

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Readings: Mic 5:1-4a Ps 79 Hebr 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45

In this Sunday's Gospel reading, Elizabeth and her unborn son, John, react to the nearness of the unborn Christ – with joy. The scripture doesn't exactly say that Elizabeth was filled with "joy". It says she was filled with the Holy Spirit. Her joy is evidenced in the greeting she gave to Mary.

Joy comes from being fully alive in the Holy Spirit, who is fully within us, because in our baptisms we fully received God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Baptism gave this fullness to us, and now it's up to us to rely on it and let it fully consume our lives.

The unborn baby in Elizabeth's womb also reacted to the nearness of Christ with joy. How was that possible? He was incapable of understanding anything, especially when it happened outside the womb, yet he leapt for joy. The unborn baby's joy is an example of the affect that the Holy Spirit can have on us. We don't need to see God working in the world or solving our personal problems before we leap for joy. We don't have to understand what God is doing, and we don't even have to know his plans. Joy is one of the fruits of God's Spirit.

Therefore, we can conclude that because we have the Holy Spirit within us, and because Christ is always with us, we should be living in a constant state of joy. Right?

The Holy Spirit has been our friend and partner throughout Advent as we've prepared for Christmas. The holiness of God within us enables us to grow in holiness by helping us to overcome sin and become more like Jesus – and that alone is reason for great joy.

The joy of holy spirituality is the Spirit of Christmas. It's meant to last all year. It's a lifestyle, not a holiday.

Joy is not the absence of problems. Happiness might be defined that way, but joy comes from knowing that God is working in ways that we can see and ways that we cannot see. Joy is believing that God is good and that he is always good to us. Even when we suffer or feel sorrow, joy can remain with us, not as a happy feeling but as a solid reassurance.

And joy grows when joy spreads. We are called to be heralds of the good news, sharing this joy with others.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

How much is the joy of Christ's Spirit within you affecting your outward life? What will you do this Christmas to become more aware of the Holy Spirit of Joy that lies beneath the surface of any feelings of misery or sadness or hurt?

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CHRISTMAS

Weekly Parish Bulletin

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

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WELCOME: Our warm welcome to all who worship with our parish community. If you are new to the parish, please fill in a census form at the parish office. You may request to have your house blessed.

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.

CATECHISM CLASSES: Pri.1 - Sec.4 are offered in the parish as well as the FIRE programme - Family Integrated Religious Education. Please enquire 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.

PRAYER & BLESSINGS at all Masses for wedding anniversary couples on the 1st Sunday of the month and for expectant parents on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Please be seated near the sanctuary.

MASS OFFERING: To offer Mass for any intention, please fill in the special Mass offering envelope, enclose the stipend and drop it into the steel box in the lobby.



DURING THE WEEK (Chapel)

Monday 8pm Powerhouse Prayer Assembly
Tuesday 5pm Prayer for Vocation
Tuesday 8pm Charismatic Prayer
Friday 8pm Divine Mercy Hour

Church Cleaning (Willing Hands)

Wednesday & Saturday, 9.00am.
Volunteers are most welcome.

MASS SCHEDULE

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

4th Sunday of Advent

PRIESTS:

Fr. Edward Lim 6784 1211
Fr. Albert Ng 6784 3190
Fr. Paul Ngo Thanh Phong 6784 6418

PARISH STAFF:

6784 2332
Sr Magdalen Ee Finance
Julie Chan Secretariat
Raymond Tan Maintenance
Thomas Cheang Hon Accountant

20th December 2009 (Year II)

Mon, 21 Dec: 4th week of Advent

Song 2: 8-14 Ps 32 Lk 1:39-45

Tue, 22 Dec: 4th week of Advent

Sam 1: 24-28 Ps 1 Sam 2 Lk 1:46-56

Wed, 23 Dec: 4th week of Advent

Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24 Lk 1:57-66

Thu, 24 Dec: 4th week of Advent

Sam 7:1-5 Ps 88 Lk 1: 67-79

Fri, 25 Dec: Christmas Day

Is 9: 1-6 Ps 95 Lk 2: 1-14

Sat, 26 Dec: St Stephen, Protomartyr

Ac 6,8-10 Ps 30 Mt 10, 17-22

During the week

MONDAY, 21 DEC

POWERHOUSE FOR YOUNG ADULTS
8pm in Room 19. Come and pray with us!
All are welcome!

RCIA CHINESE 7:45pm in the hall

TUESDAY, 22 DEC

CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY
No more sessions until Tues, 5 Jan 2010
Christian Meditation at 8pm in room 16.
RCIA ENGLISH 7:45pm in the parish hall.

THURSDAY, 24 DEC

Daily morning mass as usual at 6:30am
CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES
7:30pm Children's Christmas pageant
8:00pm Children's Christmas Mass
11:35pm Christmas Carols
12:00 Midnight Christmas Mass

FRIDAY, 25 DEC

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES
Day of Obligation
8:00am Mass (Mandarin)
9:30am Mass
11:15am Mass
6:00pm Mass with infant baptism
DIVINE MERCY PRAYER DEVOTION
NO session this week as well as 1 Jan 2010.
Next session will be on 8 Jan.

CHANGE OF SUNDAY MASS TIMES
THERE WILL NOT BE ANY MORE
12:30PM MASS. THE 11AM
MASS WILL BE MOVED TO 11:15AM

TAMPINES CNG
Divine Mercy Devotion on Tue, 22 Dec at 8:00pm at the home of Beatrice Danker, Blk 302 Tampines St 32 #04-44. All are welcome. Enquiries: David Tan 9647 4563. web: <http://tampinescng.livejournal.com> email: tampinescng@gmail.com



Fathers Edward, Albert and Paul would like to wish all parishioners a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

CANTEEN

Canteen will be closed from 20 Dec and will resume business on 17 January 2010.

Services

FREE COUNSELLING SERVICES
Ms Jackie (Appointment coordinator)
Please call after office hours: 9797 8319

BETHANY FREE THERAPY
Please call Yvonne at 9681 8849.

FREE LEGAL COUNSELING CLINIC
NO session in December.

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

HEY KIDS! COME AND SEE

The Three Wise Kings coming alive in search of the Baby Jesus!

Please bring along a small gift (worth \$3.00) for exchange with other children.

- Venue: Church of Holy Trinity Parish Hall.
- Date: Sunday, 3 Jan
- Time: 3pm to 5pm.
- Organized by: The Neocatechumenal Communities.



MASSSES AT DIVINE MERCY

SATURDAY SUNSET MASS AT 5.30PM
SUNDAY MASSES AT 7, 9, 11AM & 5.30PM
WEEKDAY MASSES AT 6.30AM & 6PM

THE CATHOLIC NEWS WITH THE 2010 CALENDAR AT \$1.00 EACH IS AVAILABLE THIS WEEKEND

LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

Rev Fr Ambrose Vaz will be conducting a 5-session Bible course on "Letter to the Hebrews" in OLPS Church. Commencing Wed, 6 Jan 2010 and subsequent 4 Wed sessions on 13, 20 Jan and 3 & 10 Feb 2010 from 8pm to 10pm. Divine Mercy prayer will start at 7.30pm. Please bring your own Bible and writing materials. All are welcome!

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

by Fr Ambrose Vaz
12 Tues: 9.30-11.30am or 7.45 to 9.45pm
Jan 12, 19, Feb 2, 9, 23, Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and Apr 6, 13.
At CAEC, 2 Highland Rd. Contribution: \$45
To register call SPI at 68583011 or email spi@catholic.org.sg
Registration closes on 5th January 2010.

THE PATRICIAN SOCIETY OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION OF ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL

Christmas Eve Mass for old boys of St Patrick's School and their families.
Date: 24th Dec 2009 at 8pm.
Venue: St Patrick's School Chapel
Celebrant: Rev Fr Adrian Yeo.
All are welcome!

CATECHISTS WANTED URGENTLY NEEDED

For the year 2010 we need more volunteers to come forward and help in this ministry to catechize the children in our parish. You may either teach in the Primary or Secondary levels. We also need help in administration. Please leave your contact details with the parish office or you may contact Barbara at 97580258.

Name : _____
Contact number : _____

