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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Novena Notes



Healing is His wings

In the Gospel of St. Mark (5: 24-34), a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years, decided to see Jesus. She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had; and she was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and decided that "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." At this time, there was a large crowd pressing on Jesus, as they followed Jesus on his way to cure the daughter of Jarius, a synagogue leader. By Jewish law, the woman was ritually unclean and had to be isolated from the people. But she moved quietly into the crowd, pushed against the many people, finally came up behind him and quickly touched the fringe of Jesus' clothes. Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.

In today's 1st Reading from the last Prophet of the Old Testament, Prophet Malachi says: *"But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings"*. In Hebrew the word for "wings" (of a bird or cherubim) could also refer to the border or fringe of a garment. As such, the woman may have believed and reached for the fringe of Jesus' garments because she believed he was the promised Messiah - the "Sun of Righteousness" who was to "rise with healing in [his] wings".

Yes, Jesus is the Messiah - the Saviour of the world. But Jesus does not just save by healing our bodies of physical ailments and diseases. Jesus restores our soul. He gives us his peace and the Joy. In the encounter, Jesus had wanted to know who had touched him. Not to embarrass her but to affirm the faith and perseverance of the woman: *"Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease."*

As we come to the end of this Liturgical Year, let us recall the difficulties, hardships, afflictions, pain and sorrows of these past months. We could have fallen into despair, lost our hope and given up. But we have not. We continue to persevere and endure. We continue to hope in Jesus. And we continue to keep moving towards Jesus amidst all that is pressing on and against us. And when we touch him and encounter him, may we experience his healing and restoration. May we experience Peace and Joy from the wings of our Messiah!

"By your endurance, you will gain your lives". (Luke 21: 19; final sentence from today's Gospel.)

"If we persevere... we have nothing to fear, even in the sad and ugly events of life, not even in the evil we see around us, because we remain grounded in the good." (Pope Francis)

Reflection by Ros

Readings & responses for the week

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, 16 NOVEMBER	Mal 3:19-20, 2 Thes 3:7-12, Lk 21:5-19 The Lord comes to rule the peoples with fairness.
Monday, 17 NOVEMBER St Elizabeth of Hungary	1 Mac 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-64, Lk 18:35-43 Give me life, O Lord, and I will do your will.
Tuesday, 18 NOVEMBER Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter & St Paul	Acts 28: 11-16, 30-31, Mt 14:22-33 The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.
Wednesday, 19 NOVEMBER	2 Mac 7:1, 20-31, Lk 19:11-28 I shall be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory, O Lord.
Thursday, 20 NOVEMBER	1 Mac 2:15-29, Lk 19:41-44 I will show God's salvation to the upright.
Friday, 21 NOVEMBER Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Zec 2: 14-17, Mt 12:46-50 Blessed is the Virgin Mary who bore the Son the Eternal Father.
Saturday, 22 NOVEMBER St Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr	1 Mac 6:1-13, Lk 20:27-40 I will rejoice in your saving help, O Lord.

NOVENA DEVOTIONS ON SATURDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 4.00pm, 5.30pm

2.00pm (Mandarin)

MASS ON WEEKDAYS

12:15pm, 6.30pm

9.00am, 6.30pm Public Holiday

(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

MASS ON SATURDAY

7.00am, 6.30pm (Sunset)

MASS ON SUNDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 5.30pm
(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

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

RECEPTION OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 8.00pm

Lunch Hour 11.45am to 12.45pm

Saturday 7.30am to 8.00pm

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

Closed on Public Holiday

GIFTSHOP OPERATING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
10.30am to 6.30pm

Lunch Hour 12.15pm to 12.45pm

Saturday 8.30am to 6.30pm

Sunday 9.00am to 1.30pm

Closed on Thursday and Public Holiday

ADVENT COMMUNITY PROJECT



NOVENA ADVENT COMMUNITY PROJECT
Come offer the gift of time to your children and families from EduFriends, a programme by the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.
Let's spend time together as a big family with many fun activities, games and food.
DATE Sat, 13th Dec 2025
TIME 10am - 4pm
VENUE St. SJI Junior, 3 Essex Road, Singapore 309331.

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

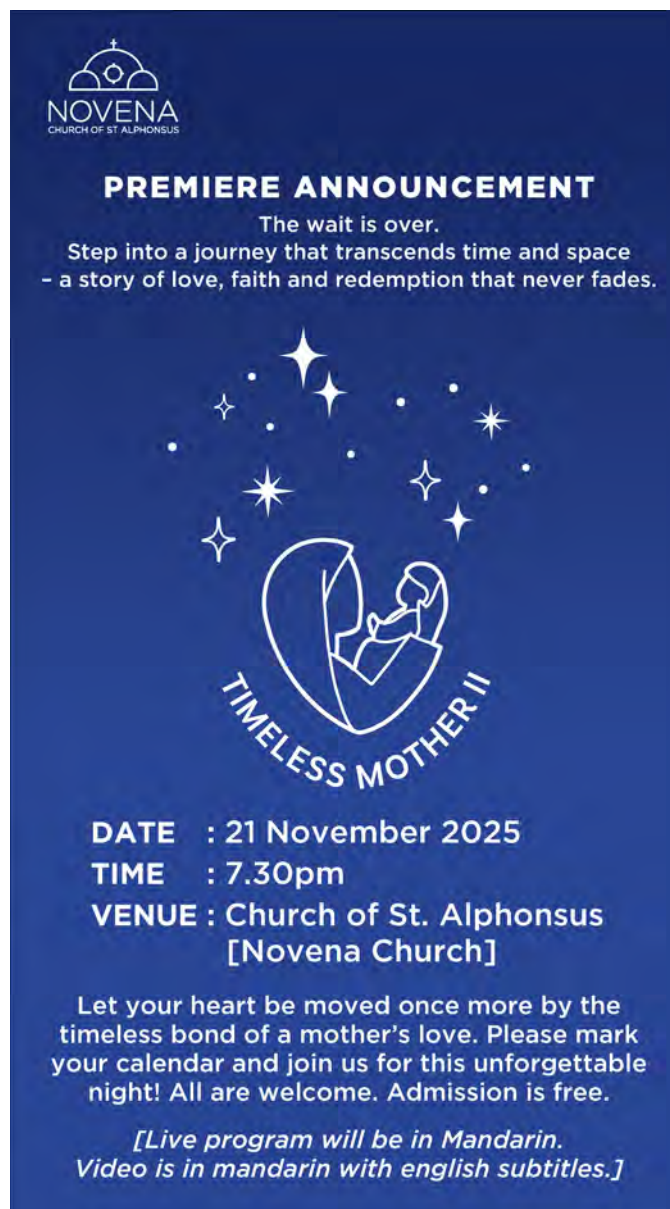
THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The feast is rooted in ancient Christian tradition, with its origins traced back to the 6th century in the Eastern Church. It commemorates the event where Mary, at the age of three, was presented by her parents, Saints Joachim and Anne, in the Temple of Jerusalem. This act was a fulfillment of a vow made by her parents in gratitude for her miraculous birth, as they had been childless for many years.

The feast emphasizes Mary's unique role in salvation history and her dedication to God from the very beginning of her life. Although the event is not explicitly mentioned in the Bible, it is derived from an apocryphal text that highlights Mary's purity and her parents' faith.

The presentation symbolizes the sanctity of Mary and her preparation for her future role as the Mother of Jesus, reinforcing the belief that she was chosen and consecrated to God from her early childhood. The Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a significant event in the liturgical calendar that highlights Mary's early dedication to God and her vital role in the Christian faith. It serves as a reminder for the faithful to reflect on their own commitment to God and the example set by Mary throughout her life.

TIMELESS MOTHER II



PREMIERE ANNOUNCEMENT
The wait is over.
Step into a journey that transcends time and space - a story of love, faith and redemption that never fades.

DATE : 21 November 2025
TIME : 7.30pm
VENUE : Church of St. Alphonsus [Novena Church]

Let your heart be moved once more by the timeless bond of a mother's love. Please mark your calendar and join us for this unforgettable night! All are welcome. Admission is free.

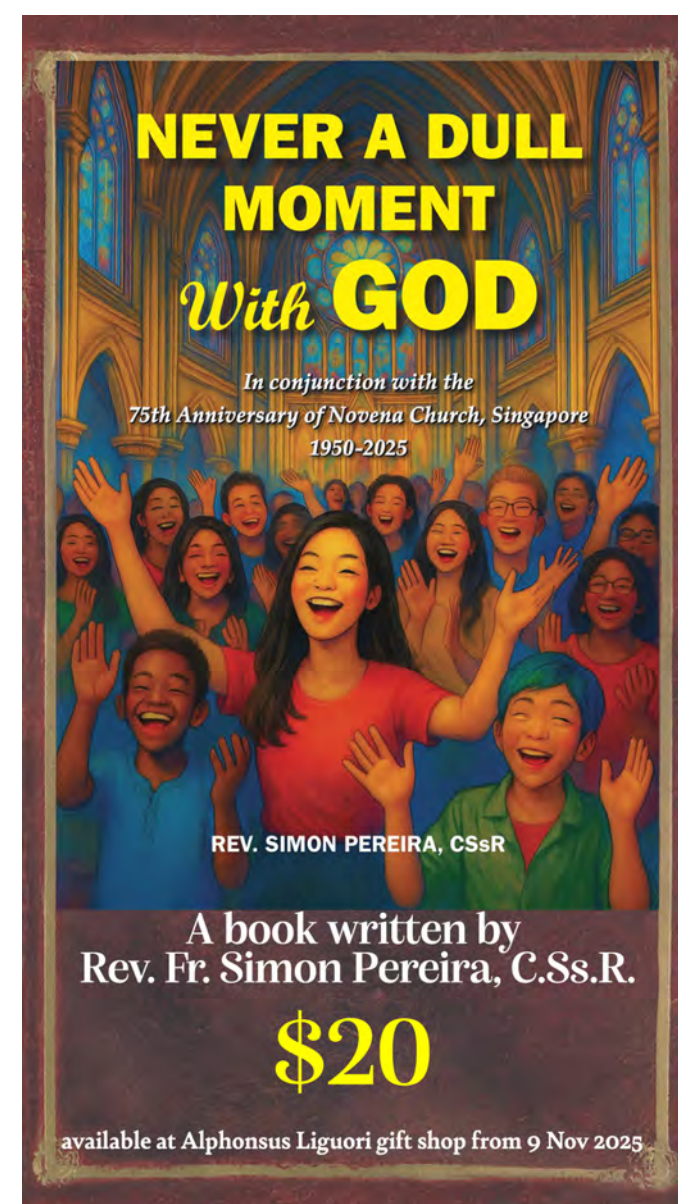
[Live program will be in Mandarin. Video is in mandarin with english subtitles.]

ALTAR SERVERS RECRUITMENT

For boys 8 yrs and above.

Sat Services - Register at Reception
Sun Services - Approach Servers at main foyer

FR SIMON PEREIRA BOOK



NEVER A DULL MOMENT With GOD
In conjunction with the 75th Anniversary of Novena Church, Singapore 1950-2025
REV. SIMON PEREIRA, CSsR
A book written by Rev. Fr. Simon Pereira, C.Ss.R.
\$20
available at Alphonsus Liguori gift shop from 9 Nov 2025

TAMIL NOVENA AND SUNSET MASS

22 November, every 4th Saturday of the month. Novena at 8pm, followed by mass at 8.30pm.