



300 Thomson Road, Singapore 307653
 T 6255 2133
 F 6356 9910
 E secretariatcssr@novenachurch.com
 W novenachurch.com
 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
 novenaletterscssr@novenachurch.com

The Storm (Unknown Author)

There was an elderly gentleman who came to church every day. One day, there was a group of young boys gathered in church, and the old man decided to tell them a story.

"A father, and his son, and a friend of his son were sailing off the Pacific coast," he began, "when a fast storm blocked any attempt to get back to the shore. The waves were so high, and though the father was an experienced sailor, he could not keep the boat upright and the three were swept into the ocean as the boat capsized.

Grabbing a rescue line, the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life: to which boy would he throw the end of the life line? He had only seconds to make the decision. The father knew that his son was a Christian and he also knew that his son's friend was not.

As the father yelled out, 'I Love You, Son!', he threw out the life line to his son's friend. By the time the father had pulled the friend back to the capsized boat, his son had disappeared beneath the raging swells into the black night. His body was never recovered," the old man said sadly.

"The father," he continued, "knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus and he could not bear the thought of his son's friend stepping into an eternity without Jesus. Therefore, he sacrificed his son to save the son's friend. How great is the love of God that he should do the same for us?"

Our Heavenly Father sacrificed His only begotten Son so that we could be saved. I urge you to accept His offer to rescue you and take hold of the life line He is throwing out to you."

"That was a nice story," politely stated one of the young boys, "but, I don't think it was very realistic for a father to give up his only son's life in the hope that the other would become a Christian."

"Well, you've got a point there," the old man replied, glancing down at his worn Bible. As a big smile broadened his narrow face, he looked up again at the boys and said, "It sure isn't very realistic, is it? But, I'm here today to tell you this story gives me a glimpse of what it must have been like for God to give up His only Son for me. You see ... I was that son's friend."

Today's Gospel includes the 'Good News', the essence of Christianity and the Greatest Love Story ever told: *"Yes God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him, may not be lost but may have eternal life"* (John 3:16).

If I truly believe that God loves me so much and Jesus loves me even to his death, then it comes to a point where I must respond to that love. And when I respond by loving God in return, I become a more lovable person to the people I meet. Is that not how Love saves us?

Reflection by Ros



4th Sunday of Lent
 Year B
 11 March 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 11 March	2 Chr 36:14-16,19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21 O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!
Mon, 12 March	Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54 I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.
Tue, 13 March	Ez 47:1-9,12; Jn 5:1-3,5-16 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Wed, 14 March	Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30 The Lord is kind and full of compassion.
Thu, 15 March St. Clement Hofbauer, Priest	1 Cor :6-11; Lk 10:1-9 Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.
Fri, 16 March	Wis 2:1,12-22; Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30 The Lord is close to the broken-hearted.
Sat, 17 March	Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-52 Lord God, I take refuge in you.

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)
 Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm
 Confession: Half an hour before Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)
 Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS
 Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 5.30pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAY
 Time: 8am, 6.30pm

SATURDAY MORNING MASS
 Time: 7am

SATURDAY NOVENA DEVOTION
 English: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 5.30pm
 Mandarin: 2.30pm
 Confession: After every Novena Service except after the 11am service.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION
 Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)
 6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm

Novena notes

Lenten Novena

We are in the 7th Week of our Lenten Novena in preparation for Easter. The Theme for this special Novena is: "Jesus gives eternal life!" All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

27 Jan : The 7 Signs of Jesus in St. John's Gospel

3 Feb : Changing Water into Wine

10 Feb : Healing of the Royal Official's Son

17 Feb : Healing of a Crippled Man at Bethesda Pool

24 Feb : Feeding of the 5,000

3 Mar : Walking on the Water

10 Mar : Healing of the Man Born Blind

17 Mar : Raising of Lazarus from the Dead

24 Mar : Dying on the Cross

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The second collection last Sunday amounted to \$14,684/-.

Thank you for your support for our Friends-In-Need.



Chinese Lenten Rally 2018

ACAMS will be organizing a Lenten Rally in Novena Church. The Theme for this Lenten Rally is : Repent, Rebuild & Return (悔改, 重建, 归回)

The rally consists of 5 nights & will start at 7.45pm with Station of the Cross followed by Mass at 8.15pm.

21 Feb - Fr. Henry Siew

28 Feb - Fr. John Chen Binshan

7 Mar - Fr. John Chua

14 Mar - Fr. Peter Zhang

21 Mar - Fr. Terence Wee



RCIA : Celebration Of The Scrutiny

On 11th of March, 2018, we'll celebrate the Scrutiny in preparation for the Baptism of our Elect at Easter. This Scrutiny will take place at the 8.00am Mass. Please keep all our Elect in prayer as they prepare for their Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

RCIA Programme

We are starting our new RCIA Programme. It will be from 3rd July 2018 to 31st May 2019. RCIA is for adults - 18 years and above, who are interested to know more about the Catholic faith. The application form can be obtained at the Church Office. The closing date for application is on 31st May 2018.

Daughters of St. Paul

The Daughters of St. Paul will be at Novena Church for their annual media parish outreach from 10th to 11th March with a variety of media materials - Books, DVDS, CDS and do feel free to come and browse to see if there are some materials which can help you or your loved ones in coming closer to God. Please give them your generous support.

City District Penitential Services for Lent at 8.00pm

Mon 12 Mar - Church of Our Lady of Lourdes

Tue 13 Mar - Church of St Teresa

Wed 14 Mar - Church of St Michael

Thur 15 Mar - Church of St Alphonsus (Novena Church)

Mon 19 Mar - Church of The Sacred Heart

Tue 20 Mar - Church of SS Peter & Paul

Wed 21 Mar - Church of St Bernadette

Stations Of The Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 6.00pm followed by 6.30pm Mass.

