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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Novena Notes



Do You Believe in the Resurrection?

This week, the church celebrated All Saints Day and All Souls Day. A remembrance of all those who have gone ahead of us to eternal life. This two day celebration is a reminder of how important and central our belief in the resurrection is. At baptism and when we renew our baptismal promises at Easter, the priest asks us: *'Do you believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?'* And we answer: *'We do believe!'* What does it mean to believe in the resurrection of the dead?

In the Gospel today, the Sadducees ask Jesus a question. If a woman had more than one husband in this life, whose wife will she be in heaven? The question has nothing to do with marriage or what state of life we will have in heaven. The Sadducees were not interested in hearing Jesus' opinion on this matter of doctrine. They were asking him a trick question to show that belief in heaven is ludicrous.

The Sadducees lived a "this-worldly" life. Their interests lay with the here and now. They were wealthy aristocrats who controlled two of the most important institutions in Israel - the Temple and the Sanhedrin. They tried to pass off as a religious body, but in reality, they were a wealthy class using religious institutions to make a lot of money. Why would they

want to believe in an afterlife where all would be equal, when this world offered them better privileges? They hated Jesus because he called them out as frauds. The Sadducees outward show of ritual observance, was a mask to hide their personal lives which were immoral. They were the embodiment of hypocrisy.

In the First Reading, we read the story of the seven young martyrs and their mother. About two-hundred years before Jesus, Jerusalem came under Greek rule. The leaders imposed Greek culture and religion upon the Jewish people and persecuted those who refused. Many fought back and were martyred. In the face of persecution and death, they remained strong because of their faith in the resurrection. The fourth brother, in the face of death, says to King Antiochus, that he relies on God's promise that he will be raised to life.

Jesus reminds the Sadducees and all of us, that God is the God of the living and not of the dead. Those who live for this world only, like the Sadducees, are only concerned with power and wealth. Those who do not have faith in the resurrection, have no hope to cling to in times of difficulty. Jesus, our Christian faith and the lives of the saints and martyrs remind us of our ultimate and eternal destiny.

Reflection by Fr. Gerard Louis, CSsR

Readings & responses for the week

Sunday, 6 NOVEMBER	2 Mac 7:1-2,9-14; 2 Th 2:16-3:5; Lk 20:27-38 I shall be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory, O Lord.
Monday, 7 NOVEMBER	Tit 1:1-9; Lk 17:1-6 Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.
Tuesday, 8 NOVEMBER	Tit 2:1-8,11-14; Lk 17:7-10 The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.
Wednesday, 9 NOVEMBER The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	Ez 47:1-2,8-9,12; Jn 2:13-22 The waters of a river give joy to God's city, The holy place where the Most High dwells
Thursday, 10 NOVEMBER St. Leo the Great	Phm 7:20; Lk 17:20-25 He is happy who is helped by Jacob's God.
Friday, 11 NOVEMBER St. Martin of Tours	2 Jn 4:9; Lk 17:26-37 They are happy who follow God's law.
Saturday, 12 NOVEMBER St. Josaphat	3 Jn 5:8; Lk 18:1-8 Happy the man who fears the Lord.

NOVENA DEVOTIONS ON SATURDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm,
4.00pm, 6.00pm

2.00pm (Mandarin)

MASS ON WEEKDAYS

12:15pm, 6.30pm

9.00am Public Holiday

MASS ON SATURDAY

7.00am

MASS ON SUNDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 5.30pm

RECEPTION OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Friday
9.00am to 8.00pm

Lunch Hour
11.45am to 12.45pm

Saturday
7.30am to 7.00pm

Sunday
8.30am to 1.30pm & 4.30pm to 7.00pm

SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

No booking is required. There will not be standing room allowed in the main church.



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ADVENT THEMES 2022

Receiving God's visitation

In the Gospel readings of Advent and Christmas, 9 people prepared, waited, longed for, and made Jesus the centre of their lives.

29th Oct	John The Baptist
5th Nov	Zechariah
12th Nov	Elizabeth
19th Nov	Anna
26th Nov	Simeon
3rd Dec	The Shepherds
10th Dec	The Magi
17th Dec	Joseph
24th Dec	Mary



Evening Chapel



Evening Chapel

12 Virtues of St Alphonsus

NOVEMBER PRAYER

Pray continually and never lose heart
Luke 18:1



Join the Church of St Alphonsus for an evening of discovery, prayer and reflection

Date : Fri, 11 Nov 2022 Time : 8.00pm
Login to : tinyurl.com/eveningchapel22

Advent Candle Holder

Exclusive to Novena Church of St Alphonsus
Advent Candle Holder Set



Advent
A Season of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

Available at Gift Shop &
Online @ shop.novenachurch.com

Journey to Bethlehem




Register by 15 Nov 22

Journey to Bethlehem

Come away to contemplate and prepare for the coming of Christ at the middle of Advent 2022.

A 1-day in person scripture-based retreat for adults (18-45 years) organised by the Verbum Dei Missionary Disciples.

Saturday, 10 Dec 2022
8.30am to 5pm

49 Holland Rd
Singapore 258849
(FMM House)

\$55 (Lunch provided)
Please make payment prior to retreat. Details will be sent after submission of registration form.

Notice

Please take note the Giftshop will be opened from 11.15am to 5pm on 8 & 9 November (Tuesday & Wednesday).