

Street (St Flora's Room 2nd Floor). Time: 7.30pm - 9.00pm. Date: 16 Dec '15. To register, contact Nick @ 97843682 or email theology.sg@gmail.com

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

is organizing World Forum on Marriage to examine the key challenges of marriage and family life on 16 Jan 2016 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 wwmesgforum@yahoo.com.sg

'JESUS FOR EVERYONE' SLOGAN DESIGN.

ONE is looking for talented artists to turn the slogan 'Jesus for Everyone' into a design that inspires us all to share the Good News. Closing date: 14 December 2015. Visit www.one.org.sg for more information.

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 January 2016 and it takes place on Wednesday nights, 7.30p.m. to 9.30p.m 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



Third Sunday of Advent

13 December 2015 Year C

READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 39 **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:** Pg 41
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 14 December - SAT 19 December 2015
MON: NM 24:2-7, 15-17A, MT 21:23-27 **TUE:** ZEP 3:1-2, 9-13, MT 21:28-32 **WED:** IS 45:6C-8, 18, 21C-25, LK 7:18B-23 **THU:** GN 49:2, 8-10, MT 1:1-17 **FRI:** JER 23:5-8, MT 1:18-25 **SAT:** JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A, LK 1:5-25

The Liturgy of the Hours - Advent

In the liturgical renewal of the Second Vatican Council, the Council on the Sacred Liturgy established principles for the Liturgy of the Hours as the official, daily prayer of the Church. As such, Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are identified as "the hinge hours" because these are the Hours that mark the turning of night into day, and day into night. (see CSL, 89a).

Principally, the Hours are a prayer of praise and petition (intercession), which are intimately connected to the very praise and petition of Christ. The General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours (GILH) notes that "the praise of God assumes a human sound in words of adoration, expiation and intercession, presented to the Father by the Head of the new humanity, the Mediator between God and his people, in the name of all and for the good of all" (3).

So much of the Advent Hours captures beautifully the theology and spirituality of the season. For example, the Gospel Canticles for Morning and Evening Prayer (the Benedictus and the Magnificat) are filled with the spirit of Advent! The Benedictus (Zechariah's song of praise found in the Gospel according to Luke) states directly: "Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel; / he has come to his people and set them free." That is exactly what we celebrate and look

forward to in Advent: that the Lord, in Christ Jesus, has come to us, dwells among us, and has come precisely so that we might be made free! The canticle goes on to reference John the Baptist, a major Advent companion: "And you", Zechariah sings to the infant John, "will go before the Lord to prepare his way, / to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins."

Similarly, the Magnificat (Mary's great song of praise as recorded in the Gospel according to Luke) also sings of what the Lord as done in the great mystery of the Incarnation: "He has come to the help of his servant Israel / for he has remembered his promise of mercy, / the promise he made to our fathers, / to Abraham and his children forever." Again, this proclamation is in many ways an Advent proclamation - that God has remembered his promises he made through the prophets, that he remembers the covenant and moreover, that God fulfills the covenant through his Son, Jesus Christ!

Another example of how the Hours during Advent reveal the theology and spirituality of Advent: consider the responses to the intercessions for the first celebration of Evening Prayer during Advent. The responses are a great summation of the theology and spirituality of the season! Listen to the longing and pleading for the Lord to come: "Come Lord, and do not delay," "Come now and save us," "Come to redeem the

work of your hands,” “Come and give us your unending life.”

Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday – 13 December 2015

The Lectionary for Mass

First Reading: On this day of rejoicing as the celebration of the Incarnation draws near, Zephaniah announces hope and declares the people must rejoice because God comes not with judgment but with merciful deliverance.

Canticle: God, the source of all that sustains us, is also the foundation of our salvation. Our rejoicing is heightened all the more because God is not a saviour who strikes and then disappears in the night. The refrain reminds us that God of our salvation is in our midst; here among us is the Holy One of Israel!

Second Reading: Contrary to those who might anticipate the coming of the Lord with trepidation, Philippians exhorts us to abandon fear and worry and surrender instead to joyful prayer. And we are not to shy from making our needs known to God. Peace should characterise our anticipation of Christ’s coming – whether at the end of time, at Christmas, or in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Gospel: John’s responses are blunt and sparse to those who come asking advice: “Do this. Don’t do that.” His confidence is clear and he demonstrates a boldness that’s born of his ability to see as God sees. His obvious authority prompts his questioners to ask if he is the Messiah, which he roundly denies by pointing away from himself to one who is more powerful. There is no false humility in his words, and we sense his own longing for the one who will be the Good News he proclaims.

Some Saints of the Week

St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church – 14 December

St. John of the Cross (1542 – 1591), a Carmelite priest and doctor of the Church, is hailed as one of the greatest mystical theologians in Church

history. Along with his spiritual friend, St. Teresa of Avila, he set out to reform the Carmelite order to its original spirit – a life of simplicity centred on interior prayer. St. John was persecuted by his Carmelite brothers, eventually imprisoned because his reforms challenged their comfortable lives of opulence and indulgence. During his imprisonment he composed a beautiful poem, known as The Dark Night, which expressed his intense desire for God.

Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: “If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

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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 December 2015 - 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, 1st 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 Sunday 17 Jan ’16 at 9.30 am. 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: 2nd January 2016. 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

TALK: THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS: INSIGHTS FROM JOSEPH RATZINGER. Join us as we explore the infancy narratives and how the birth of Christ fulfills the Old Testament prophecies as well as the longings of the pagan world. Speaker: Ms Mary Rajadurai & Mr Nick Chui. Venue: Catholic Theological Institute 55 Waterloo