

be obtained from the Parish Office. The Forms must be submitted by Monday 12 Dec '16.

**NEW REGISTRATIONS FOR PRIMARY 1 CATECHISM 2017** - Please submit the completed registration form, together with your child's original Baptism Certificate to the parish office. Latest date to submit the form is 11 Dec '16.

**CATECHISTS NEEDED** - We are still short of 2 catechists for the Secondary level. Anyone who would like to come forward and help in the faith formation for these children can get in touch with the Main Coordinator, Moses via [moseskow@gmail.com](mailto:moseskow@gmail.com) or 90092226.

## NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

**#BRINGACATHOLICHOME** - Just one. Would that be you? Or someone you know? That's what we do at Landings. Our mission is to help reconnect the 'away' Catholic back

to Church. To bring Catholics home one at a time. Because you, dear away Catholic, matter to us and matter to Christ. And Maybe its time you revisited the Church you left behind. For 10 Mondays we'll listen to what you have to say and share our perspectives with you - with no judgement and in the strictest confidence. New run begins 1 Feb '17. Contact Leonard Ong (93692100)/Tricia Tay (98631590). Registration closes 23 Jan '17

**HOPE 2016 CONCERT** - The Good Shepherd Sisters and friends presents a Christmas concert to raise funds for four social social services under Marymount Centre. These services reach out to children, women and families who experience injustice. Enter into the Advent season more fully with us by recognising hope in our lives. Date/ Time: Sunday, 18 Dec '16, 7.00pm - 8.30pm. Venue: Church of Sts Peter & Paul. Tickets at \$30, \$60, \$100 available through <http://tinyurl.com/2016hope> or contact us at 6256 4440/ Hope2016@marymountctr.org.sg

<b>Sunset Mass</b>	: 5.30pm
<b>Rosary</b>	: 4.30pm (Saturday)
<b>Sunday Masses</b>	: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese), 4.00pm (English)
<b>Weekday Masses</b>	: 7.20am and 5.30pm
<b>Interspersory Prayer</b>	: 7.15pm (English, Thursday)
<b>Infant Jesus Devotion</b>	: 5.30pm (Thursday, followed by Mass)
<b>Divine Mercy Devotion</b>	: 12.30pm (Sunday Mandarin)
<b>Sion Adorers - Holy Hour</b>	: 7.45pm - 8.45pm (Saturday)
<b>Hour of Mercy</b>	: 3.00pm daily
<b>Counselling @ SPP</b>	: 7.00pm - 9.00pm (Monday, call church secretariat 6337 2585 for appointment)
<b>Adoration Chapel</b>	: 8.00am - 9.00pm (Mon to Sat), 8.00am - 7.00pm(Sun)

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered from 5.00pm - 5.20pm on weekdays and Saturday at the makeshift confessional at the baptistery (back of the church). On Sunday, it will be available 30 minutes before each mass.

Parish Priest: Rev Fr JOHN CHUA OCD (email: [hkchuajohn@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 a) Pg 201

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Come, Lord, and save us.**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:** MON 12 December - SAT 17 December 2016

**MON:** ZEC 2:14-17, LK 1:26-38 **TUE:** ZEP 3:1-2, 9-13, MT 21:28-32 **WED:** IS 45:6C-8, 18, 21C-25, LK 7:18B-23 **THU:** IS 54:1-10, LK 7:24-30 **FRI:** IS 56:1-3A, 6-8, JN 5:33-36 **SAT:** GN 49:2, 8-10, MT 1:1-17

## Gaudete Week

Our week begins with "Gaudete Sunday." Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon on Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, "The Lord is near." This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose colored, and the rose colored vestments often used at the Eucharist.

The second part of Advent begins on December 17th each year. The last eight days before Christmas, the plan of the readings changes. The first readings are still from the prophesies, but now the gospels are from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. We read the stories of faithful women and men who prepared the way for our salvation. We enter into the story of how Jesus' life began. These stories are filled with hints of what his life will mean for us. Faith and generosity overcome impossibility. Poverty and persecution reveal glory.

## Preparing our Hearts and asking for Grace

We prepare this week by feeling the joy. We move through this week feeling a part of the waiting world that rejoices because our longing has prepared us to believe the reign of

God is close at hand. And so we consciously ask: *Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow.*

Each morning this week, in that brief moment we are becoming accustomed to, we want to light a third inner candle. Three candles, going from expectation, to longing, to joy. They represent our inner preparation, or inner perspective. In this world of "conflict and division," "greed and lust for power," we begin each day this week with a sense of liberating joy. Perhaps we can pause, breathe deeply and say, *"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my saviour."*

Each day this week, we will continue to go through our everyday life, but we will experience the difference our faith can bring to it. We are confident that the grace we ask for will be given us. We will encounter sin - in our own hearts and in our experience of the sin of the world. We can pause in those moments, and feel the joy of the words, *"You are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."* Matthew 1:21

We may experience the Light shining into dark places of our lives and showing us patterns of sinfulness, and inviting us

to experience God's mercy and healing. Perhaps we wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week. We may want to make gestures of reconciliation with a loved one, relative, friend or associate. With more light and joy, it is easier to say, "I'm sorry; let's begin again."

Each night this week we want to pause in gratitude. Whatever the day has brought, no matter how busy it has been, we can stop, before we fall asleep, to give thanks for a little more light, a little more freedom to walk by that light, in joy.

Our celebration of the coming of our Savior in history, is opening us up to experience his coming to us this year, and preparing us to await his coming in Glory.

***Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit your people. We await your coming. Come, O Lord.***

Taken from Praying Advent, on Creighton University's Online Ministries website: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistryonline.html>. Used with permission.

### Saint of the Week

#### **St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor, of the Church - 14 December**

Gaudete Sunday and the "Romances"

Written by St. John of the Cross, "Romances" is a poem which he himself entitled. It begins in heaven, as a dialogue of love between God the Father and God the Son. We are allowed to kind of eavesdrop on that conversation in heaven, and in that poem God the Father says: "*My Son, I wish to give you a Bride who will love you. Because of you she will deserve to share our company, and eat at our table, the same bread I eat, that she may know the good I have in such a son; and rejoice with me in your grace and fullness.*"

The Bride, of course, is us. We are the Father's gift to His Son. But that gift is one that is incomplete because of the nature of God and because of our own human nature.

God is pure spirit, existing from all eternity long before the material world is ever created. He is different from us.

We are made of body and soul, flesh and blood. We could never be fully united to the Son. The Father in the "Romances" recognises this. He says: "*Now, you see Son, that your bride was made in your image, and so far as she is like you she will suit you well; yet she is different in her flesh, which your simple being does not have.*"

And so the Father proposes that the Son become like His bride. He will have a body, become flesh and blood like Her. The Son—of course—is delighted, as He is delighted in everything that the Father does. He cries out to the Father: "*My will is yours, and my glory is that your will be mine... I will go and seek my bride and take upon myself her weariness and labors in which she suffers so; and that she may have life, I will die for her, and lifting her up out of that deep, I will restore her to you.*" - St. John of the Cross "Romances"

That love story, that romance, of course, is the story of Christmas that we are even now anticipating and preparing to celebrate. It is the story of the God who sees our suffering and sorrow here on earth and chooses to become like us, to take upon Himself our suffering, our sorrows; He comes to die, and give us new life. He comes to lift us out of this deep and restore us again to God.

So that is why we rejoice on Gaudete Sunday! Our joy comes from that romance and that overwhelming story where we see revealed the great love God has for His bride, the Church. And to make sure we would never forget a story like that, to see that it would not simply remain a poem, something to be read aloud each year without ever touching us deeply and transforming us, the Bridegroom chose to make His love for us a sacrament. It is the Sacrament of the Eucharist which we are about to celebrate here this Gaudete Sunday.

Here we listen to the words of Christ spoken to His Bride, the Church. He says: "Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body, which will be given up for you." He pours out His life for us and says: "Take this, all of you, and drink from it. This is the cup of my blood." We become one with Christ here, we find the strength to get through any difficulty here.

Extracted from: <http://fathermahars.blogspot.sg/2008/12/third-sunday-of-advent-this-homily-was.html>

### PARISH NEWS

**31 December 2016** - Year End Thanksgiving Celebrations, 4:30pm Solemn Vespers, 5:30pm 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!

SPP is planning to embark on the **Emergency Preparedness Programme** and is seeking volunteers who have experience and knowledge in the following areas: security agencies, medical professionals, first aid, emergency planning and management to form a Taskforce. Please leave your name, contact details, your expertise/knowledge area, the Mass/es you usually attend in SPP with the Parish Office. We thank you for stepping forward to help the Parish, for the safety of all our parishioners!

#### **MASS WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING**

7 Jan 17 (Sat) Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Main Church, 2.00pm - Praise and Worship 2.30pm to 4.00pm - Mass followed by prayers for healing. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Tom Curran. For enquiries, please contact Aby at [praiseatworksg@yahoo.com](mailto:praiseatworksg@yahoo.com). Organised by SACCRE and Praise@Work

#### **ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

Schedule for the City District: 12 Dec (8.00pm) - St. Bernadette, 13 Dec (8.00pm) - St. Michael, 14 Dec (8.00pm) - Sacred Heart, 15 Dec (8.00pm) - St. Teresa, **16 Dec**

The Bride is united to Her Bridegroom here. That is why we rejoice even in the midst of afflictions on this Gaudete Sunday and we take St. Paul's words to heart in his letter to the Philippians:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!

**(8.00pm, Fri) - SPP, 17 Dec (1.00pm, Sat, Mandarin) - SPP, 19 Dec (8.00pm) - Our Lady of Lourdes**

**THANK YOU** - Church Collection for our SPP Society of St Vincent de Paul for the month of October 2016 amounted to \$7,425.90 and Donations amounted to \$1,480.00. Expenditure for the month was \$6,659.40. We support 81 Friends-In-Need (FINs), comprising elderly poor and needy families with young children living in Chinatown and Beach Road/North Bridge Road and Queen Street areas. If you know of families in need in our parish, please email us with details to [ssvp.spp@gmail.com](mailto:ssvp.spp@gmail.com). We appeal to your generosity in caring for the poor and needy families through our SSVP, St Peter's Conference.

**ALTAR SERVERS MINISTRY** - We are in a very urgent need for Altar Servers as the number is decreasing at a rapid pace. Altar Servers are urgently needed especially for 2.00pm Cantonese Mass and 4.00pm English Mass on Sundays. We will be very glad if Secondary School students are willing to help out at these 2 masses. Primary School students are also welcome. To sign up as a member of the Altar Servers Ministry, please go to [sppaltarservers.tumblr.com/SignUp](http://sppaltarservers.tumblr.com/SignUp). We will greatly appreciate your service to our church.

**INFANT BAPTISM** - The next Infant Baptism service will be held on Saturday 17 Dec '16 at 9.00am in the main church. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a preparatory session to be conducted by the Priest at 8.45am before the baptism. Application Forms for Infant Baptism can