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PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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The Glory of God is Man Fully Alive

God created the universe and established the laws that govern it. Sometimes, we imagine that God has simply created laws and commandments that we are compelled to follow. If we follow them we will be rewarded and if we don't, we will be punished. For some, faith can be reduced to following commandments and a relationship with God can be based on reward and punishment. We may imagine that God acts according to these principles.

Along comes Jesus and he meets Zacchaeus the tax collector. He calls him down from the tree and asks to stay at his house. Zacchaeus is a much-maligned figure in the community, a traitor and a sinner. He collected taxes on behalf of the Roman occupiers and for King Herod. On top of the actual tax, the collectors would add a sum that would serve as their commission. Many tax collectors became very wealthy and the people hated them as much as they hated the Romans and Herod. How can Jesus say that he is sent by God and then be friends with someone like Zacchaeus? Zacchaeus deserved to be condemned and they should be rewarded for their fidelity and piety.

The Book of Wisdom tells us that God is merciful beyond our understanding. Our small minds can

only comprehend reward and punishment. God, does not condemn us but gives us the freedom to reflect on our own lives and to repent. That brings about a real conversion, rather than if we simply changed out of a fear of punishment.

Paul prays for the Thessalonians, that they will grow to become worthy of God's call. Back in the 2nd century, St. Irenaeus of Lyon wrote: '*Gloria Dei est vivens homo*,' - the glory of God is humanity living. It is often translated into English as; the glory of God is the human being fully alive. Does it mean that we can do whatever makes us happy? Since God loves everyone and is forgiving, does it matter how we live? What is meant by fullness of life or happiness?

We can't imagine that becoming rich by cheating others while being loathed by the entire community made Zacchaeus truly happy. All of us are in need of conversion, all of us have aspects of our lives that need change. These do not make us truly happy nor do they give glory to God.

By offering love and a hand of friendship, Jesus does not condemn Zacchaeus, but gives him an opportunity to change his life. God is that merciful to us as well. God wants us to be happy to be fully alive. And when we are, we give glory to God.

Reflection by Gerard Louis, CSSR

Novena notes



31st Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year C
3 November 2019

Readings & Responses for the Week

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| Sun, 3 November | Wis 11:22-12:2; 2 Th 1:11-2:2; Lk 19:1-10 I will bless your name for ever, O God my King |
| Mon, 4 November St. Charles Borromeo | Rom 11:29-36; Lk 14:12-14 In your great love, answer me, O God. |
| Tue, 5 November | Rom 12:5-16; Lk 14:15-24 Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord. |
| Wed, 6 November | Rom 13:8-10; Lk 14:25-33 Happy the man who takes pity and lends. |
| Thu, 7 November | Rom 14:7-12; Lk 15:1-10 I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. |
| Fri, 8 November | Rom 15:14-21; Lk 16:1-8 The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations. |
| Sat, 9 November The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica | Ez 47:1-2,8-9,12; Jn 2:13-22 The waters of a river give joy to God's city, the holy place where the Most High dwells. |

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

We are on the 2nd week of the Advent Novena and this year theme is, "The Birth of Jesus". All are welcome. Bring along your family and friends.

2 Nov: Jesus, the Christ-Child

9 Nov: Jesus and Bethlehem

16 Nov: Jesus the Immigrant

23 Nov: Jesus and the Manger

30 Nov: Jesus and the Shepherds

7 Dec: Jesus and His Family

14 Dec: Jesus – Saviour, The Light of the World

21 Dec: Jesus – The King

Novena Church 70th Anniversary Celebrations

The Novena Church will be celebrating its 70th Anniversary next year. We invite your submission for a contest to design a logo for the celebrations.

The winning entry will be awarded a cash prize. If you are interested, please pick up a copy of the form at Church Reception or email to secretariatcssr@novenachurch.com, and the Contest submission form and specifications will be emailed to you. Closing date is 30th November 2019.

Unprotected

A documentary that reveals the devastating effects of 50 years of the sexual revolution, and the counter-cultural movement today that is rising from its ashes.

We can reverse the sexual revolution. But to do so we need to clearly understand and explain what is at its root: a refusal to accept God's design for sexual intimacy in marriage.

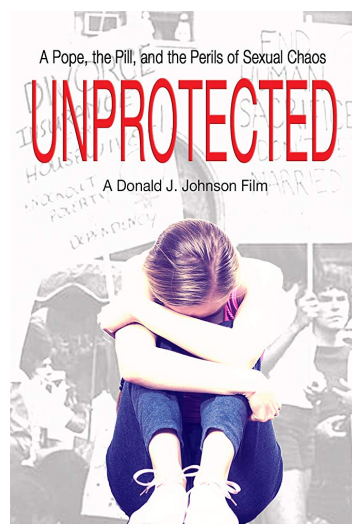
Venue : Novena Church (Auditorium)

Date : Friday, 8th November 2019

Time : 7.30pm to 9.30pm

No entrance fee to attend.
Just contribute a Love offering.

This movie is recommended for all ages but is of particular interest to teens and young adults.



"DAWN Skill Development Programme for foreign domestic workers"

Courses on Baking, Cooking and Cake Decoration (Basic & Advance), Sewing and Handicraft from January 2020 till June 2020.

The 1st Batch 2020 Care-Giving Course is scheduled to begin on Sunday, 29th March. Classes will be conducted on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month.

Registration is open

Dates : Sundays in November & December 2019.

Time : 10 am to 2 pm

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

Contact: 96702880 (Suzeth),
82694546 (Rowena), or
82333728 (Sr. Barbara)

The Pope's Monthly Intention for November 2019

Dialogue and Reconciliation in the Near East

That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

Redemptorist Vocation Retreat

If you are a young man discerning what God may be calling you to do in life, the Redemptorists invite you to a stay-in vocation retreat.

Come and find out more about the Redemptorist mission and way of life.

Date : 9th to 10th November 2019

Venue : 11 Nallur Road,
Singapore 456610

Register by sending your details to vocationdirectorcssr@novenachurch.com



Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 10th November 2019 at 12 noon.