there. We rejoice not because Lent is over, but because Christ's light is already breaking into our darkness.

In the First Reading, Samuel goes to Jesse's house to anoint a king. The sons are presented one by one — strong, capable, impressive. But the Lord cautions him not to judge by appearance. David, the youngest, is still out in the field tending sheep. He is called in from ordinary work. Oil is poured over his head. From that day, the Spirit of the Lord seizes upon him and his life changes course. This reading demonstrates that God's choosing does not follow our logic. He does not wait for readiness or credentials. He sees the heart. And when he seizes upon a person, it is intentional.

Most of us know what that feels like. Sometimes responsibility arrives unexpectedly, or a burden lands on our shoulders. We may feel unprepared or overlooked. Yet the reading suggests this: when God seizes upon a life, it is not accidental. To be seized by God is to recognise that it is he who directs our lives.

This leads to a second question: how do we seize upon the Lord in return?

Psalm 23 answers this with clarity: "The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want." Those words are not sentimental. They are a decision. To call the Lord our shepherd is to allow ourselves to be led. For when we cling to the shepherd, we are provided steadiness, clarity and rest.

St Paul sharpens this in the Second Reading when he says, "You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light..." (Eph 5:8). We are reminded that we are not occasional visitors to the light. We are light. And if we believe that we are light, our lives must reflect it — both in our choices and in our willingness to let Christ uncover and heal what we would rather keep hidden.

The Gospel shows us what that looks like in concrete terms. A man is born blind, and the disciples immediately look for a cause — someone to blame for his condition. Jesus rejects that framework. This is not about fault. It is about revelation — that God's work might be made visible in him. We often mistake our weaknesses for disqualification, as though they place us beyond even God's choosing. But Jesus kneels in the dust, makes clay, anoints the man's eyes, and sends him to wash. The man goes. He walks before he

sees. He trusts the word spoken to him. And in that movement of trust, his sight is restored.

There is a clear pattern across the Scripture passages. God initiates. God anoints. God calls. But God's grace requires our response. David steps forward. The blind man rises and walks. Divine initiative and human obedience meet, and that is where transformation happens.

Laetare Sunday invites us to look at our own lives through that same lens. The place where you feel least certain may be precisely where God is working. The responsibility you did not choose may be the field where the Spirit has already laid claim to you. The restlessness you carry may not be a sign of failure — it may be God drawing you forward. And since he has already seized upon us in baptism, in vocation, and in mercy, the only fitting response is for us to seize upon him in return — not cautiously, not half-heartedly, but with resolve.

In conclusion, Laetare Sunday is not a passing feeling of rejoicing. It is a decision. Choose to move toward the Lord. Choose to trust his word even when clarity has not yet come. Choose to hold fast when the valley darkens. The light has already entered the world. Stand in it. Walk in it. Become it.



*"You were
darkness once,
but now you are
light in the Lord."*

- Eph 5:8

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.



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on **Sat 21 March (Hari Raya Puasa)**. Masses will be at 9am and 5.30pm.

GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend, there will be a 2nd collection for the Catholic Foundation's GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme. GIFT is a regular giving programme to rally support for and fund the Archdiocese's organisations and initiatives for youth, evangelisation, catechesis, formation and others. Please drop your contributions or GIFT envelopes into the collection box. Do consider signing up for a regular pledge, as it is the most reliable way of supporting the Church. Visit catholicfoundation.sg to contribute online or find out more.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Infant Baptism & Library Ministry will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JP11 Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship. Love offerings are welcome!

CHARISMATIC

There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on "What does it mean when we say to Jesus 'I love you'?". All are welcome!

Date: Mon 16 Mar
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Auditorium

INTERCESSORY - LENTEN PRAYER

The SFX Intercessory Prayer Ministry, in collaboration with various parish ministries, will be holding a Lenten prayer session. As we prepare for Holy Week, come spend time in prayer and allow the Lord to ready your heart. All are welcome!

Date: Fri 27 Mar
Time: 9pm - 1am
Venue: JP11 Hall

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Parishioners are kindly reminded to park only in designated car lots when coming to church. Please refrain from parking in motorcycle bays and avoid blocking driveways or access points. Your consideration helps ensure that our church grounds remain safe and accessible for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation.

PLACING OUR MEN OF SIGNIFICANCE UNDER THE CARE OF ST JOSEPH

Please write the names of your husbands, fathers, spiritual fathers and other men of significance in the book provided in Church, in front of Mother Mary's stained glass icon. On **Thu 19 Mar (Solemnity of Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**, a prayer of blessing will be offered at the morning and evening Masses.



LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES (SERANGOON DISTRICT)

- Tue 17 Mar, 8pm: Church of the Transfiguration
- **Wed 18 Mar, 8pm: Church of St Francis Xavier**
- Thu 19 Mar, 8pm: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Mon 23 Mar, 8.15pm: St. Anne's Church
- Tue 24 Mar, 8pm: Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Wed 25 Mar, 8pm: St Vincent de Paul

CATECHISM NOTICE

There will be a break from Catechism on 15 March. Parents and Guardians, please continue to lead your family and children in prayer, reflection and worship. Sessions will resume on 22 Mar.

The Catechetical Ministry is also in need of Catechists for our K2 level (6 year old), which is the first formal catechesis experience for the kids. We invite and welcome parishioners, who love interacting and journeying with young children to consider this great opportunity of service. Join us in echoing our faith to the young ones. Please contact Dan Lai at cat.ministry@sfxchurch.sg to find out more.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS POV: MEETING JESUS ON CALVARY

He met Jesus on Calvary while piercing the side of Jesus with a lance after Jesus' crucifixion

Collect your character card this week and stick it to your A3 Lenten card. If you do not have the A3 card, please get one from the booth outside the JP11 Hall.

This Friday's Stations of the Cross at 8pm will include an extended reflection from his point-of-view.

May this little activity help you enter into deeper reflection on the Passion in your prayer time and with your friends and family.



CHARITIES WEEK 2026 (28 FEBRUARY - 10 MAY)

Join us in transforming lives in real, tangible ways. Through the Caritas Family, your donation will bring comfort and hope to the vulnerable communities - regardless of race or religion. Together, we can respond to their urgent needs, before it's too late. Pick up a Charities Week envelope or scan the QR code or visit caritas-singapore.org/donate.



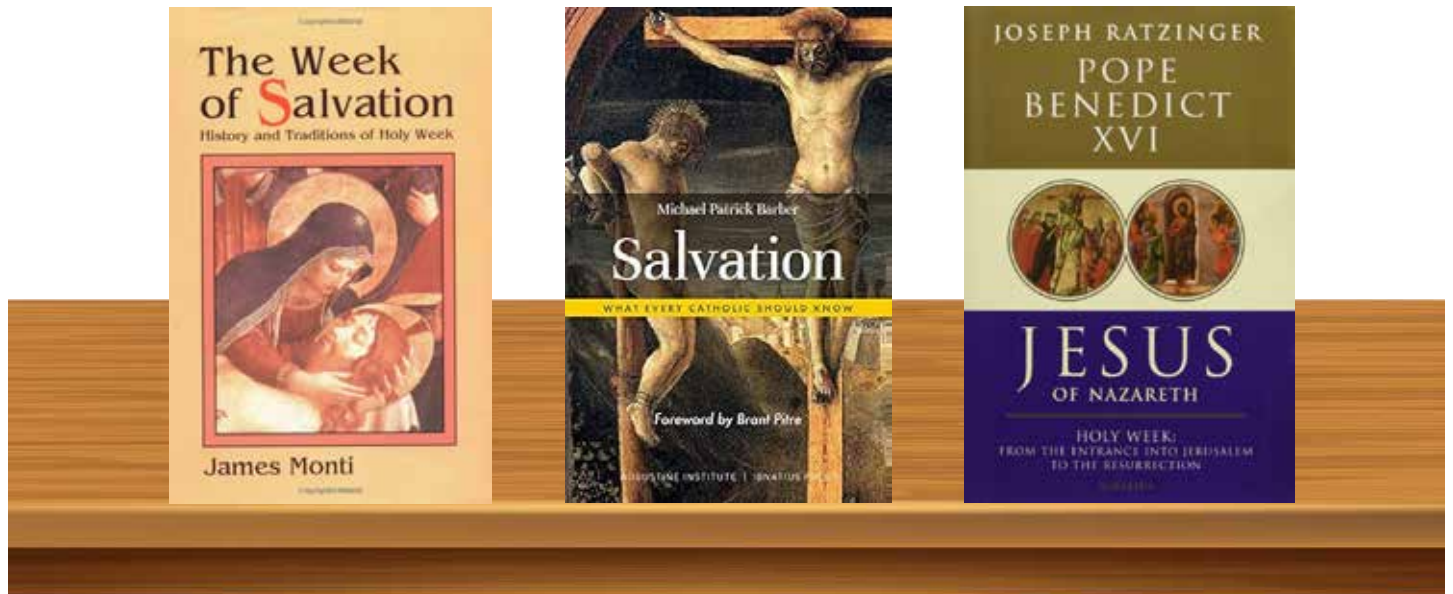
CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE: GETTING MARRIED - BTOGETHER?

We invite parishioners who are considering marriage, engagement or applying for a home together to join us at CANA, The Catholic Centre for "Getting Married: BTOgether?". This session invites you to explore these questions through the lens of our Catholic faith. Through this session, you'll discover how to approach these life-changing decisions intentionally, building a future that honours God, yourselves, and the family you hope to create.

Date: Fri 10 Apr, 8pm to 10pm
Venue: CANA, The Catholic Centre Level 3, 55 Waterloo St, 187954
Cost: \$20 per pax or \$35 per couple
Register: bit.ly/BTOgether



Recommended Readings for Holy Week from St Jerome Library



“The Week of Salvation: History and Traditions of Holy Week”

by James Monti

Do you know that “Holy Week” used to be called “the six days of the Pascha,” “Paschal Week,” “the Great Week,” “the last week of Lent,” “Palm-week” and “Week of Lamentation”? These various ways of describing the final week of Jesus’ earthly life express the astounding significance and great devotion Christians attach to how Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection has changed all of human history - past, present and future. In this book, Church Historian James Monti explores with comprehensive detail the scriptural, liturgical and devotional dimensions of the Church’s most important week in the liturgical calendar.

“Salvation: What every Catholic Should Know”

by Dr Michael P. Barber

Confronted with the question, “Are You Saved?” the teenage Michael Barber found himself deepening his exploration into what exactly salvation or “being saved” means. Now a Professor of Sacred Scripture and Theology at the Augustine Institute, Dr Barber hopes his book “will give readers not only a better understanding of what salvation is, but a deeper love for the Savior himself.” (p8)

“Jesus of Nazareth - Holy Week: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection”

by Pope Benedict XVI

From Jesus’ “ascent” and entry into Jerusalem; the cleansing of the Temple; His “kingly right” to requisition the donkey; the dating of the Last Supper and the question as to whether the Last Supper was a Passover Meal, Pope Benedict XVI shares his research and deep insights into the words and deeds of Jesus in Holy Week. On Jesus’ Words of Institution at the Last Supper, Pope Benedict XVI highlights that Jesus’ willingness to shed His blood “for many” is key, “...the use of the word ‘for’ [is] key not only to the Last Supper accounts, but to the figure of Jesus overall. His entire being is expressed by the word ‘pro-existence’ - he is there, not for himself, but for others. This is... his innermost essence and its entirety. If we are able to grasp this... then we have understood what discipleship is.” (p134)



Looking for more information?
Visit www.sfxchurch.sg



St Joseph

This Thursday, 19 Mar, is the feast day of St Joseph. He is one of the greatest saints in the Church. The bible doesn't tell us very much about him, but we know that he was very obedient and trusted God, and that he must have been a very holy man – God chose him to look after His own son, Jesus!



St Joseph was just a poor Jewish carpenter, but God saw that he was a very good man so He chose him to be the husband and protector of Mary, who would be the Mother of Jesus. St Joseph provided for Mary by his hard work.

When Jesus was born, St Joseph protected Him from the evil King Herod, who wanted to kill Him. He spent his days working to support Jesus and Mary and taught Jesus how to be a carpenter. St Joseph was Jesus' teacher, but he also learned from Jesus how to be holy.

St Joseph died a holy and peaceful death in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Now he is in Heaven, helping us when we pray to him. We should pray to him because he is a great protector and teacher for us, just like he was for Jesus.

What did the man that Jesus cured say to the people who thought Jesus was a sinner?

Use the code at the bottom to find out!

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Answer: If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything.

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

Sun:
8am - 1pm,
4pm - 5.30pm

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