



The Gift and the Giver

Did you receive any nice gifts at Christmas? Gifts that we give a person say a lot about how well we know the person. Is it something they will use? Is it something they will like? This makes shopping for gifts difficult, but the effort speaks volumes. As much as we enjoy receiving gifts, the gift is but a symbol of our love for each other. As we get older, we realise we would be happy just to have these people around us. The gifts are not so important.

We could say the same about faith and our relationship with God. When we are young in the faith, God proves Himself by what He can do for us. We have a long list of petitions. If He answers these petitions, then He is a good God. If He seems absent, we begin to resent Him. When the relationship matures, we are simply grateful that God is **with us**. God's presence is more important than any answered prayer. It does not mean we stop asking for what we need. It means we are now more focused on the person rather than on the gifts that He gives.

God asks Aaron to pray this prayer of blessing over Israel: *"May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let **his face** shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord **uncover his face** to you and bring you peace."*

300 Thomson Road, Singapore 307653
 T 6255 2133
 F 6356 9910
 E secretariatcssr@novenachurch.com
 W novenachurch.com

PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
 novenaletterscssr@novenachurch.com

The prayer speaks about seeing God face to face. Only Moses got to see God's face. Today, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, from the Greek word epiphaneia which means manifestation or showing. God has shown His face with the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. Being human, Jesus did not get his face, his personality, his body from thin air. It came from someone. We celebrated the feast of Mary Mother of God on 1st January. By the will of the Father, it was Mary who was chosen to bear the Son of God. We have received through her, God's gift of salvation. She has given us the only Christmas gift we need ever to receive.

On New Year's Day, we launched the celebrations for the 70th Anniversary of Novena Church. Mary has always led people to her son, Jesus. We have felt her affection for her Son by her response to the favours we ask her. She has led us to the giver of the gifts. What we want to do is to share these gifts of God, and God Himself with others. That is how we want to celebrate and give thanks for what we ourselves have received.

Reflection by Francis Vijayan, CSsR



Epiphany Of The Lord
 Year A
 5 January 2020

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 5 January	Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3,5-6; Mt 2:1-12 All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.
Mon, 6 January	1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Mt 4:12-17,23-25 I will give you the nations for your heritage.
Tue, 7 January St. Raymond of Penyafort	1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44 All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.
Wed, 8 January	1 Jn 4:11-18; MK 6:45-52 All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.
Thu, 9 January	1 Jn 4:19-5:4; LL 4:14-22 All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.
Fri, 10 January	1 Jn 5:5-13; Ik 5:12-16 O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Sat, 11 January	1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30 The Lord takes delight in his people.

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)
 Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm
 Confession: Half an hour before all Masses except the morning Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)
 Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS
 Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon*, 5.30pm
 *2nd & 4th Sunday – Mass in Tagalog, subject to the availability of priests.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY : 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

5 January, Feast of St. John Nepomucene Neumann, Bishop

John Neumann was born in Prachatitz in Bohemia (Czech Republic) on March 28, 1811. He studied theology at the seminary of Budweis. Zealous for the missionary life and wanting to lead souls to Christ, he decided to leave his homeland to dedicate himself to the European immigrants in America, who were deprived of spiritual support.

He was ordained a priest by the bishop of New York, and gave himself to the pastoral care of people in the vast area around Niagara Falls. Since he wanted to live in a religious community that corresponded more closely to his missionary vocation, he entered the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. He was professed on January 16, 1842.



He filled the role of vice-provincial of the Redemptorists from 1846 to 1849, after which he became the parish priest of St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore. In 1852, at the age of forty-two, he was appointed bishop of Philadelphia.

As a worthy son of St. Alphonsus, he made a vow never to lose a minute of time. As a bishop, he was holy and tireless. He visited his vast diocese, on one occasion travelling more than twenty-five miles of mountain roads by mule in order to confirm a young boy who was sick.

On January 5, 1860, he died suddenly of a heart attack on a street in Philadelphia. He was beatified during the Second Vatican Council on October 13, 1963, and was canonized on June 19, 1977. In the homily on the occasion of his canonization, Paul VI summarized the activity of the new saint in these words: "He was close to the sick, he loved to be with the poor, he was a friend of sinners, and now he is the glory of all emigrants."

Tagalog Mass

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

The Pope's Monthly Intention for January 2020

Prayer intention for evangelisation - Promotion of World Peace

We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.

Novena Epiphany Tour Ministry



"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." - Matt 4:19

Thinking about your new year resolution? How about casting the NET for Jesus?

If you enjoy talking, walking, evangelising, how about joining our new Ministry - "Novena Epiphany Tour (NET) Ministry" as our novena church tour guides.

If you are interested, please email us at tours@novenachurch.com or pick up a form at office. Training will be given. We welcome those who can speak Mandarin, Bahasa Indonesia, Tamil, Tagalog or any foreign language.

Events for Novena Church 2020

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
70TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS 2020**

JANUARY	
WED, 1ST	LAUNCH OF NOVENA CHURCH 70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS Venue: Novena Church
SAT, 18TH	NOVENA CONFERENCE FOR NOVENA MINISTRIES Venue: St. Joseph's Institution Junior
MARCH	
SAT, 14TH	WALK-A-JOG Venue: Gardens by the Bay
MAY	
FRI, 1ST	FAMILY DAY Venue: Novena Church
FRI, 15TH	AN EVENING WITH THE NOVENA CHOIRS Venue: Novena Church
JUNE	
FRI, 26TH	INTER-CHURCH ALTAR-SERVERS COMPETITION Venue: Novena Church
AUGUST	
SAT, 8TH	MARIAN FESTIVAL CONCERT BY THE CATHEDRAL ORGAN SCHOLARS AND CHOIR Venue: Novena Church
SUN, 30TH	ANNUAL PROCESSION 2020 @ 2:00 PM YOUTH RALLY 2020 @ 6:00 PM Venue: Singapore Expo @ Changi
OCTOBER	
THU, 29TH FRI, 30TH SAT, 31ST	COMFORT! A MUSICAL ABOUT VOICELESS WOMEN AND MARY'S COMFORT A REDemptORIST PRODUCTION Venue: Drama Centre @ the National Library
NOVEMBER	
SUN, 1ST	
DECEMBER	
SAT, 5TH	70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS GALA DINNER Venue: Singapore Expo @ Changi
OTHER EVENTS TO NOTE	
10 DAY PILGRIMAGES SPLENDOUR OF ITALY WITH REDemptORIST SHRINES There will be 8 pilgrimages throughout the year led by The Redemptorist Fathers.	
TALKS, CONFERENCE, RETREAT AND FORMATION On-going throughout the year.	

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