

Be filled with the Spirit

Today's readings remind us about the importance of being in union with the Spirit so that we can walk in the ways of perception and lead intelligent lives to redeem a wicked age. It is only when we are in union with the Holy Spirit that we can recognize the will of God.

The paragraph above may sound like motherhood statements. How do we recognize the will of God? The gospel readings tell us. The first reading from Proverbs tell us to "come and eat my bread, drink the wine I have prepared" - the Holy Eucharist. We can be in union with the Lord when we attend mass and receive Holy Communion.

There is always a message for us, a direction that the Lord wants to guide us when we attend mass. How much we receive depends on how present we are at mass. When our hearts and minds are open, we will hear the message the Lord sends to us. Many of us are guilty of having preconceived ideas about certain preachers and we miss the message that the Lord wants to send us. When we hear the homily with humility and openness, we will be guided to walk in the ways of perception.

The gospel from John further reiterates the point that the flesh of Christ is real food and his blood is real drink. As Catholics, we believe in this truth.

The saying goes, "We are what we eat". Have we become Christ-like after receiving the Body and Blood of Christ or are we still senseless and thoughtless, drugged with wine? If we discern that we are and feel the need to change, the Lord gives us a practical suggestion in the second reading from Ephesians:

"Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together; and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ".

This is the formula towards a Spirit-filled life. Sing praises to the Lord when we are happy, sad, broken or indifferent and let the Holy Spirit work in us, to change us and transform us.

I am learning to live a life of gratitude, for all the big and small gifts in my life. On a bad day, it is indeed difficult to feel gratitude. I then try to recall the last thing that I was grateful about and let it stay in my heart.

Letting the seeds of gratitude grow in my heart is a discipline but it is worth the while!

Reflection by Hope

Novena notes

20th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year B
19 August 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 19 August	Prov 9:1-6; Eph 5:15-20; Jn 6:51-58 Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Mon, 20 August St. Bernard, Abbot & Doctor	Ez 24:15-24; Mt 19:16-22 You forget the God who fathered you.
Tue, 21 August St. Pius X, Pope	Ez 28:1-10; Mt 19:23-30 It is the Lord who deals death and life.
Wed, 22 August The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Is 9:1-6; Lk 1:26-38 May the name of the Lord be blessed for evermore!
Thu, 23 August St. Rose of Lima, Virgin	Ez 36:23-28; Mt 22:1-14 I shall pour clean water over you and all your sins will be washed away.
Fri, 24 August St. Bartholomew, Apostle	Rev 21:9-14; Jn 1:45-51 Your friends, O Lord, make known the glorious splendor of your reign.
Sat, 25 August St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest	Ez 43:1-7; Mt 23:1-12 The glory of the Lord will dwell in our land.

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

Handrails Leading up to the Sanctuary

On both sides of the Sanctuary are elegantly customized handcrafted handrails cast in brass. They add to the beauty of the whole Sanctuary. Featured on the balusters of these handrails are angels ascending and descending. This is inspired by Jacob's dream in Genesis 28:12 in which he saw "a ladder or a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it."



Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 26th August at 12 noon.

Novena in preparation for Annual Procession 2018

The Novena in preparation for Annual Procession is in the 7th week. The Theme for this special Novena is: "Called To Love!" All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

7 July : Love is always Patient and Kind

14 July : Love is not Envious

21 July : Love is not Boastful or Conceited

28 July : Love is not Selfish

4 Aug : Love is not Resentful

11 Aug : Love Delights in the Truth

18 Aug : Love is always ready to Excuse and to Trust

25 Aug : Love is always ready to Hope

1 Sept : Love Endures to the End

No Eating and Drinking inside the Church, please.



Novena Annual Procession

The Annual Novena Procession will be on Sunday, 2nd September 2018 at 6.00pm.

Specially printed Annual Procession Envelopes are available around the Church compound. All collections collected will be used to defray the cost of the Annual Procession. We thank you for your generous support.

Please take note there will be **NO** Sunset Mass on 1st September and **NO** Morning Masses on 2nd September 2018. The Church and the carpark will be "locked down" after the last Novena Devotion at 5.30pm on Saturday. The carpark will be closed to prepare for the Annual Procession after the last Novena till 3rd September 2018.

On 3rd September 2018, the Masses will be as usual for 6.30am and 12.15pm. There will be **NO** Evening Mass in preparation for the Youth Rally.

Hari Raya Haji - 22nd August

Please take note that there will be **NO** lunch time Mass on Wednesday, 22nd August being Hari Raya Haji. Masses will be at 8.00am and 6.30pm.

Novena Youth Rally

Theme : Unstoppable Love

Inviting all youths aged 13 to 30. Join us for an evening of worship and praise on Monday the 3rd of September, from 7pm to 10pm, the day after our annual procession as we soak in the plentiful, crazy and unstoppable redemption of our Lord. Love knows no boundaries and the LORD is calling you to experience him in a special, fun and intimate way. So come prepared to be completely mesmerized and changed by his love.

Redemptorist Vocation Retreat

The Redemptorists are conducting a vocation retreat on 25th and 26th August 2018 at 11 Nallur Road.

If you want to discern what a call to Religious Life is like, or would like to find out more about the mission of the Redemptorists, do join us for a weekend of fellowship, conversation and prayer.

If you're interested, please contact Fr. Eugene Lee at vocationdirectorcssr@novenachurch.com