



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

When seeing causes Blindness

We may have been blindfolded a number of times when we have played a few games with our friends but we never know what it is really like to be completely blind. In the Gospel, as well as in our first reading, the image of a blind man appears. The closest I have been to being blind is entering a darkroom. It is used in photography. The room has to be pitch black because the slightest amount of light can cause unnecessary expose to camera film and destroy pictures.

I remember my experience in there. My first time in a darkroom made me freeze. My whole body was tensed and I dared not to move because I did not know what was in front of me. It is really frightening and frustrating. I could not wait to get out. Our eyes do not even adjust over a prolonged period to be able to see our hand in front of us. It is unlike switching off the lights at night.

This will give us an idea why the blind man was so adamant about calling on Jesus in his blindness. He finally saw a way out, through Jesus, and he was not going to let anyone get in his way. It is no wonder that many people have their faith restored only in a time of crisis.

For many of us who can see, who can walk, who can hear and who have the resources to do anything we want, our self-reliance and abilities rob us of recognizing our true nature. We usually think we are stronger and more in control than we actually are.

Like blindness, only a crisis can reveal our actual lack of awareness, frailty and dependency. When we have no one to turn to, we eventually find ourselves turning to a higher being whom we can turn to. The first reading tells us that the blind and the lame will be gathered and brought back from the far ends of the earth. The blind are lost the sense of their lack of awareness. We are blind when we do not really know ourselves or see ourselves only by what we have or own. In such an instance, we have yet to discover our true selves.

When what we have and own are stripped from us in some form of crisis, we begin to discover ourselves truly. When we truly know ourselves, we will truly know God too. We will come to realise that we are not self-sufficient. We become aware of our need for God. We begin to see and are gathered back to God. Joy fills our hearts because we see life as better with God than without Him.

Reflection by Francis Vijayan, CSSR

Novena notes



30th Sunday of Ordinary Time
 Year B
 28th October 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 28 October	Jer 31:7-9; Hebr 5:1-6; Mk 10:46-52 What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.
Mon, 29 October	Eph 4:32-5:8; Lk 13:10-17 Try to imitate God, as children of his that he loves.
Tue, 30 October	Eph 5:21-33; Lk 13:18-21 O blessed are those who fear the Lord!
Wed, 31 October	Eph 6:1-9; Lk 13:22-30 The Lord is faithful in all his words.
Thu, 1 November All Saints Day	Rev 7:2-4,9-14; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12 Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.
Fri, 2 November All Souls Day	Is 25:6-9; Rom 5:5-11; Mk 15:33-39,16:1-6 The Lord is my light and my help.
Sat, 3 November St. Martin de Porres, Religious.	Phil 1:18-26; Lk 14:1,7-11 My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life.

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

1st November, Solemnity of All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day is a holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on 1 November.

The Catholic Church celebrates all those who have entered heaven, including saints who are recognized by the Church and those who are not.

All Saints' Day was formally introduced by Pope Boniface IV, who consecrated the Pantheon at Rome to the Virgin Mary and all the Martyrs on 13 May in 609 AD. Boniface IV also established All Souls' Day, which follows All Saints.

The holy day was eventually established on 1 November by Pope Gregory III in the mid-eighth century as a day dedicated to the saints and their relics.

This week, we feature the specially commissioned stained glass display of our Redemptorist Saints.



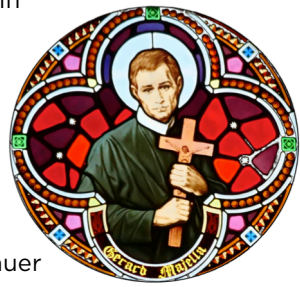
Left : St. Alphonsus Liguori



Right : St. John Neumann



Left : St. Clement Hofbauer



Right : St. Gerard Majella

Advent Novena

Our Advent Novena to prepare for Christmas begin on Saturday, 27th October 2018. The Theme for this special Novena is: "His Name shall be...." All are welcome and 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

Solemnity of All Saints' Day

Please take note of the Mass Times.

Wednesday, 31st October (Vigil Mass) - 7pm

Thursday, 1st November - 6.30am, 12.15pm and 7pm

"DAWN Skill Development Programme for foreign domestic workers"

Registration is open for
1. Courses on BAKING, COOKING, CAKE DECORATION, SEWING and HANDICRAFT from January 2019 till June 2019.

2. The 3rd Batch 2018 CARE-GIVING Course scheduled to begin on Sunday 25 November 2018. Classes will be conducted on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month.

Dates : 28th October, 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th November 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)

Praying The Rosary

There will be the praying of the Rosary immediately after the 6.30 evening. Rosary will begin at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 31st October, Vigil Mass for All Saints Day.