



Church of St. Alphonsus (Novena Church)
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4th Ordinary Sunday - Year C

Masses

Monday-Friday 6.30am, 12.15pm [Lunch-Time Mass] & 6.30pm
 [Public Holiday-Masses are at 8.00am & 6.30pm, no Lunch-Time Mass]
 Saturday 7.00am
 Sunday 7.00am, 8.30am & 5.30pm
 2nd & 4th Sunday 10.15am Filipino & Migrant Communities

Devotions

Tuesday & Friday Prayer to the Divine Mercy at 11.00am
 Saturday Perpetual Novena in honour of Our Mother of Perpetual Help at 9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am, 1.00pm, 2.00pm, 3.00pm [Mandarin] 4.00pm, 5.00pm, 6.00pm & 7.00pm

Readings & Responses for the Week

Mon	1 st Feb	2 Sam 15:13-14. 30; 16:5-13 Arise, Lord; save me, my God.
Tue	2 nd Feb	Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 (<i>Presentation of the Lord</i>) Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord.
Wed	3 rd Feb	Rom 5:1-5; Mk 16:15-20 (<i>St Blaise</i>) Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.
Thu	4 th Feb	1 Kgs 2:1-4. 10-12; Mk 6:7-13 You, Lord, are the ruler of all.
Fri	5 th Feb	1 Cor 1:26-31; Lk 9:23-26 (<i>St Agatha</i>) Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Sat	6 th Feb	Gal 2:19-20; Mt 28:16-20 (<i>Ss Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs</i>) Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

At Novena Church

Celebrating World Day for Consecrated Life

Date: Tuesday, 2nd February 2010. Venue: Novena Church. Time: 6.30pm
 This year Novena Church will host the Day for Consecrated Life. All religious in Singapore will be present and Archbishop Nicholas Chia will preside. Candles will be blessed on this Feast Day (Presentation of The Lord). The church will provide candles for all who attend. Please do not place any candles in the sanctuary. There will be renewal of baptismal vows for all and the religious will renew their evangelical vows.

Fishers of Men

St Therese of Lisieux (Part 2) - The Inspiring life of St Therese of Lisieux
 Join us on Friday, 5th February 2010 at 7:15pm in Peter Donders room. All are welcome.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The second collection on Sunday, 7th February 2010 is for the Poor and Needy of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Please give your generous support.

Ladies Confraternity

There will be **No** meeting for the month of February 2010.

Chinese New Year Masses

The Vigil Mass on 13th February 2010 is at 10.00pm. Kindly bring **two oranges** for the Traditional exchange at Mass. Dress code: Traditional outfit in **RED**.

1st Day of CNY· Sunday, 14th February· Masses as usual (Sunday timing)
 2nd Day of CNY· Monday, 15th February· Masses at 8.00am & 6.30pm (English)
 3rd Day of CNY· Tuesday, 16th February· Masses at 8.00am & 6.30pm (English)

Novena Devotion

Please take note that the Novena devotions on Saturday, 13th February 2010 will be as usual.

Ash Wednesday—17th February 2010

Blessing and imposition of ashes at all Masses (6.30am, 12.15pm and 7.00pm).

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday in Lent, from 19th February 2010, there will be Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm followed by Mass at 7.00pm.

Loitering around Church

We would like to alert all worshippers not to entertain beggars who solicit.

Haiti Earthquake

The Archdiocesan Crisis Coordination Team (ACCT) in Singapore is working with Caritas Internationalis (CI) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to provide financial support from its Disaster Aid fund. Those who wish to donate to the fund can send a crossed cheque made payable to Disaster Aid Fund+to: ACCT (Attn: Jerry Ow), 2 Highland Road, LG-01, Singapore 549102.

GOD = LOVE
LOVE = GOD

John says that "*God is love*" (1 Jn 4:8). We can reduce this fact to the following equation: God = Love or Love = God. And if we substitute the word "God" whenever we see the word "love", we came to very interesting results.

Each time we declare to someone "I love you", we are in effect declaring "I God You". We are unconsciously declaring that God is in our relationship, and that He is in between us holding us together. What an acknowledgement of the presence and power of God in our marriage, in our family relationships, and in our friendships whenever there is Love.

Also, each time we show an occasional act of love to a stranger, we show God to that person. Amazing power that we have to make God real to another; for someone to experience God when they experience our love.

And when I read today's 2nd Reading, I realize that St Paul's definition of love is actually a wonderful descriptio of God Himself:

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God is patient, God is kind. God It does not envy,
God does not boast, God is not proud. God is not rude,
God is not self-seeking, God is not easily angered,
God keeps no record of wrongs. God does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. God always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. God never fails.

In describing Love as above, St. Paul also tells us that Love is not a feeling or emotion. Love is a decision – an action. So when I decide to be patient with or show kindness to someone, I love. Whenever I am happy with someone's good fortune, and not think "*so unfair, how come I am not that lucky*", I love. Whenever I do not boast or am proud about my successes and accomplishments, I love those who are not as blessed as I am. Whenever I try to be polite, self-less, humble, do not get angry or bear grudges, I love. Whenever I strive to be good and live a life of integrity, I love. In my relationships, if I can nurture, protect, trust, hope and persevere, I love. Like God's, my love must be faithful and constant. I cannot fail in my love (even if the people we love fail us).

This is tough because it is not easy to love at all times and all people. But if I pray to the God of Love for strength, and try, I can learn to love as God loves. And my reward when I love? God will be with me! ("I God Love+)

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. (1 John 3: 18)

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