

SECOND COLLECTION

The Second Collection today will be for Vocation Fund.

Happy 7th Anniversary

Happy 7th Anniversary to Bishop Cornelius Sim. May God bless you with many more fruitful years as our shepherd and brother in Christ. There will be a fellowship immediately after the 8:00 AM Mass today in the Parish Hall. We will also be having a group photo with the bishop in the Parish Hall. We hope all of you will be there! Please do not forget also to wish our bishop personally.

Chinese New Year Mass

The Chinese New Year Mass will be on Monday, 23rd January at 8:00 AM. There will be blessing and giving away of Oranges on that day. You can also bring your own basket of oranges to be blessed. Please label your basket clearly with your family name so that it does not get mixed up with others and place it in front of the altar before the Mass start.

Community Bible Writing Project

The Word of God is so important to our lives that to hear it is to hear God speaking to us. And when we participate in this Bible Writing project we allow the Word to dwell in us longer. Our aim is to complete copying by hand the Old Testament by December 1st 2012. If you have not participated in this project before, please consider doing so this year. Consider doing this as a family activity.

SUNDAY SCHOOL and COM classes

Sunday School and COM classes will begin with a community prayer service on 29th January at 10:30 am until 12:00 noon. All Sunday School & Com Classes children and parents are encourage to attend this prayer service and orientation. All catechists are also requested to attend.

Catechists Needed

Please take note that the Catechetical Ministry is still in need of more catechists. If you are interested, please leave your name and contact details with the parish office staff.

Adult Faith Formation

We have just started the CATHOLICISM Adult Faith Formation program. It's the story of the whole world. It's your story. See it. Own it. Share it. The next session will on Thursday, 26th January at 7:30 PM in Fr. McClorey's room.

Fund Raising ideas

All Filipino are invited to come up with ways to raise funds for the victim of Typhoon Washi (Sendong). Write a brief description of your fundraiser idea in English or Filipino and send it to btaid@bt.com.bn. Deadline for submission is 31st January, 2012. For more details, please refer to the notice board at the entrance of the church.

12 Days 10 Nights Pilgrimage to Italy and Lourdes

Fr. Robert is organizing a 12-days pilgrimage together with Five Stars Tours of Singapore to Italy and Lourdes departing from Singapore on 27th August 2012. Details of the pilgrimage is posted in the Notice Board at the entrance of the church. To help us to know the number of people who are interested to go on this pilgrimage, please give your details to Fr. Robert. The cost of the trip is not available yet. We hope that many of you will be able to go so that it will be a good starting point to the Year of Faith.

Pope Benedict XVI has declared a "Year of Faith" which will begin in October 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. "It will be a moment of grace and commitment to a more complete conversion to God, to strengthen our faith in Him and proclaim Him with joy to the people of our time," said the Pope, making his announcement during Sunday Mass at St. Peter's Basilica. The Year of Faith will run from October 11, 2012, until November 24, 2013, which is the Solemnity of Christ the King.

*Wishing all our Chinese parishioners a joyfilled and blessed Chinese New Year.
May the blessing of the Lord strengthened you to carry out works of charity.*



so we can make our own speculations. As for the apostles, they didn't run away at all. Almost impulsively they followed Jesus. Possibly they wanted political action. With Jesus' gentle guidance they found out gradually what following the Messiah really meant. Whereas Jonah had imagined the worst and ran away, the apostles imagined the best and followed Jesus into the worst: the passion and crucifixion. Luckily the resurrection followed. Lucky for us all, since suffering seems to be inevitable in human life. So are you running away or running toward? Either way you will have suffering. Either way God will keep after you, pulling you out from fishy entrails, pushing you, pulling you, over and over, to learn in your flesh what love is really about. †

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE (MPC) for 2012

12th & 19th February ♦ 13th & 20th May
5th & 12th August ♦ 18th & 25th November

Couples wishing to get married are kindly reminded to prepare themselves at least six months prior to their wedding and to follow the Marriage Preparation Course schedule. Last minute weddings are very much discouraged as this would make it difficult for the coordinators of the MPC to conduct the course. This is a 2 full day course. Please take note that another requirement for a Catholic marriage is that the Catholic party must already received his/her Confirmation.



DAY	FEAST	READINGS	TIME
Mon 23	3RD WEEK, ORDINARY TIME (PSALTER WK III)	2 Sam 5, 1-7, 10; Mk 3, 22-30.	8:00 AM
Tue 24	3RD WEEK, ORDINARY TIME (PSALTER WK III) ST FRANCIS DE SALES.	2 Sam 6, 12b-15, 17-19; Mk 3, 31-35	5:30 PM
Wed 25	THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE.	Ac 22, 3-16 or Ac 9, 1-22,; Mk 16, 15-18.	6:15 AM
Thu 26	3RD WEEK, ORDINARY TIME (PSALTER WK III) SS. TIMOTHY & TITUS.	2 Tim 1, 1-8 or Tit 1, 1-5; Lk 10, 1-9.	5:30 PM
Fri 27	3RD WEEK, ORDINARY TIME (PSALTER WK III) ST ANGELA MERICI	2 Sam 11, 1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17. Mk 4, 26-34.	St. Angela Convent 6:15 AM
Sat 28	3RD WEEK, ORDINARY TIME (PSALTER WK III) ST THOMAS AQUINAS	2 Sam 12, 1-7a, 10-17. Mk 4, 35-41.	6:15 AM
Sun 29	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (PSALTER WK IV)	Deut 18, 15-20; Ps 94, 1-2, 6-7, 8-9. 1 Cor 7, 32-35. Mk 1, 21-28.	8:00 AM 5:30 PM

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 22

Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

Sometimes we are tempted to run away when we hear God's call. Instead of following God's path, we try to avoid what God wants us to do. God pursues us, no matter how far we go. When we finally give in, we have to obey what God tells us. "Repent!" God says. Is God talking to those foreigners with their strange speech and peculiar ways? Then we hear God speak again: "Repent!" Can God be talking to me? Do I have to rethink what I say and do?

John the Baptist heard God's call and followed God's ways. The road where God led him wasn't an easy one. But even prison walls could not silence the voice of God. John's message was repeated by Jesus: "The reign of God is at hand! Reform your lives and believe the good news!" Simon Peter and Andrew answered his call, but not without a price. "Leave everything behind and come after me," Jesus told them. My job? My family and friends? There must be an easier way! "Think again," Jesus tells us.

For Reflection: How might my life be different if I took Jesus' words seriously? Is this good news or bad?

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

Reading I: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Responsorial Psalm: 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Missal: 588 (New), 901 (Bahasa)

In both the First Reading and the Gospel, people are given a direct invitation to do God's will. Wouldn't it be wonderful for you and for me if we had such a direct summons? Instead of going about in a fog and trying our best to remember how to live, maybe how to pray once in a while and to get to Mass at least on Sunday, wouldn't it be great to be caught up into a command that focused everything in our lives, drew us on like a far-shining star? Maybe. But in the First Reading Jonah was quite repelled by the call God gave him. And in the Gospel the disciples surely had no idea what they were getting themselves into when they dropped everything and followed Jesus. Would they have been so quick if they had known about the crucifixion? It is probably best to start the story of Jonah at its beginning (Jonah, Chapter 1), several chapters earlier than our reading. God says to him, "Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and preach against it; their wickedness has come up before me." Jonah, like a house cat, does exactly the opposite. He drops everything and runs away. He races to Joppa and boards a ship to Tarshish, trying get as far from God's will as possible. The story is well known: God sends a terrible storm. Jonah admits to the crew that he is the cause of their trouble because he is fleeing the command of God. "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea and then the sea will calm down for you. For I know that this great storm has come upon you because of me." When nothing else works, with great reluctance, they toss him overboard. The sea is quieted. Jonah in turn is swallowed by a "large fish," usually referred to in tradition as a whale. Residence in the whale's interior gives Jonah ample time for retrospection. He prays psalms about what he has done. God saves him and tells him a second time to go to the great and sinful city of Nineveh to announce the Lord's message. Jonah submits at last and in today's First Reading, the whole city is converted. Why in the world didn't Jonah just follow God's command instead of running in the opposite direction? One speculation is that Jonah did not want Nineveh, the pagan city, to convert and be saved because this city was an enemy of the Hebrews. But you and I know what it is like to run from what God asks,

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