

HOLY FAMILY KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten registration is now open for parishioners, with children born in 2015 to 2018.

Kindly contact the office at Tel; 6440 4344 or email us at lss-cohf.principal@catholicpreschool.edu.sg on a first come first serve basis.

AN URGENT PLEA FOR DONATIONS

Our poor needs your continued support

We are humbled and grateful to the tremendous response to our first appeal for donations.

Given the ongoing pandemic and continues suspension of masses, we will need a further S\$3m to meet the basic needs of the poor till the end of the year.

We once again appeal to your kindness and generosity to meet that target. Many lives have been turned upside down by the current crisis and we anticipate more coming forward to seek our help. Please help them tide over this crisis.

PayNow Donations: UEN Code: S61SS0149BNCS

Cheque Donations: "SSVP NC Singapore"

Mailing Address:

Society of St Vincent de Paul, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh
#04-01 Agape Village, Singapore 319264



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**.

For more information, please refer to Church of the Holy Family website <http://holyfamily.org.sg>.

FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMME : BIBLE STUDY - GOSPEL OF JOHN

Join us on this Bible Study series. Msgr Ambrose Vaz will take us through a 14-week reflection on the Eternal Word Jesus, the Word Made Flesh.

Written in a poetic and symbolic style, John's gospel tells the life story of Jesus the incarnate Word of God. It begins with his heavenly existence and his descent into the world. It follows Jesus through his public ministry, of signs that lead to his passion, death and resurrection, and the ultimate ascent to the "glory" of his Heavenly Father.

Day / Date: Tuesday, 21 July to 20 October 2020

Time: 7:45pm – 9:45 pm

Via : ZOOM platform

Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/john-gospel> or through www.holyfamily.org.sg.

For queries, please contact Paulin at 9627 8739 or email faithform2016@gmail.com

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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Mass Times

Weekdays:

6.15 am (Mondays to Saturdays)

6.15 pm (Mondays to Fridays)

8.30 am (Public Holidays)

Saturday Sunset Masses:

6.00 pm (English) & 6.00 pm (Latin)

Sunday Masses:

7.15, 8.30 am & 6.00 pm

(Collection 30 minutes before weekend masses)

Novena: 5.00 pm Saturday

DIVINE MERCY - Every Friday @

7.00pm in Main Church

POSTPONED

Adoration Room

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

Columbarium

Mon – Fri: 6.00am to 7.00pm | Sat: 6.00am to 9.00pm

Sunday: 7.00am to 7.00pm | Public Holidays: 8.00am to 12noon

Infant Baptism

*Please refer to **Church website** or **Secretariat Office** for dates.*

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Every Saturday, 6.00pm & Sunday, 11.30am Mass

Elders Catechism (Dialect)

Every Thursday @ Church Function Hall

Meditation Classes

Tuesday & Wednesday: Wednesdays 7.30pm

Divine Mercy

Every Friday @ Main Church

Family Rosary

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

Family Eucharistic Adoration

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

Weddings

Apply at Parish Office at least 1 year in advance

POSTPONED



TREASURES

Today's parables highlight the kingdom of heaven as the only thing worth possessing and open for us the choice to take it or not. It is open to everyone, and we must follow Jesus or we will not make it. Like Solomon, we need discerning judgment of what is good and evil. God will grant this gift if we ask for it so that we may follow the way of the Lord. God's entire storeroom holds treasures to help us. Do you seek and use them?

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 26, 2020 - Year A

Sunday Missal Page No: 537

Sunday Missal Readings for next weekend – 2 August

Is 55:1-3 Rom 8:35,37-39 Mt 14:13-21

THE PEARL AND TREASURE: THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND ETERNAL LIFE

Dear Fellow Parishioners of Holy Family,

This is the last weekend that Fr Alphonsus and I will be with you all. We will be leaving the Parish on Friday 31st July.

I think it is really providential that we have the Readings of today's Mass. They summarise in a wonderful way what we have been trying to do in this parish for all of you.

In the first reading, from 1Kgs 3:5,7-12, we see how God gave Solomon a choice of gifts. Solomon asked God for "an understanding mind," so that he could always do what was just and best for his subjects. God rewarded him with the gift of wisdom making him, proverbially, the wisest man ever.

This is what we wish that our parishioners of Holy Family would continually ask of God. We have been working in the parish to build up in you all that "understanding mind" so that you would always do what is just and best for your individual lives and that of your respective families and community and society.

It is that "understanding mind" that makes us be parishioners who get involved in the life of the parish not for ourselves and our vain glory, but for the good of others, and the growth and development of the parish at large.

The second reading from Rom 8:28-30 illustrates the graciousness and mercy of God at work in calling men to himself, justifying them, and glorifying them as well. The point of the reading is the eternal mystery of the ineffable love of God for every man and woman, even before they existed.

It is this love that we have been trying to urge all of you, dear parishioners, to live in. We have been trying to build up this parish to be an expression of that way of God's graciousness and mercy. We have been struggling, but persevering, in getting our parishioners to go beyond the past hurts and grievances that cause divisions and tensions and leave us to be uninvolved in parish life and mission. We pray that the love of the Lord God, as shared by St Paul, will allow us to let bygones be bygones, and to forge relationships anew so that we could all get involved in continuing our parish mission of building up a family and community of faith, love and service.

The Gospel passage is from Mt 13:44-52 which presents us some important parables, the lesson of which is as true for us today, as it was for those Palestinians to whom Christ spoke.

All Christians are called on to imitate the two wise men, and surrender all their earthly possessions, if necessary, in order to gain the pearl of great price and the treasure in the field – the kingdom of God and eternal life.

Does this "giving all" mean that we are all expected to abandon the world and take on the religious vows of poverty, chastity and obedience? There are many who do just this. But it is not the only way, nor the normal way, to purchase the eternal treasure. Heaven is within the reach of all, who follow the ordinary vocations of life and partake of this world's joys and pleasures *within the framework of God's commandments*, but never lose sight of the goal toward which they are moving.

more.../facing page

Keeping within the framework of God's commandments is the difficulty. We need not have a vow of obedience, but we must obey all legitimate authority. We may possess the goods of this world, but only such goods as we lawfully and justly acquire. Nor may we withhold all of these from a fellow man who is in need. We do not have to take a vow of chastity, but yet we must be chaste, we must use the gifts and the pleasure of sex only within the limits set down by God's wise laws.

All of this is not easy for human nature. But we are not relying on weak human nature, we have within our reach in the Church all the spiritual and supernatural aids we need. Our world today, it is true, is so engrossed in chasing after the earthly comforts and pleasures of the body, and so devoid of any spiritual or other-worldly outlook, that even those who know and believe that there is an eternity after death, find it hard to allow their faith and convictions to govern and direct their daily actions. Yet, the evil example of others will never justify our wrongdoing. The commandments of God are still binding, even though they are openly and flagrantly violated by individuals and whole nations today.

Remember this: we shall not be asked at the judgment, "What did your neighbour do?", but "what did you do?" If we lose the pearl of great price in the eternity of happiness God has offered to us - it will not be the fault of others. The fault will be ours and ours only. We refused to pay the price. We did not think it worth the "paltry all" which we possessed in this life.

Dear parishioners of Holy Family, we have been trying out best all these past years to make sure you all not only have the pearl and treasure with you, but that you enjoy it and share it with others.

As Fr Alphonsus and I leave you in the good hands of Fr Adrian, Fr Stanislaus and Deacon Clement, we wish you God's choicest blessings and graces. May he fill you with his love, graciousness and mercy. May the strength and power of God's Holy Spirit be so alive in all of you that not a single person of this parish community be uninvolved in building up the parish which exists precisely to build up the Kingdom of God.

As we leave the parish, we want to thank all of you for your good spirit, generosity and kindness to us. We want to reiterate that we really appreciate all the wonderful ways you have cooperated and collaborated with us in our efforts to build up the parish community and family, and chose to overlook the errors of our human weakness.

We want to ask your forgiveness if we have inadvertently and unconsciously hurt you in any way. Believe us – it was never our intention to hurt any one of you. We were not appointed here to do that. But in the course of our priestly ministry if we have not seen eye to eye with each other and so entered into misunderstandings and grievances, we are not only sorry but also hopeful that eventually the way of the Lord as expressed in the readings of today's Mass will prevail among all of you.

Please pray for us as we move on in the next part of our journey in Kingdom building and we continue to pray for you. God Bless you all!

Fr Eugene Vaz and Fr Alphonsus Dominic