

## + REFLECTION

SUNDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2016 • FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
Is 7: 10-14 Ps 24: 1-6 (7c. 10b) Rom 1: 1-7 Mt 1: 18-24

### “Emmanuel, I step forth today rejoicing in your faithfulness and in the courage and freedom that you bring to my life.”

“Emmanuel.” You can imagine what that name must have meant to Joseph when he awoke from his dream. First, it must have consoled him. The fact that God was with Mary and him in such a physical way must have been comforting, so much so that he became willing to take Mary as his wife. Second, it must have given him courage. Humble tradesman that he was, Joseph probably felt unqualified to be the guardian of the Messiah. So the name Emmanuel probably felt like a shield against fear. It gave him the boldness he needed to guard and protect Mary and her child. Lastly, the name Emmanuel must have filled him with joy. At last! The Messiah that Israel had long awaited! God had come to visit his people in a new and powerful way; he was going to save them from their sins. How could Joseph possibly contain his excitement? God had kept his promise. He was with them! This dream changed Joseph’s out-look on the dilemma that he faced with his betrothal to Mary. Comforted, strengthened, and made joyful by the name Emmanuel, he could now say yes to God’s plan for his life and for the unique family he would lead. This one name—Emmanuel— holds these three treasures for you as well. When you wake up each morning and start thinking about the challenges of the day ahead, remember that God is with you, like a friend you can spend each day with. He is your courage and strength when you feel unqualified to handle a particular situation. He is your joy, reminding you of the promise of heaven. So hold on to Jesus, God-with-us. Look for signs of his presence in your life. Wrap yourself in his protection. Most of all, rejoice in it! God has sent his Son to you. You have a Saviour who is always with you!

### Daily Readings

#### Dec 19 Mon: Advent Weekday (O Radix Jesse)

Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25a Ps 71: 3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 Lk 1: 5-25

#### Dec 20 Tue: Advent Weekday (O Clavis David)

Is 7: 10-14 Ps 24: 1-6 Lk 1: 26-38

#### Dec 21 Wed: Advent Weekday (O Oriens)/ Peter Canisius, priest, dr

Sg 2: 8-14 or Zep 3: 14-18a Ps 33: 2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Lk 1: 39-45

#### Dec 22 Thu: Advent Weekday (O Rex Gentium)

1 Sm 1: 24-28 1 Sm 2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd Lk 1: 46-56

#### Dec 23 Fri: Advent Weekday (O Emmanuel)/ John of Kanty, priest

Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24 Ps 25: 4-5ab, 8-9, 10, 14 Lk 1: 57-66

#### Dec 24 Sat: Advent Weekday

2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89: 2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 Lk 1: 67-79

### A GENTLE REMINDER

## Petitions to Divine Mercy

All petitions to the Divine Mercy will be offered up on the last Saturday of every month during the 5pm Divine Mercy devotion. Please place your petitions in the Petition Box at the Divine Mercy mosaic inside the main church.

## Helping Hands Needed

We need more hands to clean the church. Just come by every Saturday from 8:00am to 10am at the main Church. All are welcome!

### Parish Secretariat

#### General Office

Raymond Tan/Luke Teo/Maria Lim/  
Teresa Tan

Tel | 6583 3378 • Fax | 6583 1694  
Email | secretariat@divinemercury.sg

#### Opening Hours

Mon - Fri | 11am - 7pm  
Closed for lunch | 1pm - 2pm  
Sat | 12.30pm - 5.30pm  
Sun | 9am - 1pm  
Closed on public holidays

### Parish Census

For those who have not yet registered as parishioners of CDM, please do so at the Parish Office.



# CHURCH OF DIVINE MERCY

19 PASIR RIS ST 72 SINGAPORE 518771 • www.divinemercury.sg

17/18 DECEMBER 2016 • VOL. 51  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Parish Bulletin

### Parish Priests

**Fr Johnson Fernandez**

Tel | 6583 6393

**Fr Terence Kesavan**

Tel | 6583 8789

### Mass & Prayer Times

#### Weekday

6:30am, 6:15pm

#### Saturday

6:30am, 5:30pm

**Every 1st Saturday of the month**

7.30pm Syro-Malaba Mass (Chapel)

**Every 3rd Saturday of the month**

7.30pm Tagalog Mass

#### Sunday

7am, 9am, 11.30am, 5.30pm

*Confessions 15 min before Mass.*

**Public Holidays** 8am only

#### Divine Mercy Devotion

Daily at 6.45pm (Chapel)

Saturday at 5.00pm (Main Church)

#### Prayer for Priests

Every Thurs 5.15pm followed by  
6.15pm mass

### Community & Pastoral Care

#### Divine Mercy Apostolate

**Neighbourhood Christian Community (NCC)**

#### Prayer for the Sick & Dying

#### Funeral and Wake Services

Please contact the Parish Office or email secretariat@divinemercury.sg

### Staying Connected

To offer feedback, email us at

stayingconnected@divinemercury.sg

#### Subscribe to our e-bulletin at

www.divinemercury.sg

#### Like our Facebook Page

www.divinemercury.sg/facebook

**You Tube** Tune in to our channel -  
Church of Divine Mercy

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” - John 3:16**



The final and fourth Sunday of the Advent season is dedicated to the theme of LOVE. Love is the theme that resonates throughout the Christmas season as the Bible tells us that it was God’s love for the world that motivated the sending of his Son at Christmas. This candle reminds us that God loves us, and that we must show that love by loving one another. In this final weekend of Advent, let us maintain our spiritual preparation for this celebration of our Lord’s birth.

## Indestructible Love

With the birth of Jesus the heavens open! God gives us in Christ the guarantee of an indestructible love... And it is possible for each one of us, if we allow ourselves to be suffused with God’s love, which is given to us for the first time in baptism by means of the Holy Spirit. Let us allow ourselves to be invaded by God’s love! This is the great time of mercy! Do not forget it: this is the great time of mercy!

Pope Francis — Angelus, January 12, 2014

**Reflection:** Giving ourselves to others in love takes courage. We can only do this knowing that we possess God’s indestructible love. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be invaded by God’s love so that you can give it to others.

## + PARISH BUZZ

### Hospitality Ministry Christmas Party



The Hospitality Ministry celebrated Christmas with a party at the SIA Sports Club on 10 Dec. A big THANK YOU to our Hospitality Ministers for always giving a warm welcome to parishioners and ensuring the smooth proceedings of all Masses and church events.

### Infant Baptism Congrats!



Congratulations to the parents and godparents whose infants received the Sacrament of Baptism on 11 December 2016. Photographs are available on our website: <http://divinemersey.sg/main/services/infant-baptism/>

### Prayers Needed: Aceh Earthquake and Rohingya Migrant Crisis

Nearly 84,000 people have been made homeless by a 6.5-magnitude earthquake that struck Indonesia's Aceh province last week. In Myanmar, the Rohingya people continue to be persecuted. Tens of thousands have fled the country, just to face sickness, starvation and even death at sea after being pushed away by neighbouring countries. During this Christmas season, in the midst of our celebrations, let us also not forget our brothers and sisters facing adversity and suffering. Let us pray for them, and the lives lost.

## + PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CDM Advent Schedule

#### 'Simbang Gabi' - 9 Night Novena Mass

15 Dec to 23 Dec @ 8:00pm daily  
Officiated by the visiting Priest Fr. Romeo RV Villavicencio. The Mass will be in English, but the Homily and Songs will be a mix of English and Tagalog. There will be a fellowship after every Mass at the canteen. Open to everyone! For more information contact Zap 82881025 & Marie 94783985.

#### Christmas Eve - Sat, 24 Dec:

6:00pm Children's Pageant followed by Christmas Mass

We invite all children to come dressed as **Angels, Shepherds or Wise Men** for the Children's Christmas Pageant and Mass!

8.15pm Carolling/Christmas Eve Cantata

9:00pm Christmas Mass

11.30pm Carolling

12:00mn Midnight Christmas Mass

#### Christmas Day (Day of Obligation)

##### Sun, 25 Dec:

Masses at 7:00am; 9:00am; 11:30am; 5.30pm

3:00pm Special Mass for our foreign workers followed by Hi-Tea

##### Sat, 31 Dec:

6.30am & 5.30pm (Thanksgiving Mass)

##### Sun, 1 Jan 2017:

Mass schedule as usual

### Social/Case Workers Needed in SSVP

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is seeking for full time Social/Case Workers to provide higher quality care for our Friends-In-Need. Incumbents will provide case management support to volunteers of SSVP, reporting to the Society's National Council representative. Normal working hours at Agape Village are Mon to Fri, 9am to 6pm. The nature of the job requires visits, networking, retreats and events for beneficiaries during weekends and after office hours. Must be able to work in a team. Volunteers/retirees with social/case work experience are also welcome to apply. Please email your CV to [ssvp.ao@gmail.com](mailto:ssvp.ao@gmail.com)

### Milestone Wedding Anniversaries

All married couples who are celebrating their significant wedding anniversaries in the year 2017 are invited to register this weekend at the foyer or parish office. 'Significant' means 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, ... in 2017.

**On the weekend of 31 December 2016/1 January 2017, special pews will be reserved for you at the mass of your choice.** Please gather at the foyer before

mass and process with the priest to the altar. During the Mass we will invite you to renew your marriage vows. Please come dressed for the occasion. At the end of the mass, there will be a group photo of the anniversary couples together with the celebrant.

### Second Collection for GIFT envelopes

This weekend, being the third weekend of the month, there will be a second collection to receive your monthly pledges to Catholic Foundation's GIFT campaign if you are giving by cash/cheque. GIFT is Catholic Foundation's regular giving campaign to fund the numerous organisations involved in families, youths, evangelisation, etc, as well as building projects in the archdiocese. Kindly bring your pledge envelopes with the cash/cheque enclosed and drop them into the collection bags that will be passed round. If you need the pledge envelopes, these can be found along the pews.

### Home Rosary Session

There will not be any home rosary sessions between 19 and 25 December 2016.

### Jason Evert Live in Singapore

The Archdiocesan Commission for the Family is bringing in Jason Evert, renowned Catholic author and speaker on chastity and sexuality, to Singapore on 14 January 2017. He will give separate talks to parents, young adults and youth. Tickets are available at the Parish Office.