

fellowship at the Canteen. Celebrant: Kamelus Kamus, CICM and F.X.R. Sambodo, SSCC. All Indonesians are invited. For further information, please contact one of the following: Christine H (97601258), Susanna (90928777), or Martina (96158260) or email: angelika.sundari@hotmail.com.

ARCHDIOCESAN BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE SINGAPORE PRESENTS 2 COURSES:

(1) **INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE** on: 16 & 23 Jan '18. (Tuesdays) TIME: 9.30am - 11.30am. COST: \$20
 (2) **"BOOK OF JEREMIAH"** on: 30 Jan - 22 May '18 - Tue only (Except 13 Mar and 1 May - 15 Sessions) Time: 9.30am to 11.30am Cost: \$120 at: Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre, 2 Highland Road, Singapore 549102. For more information/

registration: Email: aba_secretariat@catholic.org.sg Tel: 6280 0354 (Office hours: 9.00am to 1.00pm)

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER (ME) Festive Promotion. Give your spouse or loved ones a special gift this festive season. For this December and January only, get ME vouchers from Cana (55 Waterloo Street, Level 2) at half-price of \$25. Book a ME Weekend and pick up communication skills for a stronger marriage. Slots are still open for the Jan 5-7 (fast selling out!), Feb 2-4 and March 2-4 Weekends. E-mail mewkend@gmail.com or visit wwmesg.org

Be deeply sorry for any time that is lost OR passed without your loving GOD.

Quoteworthy - St. John of the Cross

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.
Columbarium Opening Hours	: Mon - Sun: 7.00am - 7.00pm. Closed on Public Holidays.
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered from 5.00pm - 5.20pm on weekdays and Saturday at the makeshift confessional at the baptistery (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.	

Church of Saints Peter & Paul: 225-A Queen Street, Singapore 188551
 Tel: +65 6337 2585 Fax: +65 6334 5414 email: sts_peterpaul@singnet.com.sg www.spchurch.org.sg



READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year B) Pg 631
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever
READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 1 January - **SAT** 6 January 2018
MON: Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God **TUE:** 1 JN 2:22-28, JN 1:19-28 **WED:** 1 JN 2:29 - 3:6, JN 1:29-34 **THU:** 1 JN 3:7-10, JN 1:35-42 **FRI:** 1 JN 3:11-21, JN 1:43-51 **SAT:** 1 JN 5:5-13, MK 1:7-11

The Second Week of Christmas

January 1st is the **Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God**. It is also the World Day of Prayer for Peace, and since it is commemorating the naming day of Jesus, it is the feast from which the Society of Jesus takes its name.

Next week, we celebrate the Epiphany - on January 6th/7th. We can draw great fruit from reflecting upon the readings and prayers of the days before Epiphany or the days after Epiphany.

But it is wonderful to pay attention to several themes throughout this week. The first letter of John fills this week with the language of God's love for us. This leads to simple, but deep, reflection on the love we must have for our brothers and sisters. The celebration of and preparation for Epiphany colours the week with images of light, and a number of themes related not only to revelation and seeing, but also to baptism itself. Throughout this week, we ask for graces and continue to celebrate with joy.

This week we continue to reflect on the coming of our Lord among us. The week contains two celebrations of epiphanies. An epiphany is a showing, a revelation, a manifestation. The day we call the Feast of the Epiphany makes use of Matthew's account of the Magi, the wise seers from the East to whom are revealed the good news of our salvation. The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord represents another epiphany. When Jesus comes out of the water, which he enters to symbolise the completeness of his entry into our lives, a voice from heaven makes known to us who Jesus is: "My beloved Son." After all these years of waiting and longing, after all the promises and hopes, he is here - born into conflict, baptised in the Jordan - for us all.

The other part of the process of revelation, of showing, of epiphany, is the part where we observe, recognise, take it in, and receive the good news as it is given to us. When we receive the gift, the gift giving is complete. When we recognize the one revealed, the epiphany is accomplished. When we accept who God is for us in Jesus, we let the Spirit give life to our salvation.

Information is correct at time of publication.

The continuing readings from the First Letter of John are perfect to grow in a sense of how loved we are and how we are called to love. The gospels this week manifest to us a Lord who is full of compassion, who feeds the hungry and heals the sick.

This is a powerful way to end the Christmas season and, long after the wrapping paper is thrown away, to look back and give thanks for the real gifts we have received this year.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/c-secondweek.html>

How Holy Can My Family Be?

Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

And Jesus advanced (in) wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Luke 2

It is probably fair to say that none of us feels that our family is just like the Holy Family. Jesus, Mary and Joseph can at first seem to be too unreachable an ideal for our own family. Perhaps, especially at this time of the year, we are most intensely aware of the limitations of our family - of the various families we are a part of. Selfishness, stubbornness, independence can appear to be so great that we can question the integrity of our family as a family, let alone see any real holiness there. How holy can my own family be? What help can a reflection upon the Holy Family bring for me today?

The first thing to consider is to humbly acknowledge the humanity of our

family - including my own humanity and that of everyone in the group. Human beings are capable of great things, but every human being is capable of great selfishness. This kind of acknowledgement isn't an acceptance of the behaviour or dynamics of my family as good, or even that all of it should be tolerated. This first step is a step away from denial. We can't cope with what we don't even admit is there. The second step is to acknowledge that each person in the family is seeing things, and responding to them, from his or her own perspective. Nobody really wakes up in the morning and says, "How can I be selfish and difficult for everyone today?" We all are choosing something that seems to us to be good - perhaps good for me and not for you - but my choice is for something I see as good. This acknowledgement isn't very inspiring, but it can be helpful if it leads us to a growing understanding of what each of us in our family are looking for.

Real understanding can lead to real compassion. Maybe someone in the family is like a barking dog or a self-absorbed princess or is into self-protective control by not investing in conversation or self-revelation or even simple help around the house. The more we see what is going on the easier it will be to try to see it with compassion. What fear is at work here? Dogs bark when they are afraid. Self-absorption and passive-aggression are so often rooted in fearful self-protection. Once we can see the underlying needs or hurts that seem to be shaping our behaviours, we can more easily love those family members. Love is what will heal us. Love will make us stronger. Love will lead to greater gratitude. And grateful

people can more easily notice the needs of others and love them.

Contemplating Jesus, Mary and Joseph at this time of the year can help us. Joseph had to be so afraid when he was told Mary would be with child. The one thing he knew for certain is that he was not the father. Just imagine the temptation to judge Mary! But, Joseph believed and trusted. He accepted the role of servant. He took Mary as his wife, accepting the shame and embarrassment that the people of their village must have placed on him. Mary couldn't have fully understood God's plan for her or for her son. But she believed and trusted. She accepted the role of servant. Their child, Jesus, became the Servant of God's mission in our world.

How can our family become more holy? Through compassionate love and growing trust in God, so much which leads to tension, ongoing stress and outright conflict can be healed.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/Holy-Family.html>

PARISH NEWS

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD - Mass in English will be celebrated on Mon 1 Jan '18 at 9am.

SPP YEAR-END THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS - Date: 31 Dec '17, (Sun) *Special Thanksgiving Mass* at 5.30pm with renewal of marriage vows and blessings for all married couples. Please note that there is NO 4.00pm Mass on this day. The car park will be closed after the morning mass on Thursday 28 Dec 2017 for set-up of tentage for our year-end event. Limited parking will be available thereafter.

St. Ignatius tells us that Love is a mutual exchange of gifts. The lover gives gifts to the loved one and the loved one becomes a lover in giving gifts to the beloved. Ignatius also says that Love is expressed in deeds rather than in words. So, in these days ahead, let us give gifts of understanding, compassion and healing love to each member of our family. Let's listen, pay attention, acknowledge gifts and affirm them. Let us find gestures, acts of kindness, time and support to give each other. Let us model for our children how to think of each other's needs first.

Every step we make in this direction of greater healing and love will help our family grow in holiness. How holy can we become? The real answer is that we can become as holy as we free each other to become. In this environment of openness to God's grace, God can do more than we can ask or imagine. And, like the Holy Family, we can be living witnesses, that "nothing is impossible with God." (Luke 2).

Car park will again be closed after the 11.00am mass on Sunday 31 Dec 2017 and reopen on Monday 1 Jan 2018 after the tentage removal. We apologise for the inconvenience caused.

CATECHISM CLASS 2018 - Commences on Sunday 21 January '18 at 9.30am.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

The Indonesian Community in Singapore will hold Year-end Thanksgiving Mass in Bahasa Indonesia on 31 December 2017 at 8pm at the St. Bernadette Church, 12 Zion Road, followed by