

BCC LEVEL 1 - SCRIPTURE. In this basic course, catechists will discover the fundamental principles that undergird and animate the great themes of Sacred Scripture. The objective of this specially designed Scripture course for catechists is that they understand how to craft catechetical sessions that truly become encounters with the Living Word. **SPEAKER:** Fr Erbin Fernandez, Catechetical Director. **Date(s):** Tuesday, 12 Jan - 16 Feb. **Time:** 7:30pm-10.00pm. **Venue:** Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre, 2 Highland Road, Singapore 549102. To register, <http://goo.gl/forms/p5AH7Z6Tze>, before 5 Jan '16

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER is organizing World Forum on Marriage to examine the key challenges of marriage and family life on 16 Jan '16 at CJC Performing Arts Centre. The forum is open to all encountered couples. Come and listen to the views of ME leaders from around the world. Mgrs Ambrose Vaz, Vicar General, Archdiocese of Singapore, will celebrate Mass as well as deliver the keynote address. **Contribution:** \$25 each (includes lunch & dinner). Please register now at Wfm2016.eventbrite.sg. For enquiries, e-mail wmmesgforum@yahoo.com.sg

QUIETING THE SOUL - Cenacle PHILIPPINES Organised by the Cenacle Sisters. Enter the Cenacle

and the Experience: Enter your sanctuary to discover and deepen your life, your relationship and your faith. Spend 5-day of retreat in quiet prayer and solitude with God. 17 - 24 Jan '16 (incl.travel time) **Contact:** Cenacle Sisters, Tel. 65652895; 97223148; Email: cenaclesing@gmail.com

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE (MPC) For couples intending to get married. 1st Quarter Course Starts: 14 Feb '16 Allocation of places is on a first-come-first-served basis. Application forms obtainable in church office or our website @ www.catholic.org.sg/mpc. Enquiries: Peter+Rita @ 93673411 or email: mpcsingapore@gmail.com

PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS COURSE 2016 - By Fr David Garcia, OP. This is a one-year-long systematic course in Moral Theology. It is a course for all Catholics and non-Catholics interested in their formation in the foundations of Ethics and Moral Theology. It is also recommended for those involved in guiding and forming others and those involved in related work or ministry. The course will start on 6 Jan '16 and it takes place on Wednesday nights, 7:30pm. to 9:30pm in Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh, Singapore 319264. For more information and registration, go to: www.caritas-singapore.org OR email: formation@caritas-singapore.org

Sunset Mass 5.30pm
Rosary 4.40pm (Saturday)
Sunday Masses
8.30am (Mandarin)
11.00am (English)
2.00pm (Cantonese) Chapel, 3rd Floor
4.20pm (English)
Weekday Masses
7.20am
5.30pm
Intercessory Prayer
7.15pm (Eng, Thu, Adoration Chapel)

Infant Jesus Devotions
5.30pm (Thu, followed by Mass)
4.00pm (Sun, followed by Mass)
Divine Mercy Devotions
Sun, 12.30pm (Mandarin)
Sion Adorers - Holy Hour
7.45pm - 8.45pm (Sat, Adoration Chapel)
Hour of Mercy (Adoration Chapel)
3.00pm (Daily)
Counselling @ SPP
Every Monday 7.00pm - 9.00pm. Please call SPP Church Secretariat 6337 2585 for appointment.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered from 5.00pm-5.20pm on weekdays in Rm 1. On weekends, it will be available in the makeshift confessional/back of the tentage 30 mins before each weekend mass.

Parish Priest: Rev Fr JOHN CHUA OCD (email: hkchuajohn@yahoo.com), Asst Parish Priest: Rev Fr EDWARD LIM, OCD, Priests in Residence: Rev Fr TOM CURRAN, OCD, Rev Fr GREGORY HON, OCD, Rev Fr JOSEPH KOH, OCD and Fr Jeffrey Tan, OCD, General-Delegate: Rev Fr THOMAS LIM OCD, Parish Secretary: Ms Martha Loh, Parish Clerk: Ms Jannie Lui, Liturgical Co-ordinator: Alex Wong, alexdominic@gmail.com

Church Donations - Please make your cheque payable to:
(i) Church Of Sts Peter & Paul - for contributions /donations for on-going maintenance of our Church or parish projects and Mass offerings; (ii) Church Of SPP Building Fund - for contributions/donations to our Church building fund; (iii) Carmelite Fathers for contributions/donations to the Carmelite Friars (SPP), OCD Missions, Frairs Formation. (iv) Soc of St Vincent de Paul (Conf St Peter) - for donations to the Society of St Vincent de Paul for the poor and needy.

Church of Saints Peter & Paul: 225-A Queen Street, Singapore 188551

Tel: +65 6337 2585 Fax: +65 6334 5414 email: sts_peternpaul@singnet.com.sg www.sppchurch.org.sg



READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 43 **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:** Pg 45
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 21 December - SAT 26 December 2015
MON: SG 2:8-14, LK 1:39-45 **TUE:** 1 SM 1:24-28, LK 1:46-56 **WED:** MAL 3:1-4, 23-24, LK 1:57-66 **THU:** 2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16, LK 1:67-79 **FRI:** The Nativity of the Lord **SAT:** ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59, MT 10:17-22

Fourth Sunday of Advent - 20 December 2015

The Lectionary for Mass

First Reading: Bethlehem was a small village overshadowed by the larger and more significant Jerusalem. Yet it is from her that God will bring Israel's greatest blessing, the ideal king who will be Israel's eternal ruler. As the birthplace of King David, Bethlehem always had a claim to fame, but politically and economically it was insignificant. God promises through the prophet that insignificance will turn to glory because the one who will spring from her womb will bring peace to the ends of the earth.

Responsorial Psalm 80: All good comes from God, even the good in our own hearts. Hence the psalmist calls on God to awaken within us and cause us to turn from our ways to God's ways. From praying for our own convenience, the psalm moves to prayer for the nation and especially for the one whom God has raised up to lead the people. The leadership of God's chosen one will assure that the people will no longer stray from God's righteous path.

Second Reading: Borrowing from Psalm 40, the author of Hebrews reminds us that God values obedience far more than sacrifices. In the Gospel, Jesus often equates love with keeping the commandments. Rituals are important but only if they reflect the true sacrifice of our lives in obedience to God's will. Christ's exemplary

obedience was manifest when he willingly offered his body "once for all."

Gospel: Mary rushes to the side of Elizabeth who, like her, is the recipient of divine favour. But Elizabeth immediately recognises in Mary one more blessed than she, and she also understands that what makes Mary special is her ability to trust that God's words to her would be fulfilled. Both women will suffer greatly for the privilege they've been granted - as will their sons - but for now the linked destinies of John and Jesus can't detract from the sheer joy of reaching out to touch a cousin who is also recipient of God's surprising grace.

Christmas Time - The Meaning

Christmas Time is no time to be dour, and our liturgical practices reflect this! We recount the songs of angels in darkened skies, the wonder of shepherds in their fields, the faithful journey of wise men following a star in the night. In song and in story, we speak with wonder of the lowly, humble circumstances in which the one we program "Light from Light, true God from true God" enters the world (Nicene Creed).

In the Twelve Steps movement, one of the greatest spiritual contributions of twentieth century, members speak of the importance of "attraction rather than promotion." People are not to be exhorted, implored, cajoled or "guilted" into embracing the spiritual path that

Information is correct at time of publication.

leads to addiction recovery; rather they are to be drawn in by exemplary lives that reflect “the joy of living”, which is considered the “theme” of the Twelve Steps.

So too Pope Francis reminds us that as people who know Jesus, our very person can and should radiate the joy of that relationship. Our words should seem pale compared to the witness to him that is embodied in our actions. Our lives, full of rejoicing, become the visible expression of the miracle we celebrate at Christmas, “The Gospel radiant with the glory of Christ’s cross, constantly invites us to rejoice Our Christian joy drinks of the wellspring of his brimming heart.” (EG, 5)

The Holy Father knows that the Good News cannot be delivered by the miserable! Only when our lives radiate the joy of knowing that through the suffering and Death of Jesus has all sin been forgiven and creation been redeemed can we begin to speak to others about what we know.

Christmas Time is a perfect entry point to fuller expression of Christian joy by each and every one of us, and our liturgical gatherings can reflect this. We rejoice not only for all that we have been given in the form of family and friends and the generosity of spirit this season engenders. We also rejoice in whom we have been given: The God who comes into human experience as we all do, a vulnerable, lowly and yet totally cherished baby. The God whose first experiences of this world are those of being tenderly cared for by loving parents, swathed in cloth and placed in a humble feeding trough. For him, we embrace the season of “sweet rejoicing”!

Hymn of the Jubilee of Mercy

Music: Paul Inwood

Text: Eugenio Costa (Latin & Italian)

Misericordes sicut Pater!

[cf. Lk 6,36][motto of the Jubilee]

1. Give thanks to the Father, for He is good in aeternum misericordia eius*
[cf. Ps 135/6]

He created the world with wisdom
in aeternum misericordia eius
He leads His people throughout history
in aeternum misericordia eius
He pardons and welcomes His children
[cf. Lk 15]
in aeternum misericordia eius

2. Give thanks to the Son, Light of the Nations
in aeternum misericordia eius
He loved us with a heart of flesh
[cf. Jn 15,12]
in aeternum misericordia eius
As we receive from Him, let us also give to Him
in aeternum misericordia eius
Hearts open to those who hunger and thirst
[cf. Mt 25,31 ff.]
in aeternum misericordia eius

Misericordes sicut Pater!

Misericordes sicut Pater!

3. Let us ask the Spirit for the seven holy gifts
in aeternum misericordia eius
Fount of all goodness and the sweetest relief
in aeternum misericordia eius
Comforted by Him, let us offer comfort
[cf. Jn 15,26-27]
in aeternum misericordia eius
Love hopes and bears all things
[cf. 1Cor 13,7]
in aeternum misericordia eius

4. Let us ask for peace from the God of all peace
in aeternum misericordia eius
The earth waits for the Good News of the Kingdom [cf. Mt 24,14]
in aeternum misericordia eius
Joy and pardon in the hearts of the little ones
in aeternum misericordia eius
The heavens and the earth will be renewed
[cf. Ap 21,1]
in aeternum misericordia eius

Misericordes sicut Pater!

Misericordes sicut Pater!

* “in aeternum misericordia eius” means “his mercy is forever”.
Reprinted from Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2015
© 2014 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. 1-800-933-1800. www.LIT.org. All rights reserved. Source: <http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en/giubileo/inno.html>

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2015

Thu 24 Dec, Christmas Eve:

NO INFANT JESUS DEVOTION & NO EVENING MASS

8.30pm : Mandrain Carolling

9.00pm : Mandarin Mass

11.00pm : Reflections and Hymns
by Fr. Edward Lim

11.40pm : Blessing of the Crib

Midnight : Christmas Midnight Mass (Eng)

Fri 25 Dec, Christmas Day:

8.30am (Mandarin)

11.00am (English)

NO EVENING MASS

NEW YEAR’S MASS SCHEDULE 2016

31 Dec ‘15 - Year End Thanksgiving Celebrations, 6:00pm Solemn Vespers, 7:00pm Mass (in English). There will be a potluck gathering after Mass and all parishioners are invited to join in. If you want to bring food for the potluck, please register with the Church Secretary on the type of food you will be bringing. Please prepare enough food for about 10 persons per dish. Do come and join in the fun!

NO INFANT JESUS DEVOTION

Friday, 1 January 2016 (New Year’s Day):

9.00am (English Mass)

PARISH NEWS

REV. FR. TOM CURRAN, OCD – The Golden Jubilee of the Sacerdotal Ordination of Fr Tom Curran, OCD will be celebrated with a Thanksgiving Mass to be held in our church on Sun 20 Dec ‘15 at 11.00am. We invite you to join us with your presence or in prayer.

CATECHISM CLASS FOR 2016 - Catechism classes for 2016 will commence on Sun 17 Jan ‘16 at 9.30am. The classroom allocation for all levels and catechism calendar for 2016 can be found at the information board outside the secretariat office nearer the commencement date.

CATECHISM FOR PRIMARY 1 IN 2016 is open for registration. Closing date: 2 Jan ‘16. Application forms are available at the Secretariat. For enquires, please contact Alycia at email: alylum@gmail.com or Jeremy at email: jeremy_freely@yahoo.com. sg Parents and students will be required to attend a short briefing by the Catechist on the first session of Catechism in 2016.

ADVENT NOVENA (9 DAYS) 2015 - There will be NO Advent Novena in December 2015.

INFANT BAPTISM The next Infant Baptism service will be held on Sat 26 Dec ‘15 at 2.30pm in the Chapel (3rd Storey, Parish Building). Parents and Godparents are required to attend a preparatory session to be conducted by the Priest at 2.30pm before the baptism. Application Forms for Infant Baptism can be obtained from the Parish Office. The Forms must be submitted by Sat 19 Dec ‘15.

CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER & PAUL BUILDING FUND

– An estimate of 30% of items in the church conservation project is deemed strictly as “conservation works” and we have already raised \$2,986,565/- from the account “PMF - Church of Sts Peter and Paul”. The figure above is sufficient to cover 30% of items being conserved; raising more than 30% through this account (PMF- Church of Sts Peter & Paul) means that the balance will have to remain in this account until another conservation project has been initiated. Further, the funds raised through the above account cannot be used for maintenance other than conservation works. As such, we have ceased to accept tax exemption donations for the restoration of our church. However, we hope that you will continue to donate generously to our Building Fund for many other maintenance works. From now onwards, crossed cheques should be made payable to: Church of SPP Building Fund. Donor may provide his/her name, address and contact phone no. Thank you for your generous donations and support.

DAILY PRAYER - Our SPP Church prays the Lauds led by the Carmelite Friars every weekday at 7.00am before the 7.20am Mass.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

CARLO CATHOLIC SOCIETY BURSARY SCHEME 2016

- Application is now open for needy Primary, Secondary, Junior College (CJ) students. Applicant must be a Catholic studying full-time at a government recognized institution. In addition, the applicant must possess good conduct, satisfactory academic results and must not be a recipient of any other scholarships or bursaries. Income criteria: (1) household monthly income must not exceed \$2,000 OR (2) the per capita (average) household income is \$450 per month or lower. Application forms are available at Carlo Catholic Society - 225-B Queen Street, S188552, email: bursary@carlo.org.sg. Forms can also be download from Carlo Catholic Society’s webpage <http://www.carlo.org.sg/>