

the Priest at 2.30 pm before the baptism. Application Forms can be obtained from the Parish Office and must be submitted by Thurs, 30 Nov '17

PRAYER INTENTION FOR SOULS

- Our parish will be specially praying for souls in the month of Nov. Everyone is welcome to write the names of their deceased friends and/or loved ones in the book placed near the Infant Jesus shrine. Souls whose names are in the book will be prayed for at all public parish masses in the month of Nov.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

GIFT ADVENT 2017 - This weekend, the Catholic Foundation is renewing its annual appeal for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign. GIFT challenges every Catholic to make a regular pledge to support the operational and building needs of the archdiocese. More information can

be found in the GIFT pamphlets that will be distributed during Mass, and at gift.catholicfoundation.sg.

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope through prayer and reflection on the WORD OF GOD. Our next monthly session (every 4th Tue of the month) is on Tue 28 Nov '17, 7:30pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lor 8. Contact us via email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com or facebook: https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore

CHRISTMAS RECOLLECTION - 17 Dec '17, 9:30am - 5:00pm Choice Retreat House, 47 Jurong West St 42, S649368 An invitation to spend a day of prayer to prepare our hearts for the feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Organised by the Cenacle Sisters. For registration, please email cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com or visit the website www.cenaclemission.com

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
Adoration Chapel	: 8.00am - 9.00pm (Mon to Sat), 8.00am - 7.00pm(Sun)
Secretariat's Operating Hours	: Mon - Fri: 9.30am - 9.30pm, Sat: 9.30am - 5.30pm, Sun: 9.30am - 5.00pm; Lunch hours: 1.00pm - 2.00pm. Closed on Public Holidays.
Columbarium Opening Hours	: Mon - Sun: 7.00am - 7.00pm. Closed on Public Holidays.

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 EDWARD LIM, OCD, **Asst Parish Priest:** Rev Fr THOMAS LIM OCD, **Priests in Residence:** Rev Fr TOM CURRAN, OCD, Rev Fr GREGORY HON, OCD and Rev Fr JOSEPH KOH, OCD, **General-Delegate:** Rev Fr JOHN CHUA 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 General Operations & Maintenance of the Church;
- (ii) Carmelite Fathers - for contributions/donations to the SPP Friars Community, Friars Formation;
- (iii) 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 617

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 4 December - SAT 9 December 2017

MON: IS 2:1-5, MT 8:5-11 **TUE:** IS 11:1-10, LK 10:21-24 **WED:** IS 25:6-10A, MT 15:29-37 **THU:** IS 26:1-6, MT 7:21, 24-27 **FRI:** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary **SAT:** IS 30:19-21, 23-26, MT 9:35-10:1, 5A, 6-8

Parish Advent Family Prayer Project

During the Season of Advent, the Church makes present the ancient expectancy of the Messiah, whose coming is a manifestation of the Father's unfathomable love for humanity. As children of God, we are all beneficiaries of this great love and by the virtue of our baptismal calling, are invited to be ardent witnesses of the love of God the Father to those around us.

Throughout the year, we have discussed at length about personal discipleship. As such, this Advent, we would like to shift the focus to the Christian Family. As we prepare for Christmas this year, we invite families to consider how they can grow in love so as to become more effective witnesses to the joy of Gospel. As Pope Francis reminds us, in his letter pertaining to the theme of the Ninth World Meeting of the Families that "Only starting from love can the family manifest, spread and regenerate God's love in the world. Without love, we cannot live as children of God, as couples, parents and brothers."

As such, the Parish of Saints Peter & Paul has put together an Advent Family Prayer Project. This project involves the decoration of the Christmas Tree with prayer cards

which represent each family's Advent prayer intentions to grow in love as a family unit; we especially remember family members and relatives who are estranged or who are non-believers. Families are invited to write these petitions on decorative ornaments, which can be found near the Infant Jesus Shrine. Our volunteers will hang these ornaments up on the Christmas tree. The intentions hung on the tree will be prayed for specially during the season of Advent.

There is a Prayer Card placed near the Christmas Tree: it contains a Prayer that has been adapted from Pope Francis' Prayer for the Synod for the Families 2014/2015. All of you are invited to take one for each family member and pray the prayer together as a family.

Some suggestions you may like to undertake as a family, as concrete action to your prayer intentions, are: to make provisions for regular family prayer time, family outreach projects, spending quality time with the family and sharing meals together regularly.

May this Advent be a time of renewal for our families and allow us to more effectively bear witness to the love of God to others.

Information is correct at time of publication.

What am I experiencing in my life, as Advent begins?

Many of us are in an ideal place to begin Advent, but we don't know it. It can be tempting to think that, because we are struggling these days, we can't enter into Advent without a big change in our mood or without distancing ourselves from our real experience. Nothing could be further from the truth. Advent is about letting God come to us. We do the letting and God does the coming. And, the whole mystery of our faith is that God is not reluctant to come into an unusual relationship (like Mary and Joseph's) or to be born in the poverty of a makeshift stable. We are tempted to prepare for Advent by cleaning everything up first - by, in effect, saving ourselves first. Our opening to Advent is to realise we need saving and to accept the saving love of our God.

So, what are we experiencing? That is the first Advent question. If we chew that question, then the Isaiah reading will sound so good to our ears. Are we the people "who walk in darkness" or have "thick clouds" over us? Is the way before us full of valleys and hills? Does it seem like we are in a desert? Are there wild beasts out there who are ready to devour us? Have we been guilty of some things we aren't proud of? Have we lost touch with who we really want to be? Has our fidelity become a bit shabby? Then, Isaiah proclaims that our God is ready to come and save us. And, none of the things that I see as barriers even matter to God.

Then, is Advent a passive season? No, we have work to do, but it is different from what we first think it is. It starts with understanding what our preparation is. If we haven't prepared our hearts to be open to asking for salvation, we'll never shout, beg, plead, "Come, Lord, Jesus!" Our work is to become who we are. Advent is a humble season, a season of self-awareness. To say it another way, before we decorate our homes

for Christmas, we have to clear away some of the false masks we might wear. These made up identities help us be more "presentable" to others, and at times they even fool us. When I look in the mirror, which "me" do I see? There is nothing wrong with putting our best foot forward in public, and it is quite understandable when we want others to see our best selves. But, before our own consciences and before God, we want to be transparent and real. We want to have no illusion. If there is struggle in my life – and there has to be some struggle in all our lives – then we want to acknowledge that before our God and to let that struggle be the door into Advent's graces.

How can we have hope and expect God will come to us? The readings of Advent open up a whole series of promises, full of powerful images, that keep reminding us that our God will come to save us. They free our imaginations to see and experience that coming with drama and joy – a banquet with "choice wines and rich, juicy food." They invite us to imagine when "a time will come for singing." They give us the opportunity to hope beyond our wildest hopes in the past – "the lion will lie down with the lamb" and "they will prepare for war no more." They open our hearts to imagine the love of our God embracing us in the coming of one like us, who knows our life and its struggles and offers us the hope of the Spirit's presence with us every day, in every moment.

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 joy 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.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/beginning-Advent.html>

PARISH NEWS

CITY DISTRICT ADVENT

PENITENTIAL SERVICES (8.00 pm):

- 11 Dec (Mon) Church of Our Lady of Lourdes
- 12 Dec (Tue) Church of St Teresa
- 13 Dec (Wed) Church of St Bernadette
- 14 Dec (Thu) Church of Sts Peter & Paul
- 15 Dec (Fri) Church of the Sacred Heart
- 18 Dec (Mon) Novena Church
- 19 Dec (Tue) Church of St Michael

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE -

- Sunday, 24 December, Christmas Eve: 9.00pm (Mandarin, Carolling at 8.30pm), 12.00am midnight (Carolling at 11.00pm).
- Monday, 25 December Christmas Day: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese)

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION -

Date: 8 Dec, Venue: Church of Sts Peter & Paul. Rosary and confessions at 11.45am. Mass at 1.00pm. Please bring the following: 1) Book of Prayers 2) Book for Holy Mass. Organised by the Immaculate Heart of Mary Family Rosary Prayer Group.

CAMP FEARLESS Looking for God in a refreshing way? Or just want to know a few more familiar faces in church? Come join the SPP youth in a 3D2N stay-in camp centred around God with fun and games. Date: 12-14 Dec '17 (Tue-Thu). Venue: Church of SPP. Cost: \$15. Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/sppcampfearless2017> or contact Tricia 98233922 for more details.

SPP YEAR-END THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS -

Date: 31 Dec '17, (Sun *A*) **Special Thanksgiving Mass** at 5.30pm with renewal of marriage vows and blessings for all married couples. Please note that there is NO 4pm Mass on this day. **B) A Kampong Nite @ SPP**, 7.30pm, SPP Compound. Join in our Parish Dinner after the Thanksgiving Mass at 7.30pm. Lots of fun and laughter awaits with programmes throughout the evening till we welcome 2018 together! Cost: \$300 per table. Sale of tickets will start on 4 Novv'17 at the Church Office! Come with your family and celebrate as a Parish family!

CATECHISM CLASS REGISTRATION

- 2018 Level 1 (Pri 1) Catechism Class is open for registration. Please obtain a registration form from Parish Office for more details.

MASS WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING

(All are welcome, no registration is needed) 2 Dec '17 (Sat) Church of Sts. Peter & Paul (main church) **2.00pm** - Praise and Worship **2.25pm-4.00pm** - Mass celebrated by Fr. Thomas Curran, followed by prayers for healing. For enquiries, please email praiseatworksg@yahoo.com or call 9747 2467. Organised by **SACCRE** and **Praise@Work**

INFANT BAPTISM - The next Infant Baptism service will be held on Sat, 23 Dec '17 at 2.30 pm in the main church. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a preparatory session to be conducted by