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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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Wonderful Things Happen For Those Who Believe

The young pregnant Mary visits her elderly expectant cousin, Elizabeth. Two women with unborn children in their wombs come together to talk perhaps about their joys, hopes, dreams and fears. They come to be with each other in their time of need. And, during this visit Elizabeth speaks these lovely words to Mary: **Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.... Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.**

Throughout the Gospel we see how wonderful things happen for those who believe. Time and time again the Lord blesses those who come to him in faith: the prayer of the centurion is answered (Lk. 7:9-10); the sins of the woman are forgiven (Lk. 7:50); the sick woman is healed (Lk. 8:48); the lepers are cleansed (Lk. 17:19); the sight of the blind beggar is restored (Lk. 18:42).

However, some people can be misled to think that with faith everything would be easy. In fact, the opposite is true. Things are not always easy just because of faith, but rather faith in God helps us to hope, to persevere, to struggle and to trust that ultimately something wonderful will happen for ourselves and for others.

Mary is indeed most blessed because she not only believes, but also acts on her faith in the Almighty, who works marvels for her. Her going in haste to visit her cousin shows us how to translate

faith from thoughts and feelings into actions and good deeds. She receives the good news and she conceives the Word of God in her through the Holy Spirit. Almost immediately she goes out to share it with Elizabeth.

On one occasion a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Jesus: *Blessed is the womb that bore and the breasts that nursed you!* Jesus' reply was, *Blessed rather those who hear the Word of God and obey it!* (Lk. 11:27-28). In saying this, Jesus extols his own mother and holds her up as an example for all us to imitate. She is the one who heard and obeyed and acted on the Word of God in her life. This is the reason we take Mary as our model of faith and discipleship in Jesus, her Son.

Christmas started with Mary. She gave birth to Jesus in the little town of Bethlehem. Now, each of us is asked to do the same. We are to make Christ alive and present in the world. Christ has to born again and again in us and through us. So, like Mary, we have to first listen to the Word. Then, we have to allow the Holy Spirit to overshadow us and plant the Word in our hearts. Next, we need to nurture the Word as it grows inside us until it becomes our life and the Word becomes flesh in us. Finally, may we who believe in Jesus as our Lord be blessed to see the wonderful things God has in store for us this Christmas and in the New Year.

Reflection by Clement Lee, CSsR

Novena notes



4th Sunday Of Advent
 Year C
 23rd December 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 23 December	Mic 5:1-4; Hebr 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45 God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.
Mon, 24 December	2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16; Lk 1:67-79 I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.
Tue, 25 December Christmas Day	Is 9:1-7; Tit 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.
Wed, 26 December St. Stephen, Martyr	Ac 6:8-10,7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22 Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Thu, 27 December St. John, Apostle & Evangelist	1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:2-8 Rejoice, you just, in the Lord.
Fri, 28 December Holy Innocents, Martyrs	1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18 Our life, like a bird, has escaped from the snare of the fowler.
Sat, 29 December	1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35 Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad.

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 is in the last 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



The Redemptorist Community wishes all of you “A Blessed Christmas & a Spirit-filled New Year!”

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.

Church Canteen

Please take note the canteen will be closed on 29th December 2018.

Closure of Church Reception

Please take note of the operating hours for the Reception on the following days :

24th December 2018 : 9am to 1pm
25th December 2018 : Closed

31st December 2018 : 9am to 1pm
1st January 2019 : Closed

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

