

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 or 90092226.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BVM - Prayers and the rosary will begin at 11.30am in our church on Thu 8 Dec '16. Confessions from noon. Mass will be celebrated at 1.00pm. For sale during that day: New book of prayers (1) and (2).

2-DAYS MALACCA PILGRIMAGE - We are organising a two-days pilgrimage to Malacca from Sat/Sun 10 - 11 Dec '16 for the Feast Day Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe. For enquiries, please contact Lawrence Seet at 97992488 or register at our Secretariat Office.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

LAUNCH OF GIFT BY CATHOLIC FOUNDATION - The Catholic Foundation has

launched the Giving in Faith and Thankfulness (GIFT) campaign to encourage and empower regular individual giving to the archdiocese. Resources are needed to fund the many organisations in the archdiocese involved in families, youths, evangelisation; several building projects; and other initiatives. Currently, there is a projected shortfall of \$238m for the next 7 years. Every Catholic in Singapore is called to pledge a regular monthly contribution to the archdiocese today, so that the Church may continue growing for generations to come. Appeal booklets, flyers and envelopes are available in the parish to make your pledge. Alternatively, visit gift.catholicfoundation.sg to donate online or find out more.

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

Sunset Mass	: 5.30pm
Rosary	: 4.30pm (Saturday)
Sunday Masses	: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese), 4.00pm (English)
Weekday Masses	: 7.20am and 5.30pm
Intercessory Prayer	: 7.15pm (English, Thursday)
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)
Hour of Mercy	: 3.00pm daily
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 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), 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 a) Pg 193

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: I rejoiced when i heard them say: 'Let us go God's house.'

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 28 November - SAT 3 December 2016

MON: IS 4:2-6, MT 8:5-11 **TUE:** IS 11:1-10, LK 10:21-24 **WED:** ROM 10:9-18, MT 4:18-22 **THU:** IS 26:1-6, MT 7:21, 24-27 **FRI:** IS 29:17-24, MT 9:27-31 **SAT:** IS 30:19-21, 23-26, MT 9:35B-10:1, 5A, 6-8

BEGINNING ADVENT:

What are the key first steps to enter into Advent?

We can all slow down. We can all breathe more deeply. We can all begin to trust that this will be a blessed time. Then, when we let ourselves be who we are, and hear the Scriptures, we can begin to quietly pray, "Come, Lord, Jesus." We might expand that prayer, in quiet moments of our days ahead, "Come into my life. I trust you don't mind if it is still messy. I believe you love me, because I need your love. I don't fear you can't find the way to my heart. Come and fill me with peace and the love only you can give." Some of us will want to open our hands on our laps or hold up our arms in the privacy of our rooms and say out loud, "Come, Lord, Jesus, come into this house, into my family, into our struggles. Come and heal us, and give us join again. Come and unite us and let us experience, each in our own way, a bit of the joy you are offering me now." And, before a single decoration goes up, we have prepared for Christmas' message with the foundation of faith, with the mystery of Advent's gift. God wants to be with us. Advent is letting God's will be done in our hearts and in our everyday lives.

Getting in Touch with Myself

One of the best ways to prepare for the very special season of Advent is to "get in touch with ourselves." It may sound odd, but one symptom of our contemporary lives is that we can often be quite "out of touch" with what is going on in our very own hearts. We are about to begin our Advent,

right at the time our Western culture begins Christmas preparations. It is a busy time, and our heads are filled with details to remember. And, it is a time of emotional complexity that is part of this holiday season - with all of the expectations and challenges of family and relationships: who we want to be with and who we struggle to be with. So, our hearts are a bit tender, if not completely defended from experiencing anything deeply. We are about to hear some very powerful and stirring readings from Isaiah, the Prophet. We will re-enter the ancient tradition of a people longing for the coming of a Saviour. We may remember the days of our childhood when we longed for Christmas to come, because it was a magical time of receiving gifts. As adults, we have to ask ourselves: "What is it I long for now?" The answer won't come easily. The more we walk around with that question, and let it penetrate through the layers of distraction and self-protection, the more powerfully we will experience Advent.

The Two Parts of Advent: Part 1: up until December 16

While most liturgical seasons have the gospel as their main focus, during the first weeks of Advent, the Church gives us daily readings from the prophet Isaiah. With the eyes of faith, these foretell the coming of the Messiah. Rather than a continuous gospel narrative familiar to us for most of the year, this part of Advent offers a wide variety of gospel readings that support the first reading of the day. After almost two weeks of Isaiah readings, we hear the foretelling of a Messiah from other prophets from the Hebrew

scriptures - in Sirach, Numbers, Zephaniah and returning to Isaiah. With each passing week, the prophets speak more clearly of the coming of a Saviour. So, in reading the first reading, for the first part of Advent, we listen to the anticipation, expectation, hope and promise. In listening to the second reading, we listen for the fulfilment or connection with the gospel.

Part 2: December 17 - 24

In these last eight days before Christmas, the relationship between the readings changes. Now the gospel brings us to our celebration of Christmas. The gospels are taken from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. Each of these days, the first reading is taken from the Hebrew scriptures, and chosen to match the gospel. In many cases we can imagine Matthew or Luke having the first reading open on their desks while they wrote the gospel. So, we can read the gospel first and then read the first reading. The sense of anticipation and fulfilment builds as we read the story of the preparation for Jesus' first coming into this world for us.

Prayers During Advent: Prayer in the Days Before Advent

My brother, Jesus. It happens every year. I think that this will be the year that I have a reflective Advent. I look forward to Sunday and this new season, Jesus. But all around me are the signs rushing me to Christmas and some kind of celebration that equates spending with love. I need your help. I want to slow my world down. This year, more than ever, I need Advent, these weeks of reflection and longing for hope in the darkness. Jesus, this year, help me to have that longing. Help me to feel it in my heart and be aware of the hunger and thirst in my own soul. Deep down, I know there is something missing in my life, but I can't quite reach for it. I can't get what is missing. I know it is about you, Jesus. You are not missing from my life, but I might be missing the awareness of all of the places you are present there. Be with me, my dear friend. Guide me in these weeks to what you want to show me this Advent. Help me to be vulnerable enough to ask you to lead me to the place of my own weakness, the very place where I will find you the most deeply embedded in my heart, loving me without limit.

Praying Over My To-Do List

I sit here with my list, Lord, and I know I need help finding a balance. I am so looking forward to

Christmas Day, with the family here, the company, the wonderful celebration. But, Lord, there is SO much to do! When will it all get done? How will I maintain any semblance of inner peace in this "peaceful" season? I think, Lord, that I need some balance in my life. I feel so torn between wanting to cook and fill my house with wonderful welcoming smells, and wanting to finish decorating the house. I have shopping to do, the house to clean and cards to write and mail. When? How? Help me, guide me, Lord. Help me to set priorities around doing those things that will bring me closer to you. Maybe my house really is clean enough, or maybe I can ask my family for help. Can the cards wait until a quiet afternoon after Christmas? Can my house decorations be simpler? Is there more than a little ego involved when I want so desperately to have my house "magazine perfect" for the holidays? Help me rediscover the joy of simplicity, Lord. Help me to remember what I am celebrating. Help me to find it in my heart to call out, "Come, Lord Jesus."

Working in the Kitchen During Advent

What joy this brings me, Lord. Thank you for guiding me into the kitchen for some time of silence with you. The room fills with wonderful smells and I share tastes and samples with my family as they make extra trips through the kitchen on days like this. Thank you for each and every one of these special people in my family. They are like the ingredients of my own life, adding spice and heat and wonderful flavour and melding together into a unique dish designed to glorify you. You know, God, cooking is quite a bit like my life. It's messy, I get careless and sometimes things don't turn out as I had planned. But in the mess of my life, that's where I can turn to you. Help me when I have to deal with being so imperfect. Bless me with humility when I grapple with my own poverty. Let me feel how deeply you love me, even when all I have to offer is scorched and humble. Be with me Lord, in this kitchen today. Help me to take the time in this intimate silence with you, to pray for each person who will eat this food. Allow me to remember all of those around the world who have so little food, and bless those who share what little they have.

Praying Through Exhaustion

Oh Lord, I am so tired. It seems like the lists of to-do get longer each day, the frenzy in my home each night gets wilder. It seems like the holidays have barely started and already I am behind. Help

me, dear Jesus. Let me feel your loving arms wrap me tightly in the warm embrace of your endless love. Teach me to make choices about my time, to remember what is important this season and to say "NO" whenever my Yes would take me away from your peace. Fill me with patience, love and a sense of humour. Remind me of your deep love for me and let the fire of that love be something I can share with everyone around me.

Shopping during Advent

Dear God, as I look through my gift shopping list, I hold up to you each person listed on it. Slowly, one by one, I ask that the fire of your abundant love burn within each of them. I pray that the gift I find for each person will bring joy into that

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

PARISH NEWS

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

ADVENT SOLEMN VEPSERS with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Blessing of Advent Wreath. 26 Nov '16 at 4.30pm, main Church. Start this Advent Season by spending an hour in prayer with the Lord.

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

life. But, help me to keep a balance this season, Lord. Let me keep my buying in perspective, not to spend more than I need to or can afford. Let me not give in to the pressures of this world and not equate love with money spent. Let me always remember the many, many people who have so much less in material things. Help me to buy wisely, so that my choices will not burden those in other countries who are so deeply affected by this country's economy. And finally, loving God, help me to find time in the frantic moments of each day to become centred on you. Walking through a store, riding on the bus, hurrying down a street: let each of these times be moments when I can remember your incredible love for me and rejoice in it.

THANK YOU - Church Collection for our SPP Society of St Vincent de Paul for the month of Sep '16 amounted to \$5,796.90 and Donations amounted to \$30,132.75 (including a bequeath of \$29,217.75 to the Society). Expenditure for the month was \$6,655.10. 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. We appeal to your generosity in caring for the poor and needy families through our SSVF, St Peter's Conference.

VERBUM DEI MISSIONARIES are selling their Prayer for Living Year A. Each book costs \$20. This locally-written book consists of reflection of the daily gospel which aims to help you deepen your relationship with Jesus, the Living Word and to live out your faith with joy in your daily life. All proceeds from today's sale will go to the Verbum Dei Missionaries' fundraising project for their mission work. Please support them generously!

THE OFFICE FOR THE NEW EVANGELISATION has produced a booklet of reflections for the season of Advent in English, Mandarin and Tamil. The theme is "The Pilgrim Community". Please take a copy of the booklet for your household. You can also find the online copy at <http://www.one.org.sg/resources-for-parishes/>.

NEW REGISTRATIONS FOR PRIMARY 1 CATECHISM 2017 - Please submit the completed registration form, together with your child's original