

Clinics. Please visit our website at <http://www.clgsingapore.com> for more information on clinic dates and registration.

IS GOD A DELUSION? A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO THE NEW ATHEISM

- This talk explores the phenomenon of Atheism and how Catholics can respond to the claims made by the so called “new” Atheists today. Date: 20 Jan ‘16, Venue: St Joseph’s Church Victoria Street, Conference Room (1st Floor), Time: 7.30pm - 9.00pm. Speaker: Mr Nick Chui (Masters in Theological Studies, John Paul II Institute of Marriage and Family) Speaker’s profile: Nick is a teacher in a Secondary school and has been involved in Youth and Adult Catechesis for about 10 years. He is a moderator of “Catholics in Singapore”, a 9000 strong facebook group which hosts numerous faith related discussions. He has also written and published articles on evangelisation that have appeared in the Catholic News, Trinity theological Journal and Church and Society in Asia today. To register, contact Nick @ 97843682 or email theology.sg@gmail.com

LOVE AND CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY
12 - 14 Feb ‘16, Fri, 8.00pm to Sun. 1.00pm.

Facilitated by Sr. Linda Lizada, rc. A retreat to help you understand the different aspects of human sexuality from a developmental perspective, how sexuality helps us grow in self-intimacy, intimacy with others, God and all of creation. Highly recommended for young dating couples. Organised by the Cenacle Sisters; Contact: Tel.: 6565-2895; 9722-3148; Email: cenaclesing@gmail.com. Venue: Choice Retreat House

BIBLE COURSE ON WISDOM BOOKS: ECCLESIASTES & DANIEL by Msgr Ambrose Vaz At Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre, 2 Highland Road S549102, 16 Feb - 17 May ‘16, 9.30am to 11.30am. Cost \$100.00. For more information/Registration email: bibleapotate.catholic.org.sg. website: bibleapotate.wordpress.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

Sunset Mass	: 5.30pm
Rosary	: 4.40pm (Saturday)
Sunday Masses	: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese, Chapel 3rd floor), 4.30pm (English)
Weekday Masses	: 7.20am and 5.30pm
Intercessory Prayer	: 7.15pm (English, Thursday, Adoration Chapel)
Infant Jesus Devotion	: 5.30pm (Thursday, followed by Mass)
Divine Mercy Devotion	: 12.30pm (Sunday Mandarin)
Sion Adorers - Holy Hour	: 7.45pm - 8.45pm (Saturday, Adoration Chapel)
Hour of Mercy	: 3.00pm daily, (Adoration Chapel)
Counselling @ SPP	: 7.00pm - 9.00pm (Monday, call 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



Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

24 January 2016 Year C

READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 174 **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:** Pg 177
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 25 January - SAT 30 January 2016

MON: ACTS 22:3-16, MK 16:15-18 **TUE:** 2 TM 1:1-8, MK 3:31-35 **WED:** 2 SM 7:4-17, MK 4:1-20 **THU:** 2 SM 7:18-19, 24-29, MK 4:21-25 **FRI:** 2 SM 11:1-4A, 5-10A, 13-17, MK 4:26-34 **SAT:** 2 SM 12:1-7A, 10-17, MK 4:35-41

The Lectionary for Mass

First Reading: The context of this reading is the reestablishment of the city of Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile. Because the fate of the city and the nation is tied to the people’s fidelity to the covenant, the community celebrates this event with a public proclamation of the law. For the children of Israel, the law is not a constraint on their freedom, but a sign of God’s loving care for them and the foundation of their nation.

Responsorial Psalm 19: Today’s Responsorial Psalm continues the reflection on the law of God and its importance in the life of the community. The law is described as “perfect”, “trustworthy”, “right”, “clear”, “pure” and “true”. The law not only gives peace and stability to the nation; it gives peace and wisdom to the individual who loves it and lives by it.

Second Reading: One of Paul’s greatest contributions to the life and theology of the early Church was his understanding of the Church as the Body of Christ. By Baptism, each Christian is incorporated into this body. Baptism erased divisions between individual members. There was no need for jealousy and competition because each member placed his or her gifts at the service of the common good.

Gospel: In the introduction, Luke sets forth his goal in writing the Gospel. He intends to reassure a lover of God (Theophilus) of the reliability of what he has heard about Jesus. This reassurance extends to people today. In the second part of the reading, in his first visit to his hometown after his baptism by John, Jesus sets the agenda for his ministry. His mission is to bring God’s Kingdom – a kingdom where the poor, the lonely, the imprisoned and the oppressed will find freedom from want and fear and need.

Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle – 25 January

About this Feast

Today’s feast celebrates God’s triumph, even in the most unlikely circumstances. Before Paul meets the Risen Lord on the Road to Damascus, he is Saul, dedicated to viciously persecuting the followers of Jesus Christ. Imagine yourself among those early Christians, and hearing that Saul, one of the most feared enemies of your community, has encountered the Lord and changed his life entirely to serve him from then on. Although certainly astonishing, the conversion of Paul is also deeply inspiring, for it tells us that God does not hold our mistakes against us, but rather calls us to turn our minds and hearts to follow his Son instead. The conversion of Paul is proof that

no one is too far beyond the call of the Lord to follow, and that in Christ, change for the better is always possible.

Some Saints of the Week

Memorial of Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops – 26 January

Today's Saints

Sts. Timothy and Titus, first century bishops and martyrs, are celebrated together because of their joint association with St. Paul. Timothy is first mentioned in Acts of the Apostles 16:1-2, when Paul visits Lystra, in what is now Turkey. Timothy's mother was Jewish; Paul circumcised him so he would be accepted by the Jewish Christians. Timothy accompanied Paul on some of his journeys, and he is the one addressed in the Letters to Timothy in the New Testament. Tradition says that Paul made him bishop of Ephesus in 65. He was martyred by stoning in either the years 65 or 80 for preaching against the worship of idols.

St. Titus was also a disciple and companion of St. Paul. He was probably a Gentile, and Paul refused to have him circumcised because the Gospel freed Gentiles from the Law of Moses. Although he is not mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles, he is mentioned several times in Paul's letters and was probably commissioned to preach to the Gentiles. According to Paul, Titus

was with Paul and Timothy at Ephesus and was sent to Macedonia to collect alms for the Christians in Jerusalem. He also spent time in Macedonia, Crete and Dalmatia in modern-day Croatia. Tradition says that he was a bishop in Crete and died in the year 107 AD.

Memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church – 28 January

Today's Saint

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274), a Doctor of the Church, felt drawn to the charism of the Dominicans, even though his parents wanted him to become a Benedictine monk. As a young Dominican, his reserved demeanor led his classmates to believe he was unintelligent; therefore, they called him the “dumb ox”. Little did they know St. Thomas was a brilliant man who would write the Summa Theologica – a theological masterpiece that explicates the truths of the Catholic faith by demonstrating the intimate relationship between reason and revelation. His intellectual genius and method and of theological inquiry was greatly influenced by his mentor and teacher St. Albert the Great. The person once thought to be a “dumb ox” became known as the “angelic doctor” due to his profound impact on theological thought, as far reaching as the Second Vatican Council and contemporary theologians like Karl Rahner.

Reprinted from Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2015 © 2014 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. 1-800-933-1800. www.LTP.org. All rights reserved.

PARISH NEWS

SPP YEAR OF MERCY SERIES - To kick off the series of Jubilee Year of Mercy events in SPP, we have a catechesis on mercy on the topic “An Appreciation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation”. Date: 13 Feb '16 (Sat), Time: 2:00pm - 5:00pm, Venue: Chapel (Level 3 @ SPP). Speaker: Fr. Edward Lim, OCD. The session will include Confession and Eucharistic Adoration. For registration, please email SPPhappenings@gmail.com or register with the Church Office. Attendance by registration only.

THANK YOU - Church Collection for our SPP Society of St Vincent de Paul for the month of December 2015 amounted to \$3,425.05 and Donations amounted to \$1,881.00. Expenditure for the month was \$12,154.50 of which the cost of Christmas lunch for the FINs amounted to \$6,010.00. Special thanks to the donors and SSVPPC City who funded the lunch. We support 84 Friends-In-Need (FINs). Majority of them are elderly poor living in Chinatown and Beach Road/North Bridge Road areas. We appeal to your generosity in caring for the poor and needy through our SSVPP, St Peter's Conference.

TICKET SALE for the Dedication Thanksgiving Dinner - 2 Jul '16 at Raffles City Convention Centre Members of SPP Ministries can purchase the tables for the Dedication Thanksgiving Dinner from the Church Office from 1 January 2016. Public Sale will start in Feb '16. Tickets are priced at \$1500 per table of 10 persons. Please check with your Ministry Leader or the Church Office for more information.

CHINESE NEW YEAR - 8 Feb '16 (Mon) Mandarin Mass: 8.30am, English Mass: 10.30 am. No Evening Mass. 9 Feb '16 (Tue) English Mass: 7.20am. No Evening Mass.

ASH WEDNESDAY - 10 Feb '16 English Mass: 7.20am & 5.30pm. Mandarin Mass: 7.30pm. The faithful is reminded to note that Ash Wednesday is a day of penance to be marked by fasting and abstinence (one full meal or 2 half meals).

MASS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED Mass dedicated to the souls of the faithful departed whose remains are placed in the columbarium in our church, and for their family members is celebrated on Fri 29 Jan '16 at 7.20am and 5.30pm.

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

“WHAT IS CHRISTIAN MISSION?” talks by CHARIS – Join us on 20 & 27 Feb, 12 Mar and 2 & 9 Apr to learn and share about the Trinitarian nature of mission – the thrust of the very heart of Christian life – and how we can do so in a dynamic way. All sessions held @ Catholic Centre, 10.00am - 12.00pm. For more information, contact Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives Singapore (CHARIS), Victoria at victoria@charis-singapore.org or Tel: 6337-4119. Website www.charis-singapore.org

THE APOSTOLATE FOR CATHOLIC TRUTH would like to publicize these talks (Feb '16) in your bulletin for the benefit of your parishioners:

1. What's Right and Wrong? 5 Feb '16
2. Atheism, A Catholic Response. 12 Feb '16
3. The Real Presence. 19 Feb '16
4. Scientific Investigations on Miraculous Images. 26 Feb '16

Venue: St Joseph's Church Conference Room Victoria Street, Fridays 7.45 pm - 9.30 pm. For more details and registration: www.catholic.sg/act or HP: 96493893 (Andrew). FOC. All are welcome.

RETRouvaille - A Lifeline for Troubled & Hurting Marriages. If you are serious about making your marriage work, this program could be worthwhile for you. Weekend date: 26 - 28 Feb '16. For confidential enquiry, Tel: 6711 6774 Online registration: www.helpourmarriage.sg

CATHOLIC LAWYERS GUILD (CLG) Pro Bono Legal Clinics @ AGAPE Village. Are you: Facing a legal issue on a *personal matter and do not have legal advice or representation? Facing a legal dispute that you wish to have mediated and resolved? Unable to afford a lawyer? *CLG clinics do not cover legal issues on business or professional matters and are intended for the poor, disadvantaged and sandwiched classes. If so, you may wish to seek free basic legal advice and information at the CLG Pro Bono Legal