



天主教聖方濟堂 · 華人教務中心

St. Francis Xavier Parish · Chinese Catholic Centre

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主曆 2024 年 12 月 1 日 (丙年)

將臨期第一主日



神父片語

李志雄神父 (耀漢小兄弟會)

Fr. Chi Hung Ly, CSJB

「警醒準備」

各位主內兄弟姊妹:

今天是禮儀年丙年將臨期第一主日，教會開始禮儀生活新的一年，對教會而言，今天可以說是新一年的開始，所以我們可以彼此問候：新年快樂。將臨期是期待我們救主耶穌趕快來到我們心中，我們也應有所準備。也就是說，我們在將臨期內如何來迎接救主耶穌，以及在將臨期內應有怎樣的準備態度。在這特別的時刻，我們被召喚去警醒、準備，為主的降臨做足準備。將臨期是一段期待的旅程，提醒我們生活的意義，以及我們心靈的渴望。我們在將臨期翹首以待耶穌基督，人類的救主。

今日福音耶穌要我們警醒準備祂再度的來到。對自己要多作克己，改變自己的壞習慣。「你們要警醒！因為你們不知道那日子什麼時候要來到。」在我們的生活中，是否也有類似的情形？我們是否因為忙碌的工作、家庭的責任或社交的活動，而忽略了心靈的準備？每一個人都應當時刻時刻地作好準備，把每一天都當作仿佛是最後一天。

各位主內兄弟姊妹們：每年在十二月三號是慶祝聖方濟各沙勿略瞻禮，亦是我們堂區的主保。在當天早上九點舉行英文彌撒給本堂的學生慶祝主保；晚上七點半，用中文舉行慶祝主保感恩聖祭與我們本堂的教友們慶祝這喜慶的日子。我邀請大家一起來參與彌撒，我們要像聖人一樣活起來！向未認識天主的人以行動、以言語、以生活去宣講福音，引導他們皈依天主。就好像聖方濟各沙勿略，他遠赴日本和印度傳教，並且還打算進入中國，向中國人民傳福音。他是偉大的傳教士，身體力行，所以他成了教會的「傳教主保」。福傳活動是所有基督徒使命，而是每位基督徒按照自己的能力和自己生活的情況，有義務和責任去傳揚耶穌的喜訊。我們蒙召就是為了繼承基督的使命介紹



Sunday, 1st December, 2024 (Year C)

First Sunday of Advent

朋友去慕道，其實教友傳教的第一個對像是自己的家人。本堂的堂慶，希望大家繼續支持我們的堂區，教友們要增強自己的信仰，以感恩的心，團結一心，無私的奉獻使大家共融合一。

各位主內的兄弟姐妹們：將臨期是一個希望的時期，它提醒我們宗教信仰是有希望的信仰。讓我們在這個將臨期中，警醒準備，期待主的到來。願我們的心靈在祂的光明中被照亮，願我們的生活因祂的愛而改變。聖教會再次提醒我們在這將臨期內，積極方面要多祈禱，參與聖事，行愛德以及修德行，為人要謙和，善待別人，為別人提供服務。並在生活中以言以行多為耶穌作見證。

願天主的平安常與我們同在！

李志雄神父 CSJB

“First Sunday of Advent”

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today is the first Sunday of Year C in the liturgical calendar cycle. The First Sunday of Advent marks the start of a new year in the church, so we should take this opportunity to wish each other a happy new year. The Advent season is a time in which we eagerly anticipate the arrival of our saviour, and we should make suitable preparation in our hearts. In other words, we must reflect on what we must do and what we must change in order to receive Jesus in our hearts. In this period of time, we are called to be alert and to prepare for Christ's coming. Advent is a journey of anticipation, which reminds us of our purpose in life and awakens us to the deepest desires of our hearts. Let us reorient our priorities in this next month and put Christ as the centre of our lives, for he is our Lord and saviour.

In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us to be alert and wait diligently for his second coming. We must make sacrifices in our lives, and overcome our vices and addictions. "Be alert! For you do not know the day nor the hour." Everyone should be constantly prepared, and treat every day as their last day.

..... to be continued on page 2

堂區司鐸

李志雄 神父 (主任司鐸)

黃公宇 神父 (助理司鐸)

Pastor

Rev. Chi Hung (Joseph) Ly, CSJB

Assistant Pastor

Rev. Dominic Hoang, CSJB

感恩禮時間

星期六提前感恩禮: 下午五時半 (國語)

主日感恩禮: 上午八時正 (粵語)

上午九時半 (粵語)

上午十一時十五分 (英語)

下午二時 (國語)

平日感恩禮: 頤園 星期一至星期六上午八時

聖方濟堂 星期一至星期六上午九時

修和聖事 彌撒後或預約: 604-254-2727

明供聖體小堂, 每日上午八時至晚上七時

以上禮儀活動的變更, 從二〇二四年一月一日開始。

Mass Schedule

Saturday Anticipated Mass: 5:30pm (Mandarin)

Sunday Masses: 8:00am (Cantonese)

9:30am (Cantonese)

11:15am (English)

2:00pm (Mandarin)

Weekday Mass : Happy Manor 8am Monday to Saturday

SFX Parish 9am Monday to Saturday

Reconciliation After Mass or By appointment: 604-254-2727

The Adoration Chapel is open from 8am to 7pm every day

Above changed schedule starts from January 1, 2024.

.....Continued from page 1.....

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, each year, we celebrate our parish feast day on December 3rd. On that day, we will celebrate a 9 AM mass in English for our elementary school students and a 7:30 pm mass in the evening in Chinese to celebrate the life of Saint Francis Xavier. I would like to invite everyone to attend our liturgy so as to better imitate the virtues of our patron saint. We should proclaim the Gospel to those who do not know Christ through our words and our actions; we should allow our love to draw others closer to Christ. Saint Francis Xavier had a deep desire to bring the Gospel to the East. He journeyed to Japan

and India and dreamed of bringing Christ to the Chinese people. He is a great patron of mission, and his efforts and zeal earned him that special patronage. The work of evangelization is the task of all Christians; we must all contribute to this work in whatever way we can. At our baptism, we received the mission to bring the Gospel to our friends and family, and we should actively invite them to come to church and to be enrolled into our RCIA and PREP programs. On the occasion of our feast day celebration, I hope that all our parishioners may continue to support our community and also it to be a place of unity, of thanksgiving and of love. May we all work together, selflessly, to accomplish the mission God entrusted us with.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Advent is a time of hope. We are reminded that our faith is a faith of hope and anticipation. The Church urges us to pray frequently, and to receive the sacraments during Advent; we are also called to do works of charity and give of ourselves for the sake of others through genuine acts of service. We should be witnesses of Christ's love through our words and actions.

May God's peace always be with us!

Fr. Chi Hung Ly, CSJB

聖方濟主保瞻禮晚宴
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
Feast Day Dinner
12月1日, 星期日 · DEC 1, SUNDAY 2024

感謝天主的心情
With a Heart Full of Gratitude to God

*Become rich in every way,
and give abundantly.
What you give will become,
through us, a thanksgiving to God.
2 Corinthians 9:11*

叫你們事事富足, 以致十分慷慨, 致使人因此藉着我們而產生出感謝天主的心情
格林多後書 9:11

<p>Location: Pink Pearl Chinese Restaurant (1132 E Hastings St., Vancouver)</p> <p>Ticket: \$120 per person with \$50 tax receipts</p> <p>Reception: 5:00PM Dinner: 6:00 PM</p>	<p>地點: 珠城大酒樓</p> <p>晚餐券: 每位 \$120 (\$50 退稅)</p> <p>五時恭候 六時入席</p>
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二零二四年教宗十二月份的祈禱意向

請為希望的朝聖者祈禱

祈願這禧年能加強我們的信德, 幫助我們在日常生活中認出復活的基督, 並使我們成為基督信仰希望的朝聖者。

Pope's prayer Intention for December 2024

FOR PILGRIMS OF HOPE

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



平日感恩祭意向 Intentions For Daily Eucharist

日期 Date	意向 Intention	奉獻者 Offered by
主日 Sunday 12月1日	為全體信友 為 Sandra Young 健康求恩 為 Irene Siu 求恩 追悼 新亡者 段文盛神父 追悼 Mabel Chan 追悼 Amber Liu 追悼 Mabel Chan 追悼 Mabel Chan 追悼 廖家祖先 追悼 黃經緯 追悼 黃劍雄	本堂神父們 Winnie Lam Irene Law 蔡榮佳 Family Chan's Family Belinda Lee Virginia Ip Yunice Yam 廖翠蓮 黃宅 Grace & Derek Chu
星期一 Monday 12月2日	謝恩 追悼 Mabel Chan 追悼 羅琮仙姊妹 追悼 David 陳勝利兄弟 謝恩 追悼 父母親, 外婆	馮宅 Chan's Family 胡琴仙 托彼特善別組 Robert Lo Anne & Family
星期二 Tuesday 12月3日	追悼 Mabel Chan 追悼 羅琮仙姊妹 謝恩 追悼 鄭老太 Monica 追悼 Mabel Chan	Chan's Family 胡琴仙 盧伯泉 夫婦 Belinda Lee Henry & Cecilia Ho
星期三 Wednesday 12月4日	謝恩 追悼 Mabel Chan 追悼 羅琮仙姊妹 追悼 煉靈 Rose Wang	Chan's Family 胡琴仙 李太 Belinda Lee
星期四 Thursday 12月5日	為聖召祈禱 追悼 Mabel Chan 追悼 馬永洪 追悼 Rose Lew Wong 追悼 煉靈	Cecilia Chan's Family 家人 Mary & Gregory Cecilia
星期五 Thursday 12月6日	追悼 Mabel Chan 追悼 煉靈 追悼 Mabel Chan 追悼 煉靈 求恩	Chan's Family Cecilia Mary & Gregory Cecilia John Jiang & Family
星期六 Saturday 12月7日	追悼 Mabel Chan 追悼 Chun Kit Lam 追悼 Mary 吳鉞行 追悼 范見明 謝恩	Chan's Family Lam's Family 朱方明, 朱佳嘉 范婉華 Hing Nui Lau

若要查詢或發現錯漏之處，請與敬雅潔修女聯絡：
604-254-2727 內線 105 或電郵 sfx.parish.bulletin@gmail.com

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Coordinator email: rcia.sfx@gmail.com

成人慕道班

負責人聯繫: rcia.sfx@gmail.com



將臨期

時常醒寤 善渡將臨期

本主日是將臨期首主日，教會的禮儀年正是由將臨期揭開序幕，這是一個滿載希望和喜悅的時期。我們在將臨期應該時刻作好準備，迎接主耶穌的降生。將臨期的英文 Advent，來自拉丁文 Adventus，解作「出現」或「到來」。將臨期不單是為主耶穌來臨作好準備，而是期待耶穌基督再次來臨——這個「再次來臨」是祂所預許的，也是整個受造界的期盼，盼望一個在基督內更美好，與上主完全共融合一的「將來」。

將臨期首主日的主題是「醒寤」，時常留心，因為我們不知道，主耶穌甚麼時候來到。我們也要反省，省察自己的生活，反省自己在日常生活中，有否對不起

家人或朋友，做人處事有否按照基督徒的價值觀，最重要是有否對不起天主。的確，我們生活上經常面對各種誘惑，醒寤讓我們看清楚這些誘惑，去拒絕任何影響或引誘自己的事物，妥善地運用天主所賜的才能，時刻作好準備，交出天主要求的成果。只有這樣，我們才可以進入天父的家，領取永遠的賞報。信德幫助我們時常醒寤，認出主耶穌臨於人間的標記，例如在窮人或有需要的人身上，找到耶穌的臨在，在生活中與主相遇，從而成聖自己，聖化他人。

我們不妨從兩方面出發，善渡將臨期：首先是清理和潔淨自己的心靈，勤辦修和聖事，請求天主和別人寬恕自己的過失，並作出真心的痛悔和改過；另一方面，我們亦要學懂寬恕得罪自己的人，讓信德和望德堅定自己的意志。其次是學習感恩，感謝天主、父母和所有恩人，透過悔罪和更新迎接耶穌基督的來臨。

將臨期每個主日皆會燃點一根蠟燭，象徵基督之光，即生命之光。這燭光提醒我們，距離主耶穌的降生又接近一個星期。耶穌說：「我是世界的光，跟隨我的，決不在黑暗中行走，必有生命的光。」

(若八 12) 趁著新的禮儀年開始，我們更應坐言起行，為來年訂下具體的信仰培育及靈修計劃；誠如湯漢樞機在本年將臨期牧函鼓勵信友，積極參與目前教區推動的堂區更新運動，並熱心祈禱，勤讀聖言，致力福傳和關愛弱小，活出真正的基督徒精神。

資料來源 <https://kkp.org.hk/past/detail/46959/>



堂區及教區消息

Parish and Archdiocesan News



* 堂區主保聖方濟·沙勿略九日敬禮

聖方濟·沙勿略九日敬禮將於 11 月 24 日開始至 12 月 2 日。鼓勵所有教友為紀念堂區主保，熱心參與這九日敬禮及彌撒。平日彌撒後將親吻聖方濟·沙勿略聖髑及恭唸聖方濟·沙勿略祈禱文。教友也可以每日在家誦念聖方濟沙勿略九日敬禮禱文。

* 12 月 1 日(星期日)聖方濟堂主保瞻禮晚宴

聖方濟堂主保瞻禮晚宴於 12 月 1 日(星期日)在珠城大酒樓舉行，地址: 1132 East Hastings Street, Vancouver。五時恭候，六時入席。多謝各位教友支持！

* 12 月 1 日(星期日)將臨花環工作坊

家庭牧民將於 12 月 1 日 下午 12:30 舉辦將臨花環工作坊，當日還會提供茶點、遊戲和祈禱活動。詳情請參閱後頁海報，人數有限，有興趣體驗的家庭，記得盡快登記報名。

* 12 月 3 日(星期二)聖方濟堂主保瞻禮感恩聖祭

聖方濟堂慶祝九十一週年主保瞻禮的感恩聖祭將於 12 月 3 日(星期二)舉行，誠摯邀請主內的兄弟姊妹一同參與，共沐主恩。

- 上午 9 時 英語學校彌撒

- 晚上 7 時 30 分 中文彌撒

* 12 月 6 日首瞻禮六(每月第一個星期五)

特別恭敬耶穌聖心

晚上 7 時 30 分舉行耶穌聖心彌撒，彌撒後舉行明供聖體至晚上 9 時。

* 12 月 8 日(主日)堂區大會

李神父將於 12 月 8 日(主日)下午 1:00 在聖若瑟房召開堂區大會，共同策劃 2025 年堂區活動。誠摯邀請所有堂區牧民及財務議會成員、兩名善會及團體代表參加。

* Novena to St. Francis Xavier, patron saint of our Parish

This year, the Novena to St. Francis Xavier will take place from Nov.24 to Dec.2. All parishioners are encouraged to attend Mass on these dates in honour of our patron saint. After weekday Masses, we will say the prayer to St. Francis Xavier and venerate his relics. Parishioners who are unable to come for Mass are invited to pray the Novena at home each day.

* December 1st, SFX Feast Day Dinner Celebration 2024

The SFX Feast Day Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 1st, at Pink Pearl Restaurant. Address: 1132 East Hastings Street, Vancouver. Reception starting at 5pm, dinner at 6pm. Thank you all for the support!

* December 1st (Sunday) Advent Wreath making event

On Sunday Dec. 1st, at 12:30pm, SFX Family Ministry will host an Advent Wreath making event at the SFX Gym. There will also be refreshments, prayer, and games. Register quickly as spots are limited. More information on the poster.

* December 3rd (Tuesday) St. Francis Xavier Parish Feast Day Thanksgiving Mass

St. Francis Xavier Parish will celebrate its 91st Anniversary Feast Day with a Thanksgiving Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 3rd. All parishioners are warmly invited to join us in giving thanks for God's blessings.

- 9:00 am English School Mass

- 7:30 pm Bilingual (Cantonese & Mandarin) Mass

* December 6th, First Friday Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

7:30 p.m. - Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 9:00 p.m.

* December 8th (Sunday) SFX General Meeting

Fr. Joseph Ly will convene the SFX General Meeting on Sunday, December 8th at 1:00pm in the St. Joseph Room to plan for the 2025 Parish Activity Calendar. All members of the Pastoral and Finance Councils, as well as two representatives from each sodality and group, are cordially invited to attend.

聖方濟堂 將臨期退省 - SFX Parish Advent Retreat

粵語退省

12 月 14 日(星期六)

主講: 龔家仁執事 Deacon Andrew Kung

主題: 今非昔比

時間: 上午 9 時至下午 4 時

地點: 聖方濟聖堂

查詢: Maria Vuong (778) 230-3902

國語退省

12 月 14 日(星期六)

主講: 敬修女

主題: 天主的話

時間: 上午 9 時至下午 4 時

地點: 聖方濟聖堂 聖若瑟室

查詢: 蔣先生 (604) 808-8570

English Advent Retreat

Dec.22nd (Sunday)

Spiritual Director: Deacon Thomas Truong

Title: Journey to the Manger

Time: 1:15pm to 4pm

Venue: St Francis Xavier Parish, Parish Life Centre

Contact: Pamela Ho, 604-763-7782



* 12月15日(日期更新) 哥倫布騎慰招募會員 卡拉 OK 活動

哥倫布騎慰招募會員卡拉 OK 活動將於 12 月 15 日下午 1:00 至 5:00 再次舉行。讓我們一邊享受卡拉 OK 的樂趣，一邊探索我們的會員優惠和 SFX 廣泛的服務領域。如需了解完整詳情，請到 PLC 或透過 Anthonyfan.kofc@gmail.com 與聯絡 Anthony Fan

* 12月9日(星期一) 聖母無玷始胎節日

上午 9 時 英語彌撒

晚上 7 時 30 分 中文彌撒

鼓勵教友踴躍參與彌撒，分享聖母的喜悅。

* 12月29日(星期日) 2024年 聖家節聚餐

各位主內的兄弟姐妹，一年一度的聖家節聚餐又要到來了，今年定在 12/29 日晚上 6:00 在學校的體育館舉行。餐券於 12/1 日開始在主日彌撒後在 PLC 發售。餐費與去年一樣，每位 15 元，五歲以下小童免費，但需登記取票。我們響應政府的環保政策，請各參加者自備餐具（包括杯，碟，筷子，刀，叉，紙巾等），並請用餐後帶回家清洗。謝謝大家的參與和支持！

*** 請各善會提供禮物（大概 50 元左右），也歡迎各位教友提供禮物（價值不限）以作抽獎助興。

* 收集 2025 年月曆及聖誕卡

在聖誕將臨期間婦女會代溫哥華教區司法服務部門收集 2025 月曆及未用過的聖誕卡。截止日期為 1 月 5 日。請將物品交到活動中心收集箱註有“婦女會”名字。多謝教友的捐贈。

* 2025 Calendars and New Christmas Card Collection

On behalf of Archdiocese of Vancouver's Prison Ministry, the ladies club will collect the above items during Advent season. Please drop items off at PLC where there is a box marked "The Ladies Club". Deadline will be January 5, 2025. Thank you for your support.

* 哥倫布騎慰會「保留耶穌在聖誕」 設計比賽

哥倫布騎慰會一年一度「保留耶穌在聖誕」設計比賽是一個良好機會給教友家庭探索天主教徒聖誕節的真正意義。報名詳情可在 PLC 騎慰會佈告欄查詢。

* KofC "Keep Christ at Christmas" contest

Our Knights of Columbus annual "Keep Christ in Christmas" contest is back! This is a wonderful way for family to explore the true meaning of Christmas as Catholics. Details can be found at PLC Knights of Columbus bulletin board.

* KofC Membership Drive with Karaoke

Our Knights of Columbus membership drive with karaoke is back again on Dec 15 (updated date) from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Let's have some karaoke fun while exploring our membership benefit and our broad service area across SFX. For full details, please visit PLC or contact Anthony Fan at Anthonyfan.kofc@gmail.com

* Dec.9 (Monday) The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 9:00 am English Mass

- 7:30 pm Bilingual (Cantonese & Mandarin) Mass

All parishioners are warmly invited to participate in Masses and share in the joy of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

* Dec.29 (Sunday) Holy Family Dinner Party 2024

The Holy Family Dinner Party will be held at 6:00 pm on December 29th. Tickets selling at PLC will start from Dec 1. Meal fee is the same as last year at \$15 each, age 5 or under will be complimentary upon registration. Participants are requested to bring their own tableware (including cups, plates, chopsticks, knives, forks, napkins, etc.) and take back home for cleaning. Thank you for your co-operation.

*** We are seeking small gift/prize donations from sodalities (around \$50 each). All parishioners are also welcome to provide gifts (of any value) for the lucky draw. Your generosity and support is highly appreciated.

**Create your own
Family Advent Wreath**

Register

**Sun Dec 1st, 2024
12:30pm - 3:00pm
@ SFX Gym
\$60 / Family
Limited space**

Contact
Simon & Judy
simtse@gmail.com
jma@sfxschool.ca

Games
Family Prayer
Snacks & Drinks

聖方濟·沙勿略九日敬禮

全體：可愛而仁慈的聖方濟·沙勿略，我們懇求你，偕同我們一起光榮讚美天父。因你在生時，天父賜你特寵。逝去後，得享基督的榮福。為此，我感謝天父。

現在我們懇請你代禱，祈求天父賜我們所需的聖寵，以得常生永福。並在此九日敬禮中，獲得所求之特恩。

九日敬禮 - 主題/祈禱意向：

第八日：我們偉大的聖人聖方濟·沙勿略 - 藉著聖方濟·沙勿略的轉求，請為我們堂區的未來祈禱：特別是我們堂區的青年，願他們繼續繼承發揚我們的精神傳統。

第九日：聖方濟·沙勿略慷慨為教會傳教事業奉獻一生的精神 - 藉著聖方濟·沙勿略的轉求，請為普世所有司鐸及傳教工作人員轉禱。求主賜予他們豐富的恩寵，使能在傳教事業上忠於職守，將天國喜訊傳遍普世。

我們所求此恩惠，完全承行天父的旨意，恩賜我們生活在安定與希望中，並願天父的名受顯揚。

領：聖方濟·沙勿略，請為我們代禱。眾：使我們堪當承受基督的恩許。

請大家祈禱：天父，你曾藉聖方濟·沙勿略的宣講和靈蹟，引導了東洋諸國眾多子民皈依教會。求你賞賜我們都充滿著聖人一樣的信仰熱誠，並效法聖人諸德的芳表。因我們的主耶穌基督之名，求你俯聽我們的祈禱。 亞孟。

祈求聖方濟·沙勿略禱詞

全體：聖方濟·沙勿略，你極其寬仁，慈愛熱誠。以至十年之內，不辭勞苦，傳佈福音給萬民，拯救人靈。我們懇切呼號，望你轉達；求賜聖教會在各地平安拓展。罪人信賴天主的仁慈而痛改前非。教外人早獲信德的光明。煉靈獲享天主圓滿的救恩，早登天國。更使中華民族，國泰民安。凡樂意敬愛你的人，都能日進於德，分享你真福的歡欣。仁愛的聖人，懇請垂顧，望你為我們罪人求得此恩惠。光榮歸於父、及子、及聖神。起初如何，今日亦然，直到永遠。 亞孟。

天主經、聖母經（各一遍）

全體：可敬的聖方濟·沙勿略，你是主的善良忠信僕人！你在少許事上忠信，主必委派你管理許多大事。永享主的福樂！

領：上主曾引領你踏上義人的坦途。眾：為天國之榮耀，塵世之光輝。

請大家祈禱：至仁至義的天主，你為愛你的人準備了奇妙的幸福。祈望你垂允我們向聖方濟·沙勿略所作的敬禮，仰賴聖人的功績，賞賜我們分沾你許給聖人的祝福。因我們的主耶穌基督之名，求你俯聽我們的祈禱。 亞孟。

Novena of Grace in Honour of Saint Francis Xavier <http://www.sacredspace.ie/novenas/francisxavier>

We suggest that you: 1. read the story from the life of Saint Francis, 2. ponder on the 'Reflection' for a few minutes, 3. pray the novena prayer

Day 8: Francis, First Missionary to Japan (1549-1551)

Do I find strength in my prayer and in my relationship with Jesus?
During his years in South Asia, Francis visited Malacca in Malaysia on a number of occasions. It was there he met and converted his first Japanese. Anjiro made a deep impression on him. Francis wrote to Ignatius, "If all the Japanese are as keen to learn as Anjiro...they must have the most enquiring minds of any people in the lands hitherto discovered."
Francis arrived in Japan on August 15, 1549, the Feast of the Assumption. After some months working there and living with the family of Anjiro, he wrote to the Jesuits in Goa: "They are the best race yet discovered and I think that among non-Christians their match will not easily be found."

In comparison with the effects of his mission in South Asia, progress in Japan was slow. Francis had great difficulty with the Japanese language. Much of the time he was alone, suffering the isolation of living in a country, without knowing the local language. The Abbot of a Zen monastery told a later missionary that Francis was unable to explain the Christian teaching, owing to his ignorance of Japanese, but his mere presence, face, character, obvious sanctity, preached better than any words the truth of his message.

After his death, however, until the edict forbidding Christianity in 1614, the Church in Japan flourished. The number of Catholics at the time the persecution began was about 300,000, slightly less than what it is today. Many, too, died as martyrs for the faith during the years of persecution. secretary to Ignatius. This cannot have been an appealing work an outgoing person like Francis.

In 1539 King John of Portugal asked the Pope for two Jesuits to go to India. Two others were chosen, but at the last minute one of them fell ill, and Francis was asked by Ignatius to take his place. He accepted.

Day 9: Death of Francis off the coast of China (December 3, 1552)

What can I, personally, learn from reflecting on the life of St. Francis?
Francis died of fever at the age of 46 on the island of Sanchian, within sight of China. He did not achieve his ambition to reach the mainland. That was to be the privilege of a fellow Jesuit, Matteo Ricci. His hope was that if China accepted Christianity, all Asia would be open to the faith. His ambition was greater than one person could ever achieve.
St. Francis Xavier is the patron saint of the missions. He has always been exceptionally popular not only with Catholics, but with many non-Catholics, too. He is probably the most famous of all Jesuits. He was canonised as a Saint in 1622, together with St. Ignatius Loyola.

Saint Francis Xavier Novena Prayer

O most kind and loving saint, in union with you I adore the Divine Majesty. The remembrance of the favours with which God blessed you during life, and of your glory after death, fills me with joy; and I unite with you in offering to God my humble tribute of thanksgiving and of praise.
I implore of you to secure for me, through your powerful intercession and the all important blessing of living and dying in the state of grace. I also beseech you to obtain the favour I ask in this Novena:
but if what I ask is not for the glory of God or for the good of my soul, obtain for me what is most conducive to both. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

O God, who was pleased to gather unto your Church the people of the East by the preaching and miracles of blessed Francis, mercifully grant that we who honour his glorious merits, may also imitate the example of his virtues, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

本通訊歡迎各團體及善會刊登活動消息，雙語為佳，並於每星期四晚上八時截稿，如欲刊登照片或圖片，請於星期三晚上八時前投稿，稿件請電郵至 sfx.parish.bulletin@gmail.com，本堂神父及堂區通訊小組保留刊登稿件的一切權利，不得異議。

SFX Parish Bulletin, email: sfx.parish.bulletin@gmail.com. Deadline for Submission: Thursdays at 8pm for announcement, Wednesdays at 8pm for photos. ***All announcements must obtain approval by parish pastor. Parish Bulletin Committee reserves the right of publication and final edition***



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Dinner



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二零二四年十二月廿九日(星期日) 下午六時

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成人餐券每位十五元

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誠邀您的親友們參加晚宴,
一起享用美食、欣賞表演及抽獎!

餐券將於十二月一日(星期日)起,將在堂區活動中心展位發售



**December 29, 2024 at 6:00pm
in St. Francis Xavier Gymnasium**

Dinner Tickets \$15/person



Age 5 or under are free (Registration and obtain ticket is needed)

Your family and friends are sincerely invited to enjoy
the entertainment, prize draws and delicious food!

Tickets will be available at the booth in PLC from Dec 1 (Sunday)

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Jesus: And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to help you and be with you forever John 14:16 NLT

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