



Kids Corner - Witness Jesus turning water into wine at the Wedding of Cana, and spot 5 differences in the 2 pictures below.

The Lighter side of The Apostles
the beagle with yellow slippers



John 2: 7 - 10 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

Sunset Mass
5.30pm
Rosary
4.40pm
Sunday Masses
8.30am (Mandarin)
11.00am (English)
2.00pm (Cantonese) Chapel, 3rd Floor
4.20pm (English)
Weekday Masses
7.20am
5.30pm

Intercessory Prayer
7.15pm (Eng, Thu, Adoration Chapel)
Infant Jesus Devotions
5.30pm (Thu, followed by Mass)
4.00pm (Sun, followed by Mass)
Divine Mercy Devotions
Fri, after 5.30pm Mass
Sun, 12.30pm (Mandarin)

Sion Adorers - Holy Hour
7.45pm - 8.45pm (Sat, Adoration Chapel)
Hour of Mercy (Adoration Chapel)
3.00pm (Daily)

Counselling at SPP
Family Life Society Counselling every
Monday 11.00am - 2.00pm and 6.30pm -
9.00pm. Call 6382 0688 for appointment

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We welcome literary contributions to The Apostles. Please email your submission to spptheapostles@gmail.com. You can also download The Apostles at: <http://sppchurch.org.sg/downloads.html>

Parish Priest
Rev Fr Anselm Phang OCD
Asst Parish Priest
Rev Fr Joseph Koh OCD
Provincial-Delegate
Rev Fr Thomas Lim OCD
Parish Secretary
Ms Martha Loh, Ms Jannie Lui

Church Donations
Please make you cheque payable to :
(i) Church Of Sts Peter & Paul -for contributions/donations for on-going maintenance of our Church or parish projects and Mass offerings;
(ii) Church Of SPP Building Fund - for contributions/donations to our Church building fund;
(iii) Carmelite Fathers for contributions/donations to the Carmelite Friars (SPP), OCD Missions, Frairs Formation.

Information is correct at time of publication.

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK
The week of prayer for Christian Unity is held from 18 to 25 January 2010.

PRAY FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY -
The Committee for Ecumenical Movement, Inter-Religious And Ecumenical Dialogue Singapore Archdiocese invites all to come and join in prayer for CHRISTIAN UNITY during the week of prayer which is held from 18 -25 January annually. Special services will be held on a) Mon 18 Jan 2010 from 8 pm to 10 pm (International Ecumenical Service) at our Catholic Church of St Ignatius, King's Road and b) Fri 22 Jan 2010 from 8 pm to 10 pm (Traditional Lutheran Service) at the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Duke's Road. All are welcome. The theme for 2010 is "You Are Witnesses of These Things" Luke 24:48.

One Holy Family - Y. C. Tan

In debt and pressured by loan sharks, a 40-year old man jumped to his death while his wife, a son and a daughter lay dead in an evident murder suicide. A 26-year old man killed his 23-month old daughter after he caught her playing with his cigarettes. Another 38-year old man set fire to a flat, killing his two young children and jumped to his death. After the tragedy, his neighbors commented that they often heard quarrels and sounds of breaking glass from the family. Then, another broken family when two brothers - one a doctor and another an accountant took their less successful sister to the court over inheritance. Apparently, broken relationship, desperate breadwinners, family violence, money and even simple disobedience may lead some ill-fated ones to the wrong path, leaving behind the living and helpless ones feeling stranded and distraught.

Subsequent to the celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family, I kept pondering over the modern societies and family values around the world that emphasize so much on individualism, materialism, freedom, narcissism, rebellion, violence and even self-glorification.



The quote "The world is your oyster" is derived from a Shakesperian play entitled "The Merry Wives of Windsor." It means that you can achieve what you want in your life simply because you have the freedom and opportunity to do so. Fired up by the Baptism of the Lord, we thank the Lord for our own baptism in Him and this means that we need to participate in the mission of Christ our Lord by doing what He is doing. Indeed, many believe that once they are baptized, there is nothing more to be done. Saved! Yes, that is what they will tell you. Actually, we need to join Jesus by imitating his lifestyle and spirit UNTIL the Lord lifts up the lowly.

"For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch." (Isaiah 62:1)

Sometimes, people say they know all about their mission already. But the fact is, the passion wanes and it can be so tempting to lapse into unenlightened existence. Just look at the Catholics who think they are here on this earth to stay and forever. We need reminders - especially those that come from the Lord. But how do we make these reminders present to us?

The world is your cloister. Through contemplation, everything that is in the world can be used to bring you deeper union with God. The world is your cloister: you can reflect on the events that has happened and how God was reaching out to you through them. Without a doubt, the Lord loves you. He wants to marry you. He wants to make you his very own. "For the LORD

delights in you and makes your land his spouse.

As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you." (Isaiah 62:4-5)

This weekend, we are going to take up a second collection for missionary activities taking place in our Archdiocese.

Missions need financial support and they need people to contribute in whatever way they can so that the water can be changed into wine. Missionaries need to work hard; sometimes very hard, to bring the good news to everyone. All of us are called to be missionaries.

On 8th December 1975, Pope Paul VI promulgated a groundbreaking document on evangelization called Evangelii Nuntiandi (On Evangelization in the Modern World). In it, he proclaimed, "the Church exists to evangelize." And if the Church exists to evangelise, how can we accomplish it? "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.

To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." (1 Corinthians 12: 4-7)

The world is your cloister. "Let us do whatever the Lord tells us." (John 2:5).

We certainly have the freedom and opportunity to share our gift's and be blessed by the Lord in all that we do. ■

We welcome literary contributions to our weekly newsletter (articles, observations, book reviews, etc). Please email your submissions to spptheapostles@gmail.com. Include a short introduction of yourself to our readers. Thank you.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (17 JANUARY 2010)

READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C): Page 240
Responsorial Psalm: "Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples."
Prayers of the Faithful: Page 243

Readings for the Week:
Mon 18 Jan – Sat 23 Jan 2010
 Mon : 1 Sam 15: 16-23/Mk 2: 18-22
 Tue : 1 Sam 16: 1-13/Mk 2: 23-28
 Wed : 1 Sam 17: 32-33,37,40-51/Mk 3: 1-6
 Thu : 1 Sam 18: 6-9, 19: 1-7/Mk 3: 7-12
 Fri : 1 Sam 24: 3-21/Mk 3: 13-19
 Sat : 2 Sam 1: 1-4,11-12,19,23-27/Mk 3: 20-21

REFLECTION

This Sunday's passage was the reading chosen for my wedding and also calls to mind Jesus' first miracle. But importantly, there are more significant themes that can be drawn from it – the demonstration of Jesus' Power, of his Kindness, of the power of Mary's faith and last but not least, the power of Mary's request. So often in our lives, we hit "emergency" situations only to be "saved" by God's grace. The wedding at Cana was no different, and highlights the importance of prayer, faith and perhaps a little more unnoticed, perseverance. Mary, our dearest Mother and Mediatrix, is always present for us, and through her powerful intercessions, we can be confident that our prayers are heard by Jesus. Mary's faith in Jesus is exemplary of how we should act, being ready to approach Him and always prepared to act on guidance from God. Perhaps, what I'd also like to share this week from this passage are two other things particularly relating to marriages, plain water to wine, and best wine served after ordinary ones. More so in this day and age, perhaps Jesus is reminding us again, that in every marriage, with prayer and through Him, the ordinary activities (water) can turn into something extraordinary (wine), and if we persevere with Him, the latter years of a marriage (best wine) is going to be even better than the beginning (ordinary wine). May God bless every married couple with his infinite Graces! - *Lectors Ministry*

Thanksgiving. A way of salvation. The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom, Bantam Books, New York City, NY, 1971

Betsie urged Corrie to give thanks in all circumstances—Betsie insisted that Corrie give thanks for the filthy facilities, soiled bedding, claustrophobic spaces stacked with piers for beds stacked three high, and the fleas. Oh yes, the place was teeming with fleas. She excitedly invited Corrie to join her in thanking God for every single thing in their miserable new barracks. Corrie was doubtful.

Then Betsie pointed out a few obvious things: being assigned together, the Bible they were able to smuggle in. Corrie agreed and then chimed in with thanks for the fact that there was no inspection when they entered. Betsie added that they should be thankful that they were packed so close—so that more would hear! She prodded Corrie to pray that, too, so she did. Then Betsie brought up the fleas. To give thanks for the fleas. But Corrie'd had enough. There was no way even God could make her grateful for a flea.

Betsy reminded, "Give thanks in all circumstances," not only in pleasant circumstances. She wanted Corrie to give thanks for everything that was part of the place where God had put them. So she stood there in the filth with her sister, and they gave thanks for the fleas. They invited all the women crammed into that dormitory to join them for worship. They sang hymns and read Scripture, translating into the various

languages represented in the room. They were bold. They preached and prayed and worshiped. In spite of almost constant surveillance everywhere else in the barracks, the dormitory was virtually ignored. They were barely supervised, if at all. They couldn't understand it, but they certainly took advantage of that rare freedom. Then, much later, Betsie was working in the dormitory knitting alongside some others who were too weak for the hard outside labour, and they called for a supervisor to settle some confusion about their assignment. The supervisor came, but wouldn't set foot in the room. It was the fleas. The supervisor said that the place was crawling with fleas and refused to enter.

Giving thanks in times of adversity was never an easy thing to do, but therefore all the more we should because it challenges us to see the goodness of any situation that we are in. We, as youths today, in face of multitude of challenges need to learn how to be optimistic, to overcome each obstacle with the best of our ability. Giving thanks will only serve us good by constantly reminding us of the light at the end of the tunnel, to lead a Christ-centric lifestyle. We need to learn how to praise God when we succeed, praise God when we fail. I strongly believe that when we come to accept the fact that life has its ups and downs, obstacles will be overcome in miraculous ways never expected before, just as how David defeated Goliath. God will never forsake us, remember John 3:16, by forsaking us, He will let His only Son's efforts go to waste. Only by having Christ as the centre of lives, WE, the youths, will be granted the power to change the world. - *The Littlest One.*

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY -

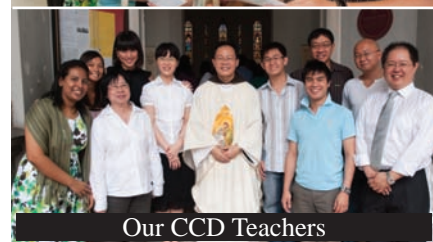
Commissioning ceremony for our CCD Catechism teachers at the 11.00am Mass.



Commissioning



Renewal of commitment



Our CCD Teachers

continued from page 1 - One Holy Family

Amidst this ailing and chaotic world, can we preserve our sanity by instilling a more God-centered home and lifestyle? Undoubtedly, with God filling up the empty spaces and being center in our hearts and families, the peace and love of Christ's presence will takeover the unpleasant and unnecessary fury.

After the Breaking of Word, I considered it might be a good and simple 'Family New Year's Resolution' – at least to make bibles and a picture of the Holy Family visible (not under some pillows) at home whereby I could remind myself and my family members to constantly to learn to be more obedient to God. Thus, we could experience the joy of obedience in our relationships with God and also with our loved ones.

Looking at the Holy Family of Jesus, Joseph and Mary is a like a mirror image of the Church. If Jesus were the loving and caring Bridegroom of the Church, then the Church in return would obey and love Him too. Then, we who are the children and the fruits of the union of husband and wife should be obedient and loving to our parents. Likewise, we could even bring along the same spirit of peace, love and joy of obedience to the Church so we'll have a better understanding of the Church and His heavenly family. Perhaps there is always something in our family lives and lifestyles, some difficulty, some contradiction, some tragedy that we do not understand.

However, we have a choice to either choose to act impulsively, belligerently, impatiently, ostentatiously – or we could choose to put all these aside and let God takes control of our lives.

Events in our Parish

OUR CONDOLENCES - We are saddened to hear the demise of Fr Anselm Phang's mother, Mdm Tham (79 yrs) who passed away peacefully on 6 Jan 2010. We offer our sincere condolences to Fr Anselm and his family members and pray for the repose of the soul of the late Mdm Tham. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

SOLEMN PROFESSION - We are very happy to announce our Church of Sts Peter and Paul will be celebrating the Solemn Profession of Friar Paul of Christ Crucified, OCD (Anuphong Srisuk) and the Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession of Friar Joseph Koh of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, OCD at 6.30 pm on Fri 19 Mar 2010. The Solemnity of St Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Principal Protector of the Carmelite Order.

COLLECTION OF PALMS - If you have old palms, please bring them back to the Church. We are collecting them in preparation for Ash Wednesday. The last day for collection is 24 Jan 2010. Thank you.

CARMELITE LENTEN RETREAT 2010 - 26 to 28 Feb at Montfort Retreat Centre. Please register with the Secretariat.

2ND COLLECTION FOR ACMA MISSION ACTIVITIES - It has been the tradition in the Church in Singapore to hold a 2nd collection for ACMA (Archdiocesan Commission for Missionary Activity) in January of each year to support the various missionary project appeals which come to the attention of our diocese. This collection is a beautiful opportunity for our Catholics to look further than the local needs and to contribute to the Kingdom of God in other countries. As such there will be a 2nd collection on Sat/Sun 16/17 Jan 2010 at all masses to raise funds for this missionary effort. Cheques may also be sent to the Archdiocesan Procurator at 31 Victoria Street, Singapore 187997 before the end of Feb 2010. Please write your cheque in favour of "Titular R.C. Archbishop of Singapore" with a note "ACMA" on the reverse. Thank you for your generosity,

MASS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED - A Mass dedicated to the souls of the faithful departed whose remains are placed in the columbarium in our church, and for their family members is held in our church every last Friday of the month. For the month of Jan 2010 it will be held on Fri 29 Jan 2010 at 5.30 pm.

DAILY PRAYER - Our SPP Church prays the Lauds led by the Carmelite Friars every weekday morning after the 7.20 am Mass. All are welcome.

COUNSELLING SERVICES - Family Life Society (FLS) is making its counselling services available at our SPP Church every Monday from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm and from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm. Lay Counsellors trained by FLS will be available to provide a listening

ear and help to those in need. Parishioners may call 6382 0688 (weekdays from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm) to make an appointment. Website: <http://www.familylife.sg/>

Events around our Parish

TALK TO YOUR CHILD NOW! (before it's too late) - Many of you would remember the loss of a young man, Thaddeus Cheong, after his triathlon feat close to 3 years ago. From this tragedy, lessons emerged on family life, parent-child relationship (or lack of) drawing strength from adversity, etc. CANA has invited Dr Belinda Wee, the aunt of Thaddeus and author of the book "Running the full distance: Thaddeus Cheong" - to speak to parents on Tuesday 19 January 2010, 7.30 pm @CANA. Registration: cana@catholiccentre.com.sg or call 63364467 / 63364815



CASH-CARD CAR PARK SYSTEM - Please note that our cash-card car park barrier system is implemented with effect from Mon 11 Jan 2010. The rates for cars parking in our Church compound are as follows:

Monday to Saturday :
 7.00 am to 9.00 pm - \$1.50 per half hour or part thereafter
 9.00 pm to 7.00 am - \$10/- per hour or part thereafter
 Sunday: Free parking

The church gates will be closed from 9 pm to 6 am. Parking rates for vehicles parked in the Church compound after closing hours will be levied \$10/- per hour or part thereafter.

From Monday to Saturday, for Church worshippers attending Masses, a 'Mass-Time' grace period will be granted from 6 am to 9 am and from 4.30 pm to 7.30 pm. For Church visitors on weekdays, a 10-minute grace period will be given from 6.00 am to 9.00 pm. Church members who come for meetings and other activities will be issued complimentary tickets. They are to inform the Group Leader of their activity period and to collect the complimentary tickets from the Group Leader one week in advance.

Instructions for motorists: Use the same Cash Card for Entry & Exit. At Entry, insert Cash Card or wave Cash Card with "Flash Pay" logo. At Exit, insert/wave Cash Card. For Complimentary Ticket (CT) holders, at Exit point scan CT. LCD shows "CT". Insert/wave Cash Card. Remove Cash Card.

These measures are necessary for security reasons and to prevent abuse when non church-goers park their vehicles in the premises for a long duration or when they leave their cars over-night. We thank you sincerely for your understanding and co-operation.



793 Table of Plenty

This is one of St. Cecelia Choir's most familiar hymns and it is also my favourite hymn. Its lively beat and catchy lyrics leaves a strong impression in me and whenever this song is sung, it is usually lingering in my mind for the rest of the day.

One particular verse stands out among the rest – "My bread will ever sustain you. Through days of sorrow and woe. My wine will flow like a sea of gladness. To flood the depths of your soul." In many occasions when I was down, challenged and demoralized in my life, I often questioned why God was not there for me. Little did I know God has worked in His marvellous ways to help me, in one way or another and only in hindsight I witnessed God's work. This verse serves as a reminder to me that God is always with me and His love, like the bread and wine in the verse, is unconditional and ever flowing. All I need to do is to trust and go to Him for comfort and strength.

As we enter the year 2010 with new trials and challenges, let us all remember that a feast has been prepared for us and we are invited to come to the table of plenty provided by our heavenly Father. - *sc*

Thanksgiving...

First, I would like to thank my friends and teachers who had helped me with my studies this few years leading to my 'O' Levels, without their guidance I would not do well for those subjects I am weak in. Second, I would like to thank my parents for giving me the environment to study and perform in school. Lastly, I would like to thank God for giving me the perseverance and patience to sit for my exam, blessing me with the results I got even though the grades are not fantastic. I would also like to thank everyone who had been supporting me! Thank You! *Benedict Teo (Vice President of Altar Servers)*



1st Christmas Party by ARISE

Last weeks, there were 2 articles written by our youths from ARISE. The First article titled '1st Christmas Party by ARISE' is written by Christina. The other article titled "Countdown as One Body" was written by Jason. Our apologies from missing out on the name of the writers.