

To him, Mary is “the surest, easiest, shortest, and most perfect means by which to go to Jesus Christ.” Discover for yourself the means given by God himself to bring us salvation, the way of Mary. What better way than the way taught by Jesus Christ to attain holiness. This retreat at the Montfort Centre is based on the Treatise of the True Devotion to Mary by St. Louis Marie de Montfort. Come and experience the way to Jesus through Mary at this retreat. Event date: Fri, 16 Oct ‘15, 7.00pm to Sun, 18 Oct ‘15, 1.00pm. Venue: Montfort Centre, (c/o Boys’ Town) 624 Upper Bukit Timah Road, S(678212) Retreat Director: Bro. Dominic Yeo Koh, SG and Bro. John Albert, SG. Facility Information: Twin/sharing or Single room (ensuite and air-con) with meals Contribution: \$120 per pax (Twin Sharing), \$200 per pax (Single Room). For Registration: Register with (Henry Tan): Email: enquiries@montfortcentre.

org or Call: 67695711

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

**COURSE (MPC)** For couples intending to get married, the commencement date for the 4th Quarter is on 4 Oct ‘15. Allocation of places is on a first-come-first-served basis. Application forms can be downloaded from our website @ www.catholic.org.sg/mpc. Please refer to our website for further details. For any enquiries, please contact: Peter & Rita @ 93673411 or email MPCSingapore@gmail.com

**STRESSED? ANXIOUS? WORRIED? DEPRESSED? FEARFUL? ANGRY?**

**CLARITY** can help you. CLARITY (a member of CARITAS Singapore) provides professional counselling for distressed Catholics. Call: 9710 3733; Email: ask@clarity-singapore.org; Website: www.clarity-singapore.org

Sunset Mass 5.30pm	Infant Jesus Devotions
Rosary 4.40pm (Saturday)	5.30pm (Thu, followed by Mass)
Sunday Masses	4.00pm (Sun, followed by Mass)
8.30am (Mandarin)	Divine Mercy Devotions
11.00am (English)	Sun, 12.30pm (Mandarin)
2.00pm (Cantonese) Chapel, 3rd Floor	Sion Adorers - Holy Hour
4.20pm (English)	7.45pm - 8.45pm (Sat, Adoration Chapel)
Weekday Masses	Hour of Mercy (Adoration Chapel)
7.20am	3.00pm (Daily)
5.30pm	Counselling @ SPP
Intercessory Prayer	Every Monday 7.00pm - 9.00pm. Please call SPP
7.15pm (Eng, Thu, Adoration Chapel)	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.

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**READINGS:** Sunday Missal (Year B) Pg 211 **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:** Pg 214  
**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:** MON 24 August - SAT 29 August 2015  
**MON:** Rv 21:9b-14, Jn 1:45-51 **TUE:** 1 Thes 2:1-8, 1 Thes 2:1-8 **WED:** 1 Thes 2:9-13, Mt 23:27-32 **THU:** 1 Thes 3:7-13, Mt 24:42-51 **FRI:** 1 Thes 4:1-8, Mt 25:1-13 **SAT:** 1 Thes 4:9-11, Mk 6:17-29

**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time – 23 August 2015**

**The Lectionary for Mass**

**First Reading:** As Joshua asks the people to choose whom to serve, he offers the choice between the God who has done so much for them or the false gods worshipped by their ancestors and neighbours. We can understand the lure of other gods if we think of idols as work, prestige, winning, flashy possessions, clothes and so on. When everyone around you believes those things to be necessary, it can be hard to choose the values of the Cross. This reading challenges us to ask ourselves what gets us up in the morning and motivates what we do with our days.

**Responsorial Psalm 34:** This week, we might meditate on the line “Let my soul glory in the Lord!” How would your day be changed if everything you did was consciously done for the greater honour and glory of God?

**Second Reading:** This entire passage, some of which is quite bound to the culture and time in which it was written, can be

summed up with the first line: Defer to one another out of reverence for Christ. Whether in the intimacy of marriage or in the life of the entire community, Paul is calling us to serve one another, in such a way that we become occasions of grace one for the other.

**Gospel:** The way Jesus offers is the path of the most resistance. Peter and the disciples slowly realised how difficult Jesus’ road would turn out to be, but when Jesus questioned whether or not they would choose him, Peter responded that the hard road was the only one going anywhere worthwhile. Are we with him?

**Some Saints of the Week**

**St. Bartholomew, Apostle – 24 August**

There is little reference in the Gospel to Saint Bartholomew (first century), other than the fact that he was one of the original Twelve Apostles. He is also mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles as one of the disciples waiting for the descent of the Holy Spirit. According to the second-century Alexandrian teacher Pantaeenus, an early Christian community in India claims Saint Bartholomew as its

Information is correct at time of publication.

founder. Tradition states that he preached throughout Persia, Mesopotamia, Lycaonia and Phrygia. It is believed that he was skinned alive and beheaded at Albanopolis, on the west coast of the Caspian Sea.

### **St. Monica – 27 August**

St. Monica (332/3 – 387) knew the pain of disappointment, an unfaithful husband named Patricius who drank too much and a promiscuous son, St. Augustine of Hippo, who lived an immoral youth. Through patience and love, her husband had a change of heart, choosing to become a Christian. St. Augustine's conversion was a much more difficult task. St. Monica prayed constantly and fasted daily, but nothing seemed to work, so she consulted St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, for guidance. Through the intervention of God, the two of them managed to lead St. Augustine to the waters of Baptism. St. Monica exemplifies that unconditional love and persistence are portals for God's saving grace.

### **St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church – 28 August**

St. Augustine was born to a pagan father and a devout Christian mother. This wild, unruly young man later became one of Western Christianity's most influential figures. He tried it all – living with a woman, fathering a child out of wedlock, and dabbling in Manichaeism, a heretical belief similar to Gnosticism. Through his mother's prayers and a friendship with Ambrose, he eventually converted to Christianity, was ordained a priest, and then became bishop of Hippo in 396. His prolific writing formulated theories and doctrines on original sin, just war, human

will, divine predestination, the Trinity and Christology.

### **Memorial of the Passion of St. John the Baptist – 29 August**

The Church, having celebrated the earthly birthday of St. John the Baptist on June 24, today honours the anniversary of his martyrdom. Besides our Lord and our Lady, St. John the Baptist is the only one whose birth and death are thus celebrated. Today's Gospel relates the circumstances of his execution. He had the courage to blame Herod to his face for the scandal of his illegal union with his sister-in-law Herodias, whose husband was still alive. Herodias contrived to make Herod imprison him and took advantage of an unexpected opportunity to obtain through her daughter Salome the beheading of the saint.

For speaking the truth, John the Baptist is imprisoned and eventually beheaded. The story of his death cries injustice to this day. Yet the courage of John the Baptist to speak the truth to Herod is also inspiring and awesome. How did he find the courage? Did he have a sense of what would be at risk? What might have sustained his spirit in prison? To answer these questions, we could look to many people, such as political prisoners or victims of religious intolerance or ethnic persecution, who are imprisoned unjustly today for daring to speak the truth. People like Oscar Romero, Edith Stein and Dietrich Bonhoeffer are modern-day John the Baptists who continue to remind us the power of the Holy Spirit that accompanies us even in the most difficult circumstances. Trust in God's Spirit, we, too, may find the courage to speak and act for God's goodness and truth.

## **PARISH NEWS**

**THANK YOU** - Church Collection for our SPP Society of St Vincent de Paul for the month of July 2015 amounted to \$3,501.65 and Donations mounted to \$1,500.00. Expenditure for the month was \$7,082.80. We support 73 Friends-In-Need (FINs). Majority of them are elderly poor living in Chinatown and Beach Road/North Bridge Road areas. Thank you for your continuous support and generosity in caring for the poor and needy through our SSVP, St Peter's Conference.

**INFANT BAPTISM** The next Infant Baptism service will be held on Sat 22 Aug '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 Saturday 15 Aug '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.

**SPP CATECHIST RECRUITMENT** - We are looking for 8 Primary and 4 Secondary Catechists to assist with the faith formation and development of the children and teenagers at SPP. No prior experience is needed. Guidance and training will be provided. Please call/SMS Jeremy at 96843475 or Alycia at 91773461 for more information.

**15 DAYS 12 NIGHTS PILGRIMAGE** to St Teresa's Carmelite in Spain from 3 - 17 Oct '15 to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Birth of St Teresa of Avila. Spiritual Director is Fr Kenneth Gopal, OCD. If you are interested, please pick up a registration form from Parish Office. For more information, please contact Lawrence Seet at Hp: 97992488.

**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**

It takes that 1 weekend that will inspire you for the rest of your life. Come away for a **CHOICE WEEKEND** - it is by the choices we make that we define what our life is all about. Date: 25 - 27 Sep '15 (Friday evening to Sunday evening) Venue: CHOICE Retreat House, 47 Jurong West Street 42, Singapore 649368 Enquiries: Hillary 9790 0537, Jacqueline 9424 2606 Register & Info: [www.choice.org.sg/registration.htm](http://www.choice.org.sg/registration.htm)

**TRUE DEVOTION TO MARY** - This is weekend live-in retreat based on the spirituality of St. Louis Marie de Montfort.