

10th January 2010 – Baptism of our Lord

"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire"

Do you want to be on fire for God? John the Baptist said that the Messiah would "baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Fire in biblical times was associated with God and with his action in the world and in the lives of his people. God sometimes manifested his presence by use of fire, such as the burning bush which was not consumed when God spoke to Moses (Exodus 3:2). The image of fire was also used to symbolize God's glory (Ezekiel 1:4, 13), his protective presence (2 Kings 6:17), his holiness (Deuteronomy 4:24), righteous judgment (Zechariah 13:9), and his wrath against sin (Isaiah 66:15-16). It is also used of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11 and Acts 2:3). God's fire both purifies and cleanses, and it inspires a reverent fear of God and of his word in us. Jesus came to give us the fire of his Spirit that we may radiate the joy and truth of the gospel to a world in desperate need of God's light and truth. His word has power to change and transform our lives that we may be lights pointing others to Christ. Like John the Baptist, we too are called to give testimony to the light and truth of Jesus Christ. Do you want the Lord's power, grace, and love to burn brightly in your life? Ask him to fill you with his Holy Spirit.

John preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 3:3). Why did Jesus, the Sinless One, submit himself to John's baptism? In this humble submission we see a foreshadowing of the "baptism" of his bloody death upon the cross. Jesus' baptism is the acceptance and the beginning of his mission as God's suffering Servant. He allowed himself to be numbered among sinners. Jesus submitted himself entirely to his Father's will. Out of love he consented to this baptism of death for the remission of our sins. Do you know the joy of trust and submission to God?

The Father proclaimed his entire delight in his Son and spoke audibly for all to hear. The Holy Spirit, too, was present as he anointed Jesus for his ministry which began that day as he rose from the waters of the Jordan river. Jesus will be the source of the Spirit for all who come to believe in him. At his baptism the heavens were opened and the waters were sanctified by the descent of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, signifying the beginning of a new creation.

How can we enter into the mystery of Jesus' humble self-abasement and baptism? Gregory of Nazianzus, a seventh century Church father tells us: "Let us be buried with Christ by Baptism to rise with him; let us go down with him to be raised with him; and let us rise with him to be glorified with him." Do you want to see changes in your life? And do you want to become a more effective instrument of the gospel? Examine Jesus' humility and ask the Holy Spirit to forge this same attitude in your heart. As you do, heaven will open for you as well. The Lord is ever ready to renew us in his Spirit and to anoint us for mission. We are called to be "light" and "salt" to those around us. The Lord wants his love and truth to shine through us that others may see the goodness and truth of God's message of salvation. Ask the Lord to fill you with his Holy Spirit that you may radiate the joy of the gospel to those around you.

Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity

10th January 2010



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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 6:30am, 5:00pm (Novena); 6:00pm (Sunset Mass)
Sunday: 6:45am; 8am(Mandarin); 9:30; 11:15am & 6pm
Weekdays: 6:30am & 6pm
Public Holidays: 9am only
2nd Saturday: 7:30pm (Mass in Tagalog)

Readings for the Week

Mon 11 th Jan	Is 42:1-4, 6-7	Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10.	Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
Tue 12 th Jan	1 Sm 1:1-8	Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19	Mk 1:14-20
Wed 13 th Jan	1 Sm 1:9-20	1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8ab	Mk 1:21-28
Thu 14 th Jan	1Sm 4:1-11	Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20	Mk 1:40-45
Fri 15 th Jan	1Sm: 4-7.10-	Ps 88:16-19	Mk 2:1-12
Sat 16 th Jan	22a1Sam 9:1-14,17-19;10:1a	Ps 20:2-7	Mk 2:13-17

INFANT BAPTISMS are celebrated at the 6pm Mass on the 2nd Sunday of each month, except during the season of Lent. Parents and Godparents are required to come for a preparatory session at 5pm in the Chapel. Please register at the parish office

WEDDINGS: Arrangements for a Church wedding should be made at least six (6) months in advance. This would give the couple adequate time to attend either a Marriage Preparation Course (MPC) or an Engaged Encounter Weekend (EE). Application forms and booking of wedding date at the parish office.

CHURCH CLEANING (Willing Hands)

Volunteers are needed - Every Wednesday & Saturday 9.00am

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Jumble Sales group is seeking volunteers to sort and pack donated items i.e. clothes, books, shoes, bags etc. every Monday between 12noon & 3pm. Those able to help, please leave your contact particulars with the church secretariat.

FREE COUNSELLING SERVICES

Ms Jackie (Appointment coordinator). Please call after office hours: 9797 8319

FREE LEGAL COUNSELING CLINIC. Please contact the parish office.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP For cancer patients / caregivers call:
Patrick 9728 7425 or Theresa 9681 9205

CANTEEN

Canteen will be closed and will resume business on 17 Jan 2010.

HOLY FAMILY SHRINE will be at Bernard Wong & Serene Goh, Blk 163 Tampines St 12 #07-261 from 11 to 17th Jan-10 *Enquiries: Phillip Fan: 9746-5678/ 9437-2526*

Monday 11th Jan**POWERHOUSE FOR YOUNG ADULTS**

Praying for our youth by the Youth Intercessory Prayer Group in Room 19 at 8pm. All are welcome! Kindly contact Timothy H/p.92956442 for any enquiry.

RCIA CHINESE 7:45pm in the hall

TUESDAY, 12th Jan**CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY**

There will be a talk on 'In the Name of Jesus' followed by Healing Service at 8pm in the Chapel. All are welcome

Christian Meditation - for information contact Kelvin Tel: 96306614

RCIA ENGLISH 7:45pm in the parish hall.

WEDNESDAY, 13th Jan**LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY**

"First Corinthians" 7:30-10pm in room 12

IGNITE (Holy Trinity Young Adult Community)

We are starting our new journey this year to help young adults (Ages 18-30) develop a deeper relationship with God through various ways.

Feel free to join us!

The first topic for 2010:

RECONCILIATION.

Time: Saturdays, 1-4pm

Location: Youth room

Sessions:

- 16 Jan: Sin

- 23 Jan: Reconciliation

- 30 Jan: Reflection on 2009 & resolution for 20

Fr Michael Cheong, former parishioner of our church who joined the Verbum Dei

Missionaries will be ordained as priest at Blessed Sacrament Church on 15th Jan at 6pm. He will be coming to celebrate his first Mass in our parish at the 11.15 am Mass on 17th of Jan.

PRE (PARISH RENEWAL EXPERIENCE)

We are planning to start PRE soon. Calling all those who have gone through the PRE to come for a meeting on Fri 15th Jan at 8pm to help in the planning.

Jumble Sale this weekend, 9/10 January. All proceeds will be for youth projects of Holy Trinity Church. Please give your support and at the same time enjoy the great bargains!

MISSION ACTIVITIES SECOND COLLECTION FOR A.C.M.A

There will be second collection next week for A.C.M.A to support the various missionary project appeals in the Archdiocese of Singapore. Please give your support

THE FOUR LEVELS OF HEALING - a weekend that will help us find wholeness, balance and fulfillment through healing the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical aspects of our lives. By Dra. Dido Villazor, PhD

Date: 29-31 January 2010 (Friday 730pm - Sunday 4pm)

Venue Cenacle 47 Jurong West Street 42

For inquiries contact the Cenacle Sisters Tel. 6565-2895, 9722-3148,
cenaclesisters@yahoo.com.sg

AT-HOME RETREAT 2010: JOURNEY FROM ASHES TO EASTER

A ten-week program based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola which enables one to know Jesus Christ more intimately in the midst of the daily routine of life. It includes a weekly meeting of faith sharing, invites one to daily prayer using Scripture, and spiritual direction.

Facilitator: Cenacle Sisters and Team

2 choices:

1) Venue: CANA the Catholic Center, 55 Waterloo Street

Date: Ten Fridays from 19th Feb-23Apr

Time: 730pm-930pm

2) Venue: Church of St. Francis of Assisi, 200 Boon Lay Ave

Date: Ten Wednesdays from 17th Feb-21Apr

Time: 730pm-930pm

Registration required. Contact the Cenacle Sisters Tel. 6565-2895, 9722-3148,
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Knowing our religion**Baptism**

Baptism is regarded as a Christian initiation by which we become sons and daughters of God and members of the Church.

Baptism takes away original sin and gives us divine life. We become temples of the Holy Spirit and Jesus dwells within us.

((Read personal account of Saul's conversion in Acts 22:6 which took place after the death of Jesus).

Saul was arresting Christians, beating them up and throwing them into prison....until one day, Our Lord confronted him and said "Saul' Saul! Why do you persecute me?" he was struck by a bright light and became blind. Then someone preached to him, he got converted and became a great apostle and missionary of Jesus. He is known as St Paul and his letters are read every Sunday. Do you believe that Jesus lives in you? If you do believe, what does it mean to you?

As for Mother Teresa, she sees Jesus in the 'poorest of the poor' and in the dying whom she picked up from the streets of Calcutta, everyday.

This "Saint of the gutters" sees Jesus in the destitutes, as Jesus said; "...when I was hungry you gave me food, when I was thirsty...."

That explains why in the chapel of the Sisters of Charity, (Mother Teresa's Order) you would find the words "...I was thirsty" at the sanctuary of their chapel.

- "Spread love everywhere you go... Let no one come to you without leaving better or happier...." **Mother Teresa** *to be continued....*