

CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY - The Archdiocese has designated 10 September 2017 as Catholic Education Sunday. The theme is "Celebrating 165 years of Catholic Education in Singapore – Passing on the Light". Besides a prayer of blessing for all Catholic teachers, the screening of a 2-minute video montage and the distribution of prayer cards in all parishes, school students will join the congregation in worship during one mass that weekend in 18 parishes.

THE WATCHMEN RETREAT is a 4 days 3 nights stay-in retreat open to Catholics above the age of 21. This retreat is about being on watch until the Lord returns and being alert to the dangers to your spiritual life. Date: 09 to 12 Nov '17 at Majodi Retreat Centre, Johor, Malaysia. Cost: SGD 160 (Includes Transport, Accommodation, Meals). Retreat Master: Rev Fr Terence Pereira. Organised by: Office for the New Evangelisation (ONE). For more info and to register: Visit www.one.org.sg/events

LIVING OUR FAITH IN COMMUNITY WORKSHOP (for ministries and faith communities) - How do we make sense of our daily life challenges through the eyes of faith? Caritas Singapore invites you to join us as we go on a learning journey, together with our guide Fr. David Garcia, OP, as we attempt to tackle some of these complex issues through the lens of the Catholic Social Teaching. Date: Sat, 16 Sep 2017, 8:30am - 3:30pm, Agape Village Level 1, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh. Enrol as a community with 4 or more participants. For more information and registration, please refer to the Caritas Singapore website: www.caritas-singapore.org or email to formation@caritas-singapore.org

FEAST OF ST PIO OF PIETRELCINA - It will be celebrated on Friday 22 Sept '17 from 6.00pm at Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Theme: St. Pio, true servant of Jesus, Prince of Peace. Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Albert Ng. Enquiries: Maria 98561975, Joseph 98248941, Maria 96168328.



READINGS: Sunday Missal Pg 553
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.
READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 4 September - SAT 9 September 2017
MON: 1THES 4:13-18, LK 4:16-30 **TUE:** 1THES 5:1-6, 9-11, LK 4:31-37
WED: COL 1:1-8, LK 4:38-44 **THU:** COL 1:9-14, LK 5:1-11
FRI: MI 5:1-4A, MT 1:1-16, 18-23 **SAT:** COL 1:21-23, LK 6:1-5

Our week begins as we look to the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. We see a glimpse of the Prophet Jeremiah who understands the pain of following the Lord and decides not to speak the Lord's name again, "but then it becomes like fire burning in my heart." Paul's letter to the Romans encourages those ancient Romans - and us - not to conform to this age but to discern the will of God. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus corrects his disciples' resistance to his own passion and death, telling them that if they try to save their lives, they'll lose them. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

This week we celebrate the **Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary** and the Memorial of St. Peter Claver.

Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians concludes on Tuesday. Wednesday, we begin a week of readings from the Letter to the Colossians, with its gracious salutation and encouragement. The readers are exhorted to see Christ as the "head of the body" noting that all is created "in and through him."

We now move from Matthew to Luke's Gospel, which we will read on weekdays from now until Advent begins. We will feel the special way the evangelist will highlight healing, mercy, the poor, women, prayer, the Spirit and a gospel for a new, all inclusive, Israel.

Jesus teaches in the synagogue and reads from Isaiah: "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus heals a man with demons. He heals Simon's mother-in-law, and all the sick they brought him. "I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent." He calls out to three discouraged fishermen to lower their nets, to show them his power. Peter is overwhelmed and protests he is unworthy. "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." At Jesus' persistence, Peter, James and John leave their nets to follow Jesus. The week ends with Jesus' tangling with the Pharisees who challenge the fasting of his disciples. "Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?" He deflects the criticism by telling them "no one pours new wine into old wineskins." When his critics note that his disciples were "unlawful" by picking heads of grain to eat, he tells them, "The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath."

Next Sunday is the Twenty-Third week in Ordinary Time. As faithful followers, we are encouraged to "love one another" throughout the readings. Ezekiel tells us that we are responsible for each other and Paul's letter to the Romans offers: "Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another."

Sunset Mass	: 5.30pm
Rosary	: 4.30pm (Saturday)
Sunday Masses	: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese), 4.00pm (English)
Weekday Masses	: 7.20am and 5.30pm
Intercessory Prayer	: 7.15pm (English, Thursday)
Infant Jesus Devotion	: 5.30pm (Thursday, followed by Mass)
Divine Mercy Devotion	: 12.30pm (Sunday Mandarin)
Sion Adorers - Holy Hour	: 7.45pm - 8.45pm (Saturday)
Hour of Mercy	: 3.00pm daily
Adoration Chapel	: 8.00am - 9.00pm (Mon to Sat), 8.00am - 7.00pm (Sun)
Secretariat's Operating Hours	: Mon - Fri: 9.30am - 9.30pm, Sat: 9.30am - 5.30pm, Sun: 9.30am - 5.00pm; Lunch hours: 1.00pm - 2.00pm. Closed on Public Holidays.
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered from 5.00pm - 5.20pm on weekdays and Saturday at confessional (back of the church). On Sunday, it will be available 30 minutes before each mass	
Parish Priest: Rev Fr EDWARD LIM, OCD Asst Parish Priest: Rev Fr THOMAS LIM, OCD Priests in Residence: Rev Fr TOM CURRAN, OCD, Rev Fr GREGORY HON, OCD and Rev Fr JOSEPH KOH, OCD General-Delegate: Rev Fr JOHN CHUA, OCD, Parish Secretary: Ms Martha Loh Parish Clerk: Ms Jannie Lui Liturgical Co-ordinator: Alex Wong, alexdominic@gmail.com	
Church Donations - Please make your cheque payable to:	
(i) Church of Sts Peter & Paul - for contributions/donations for General Operations & Maintenance of the Church;	
(ii) Carmelite Fathers - for contributions/donations to the SPP Friars Community, Friars Formation;	
(iii) Soc of St Vincent de Paul (Conf St Peter) - for donations to the Society of St Vincent de Paul for the poor and needy.	

Information is correct at time of publication.

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In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells us to challenge each other on our behavior and to pray, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Daily Prayer This Week

As we get into this pattern of letting the readings interact with the desires of our hearts, one week flows into the next. So, we begin this week continuing to reflect on the purpose of our lives. We can measure our resistance to self-denial for the sake of loving others more and ask for the Lord's healing and grace.

Our pattern of finding intimacy with our Lord in the unique context of our busy, complicated days begins with a morning moment of focus, the earlier the better. Soon after we wake up, we can pause briefly to give a faith filled shape to our day. While making coffee, starting a load of wash, taking a shower, getting dressed, we can begin our day with the Lord, begin our day in a relationship. At first, it may take practice to replace what usually goes on in our heads and hearts, with this kind of prayerful desiring. It can quickly become a very natural way to anticipate, plan and prepare for our day.

Reading this guide over the weekend or early in the week helps, as does reading the Daily Reflection for the day. But these resources work best when they provide a support for our inner conversation with the Lord as we go through the real experiences, relationships, conflicts and challenges of our day. Then the scriptures, the unique details of our lives, and the desires of our hearts simply come together in an ongoing dialogue with the Lord that takes place in the background of our days and shapes our choices and reveals deeper desires.

This week, we might ask Jesus to confront the demons that seem to dominate the upcoming week. We may have many mothers-in-law or friends that need healing that we can entrust to the Lord's care.

We might experience discouragement in our work, with our spouses or parents or in our jobs or ministries. We can take those discouragements and use them as an opportunity to ask the Lord to show us his power there. And, when we are tempted to feel unworthy or to be humbled by the task ahead, we can let Jesus call us again to follow him. Perhaps this week we will feel the call to a real renewal, to not just keep trying to pour new wine into our old wineskins but to ask the Lord to make us new, and ready for the new calls, new graces he is offering us. With the smallest of efforts, we can find a few moments every evening to look back on these days of connecting with our Lord, and to express our gratitude for his presence and the new freedom and graces we are receiving.

By Saturday, we might find ourselves turning to Mary to ask for the graces we need from our Lord. *"I thank God for your life, Mary. Please place me with your Son."*

Taken from the "Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer" on the Creighton University's Online Ministries website: <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>. Used with permission.

Reflections

The readings for today are very powerful. There are accusations and even an argumentative tone about them. In Matthew's gospel reading I imagine myself in the shoes of one of the disciples. I see Peter take Jesus aside and speak to him very strongly. But, Jesus fires right back with an even more forceful tone. It is then that the message of the story becomes clear. It is then that we can start to relate to the exchange between Peter and Jesus in our own lives.

Peter was afraid. He was acting out of fear in a way that I sometimes do. Sometimes my initial reaction as a parent, spouse, friend, or coworker is reactionary so as to avoid danger or hardship that I can see coming. This seems to happen more often than not in my role as a parent of four children. Over the last 21 years there have been countless times

when one of the kids was about to do something dangerous and I overreacted in an effort to keep them safe – "don't run with scissors!", "don't drive so fast!", and "don't go out with that boy!" (That one is the most difficult.) I believe this type of reaction is very human-like and is motivated by fear in an effort to protect. I imagine this was a similar feeling that Peter had when his beloved friend started talking about his impending suffering and death. Can you blame Peter? His reaction and spirited words to Jesus were very consistent with a human-like reaction. However, Jesus said in reply, "You are not thinking as God does, but as human beings do." What a wake-up call for Peter. Jesus is reminding Peter and the other disciples of the reason for his life on earth, and more importantly, to trust in God's plan. I think this is the larger message from today's reading and one that is consistently provided throughout many of the gospel readings. God has a plan – don't let your human-based fears come between you and God and his plan. And, as Jesus says to Peter – "Get behind me Satan!" – especially don't let the dark spirit be the origins of these fears and, thereby, have the dark spirit come between you and God.

PARISH NEWS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - All are welcome to join in the celebration of First Holy Communion for our children Sun, 17 Sep '17, at 11:00am.

MASS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED dedicated to the souls of the faithful departed whose remains are placed in the columbarium in our church, and for their family members is celebrated on Fri, 22 Sep '17 at 7:20 am and 5:30 pm.

SPP FATIMA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS - The next devotion is on Sat, 2 Sept '17, 4:30pm by the Legion of Mary followed by 7 Oct '17, 4:30pm by the English Prayer group. Do come and join in the prayers.

Through his words in the second paragraph, Jesus is trying to get us to realise that we must get past our own humanity and trust God in order to gain life. To do this, it may seem like the more we can control the situation, the better we will feel. It is natural for us as humans to feel less stress when we are control of a situation. We tend to want to control (or over control) when we parent or do anything in which we care about the outcome. Peter was likely trying to feel more control when he was speaking to Jesus. However, today's gospel is a bit paradoxical. Jesus is once again telling us to give up this control to God in order to achieve life. I believe Jesus is telling us to listen to the Holy Spirit and the continual messages and guidance he is sending us, and then to trust that this guidance is right. Be aware of the messages from the dark spirit that stir up feelings of fear and stress. Resist them, give up control to God, and life (peace) will follow. So, the more I think about it, the paradox is – the more we give up control to God, the less stress we will feel (rather than thinking about it the other way around – "as human beings do").

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/090317.html>

NIGHT FEST @ SPP – The Parish Priest and the Organising Committee would like to thank all volunteers who have helped made this event a success. For the three nights, we had approximately 11,000 people who came through our compound for the various activities. Thank you, All!

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

CALLING ALL JC AND IB STUDENTS! Come join us in our annual JC & IB exam mass and offer up all your hopes and anxieties to the Lord. There will be prayer ministry, lunch, study space and snacks available after mass. We are here to support you along with the best study buddy ever. Jesus! Date: Fri, 8 Sep '17, Time: 10:30am to 6pm, Venue: Office for Young People, 2 Lorong Low Koon, S (536449), Cost: FREE. To register, visit <http://oyp.org.sg/studywithjesus/>. Please sign up by Mon, 4 Sep '17 to help us cater for you adequately.