



Church of St. Alphonsus (Novena Church)
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22nd 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)
Saturday	7.00am
Sunday	7.00am, 8.30am & 5.30pm
2 nd & 4 th Sunday	10.15am Filipino & Migrant Communities

Devotion in honour of Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Saturday	9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am (English) 1.00pm, 2.00pm (English) 3.00pm (Mandarin) 4.00pm, 5.00pm, 6.00pm & 7.00pm (English)
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Readings & Responses for the Week

Mon 30 th Aug	1 Cor 2:1-5; Lk 4:16-30 Lord, how I love your law!
Tue 31 st Aug	1 Cor 2:10-16; Lk 4:31-37 The Lord is just in all his ways.
Wed 1 st Sep	1 Cor 3:1-9; Lk 4:38-44 Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own.
Thu 2 nd Sep	1 Cor 3:18-23; Lk 5:1-11 The Lord's is the earth and its fullness.
Fri 3 rd Sep	2 Cor 4:1-2, 5-7; Lk 22:24-30 (<i>St Gregory</i>) Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.
Sat 4 th Sep	1 Cor 4:6-15; Lk 6:1-5 (<i>BVM</i>) The Lord is close to all who call him.

At Novena Church

75th Redemptorist Anniversary

In conjunction with the 75th anniversary, we will be having :-

- ◆ Musical play "The Reluctant Saint". A play depicting the life of Saint Alphonsus. Venue: The Republic Cultural Centre, Woodlands. Dates: Monday, 6th September till Thursday, 9th September 2010. Time: 8pm—10.30pm. Price: \$40, \$70, \$100. Matinee ticket at \$35/- on 9th September at 2.00pm. It is in aid of the Redemptorists affected by the Haiti Disaster.
- ◆ Gala Dinner on Sunday, 12th September 2010 at Singapore Expo Hall 1. Cost: \$100/- per person

Tickets can be purchased at the Church Reception.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

There will be a second collection on Sunday, 29th August 2010. The collection is for the poor and needy of the society. Please give your generous support.

Novena Bible Apostolate

Take a journey through the Epistle of James—Pearls for Wise Living with Jeff Cavins. James is a book of wisdom, a collection of teachings on issues faced by ordinary Christians in everyday life. It focuses on the competing demands of this world and our faith. The study covering 11 weeks will be held on Wednesdays commencing on 8th September 2010 at 7.30pm in Peter Donders Room. Registration Forms are available at the Church Reception or email to bible.novena@gmail.com

The Alphonsian Prayer Ministry

New 12-week session will resume every Thursday starting from 9th September at 7.30pm in Peter Donders room. Registration on Saturday 4th September.

Our Lady's Triduum Mass

Wednesday, 1st September to Friday, 3rd September 2010. It begins at 6.30pm each evening. Recitation of Rosary followed by Mass on Wednesday and Thursday. Praise & Worship followed by Mass and Healing on Friday.

Annual Novena Procession—5th September 2010 at 6.00pm

- ◆ Dress Code - Come dress in **BLUE**
- ◆ Floral Wall - To avoid wastage, the procession committee will purchase just the Necessary amount of flowers for the floral wall. We request that you Do not buy or send flowers for the procession. Your monetary Contributions to help defray the cost will be most appreciated.
 - *Volunteers needed to help cut the flowers on Saturday, 4th September. Please bring your scissors or clippers.*
- ◆ Dedication Slips - It's available on the stands along the verandah. Kindly drop the completed slips into the box provided.
- ◆ Car Park Closure - Please take note that the car park will be closed on 3rd, 4th, 5th and 7th September 2010. Thank you for your co-operation.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

**No 6.30am Mass on Mondays, 6th & 13th September 2010. Noon & evening Masses as usual.
No 5.30pm Mass on Sunday, 12th September 2010. Morning Masses as usual.**

Do they know who I am?

Whenever someone ignores or upsets me, I bristle in anger and think: “Do they know who I am?” I then proceed to answer my own question, and I go through my educational qualifications, my professional status, my corporate title at work, my accomplishments and abilities, and the people I know. I realize that I am defined by my Curriculum Vitae – my job resume!

But, as a Christian, I should be defined by my discipleship with Christ. I should be defined by Christian values and virtues, and one of the key virtues is Humility.

Jesus is very serious about the Sin of Pride. In today’s Gospel, he talks about taking the seat of honour at feast because of self-importance and vanity. He has also scolded the Pharisees about their pride, boastfulness, snobbery and prejudice. Jesus wants us to be humble: *“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”* (Luke 14:10-11).

And, as usual Jesus does not just talk about humility, he shows us how to be humble. As St Paul explains:

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil 2: 5-11)

So if I am serious about wanting to be like Christ, I have to become humble and not think I am so great or better than the others. And I realize that to be humble in my relationships with others, I have to be first humble before my God. A lot of my pride comes from my abilities and accomplishments. I have to remember that all graces come from God, and all praises is rightfully his. I am just his instrument. As Mother Mary said with such great humility during the Annunciation: We are just the handmaid of the Lord!

If I can become humble before God, I will no longer have to rely on my own strength and abilities. I just have to trust in my God. I will no longer need to prove anything to anyone, and no longer need people to affirm that I am clever, successful, etc. God will be enough.

So I start and ask for the Holy Spirit to help me. Hopefully, one day when I ask myself “Do they know who I am?”, I can answer “Yes, I am a child of God, and I am trying to walk humbly with my God”.

“He has showed you, O man, what is good.

And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6: 8)