

The Gift of Giving

In the 1st Reading, the Prophet Elijah goes to the town of Sidon and sees a widow gathering sticks near the gate of the town. He asks for some water to drink and for a piece of bread. The widow explains that she was gathering a couple of sticks, so that she may go home and prepare the last food for her son and herself, and then both will die. But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid; ... but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.' She went and did as Elijah said. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail.

It is amazing that Elijah asked a woman who had almost nothing for some food. But the more amazing thing is that the woman agreed and brought the food for Elijah. Given the dire circumstances, it would be quite natural for the widow to politely say, "I am sorry, but I have nothing to give". Instead, the widow shared her last meal with Elijah. Maybe she recognized Elijah as a Prophet, or she may have just felt sorry that Elijah, a stranger in the town, was evidently hungry and thirsty. For her generosity, she experienced a miracle.

In the Gospel reading, we see Jesus sitting opposite the temple's treasury, and watching the crowd putting money into the treasury. Jesus saw the rich people put in large sums.

But when he saw a poor widow come and put in two small copper coins, he called his disciples and said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on." Again, this widow did not just give what was 'extra', or what she could afford to give. She gave all she had to the temple.

As the Christmas season comes, and I hear how the people in the region are devastated by natural disasters and political turmoil in their countries, what can I give? For the people around me who need a listening ear and a kind word, what can I give?

The truth is that God sees the giving – he knows how much we are giving and he knows the true reason for the giving. I only pray that my God who sees all, knows my heart and is pleased.

And the Lord cannot be outdone in generosity! If I give, he will give and more:

"The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered."

Proverbs 11: 25

"Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

Luke 6:38

Reflection by Ros

Novena notes

32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
 Year B
 11th November 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 11 November	1 Kgs 17:10-16; Hebr 9:24-28; Mk 12:38-44 My soul, give praise to the Lord.
Mon, 12 November St. Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr	Tit 1:1-9; Lk 17:1-6 Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.
Tue, 13 November	Tit 2:1-8,11-14; Lk 17:7-10 The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.
Wed, 14 November	Tit 3:1-7; Lk 17:11-19 The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Thu, 15 November St. Albert the Great, Bishop & Doctor	Phm 7-20; Lk 17:20-25 He is happy who is helped by Jacob's God.
Fri, 16 November St. Margaret of Scotland	2 Jn 4-9; Lk 17:26-37 They are happy who follow God's law.
Sat, 17 November St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious	3 Jn 5-8; Lk 18:1-8 Happy the man who fears the Lord.

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

Advent Novena

Our Advent Novena to prepare for Christmas has begun. The Theme for this special Novena is, **“His Name shall be.....”** All are welcome. Bring along your family and friends.

27 Oct : Jesus (Introduction)

3 Nov : Son of David

10 Nov : Son of the Most High

17 Nov : Mighty God

24 Nov : The Christ

1 Dec : Wonderful Counselor

8 Dec : Prince of Peace

15 Dec : Saviour

22 Dec : Immanuel

World Youth Day 2019 Fund-Raising Project

To help subsidise the cost for our Novena Church youth leaders to go for the World Youth Day in January 2019, they will be selling various items over the next 1 month. They are selling a limited edition of the Novena Church Desktop Calendars 2019. Please give them your generous support.

"DAWN"

Registration is now open for two courses **"DAWN"** is offering:

a. The first is a **Skill Development Programme for Foreign Domestic Workers** on Baking, Cooking, Cake Decoration, Sewing and Handicraft. The course is from January till June 2019.

b. The second is a **Care-Giving** course scheduled to begin on 25 Nov 2018. It will be held on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month.

Please follow the registration schedule below.

Dates : 4, 11, 18 & 25 Nov 2018.

Time : 10 am to 2 pm

Venue : DAWN,
Good Shepherd Place,
9, Lorong 8, Toa Payoh,
Singapore 319253.

Contact : 8269 4546 (Rowena) or
8233 3728 (Sr. Barbara)

Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 11th November at 12 noon.

We invite you to join us in prayer as we gather for the Vice-Provincial Chapter

Lord Jesus,
we believe that the Congregation is being offered today a great grace of conversation to the Redeemer.

As we prepare for the coming Chapter of our Vice-Province, we pray that, inspired by your Holy Spirit, we will experience ever more deeply in our hearts the plentiful redemption you have won for us through your Death and Resurrection.

May our oneness with you bear fruit as we dialogue about the reality of our cultures and social conditions, especially in the interest of the poor and most abandoned.

May your Holy Spirit enlighten us in the decisions that are to follow amidst discernment over the signs of these times.

Jesus, Most Holy Redeemer,
may we experience your Plentiful Redemption in our vice-province through a renewal of our ministries and communities.

Mother of Perpetual Help,

Pray for us.

Our Holy Father, St. Alphonsus
and all the Redemptorist Saints,

Pray for us.

