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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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# Novena Notes

## Rejoice and sing for joy

Today is the third Sunday of Advent or Gaudete Sunday. We light up the rose candle of joy at mass and are called to rejoice as we wait in anticipation for our Lord's coming.

The first reading from Isaiah 35 exhorts us to rejoice and sing for joy as our God is coming to save us. Isaiah had proclaimed that "the eyes of the blind shall see, the ears of the deaf unsealed, the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy" and there will be everlasting joy.

What a beautiful vision that heralds the second reading from James which urges us to be patient and not lose heart like a farmer who awaits for his crops to bear fruit after autumn rains and spring. This sense of anticipation fills us with much hope and joy.

And we can see John the Baptist as a farmer who had sown the seeds of repentance to prepare the way of the Lord. This image of John as a farmer is interesting and down-to-earth, something that I did not see in the past. But it is also an image that we may be able to relate better with, instead of him as prophet and messenger. In many ways, we are called to be farmers, to sow seeds of faith in the kingdom of God through our thoughts, words and actions. Most importantly, to sow the seeds of joy in our own hearts.

For us to receive the gift of joy, we would need to farm ceaselessly with courage, patience and not lose heart, asking God to "strengthen our weary hands and steady our trembling knees and faint hearts". We are all meant to receive abundant joy regardless of age, physical condition and disposition.

We have every reason to rejoice and sing for joy as await the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. It is a time of renewal and growth for us. May the readings of today remind us that we are never left on our own if we allow the Holy Spirit to take control of our "wasteland" and tongues to sing for joy. Happy is the man who does not lose faith.

Indeed joy is not the absence of sorrow but a state of being that continues to sing of the Lord's glory even in challenging times of illness, financial loss, uncertainties and broken relationships.

### Reflection by Hope

## Readings & responses for the week

### 3rd Sunday in Advent

<b>Sunday, 14 DECEMBER</b> Gaudete Sunday	Is 35:1-6,10; Jam 5:7-10, Mt 11:2-11 Come, Lord, and save us.
<b>Monday, 15 DECEMBER</b>	Num 24:2-7,15-17, Mt 21:23-27 Lord, make us know your ways.
<b>Tuesday, 16 DECEMBER</b>	Zeph 3: 1-2,9-13; Mt21:28-32 This poor man called; the Lord heard him.
<b>Wednesday, 17 DECEMBER</b>	Gen 49:1-2,8-10, Mt 1:1-17 In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.
<b>Thursday, 18 DECEMBER</b>	Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-24 My lips are filled with your praise, with you glory all the day long.
<b>Friday, 19 DECEMBER</b>	Jdg 13:2-7,24-25, Lk 1:5-25 My lips are filled with your praise, with you glory all the day long.
<b>Saturday, 20 DECEMBER</b>	Is 7:10-14, Lk 1:26-38 Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

### 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

## SIMBANG GABI 2025



JOIN OUR SIMBANG GABI MASS!  
CELEBRATE THIS CHERISHED FILIPINO TRADITION  
WITH US AS WE COME TOGETHER IN FAITH AND JOY



**SIMBANG GABI 2025**

\*  
**Hope through Jesus Christ**  
\*Christ in you, the hope of glory  
**Colossians 1:27**

**December 16th (Tuesday)**  
**8:00 P.M.**

Mass will be in Tagalog. \*

**SCALA, CANTEEN CLOSED**  
**27 DEC & 3 JAN 2026**  
**RESUMES ON 10 JAN, 2026**

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASSES



**Christmas  
SCHEDULE**

WEDNESDAY • 7.15pm Caroling  
24<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2025 • 8pm Mass  
• 10.15pm Christmas Play  
• 11pm Mass  
*No 6.30pm mass*

THURSDAY • 8am Mass  
25<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2025 • 10am Mass  
• 12pm Mass  
• 5.30pm Mass

**New Year  
SCHEDULE**

WEDNESDAY • 10pm Marian Tribute and  
31<sup>ST</sup> DEC 2025 Christmas Carol  
• 10.30pm Mass  
*No 6.30pm mass*

THURSDAY • 9am Mass  
1<sup>ST</sup> JAN 2026 • 6.30pm Mass  
*No Lunch Time mass*

**2026**  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

### **RECEPTION HOURS**

**24 DEC: 9AM to 1PM**  
**25 DEC : CLOSED**  
**31 DEC: 9AM to 1PM**  
**1 JAN 2026 : CLOSED**

**ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE**  
**15 DEC, MON 7.45PM**

## PIETA PRAYER SUPPORT



### **Pieta Prayer Support for Bereaved Parents**

Tue 16 December from 7:30pm to 9:15pm (please note that this is *not* the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month) at Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre, 2 Highland Road, unit LG-01, S. 549102. This is located next to the Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We invite any parent who has lost a child (regardless of age and no matter how recent or long ago) to meet to pray and support each other.

Enquiries: [pieta.singapore@gmail.com](mailto:pieta.singapore@gmail.com)  
or <https://pieta.familylife.sg/>

Note: We will be on Zoom for the January 2026 session. Please email us for the Zoom details.

### **GIFTSHOP CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2026 HOURS**

**24 DEC: 10.30AM to 2PM**  
**25 DEC : CLOSED**  
**31 DEC: 10.30AM to 2PM**  
**1 JAN : CLOSED**