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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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Shout for Joy

As we enjoy the third Sunday of Advent, which is also called Gaudete Sunday, let us immerse ourselves in the readings which exhorts us to rejoice as we look forward to the coming of Christ.

The first reading from Zephaniah points to the anticipation of a better world as we await our Lord's coming - He will be a victorious warrior and dance with shouts of joy for you. This is echoed by the responsorial psalm - the rejoicing of a redeemed people.

The second reading from Philippians is explicitly speaking to us as much as Paul had spoken to the Christians of Philippi, telling us to rejoice. As I read this, I feel as if Christ is speaking to me directly:

"I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. . . ."

"There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus."

Isn't it true? If we do not know how to pray, go back to the basics. Just pray "Our Father". It is really that simple.

A recent encounter with the Lord's prayer gave me much joy. My mum has dementia. As she was baptized just before she was diagnosed with dementia, she is not able to remember much of what she experienced in RCIA. She cannot appreciate much of the church liturgy. I would try to persuade her to go to mass but she is pretty lost and has no motivation to go.

Last Sunday, I tried to interest her again with reciting the 'Our Father' prayer in Mandarin. I realized that she had lost some of her linguistic abilities but her perseverance in going through the prayer several times encouraged and inspired me. I believe that the prayer itself was a source of joy and enlightenment to her. She was inspired to ask me to unpack the words in the prayer, line by line for her. I saw that as a miracle as she would usually push the prayer aside as she did not enjoy reading.

I thank God for the time we spent together unpacking the prayer. It was a beautiful and sanctifying encounter, filled with much joy. I know that God has answered my daily prayer for Him to continue to guide and administer to my mum in her journey, to let her rejoice in His Love.

Oh Lord, as we anticipate and prepare ourselves for your coming, renew our hearts and minds so that we can always rejoice in your goodness, be always happy in the Lord so that we can be joy itself to others!

Reflection by Hope

Novena notes



3rd Sunday Of Advent
 Year C
 16th December 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

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|------------------|--|
| Sun, 16 December | Zeph 3:14-18; Phil 14:4-7; Lk 3:10-18 Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. |
| Mon, 17 December | Gen 49:2,8-10; Mt 1:1-17 In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. |
| Tue, 18 December | Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-24 In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. |
| Wed, 19 December | Jdg 13:2-7,24-25; Lk 1:5-25 My lips are filled with your praise, with your glory all the day long. |
| Thu, 20 December | Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38 Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory. |
| Fri, 21 December | Songs 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45 Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; O sing him a song that is new. |
| Sat, 22 December | 1 Sam 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56 My heart exults in the Lord my Saviour. |

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. We are now in the 8th week. 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

Advent Penitential Services for City District at 8pm

17th December - Church of St Alphonsus (Novena Church)

18th December - Church of the Sacred Heart

Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 23rd December at 12 noon.

A Biblical Walk Through The Mass

An invitation from Novena Bible Apostolate to this study on 4 Wednesdays.

Dates: 9 Jan 2019 - 30 Jan 2019

Time: 7.45pm - 9.30pm

Venue: The Scala

(Church Basement 2)

Fee: \$15 (A Student Workbook will be provided)

Optional : \$25 (A Textbook on The Mass) Please indicate if you want when you register.

For more information please email bible.novena@gmail.com or contact Bob (96263824) or Matthew (97461376). Closing date will be 23 December.

Christmas & New Year Mass Times

Please take note that there will be **NO** evening Mass on 24th December.

Christmas Vigil - 24th December
Carolling - 8.30pm
Mass - 9pm

Christmas Day - 25th December
Mass as usual at 8am, 10am, 12noon and 5.30pm

New Year's Eve - 31st December
Praise & Worship at 10pm.
Mass at 10.30pm

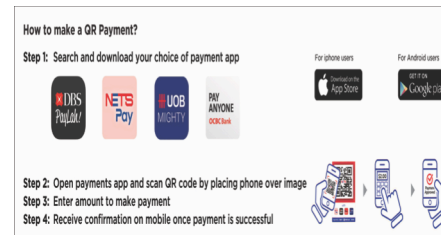
New Year's Day - 1st January 2019
Mass as usual at 8am & 6.30pm

Please take note that there will be **No** lunch-time Mass on 1st January 2019 being public holiday.

Donations

We have now made cashless donations to the Church possible for your ease and convenience.

You may use the following steps if you would like to make a donation electronically or via a cashless method.



You may wish to donate to the following:

Please scan the QR-Code that corresponds with your intention:

1. Maintenance of the Church

Now that the Church has been built, we need to continue to maintain the Church. You may wish to contribute to the upkeep of the Church by scanning the QR-Code below:

Maintenance Fund



2. Redemptorist Seminary

The training of Redemptorists (Priests and Brothers) is not under the care of the Archdiocese of Singapore. Redemptorists, as well as all Religious Congregations, are financially independent of the Archdiocese. We see to the financial expenses of our own candidates to the priesthood and religious life. You may like to give a donation to the formation of Redemptorists by scanning the QR-Code below:

Redemptorist Seminary



3. Redemptorist Community

The Redemptorist Community rely on your contribution for our daily upkeep of the community and other mission initiatives outside Novena Church. You may like to contribute to the Redemptorist Community by scanning the QR-Code below:

Redemptorist Community

