

OCTOBER 2020 BRIEF FINANCIALS

Brief financials for SSVP Holy Family Church Conference for month of October 2020:

- a) Amt collected thru First Sunday-2nd Collections : \$ 0.00
- b) Donations received (up to 31 October): \$ 5,168
- c) Amt disbursed in August: \$ 16,849.15

DONATIONS TO CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Parishioners who wish to continue their weekly donations may consider sending your cheque favouring **Church of the Holy Family**.

Alternatively you may also send via PayNow. Please enter **T08CC4048E** Unique Entity Number (UEN) for "**Church of The Holy Family**" and in the reference, type **Mass Collection**.

MASS OFFERINGS

You can make your mass offerings by:

Cash—drop your envelopes in the donation boxes in Church or at Parish Office

Cheque favouring Church of the Holy Family with the time, date of mass, intention and name(s)

Paynow T08CC4048E Unique Entity Number (UEN) for "Church of The Holy Family" and in the reference, type **Mass Offering**. Send a screenshot of the acknowledgement of transfer by email to chf.secretariat@catholic.org.sg with time, date of mass, intention and name(s).

COLUMBARIUM

The Columbarium is open on Mondays to Fridays, 9.30am to 5.30pm except 12.30—2.30pm. Entry will be restricted to a maximum of 5 per group. Please book online minimum **48 hours in advance** via this link: <http://calendly.com/holyfamilysg/columbarium>.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Those seeking Sacrament of Reconciliation are requested to make an appointment by sending an email directly to: Fr Adrian Yeo (adrian.yeo@catholic.org.sg) or Fr Stanislaus Pang (stanislaus.pang@catholic.org.sg).

ADVENT TO CHRISTMAS 2020 REFLECTION E-BOOKLET

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a reflection e-booklet to journey with you throughout Advent & Christmas.

They are available in English, Chinese and Tamil. The reflection themes for Advent & Christmas are "The Coming Word" and "Word Among Us" respectively.

Please download the e-booklet at: bit.ly/AdventChristmas2020

Short weekly videos that complement the e-booklet will also be uploaded on Mon 8pm, starting 23 Nov 2020 at tinyurl.com/oneyoutubechannel



CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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Mass Times

Weekdays:

6.30 pm (Mondays to Fridays)

8.30 am (Public Holidays)

Saturday Sunset Masses:

4.00 pm & 5.30pm (English)

Mandarin Mass

8.00 pm (1st & 3rd Saturdays)

Sunday Masses:

8.00, 9.30 & 11.00 am

5.30 pm

Columbarium

Infant Baptism

Weddings

Adoration Room

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Elders Catechism (Dialect)

Meditation Classes

Divine Mercy

Family Rosary

Family Eucharistic Adoration

Mon—Fri: 9.30am to 5.30pm except 12.30—2.30pm. Online booking only,

Please check with the Secretariat Office for dates.

Apply at Parish Office at least 1 year in advance

Mon – Sat 7am to 10 pm, Sun / Public Holidays: 7am to 8.30pm

Every Saturday, 6pm Mass or Evening 1.30am Mass

Every Thursday, 1pm to 3pm @ Adoration Hall

Tuesdays/Thursday 9.30am to 7.30pm

Every Friday, 7.30pm

1st Saturday of month, 3.30—4pm @ Main Church

1st Saturday of every month, 4—5pm @ Adoration Room

SUSPENDED



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 8, 2020 – Year A

Sunday Missal Page No; 586

KEEP YOUR LAMPS

The Bridegroom comes; go and meet him. The Lord Jesus himself comes to greet us. It is the wedding feast of the Lamb. We are the bridesmaids, but also the bride. We are wise if we are always ready to meet our Lord and Savior, and foolish if we are not present and listening when he calls us. Be wise, listen to God's wisdom, and be ready when the trumpet of God sounds and the voice of the archangel announces the coming of the Lord! Are you wise or foolish?

Sunday Missal Readings for next weekend – 15 November

Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 1 Th 5:1-6 Mt 25:14-30

MESSAGE FOR 32ND SUNDAY , YEAR A, 2020

The Ten Bridesmaids

In today's passage from Matthew, Jesus tells a parable of a village marriage. Apparently ten girls would be asked to accompany the bride as she awaited the arrival of the bridegroom. The problem was that they had no idea when the bridegroom would turn up and, when it got dark, they would need to have lighted lamps. If the bride's companions were caught unawares, if they were not around when the bridegroom came, they could be locked out or left behind.

Imagery drawn from marriage was a traditional way to describe the relationship between God and his people. When asked why his disciples, unlike those of John the Baptist, did not fast, Jesus replied: "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them?" (Matthew 9:15). And, a few weeks back, on the 28th Sunday, we saw Jesus tell the parable of the guests invited to the marriage feast of a father's son.

The ten virgins represent disciples of Jesus, as they await his coming. On the basis of what happens later on, five are described as wise or sensible and five as foolish. Their wisdom here consists in their taking prudent steps to do what they need to do in order to come face to face with their Lord.

However, the bridegroom is long in coming. The early expectation of the Second Coming has not been realised. All – both the sensible ones who brought a sufficient supply of oil as well as those who did not – "grow drowsy and fall asleep". Thus it seems that being fully awake at every single moment is not the point but rather the overall readiness when the time comes to respond.

God of surprises

Then, right in the middle of the night, the cry goes up, "The bridegroom is here! Go out to meet him!" Our God is a God of surprises. You never know how or when he is going to appear. For some, it is a long-awaited and long-desired announcement; for others, it creates alarm. For those well stocked with the oil of loving service to their brothers and sisters, the cry is one that fills them with joy and anticipation.

For those who have squandered the gifts they have been given, the announcement fills them with dread. We might feel that the "wise" virgins were rather selfish in refusing to share their oil with the "foolish" in such a critical situation. However, the parables of Jesus normally are making one point taken from some common experience of daily life. The focus is on that one point and other details are not part of it. Another example might be the parable of the dishonest steward who falsified all his employer's accounts so that he could make sure of future employment for himself. Jesus, who was obviously not condoning this man's behaviour, only used it as an example of how even a bad person can take prudent steps to guarantee his future.

We can also say in the context of today's parable that the "oil" of loving service is not strictly speaking transferable to others. Our preparedness to meet the Lord is something that is ultimately only our responsibility. No one can say "Yes" to Christ on

my behalf. (Therefore, those baptised in infancy also have at some stage to say "Yes", on the basis of their own faith, to Jesus as their Lord.) So, while the foolish virgins went off to make up for lost and wasted time, "those who were ready" went into the wedding hall and "the door was closed". All are invited, but not all get inside. All are called but few are among the chosen ones. This is not due to any partiality on the bridegroom's part but because of the tardiness of some in responding to the invitation. The closed door means that access to Jesus is not automatic or to be altogether taken for granted. And that is precisely the warning in today's readings.

"I do not know you"

The foolish virgins eventually get back with their necessary supplies of oil and find the door shut in their face. "Lord, Lord, open the door for us." In reply, they hear the most terrible words God could speak to us: "I am sorry, I do not know who you are. I invited you to be part of my wedding but you have never been with me. You have been asleep or you have been going your own way."

In an emergency there are some things we can borrow from others at short notice. But to be ready to meet Jesus, to have fully accepted his Gospel vision as part of our life, to walk hand in hand with him is not something we can suddenly wake up to and say, "Give it to me now!" By then, it is just too late. Let us pray, then, today for that wisdom which knows where the real secrets of life and success are.

The truly wise person is the one who has not waited until "some time in the future" to make Jesus fully part of their life. For quite a number of Christians it seems that setting up a career and making money are more important priorities than making the Gospel a major part of their lives. It is a risky investment. If there ever was a blue chip for life, it is Jesus and the way of life he offers us in the Gospel. So many pass it up. They are indeed foolish virgins.

The only way

It is not a question of taking a gamble on making a last-minute confession on your deathbed. It is a question rather of what I plan to do this very day and every day. There are two short prayers which we may find useful to be said at any time as we go through our day:

"Lord, grant that all my thoughts, intentions, actions and responses may be directed solely to your love and service this day."

"Help me, Lord, to seek, to find, and to respond to you in every person and every experience of this day."

If these prayers really reflect the fabric of my daily living, then let the bridegroom come when he will – I am ready. Instead of knocking at his door, I will find that he comes to knock at mine. "I [Jesus] stand at the door and knock. Today he is certainly going to knock at my door. Will I be in when he comes?"

- Living Space

THRIFT SHOP

Due to upcoming renovation of Emmaus House, the Thrift Shop will be closed indefinitely. **Please do not leave your donations in the Church compound.**