

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

THE WATCHMEN RETREAT is a 4 days 3 nights stay-in retreat open to Catholics above the age of 21. Date: 09 - 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

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| 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.

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.sppchurch.org.sg

ACT TALK ON CATHOLIC SEXUAL ETHICS - Come and understand why the Catholic Church considers masturbation, homosexual activity, fornication (pre-marital sex) and adultery (extra marital sex), and contraception as mortal sins. Why a non-consummated marriage can be dissolved, and why civilly remarried divorced Catholics cannot receive Holy Communion, based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Theology of the Body and the Natural Law. Date: 22 Sep '17, Time: 7:30pm - 9:30pm, Venue: St. Joseph's Church Conference Room (Victoria Street), Speaker: Andrew Kong, BSc, LLB, JCL. Free. All are welcome.

CHRIST@WORK CONFERENCE by the Catholic Business Network. on 18 Nov '17, 8:30am-6:30pm at Catholic Junior College Performing Arts Centre. Theme: Spiritual Leadership at Work, aims to bring together working adults who often have to reconcile the challenges and the difficult dichotomy between working in the corporate world and living a Christ-centred Catholic life. Fees: \$60 for indiv members, \$55 each for group bookings (min. 5 pax). Register at www.christatworkconference.com



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 10 September 2017 Year A

READINGS: Sunday Missal Pg 556

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 11 September - SAT 16 September 2017

MON: COL 1:24-2:3, LK 6:6-11 **TUE:** COL 2:6-15, LK 6:12-19

WED: COL 3:1-11, LK 6:20-26 **THU:** NM 21:4B-9, PHIL 2:6-11, JN 3:13-17

FRI: 1 TM 1:1-2, 12-14, JN 19:25-27 **SAT:** 1 TM 1:15-17, LK 6:43-49

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

This week we have the Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom; the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**; the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows; and the Memorial of Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs.

The first part of the week, the first readings are from the Letter to the Colossians. Paul is in prison, encouraging this community to put their trust in Christ, not mystical teachings and powers. He challenges them to live their baptism and to walk in the union they have with and in Jesus. Then we begin reading Paul's First Letter to Timothy. The opening words boldly proclaim that Paul is the "foremost" among sinners and a sign of God's mercy.

In the first part of this week, following Luke's Gospel, Jesus heals a man with a withered hand, on the Sabbath, in front of his religious critics. Then Jesus goes up on a mountain to pray and comes down to name

his twelve apostles - all of whom seem to be unknown or questionable at best. The people bring all their sick to hear him and to be healed. Jesus tells them of their blessedness and warns them of the dangers. We can't be blind guides. We must have the humility to acknowledge and be forgiven our own sins before we can help others. Jesus tells us that our goodness will be seen in what we do and that our only security is in building our lives on him.

For the Twenty-Fourth week in Ordinary Time we are invited to reflect on how we forgive. Peter asks Jesus "how often" we must forgive, asking the extent of Jesus' call for mercy. The parable of the forgiven servant who can't forgive is meant to give us clear guidance for our lives as followers of Jesus: if we are forgiven, we must forgive others.

Daily Prayer This Week

When we place Jesus at the centre of our lives, as Paul calls the Colossians to do, two marvelous graces are given us. We experience God's love for us in the mercy and forgiveness of Jesus. As grateful sinners, we then are able to forgive others.

As we begin each day this week, we can let these two graces be part of our reflection. We can ask our Lord to show us his love. We can fearlessly ask to understand who we are as sinners, in the concrete ways each of

Information is correct at time of publication.

us falls short, gets distracted, becomes uncentred and makes very unfree choices. We can ask to be forgiven and healed. This journey each day might take us into specific patterns, habits, ruts we're in. We may even want to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week, in preparation for celebrating the upcoming Sunday's readings.

We can choose to focus carefully this week on those people we ask for the grace to forgive. Whose faults do I pay most attention to? Whom do I judge harshly? From whom do I withhold forgiveness? If we begin each day, asking our Lord to reveal the answers to these questions, throughout our day, our days this week will show us deeper places where the Lord can forgive us and where we can share that mercy.

From the beginning of the week, we might ask Mary to gently guide us to trust her Son's love and to be more tender in loving those people her Son invites us to forgive and be a source of healing.

Throughout this week, we can also give thanks for the ways we are called to be Jesus' followers - not because we are extremely talented or because we are perfect, but because he saw in us something that he could heal and then send us to heal others. We can be especially attentive to the ways we are blessed in our poverty and in the ways we sometimes experience rejection as his disciples.

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

Pope Francis' Homily on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (2014)

Pope Francis marked the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Sunday (2014) with Mass celebrated in St. Peter's basilica during which he presided over the Sacrament of Marriage of twenty couples. The official text of his homily as follows:

Today's first reading speaks to us of the people's journey through the desert. We can imagine them as they walked, led by Moses; they were families: fathers, mothers, sons and daughters, grandparents, men and women of all ages, accompanied by many children and those elderly who struggled to make the journey. This people reminds us of the Church as she makes her way across the desert of the contemporary world, the People of God composed, for the most part, of families.

This makes us think of families, our families, walking along the paths of life with all their day to day experiences. It is impossible to quantify the strength and depth of humanity contained in a family: mutual help, educational support, relationships developing as family members mature, the sharing of joys and difficulties. Families are the first place in which we are formed as persons and, at the same time, the "bricks" for the building up of society.

Let us return to the biblical story. At a certain point, "the people became impatient on the way" (Num 21:4). They are tired, water supplies are low and all they have for food is manna, which, although plentiful and sent by God, seems far too meagre in a time of crisis. And so they complain and protest against God and against Moses: "Why did you make us leave?..." (cf. Num. 21:5). They are tempted to turn back and abandon the journey.

Here our thoughts turn to married couples who "become impatient on the way" of conjugal and family life. The hardship of the journey causes them to experience interior weariness; they lose the flavour of matrimony and they cease to draw water from the well of the Sacrament. Daily life becomes burdensome, even "nauseating".

During such moments of disorientation – the Bible says – the poisonous serpents come and bite the people, and many die. This causes the people to repent and to turn to Moses for forgiveness, asking him to beseech the Lord so that he will cast out the

snakes. Moses prays to the Lord, and the Lord offers a remedy: a bronze serpent set on a pole; whoever looks at it will be saved from the deadly poison of the vipers.

What is the meaning of this symbol? God does not destroy the serpents, but rather offers an "antidote": by means of the bronze serpent fashioned by Moses, God transmits his healing strength, his mercy, which is more potent than the Tempter's poison.

As we have heard in the Gospel, Jesus identifies himself with this symbol: out of love the Father "has given" his only begotten Son so that men and women might have eternal life (cf. Jn 3:13-17). Such immense love of the Father spurs the Son to become man, to become a servant and to die for us upon a cross. Out of such love, the Father raises up his son, giving him dominion over the entire universe. This is expressed by Saint Paul in his hymn in the Letter to the Philippians (cf. 2:6-11). Whoever entrusts himself to Jesus crucified receives the mercy of God and finds healing from the deadly poison of sin.

The cure which God offers the people applies also, in a particular way, to spouses who "have become impatient on the way" and who succumb to the dangerous temptation discouragement, infidelity, weakness, abandonment...

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.

GIFT - Next weekend, 16/17 September, there will be a second collection to receive your monthly pledges and contributions to the Catholic Foundation's GIFT programme. GIFT (Giving in Faith and Thankfulness) is to fund the numerous organisations involved in families, youths, evangelisation, and building projects in the archdiocese. Please bring your contributions or pledge envelopes to drop into the collection bags or visit gift.catholicfoundation.sg to donate online.

To them too, God the Father gives his Son Jesus, not to condemn them, but to save them: if they entrust themselves to him, he will bring them healing by the merciful love which pours forth from the Cross, with the strength of his grace that renews and sets married couples and families once again on the right path.

The love of Christ, which has blessed and sanctified the union of husband and wife, is able to sustain their love and to renew it when, humanly speaking, it becomes lost, wounded or worn out. The love of Christ can restore to spouses the joy of journeying together. This is what marriage is all about: man and woman walking together, wherein the husband helps his wife to become ever more a woman, and wherein the woman has the task of helping her husband to become ever more a man. Here we see the reciprocity of differences. The path is not always a smooth one, free of disagreements, otherwise it would not be human. It is a demanding journey, at times difficult, and at times turbulent, but such is life! Marriage is a symbol of life, real life: it is not "fiction"! It is the Sacrament of the love of Christ and the Church, a love which finds its proof and guarantee in the Cross.

*Source: Vatican Radio
http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2014/09/14/pope_homily_for_feast_of_the_exaltation_of_the_holy_cross/110651*

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 - There will be Five First Saturday Devotion Sessions until 7 Oct '17 led by various SPP Ministries: The next one is on 2 Sept '17 Legion of Mary and 7 Oct '17 - English Prayer Group, at 4:30pm at the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima (Parish Building). Do come and join in the prayers.