



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Few doctrines of the Catholic Church are as misunderstood as the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Many people, including Catholics, think that it refers to the conception of Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. That event, though, is celebrated at the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25, nine months before Christmas). It was at the Annunciation, when the Blessed Virgin Mary humbly accepted the honour bestowed on her by God and announced by the angel Gabriel, that the conception of Christ took place.

What is the Immaculate Conception?

The Immaculate Conception refers to the condition that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from Original Sin, from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne. We celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8; nine months before is December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Development of the Doctrine:

Because of the doctrine of Original Sin, some theologians in the West began to believe that Mary could not have been sinless unless she had been saved from Original Sin, at the moment of her conception (thus making the conception "immaculate"). Others, however, including St. Thomas Aquinas (Dominican Friar, 1225 – 1274), argued that Mary could not have been redeemed if she had not been subject to sin—at least, to Original Sin.

The answer to St. Thomas Aquinas' objection, as Blessed John Duns Scotus (Franciscan Friar, 1265- 1308) showed, was that God had sanctified Mary at the moment of her conception in His foreknowledge that the Blessed Virgin would consent to bear Christ. In other words, she too had been redeemed—her redemption had simply been accomplished at the moment of her conception, rather than (as with all other Christians) in Baptism.

Spread of the Feast in the West:

After John Duns Scotus' defense of the Immaculate Conception, the feast spread throughout the West. On February 28, 1476, however, Pope Sixtus IV extended the feast to the entire Western Church, and in 1483 threatened with excommunication those who opposed the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. By the middle of the 17th century, all opposition to the doctrine had died out in the Catholic Church.

Promulgation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception:

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX officially declared the Immaculate Conception a dogma of the Church, which means that all Christians are bound to accept it. As the Holy Father wrote in the Apostolic Constitution Ineffabilis Deus, "We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful."

Quote:

"Mary gave to the world the Life that renews all things, and she was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role. "It is no wonder, then, that the usage prevailed among the holy Fathers whereby they called the mother of God entirely holy and free from all stain of sin, fashioned by the Holy Spirit into a kind of new substance and new creature. Adorned from the first instant of her conception with the splendors of an entirely unique holiness, the Virgin of Nazareth is, on God's command, greeted by an angel messenger as 'full of grace' (cf. Luke 1:28). To the heavenly messenger she replies: 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to thy word' (Luke 1:38)" (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, 56).



It is the Church's Teaching and belief that not only was the Blessed Virgin Mary immaculate in her conception, she remained faithful and immaculate to God to the end of her earthly life. Through the Immaculate Conception of Mary who fully cooperated with the Divine Plan of God, we are led to Jesus. Thus, this glorious Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a reminder that the Blessed Virgin Mary is the new Eve, our spiritual Mother, the humble instrument and Sacred Temple of the Living God.

Let us be thankful to the Immaculate Conception for answering her special calling that leads to our salvation. Let us praise her for having remained immaculate to the end. Let us look up to her, a precious gem of the Holy Catholic Church, as a perfect model of virtue. And may our holy Mother continue to guide and inspire us as we strive to grow in our life of discipleship during this holy season of Advent.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
10 / 11 Dec 2011

AT A GLANCE

MONDAY 12 DEC

Our Lady of Guadalupe

TUESDAY 13 DEC

St Lucy, virgin, martyr

WEDNESDAY 14 DEC

St John of the Cross, priest

THURSDAY 15 DEC

Advent Weekday

FRIDAY 16 DEC

Simbang Gabi 2011 | 8pm
Main Church

SATURDAY 17 DEC

Advent Weekday

Christmas Ball

SUNDAY 18 DEC

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(O Adonai)

Parish Event

Special Notice

Liturgy Related

Outward Bound



INFANT BAPTISM:
Sun 1 Jan | 3pm

Preparation Course:

Thur 29 Dec | 8pm | Main Church

Baptism Application Form:

Available from Parish Office, church racks or website. Submit completed form with a copy of child's Birth Certificate to Parish Office **1 week** before Baptism date.



EUCHARIST

Sat: 6.55am (Morning Mass)
Sat: 5.30pm (Sunset Mass)
Sun: 7.30am (Mandarin), 9am, 10.45am, 12.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.15pm
3rd Sun: 3.30pm (Indonesian)
Weekday: 6.55am (with Morning Prayer) & 6.30pm



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

R1 2 Sam 7: 1-5, 8-11, 16
R2 Rom 16: 25-27
G Lk 1:26-38



NOVENA

To Our Lady: Sat, 5pm
To St Anthony: Tue, after 6.30pm Mass



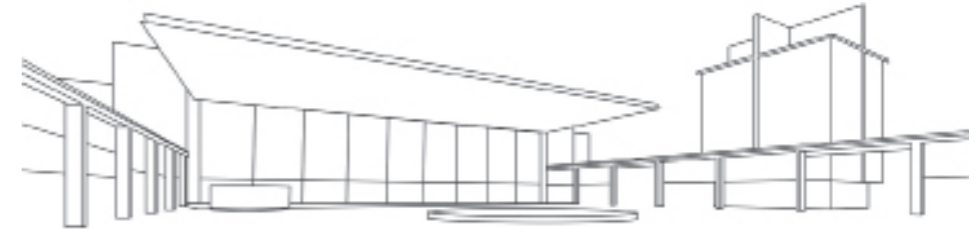
ROSARY DEVOTION

Mon-Sat, after Morning Masses
Family Rosary: Every Sat, 4.30pm



RECONCILIATION

20 mins before Sunday Masses, or by personal appointment with priest



CHURCH OF ST MARY OF THE ANGELS

5 Bukit Batok East Ave 2, Singapore 659918 | info@stmary.sg | www.stmary.sg

Parish Office

Tel: 6567 3866 | Fax: 6562 1824

Columbarium Office

Tel: 6560 6361

Rejoice

Be filled with joy. Pray constantly. Give God thanks because the Lord expects us to give thanks and praise in Christ Jesus. Jesus comes with good news to free us and to clothe us with salvation.

With the bridal cloak to shield us, the Church help us witness to the bright divine light of the Lord in our lives. Each event in our life is part of the coming of the Lord; John the Baptizer announce's the Jesus' arrival. Will we receive him with his cross joyfully?



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HIGHLIGHTS

Penitential Services (Advent)

Mon 19 Dec | 8pm | St Francis of Assisi
Tue 20 Dec | 8pm | St Ignatius
Wed 21 Dec | 8pm | Holy Cross
Thur 22 Dec | 8pm | ST MARY OF THE ANGELS
Fri 23 Dec | 8pm | Blessed Sacrament

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMINGS

Christmas Eve | Sat 24 Dec
Reflections by Kids | 8pm
Children's Mass | 8.30pm
Carolling | 11.15pm
Midnight Mass | 12am

Christmas Day | Sat 25 Dec
Mandarin Mass | 7.30am
English Masses | 9am | 10.45am | 12.30pm

No Mass at 5.30pm and 7.15 pm

See page 2 for more Highlights...

CONTACT US

Parish Priest **Friar John-Paul Tan**, OFM | jptan@stmary.sg
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Communications Executive
Dir. Catechetical Office
Dir. Youth&Young Adult Office
NCC Secretariat
Social Worker
Columbarium Manager
Sacristan
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HIGHLIGHTS

Exhibition:

Celebrating the Life and Work of Pope John Paul II

The Church recently beatified our late Pope JP II and proclaim him 'Blessed'. We rejoice in the life and work of this great man and this exhibition helps us understand more about his spirituality and commitment to bring people closer to God. A 2nd class relic (the stole which he wore when he celebrated Mass in Singapore) is also available for veneration. Let us all continue to pray and look forward to his Canonisation!

Want to know more about Catholic Faith?

Registration for RCIA journey for year 2012 is now open.

Register: RCIA booth | Piazza after all Masses

from Sat Nov 19 to Sun Dec 11.

Catholics may register as sponsors to accompany the faith seekers.

NCC SECRETARIAT

Stephen Wong, Pastoral Assistant | stephen@stmary.sg

NCC MEETINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Mon 12 Dec – Sat 17 Dec

The following Neighbourhood Christian Community (NCC) will be having their meetings for the coming week:

Bukit Batok Area

Parkview Apartments, Bukit Batok St 25 | Mon 12 Dec | 8pm
Mary Help of Christians NCC | Teofilo ☎ 9653-1828

Blk 267 Bt Batok East Ave 4 | Wed 14 Dec | 10.15am
Mystical Rose NCC | Monica ☎ 9328-6862

Blk 203 Bt Batok St 21 | Wed 14 Dec | 8pm
West Mall NCC | Raymond ☎ 9060-6050

Blk 251 Bt Batok East Ave 5 | Wed 14 Dec | 8pm
Bt Batok East View NCC | Petrina ☎ 9691-1595

Blk 288A Bt Batok St 25 | Fri 16 Dec | 11am
Lady of The Holy Rosary NCC | Josephine ☎ 9763-2671

Bt Batok Area | Sat 17 Dec | 7.30pm
Angels (Malayalam) Cmty | Joju ☎ 9734-1824

Bukit Gombak Area

Blk 386 Bukit Batok West Ave 5 | Thur 15 Dec | 8pm
Jesus in Our Midst NCC | June ☎ 9645-5469

Bukit Panjang Area

Blk 654 Senja Road | Thur 15 Dec | 8.30pm
Bukit Batok NCC | Rey ☎ 9680-4761

Bukit Timah Area

Jalan Bangket, Mayfair Park | Wed 14 Dec | 8pm
May Fair NCC | Timothy ☎ 9835-9798

Choa Chu Kang Area

Blk 681 Choa Chu Kang Crescent | Thur 15 Dec | 8.30pm
Yew Tee Branch NCC | Gani ☎ 9154-8405

Blk 683A Choa Chu Kang Crescent | Fri 16 Dec | 8pm
Mary's Soldiers NCC | Gina ☎ 9168-3047

Blk 613, Chu Chu Kang St 62 | Sun 18 Dec | 8pm
Bread & Water NCC | Harold ☎ 9785-9398

Hillview Regency Area

Hillview Regency, Bt Batok East Ave 2 | Fri 16 Dec | 8pm
Hillview Regency NCC | Richard ☎ 9128-3990

83 Hillview Ave Mera Lodge | Mon 12 Dec | 8pm
Echo NCC | Tony ☎ 9661-8876

Please contact the respective NCC coordinators for more details.

AROUND ST MARY'S

ADVENTure 2011

Will you embark on an adventure as we prepare for the birth of Jesus? Come and join the ADVENTure of weekly Gospel reflection sessions based on the Advent booklets "Jesus comes Under Our Roof" from the SPI & Caritas Singapore.

The ADVENTure starts from 1st week of Advent.

Register to express interest or for enquiries,

☎ nccso@stmary.sg | 🌐 www.stmary.sg

Simbang Gabi 2011

Fri 16 Dec | 8pm | Main Church

All are invited to attend the Simbang Gabi. We appeal to our Parishioners to allow their Filipino Domestic Workers to join this celebration. For schedule of Simbang Gabi, please get a copy of schedule near the church Bulletin Board.

For enquiries please contact:

Bro. Edwin Lim ☎ 98795894

Bro. Arman F. Ardiente ☎ 81961945

Bro. Rey Magpayo ☎ 9680476

Bro. Bay Nicdao ☎ 91085219

The Legion Book Barrow

The Legion Book Barrow will close as usual at end of November and re-open on 1st week of March 2012 with More New Titles and a variety of books for children, adults and seniors.

In the meantime, kindly get your copy of

'Catholicism for Dummies' @ barrow special \$26.50 & other books on prayers etc..

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS OFFICE

Ann Yeong, Director | ann@stmary.sg

Help Prepare our Church for Christmas!!

Mon 19 Dec - Fri 23 Dec

Do you have time on your hands? Want to do something meaningful this school holiday for the parish? The Youth and Young Adults Office would like to extend an invitation to all youths to help clean up and maintain the beauty of our parish. This volunteer project will be held in the afternoons from the 19th-23rd December 2011. Youths who are interested are encouraged to indicate their date(s) of choice at the following website :

🌐 www.stmary.sg/holidaycleanup Sign up with your friends!

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

Book of Prophet Jeremiah - by Msgr Eugene Vaz

17 Tuesdays 3 Jan till 22 May

9.30am - 11.30am (or) 7.45pm – 9.45pm

Contribution: \$95 (Early bird registration: \$90)

(Register with payment before 20th December to enjoy the 'early bird' discount)

For register : ☎ 68583011 | ✉ admin@catholicspi.org

MANDARIN CORNER 堂区通

天使驿站@天使之后堂

邀请新移民和工友参加

圣诞联欢会

日期: 2011年12月11日 (星期日)

时间: 下午5点 – 晚上8点30分

地点: 天使之后堂圣佳兰中心课室B1-B3

地址: 5, Bukit Batok East Ave 2

联络: 黄修女9239 – 6226

电邮: smotachinese@gmail.com

巴士车号: 61、66、157、

174、178、852

The Contemplative Dimension of Faith

Sat 7 Jan - Sun 8 Sun | CJC

The aim of this Seminar is to further deepen the spirit of friendship and collaboration among the different faiths in Singapore. Common Ground will focus on the contemplative practice of religion and how the shared experience of silence in meditation can enhance interreligious dialogue.

Led by Fr. Laurence Freeman, OSB with contributions from other religious leaders.

On Sat 7 (8.30am - 5pm) and Sun 8 January 2012 (9am - 5pm) at CJC Performing Arts Center, Whitley Road. Cost: \$50. Registration required.

For enquiries/registration:

✉ commonground2012@gmail.com | ☎ 84113130 / 63364815

Catholic Church of St Ignatius

Has immediate job vacancy for full-time ASSISTANT PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Interested candidates please email your full resume with latest passport size photograph to ✉ gabriel@stignatius.org before Thur 15 Dec.

Only Shortlisted candidates will be notified.

2012年华文成人慕道班开始招生

了。

开课日期是1-2-2012 (星期三) 晚上8点。

招募活动将从20-11-2011至 11-12-2011 共4周

日在教堂外广场, 设有招募摊位, 欢迎前往询问。