



Spirituality in the Catholic Home

Early childhood education has been given special attention here in recent years, since every child is important in a small country like Singapore. There is a need to focus on the holistic development of each child, not only at her/his physical, psychological and intellectual formation, but more importantly on the child's spiritual development.

We know from research that infancy years are crucial for the healthy growth and well-being of a child. Studies have also shown that the subsequent years of childhood and adolescence are equally important, especially the influence of family and social environment. Yet we have only limited research knowledge of a child's spiritual formation and development. *So where do Catholic parents get to learn how to integrate their children's spiritual formation into their parenting efforts?*

In our Gospels, we can often find important values and insights to help us adults in our spiritual growth and journey, since those parables and teachings of Jesus were not written specifically for children of his time. However, even adults have difficulties in understanding Jesus' parables, let alone younger children. The Gospels were written for specific groups of people after Jesus' resurrection, so that they might believe in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, born into a humble home of Joseph and Mary some 2000 years ago on Christmas Day. Thus, parents today have to make

concerted and conscientious efforts in finding creative ways to get the message of the Gospels to their younger children, with the help of the Church, family and friends.

Today, as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, let us use our imagination to picture the family life led by Jesus, Mary and Joseph. You may have to let your imagination "run wild" for a moment. *Do you think that the Holy Family led a peaceful family life without problems or challenges?* Far from it, in John's Gospel today, you hear two unsettling prophecies regarding the infant Jesus. What could have gone through the minds and hearts of Mary and Joseph then, hearing those prophecies about Jesus, their life together as a family and roles as Jesus' parents? How would you feel or react if those prophecies were meant for your child?

I would like you to imagine for a moment the early childhood of Jesus in Nazareth, where he would spend most of his time in the carpenter shop of Joseph. The shop would be the place where the Holy family lived and worked. And it would be a family of modest means, with the sound of wood cracking and smell of sawdust, including sharp tools laying around as part of Joseph's trade as a carpenter. One would wonder, how they spent their morning, afternoon and evening as a family. And how did the boy Jesus receive his early religious formation, from Joseph or Mary, or both of them? Perhaps, not only home religious

education from Mary and Joseph, but also learning good human values and skills of how to be a man for others.

As child developmental researchers will point out, the growth of a child will depend on the active interaction of both her/his "*Genes and Environment*" (G x E). And for your children, I believe the interaction should be encapsulated by our Catholic spirituality, Sp (G x E). All these may sound good theologically and theoretically, and you as parents may ask, "*How in actual practice are we supposed to bring this Sp (G x E) into our parenting?*" Allow me to suggest a few ways for this **Sp (G x E)** to work in your family and as Catholic parents.

(i) Begin the spiritual formation of your child as early as possible, by introducing her/him to the life of Jesus through Children's Bibles, books and activities, like the "Catechism of the Good Shepherd" (CGS) for young children.

(ii) Place your child in a Catholic educational environment beginning with play-school, kindergarten and Catholic schools, where possible.

(iii) Have regular family prayer time, either once a week / month, prayer at meals, including other special family occasions or celebrations.

(iv) Begin your regular monthly family meeting or conference with a spiritual reading and end with a short prayer, eg. Our Father or Hail Mary, as well as reading to your young children the "Lives of Saints for Children", or other Christian inspirational stories.

(v) Make religious artifacts visible at home, eg. crucifixes, bible, rosary, enthronement of the “Sacred Heart”, and have religious paintings/prints as part of your home “decoration” (see the famous print of the “Annunciation” by Fra Angelico, Florence, right), including having a dedicated space at home for your family altar.



(vi) Visit famous cathedrals/ monasteries, and holy/sacred sites, eg. homes of the Saints when you travel overseas, or make a family pilgrimage where possible, for example to nearby St Francis Xavier, SJ burial site in Malacca, or Lourdes, Fatima or even the Holy Land.

(vii) Plan family projects to care for the poor and needy in the community/parish, or travel together as a family for an overseas outreach project.

(viii) Speak to your Catholic friends/ families/ priest/ spiritual director for other time-tested ways of bringing the Holy Family into your own home.

(ix) Come to Mass regularly as a family, and get involved in the life of the parish and its activities as a family, where possible.

(x) Use your creative imagination to expand on the suggestions given above.

Finally, allow me to conclude with **Pope Francis’ Prayer to the Holy Family, Angelus**, on 29th Dec 2013.

Prayer to the Holy Family*

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendour of true love,
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again
experience violence, rejection and division:
may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may the Synod of Bishops (on the Family)
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God’s plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.

Amen!

FR CHARLES SIM, SJ

PARISH NEWS

Welcoming 2021

Thursday, 31 Dec 2020
Thanksgiving and New Year Eve Mass
7.00pm

Friday, 01 Jan 2021
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year Mass)
8.15am, 10.15am, 7.00pm

All Mass bookings are to be made via myCatholic.sg

JANUARY MASS BOOKINGS

myCatholic.sg is open for Mass bookings on **Tuesday, 29 December 2020 at 3pm** for first Weekend Mass and all Weekday Masses in January. Second Weekend Mass booking opens on **Tuesday, 12 January 2021**.

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7.00pm.
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday 4.30pm and 6.00pm
Sunday 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm, 4.30pm and 6.00pm.

Parking is ONLY at the King’s Road basement car park. Go to stignatius.org.sg and our church Telegram channel for updates, guidelines to the resumption of Masses.

COMPULSORY USE OF TRACETOGETHER

All parishioners attending Mass are to use the **TRACETOGETHER** app or token to perform SafeEntry check-ins. As Mass capacity increases to 150 people, this will allow more parishioners to attend.

All parishioners must download the **TraceTogether app OR bring along your tokens for SafeEntry when you arrive for Mass**. Please continue to bring your NRIC/Work Permit to verify your Mass booking before you can be admitted to the Church Hall.

Download the TraceTogether App: tracetogogether.gov.sg
Collect TraceTogether Token: token.gowhere.gov.sg

NO-SHOW FOR BOOKED MASS (LESS THAN 48 HRS)

If you are unable to attend the Mass that you had booked, please email csi.admin@catholic.org.sg with your name as in the registration, last four digits of IC, date & time of Mass.

WEEKLY SUNDAY REFLECTION with Fr Colin Tan, SJ.
Please go to stignatius.org.sg/home/

RESUMPTION OF WEEKDAY MORNING MASS

The Parish is looking to restart the Weekday Morning Mass. To help us decide which day and time would be best to do so, please complete the following survey: <https://forms.gle/beDQo32YoBfcC6dP9>

NEW STAFF

We warmly welcome our Communications Manager, Chrestella Setiyadi. We look forward to working with her and having her serve our parish family.



YOUNG ADULTS' FORMATION

Calling all young adults! Our new series, “The Joy of Discovery” explores our identity, and the discovery of our gifts and mission. The session dates are 2 and 16 December, 6 and 20 January, 8.30pm – 10.00pm via Zoom. Sign up at tinyurl.com/youngadultsformation

VISITING THE COLUMBARIUM

Our Columbarium is open for visits on Sundays, 9.00am-9.45am, 11.00am-11.45am, and 1.00pm-1.45pm; and Saturdays, 5.00pm-5.45pm.

For 2021 bookings, please book at bit.ly/stigscolumbarium2021



Only 30 visitors are allowed per session, so please do not visit unless your booking is confirmed by the parish through phone call or WhatsApp. If you need help in booking, please call the church office 6466 0625 (Angela/Suzie). After office hours, WhatsApp/SMS 9675 6621.

PARISH DIAMOND JUBILEE

Our church is selling commemorative Jubilee T-shirts and umbrellas at \$20 each. They may make excellent and useful gifts. You may purchase them at jubilee-stignatius.com/shop or go to the church office at any time during office hours to make your purchases and collect your items.

BAT – SATURDAY ROCKERS

BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM “Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come”, shows how the Church is intimately connected with the kingdom of Heaven. Discover what the mysterious figures and images of Revelation mean, and how Revelation is more than an apocalyptic vision of the “end times”. On Saturdays at 1.30pm, starting in February 2021 (date TBD), via Zoom. WhatsApp Charly at 9100 7401 for details.

Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest ★ Fr Jerome Leon, SJ Assistant Parish Priest ★ Fr Ravi Michael Louis, SJ Assistant Parish Priest
Angela Kurnadi Parish Administrator ★ Suzie Wee Parish Accountant ★ Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator ★ Natalie Ang Youth Coordinator ★ Susan Thian Catechetical Coordinator
David Saw Operations Manager ★ Steven Leong Facilities Manager ★ Therese Gian Sacristan ★ Chrestella Setiyadi Communications Manager

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

BIBLE LECTURE SERIES

Begins in January 2021 via Zoom.

Monday evenings from 11 January by Msgr Ambrose Vaz – The Letters of Peter, James and Jude, and the Letter to the Hebrews at bit.ly/35Zju0Y

Tuesday mornings from 19 January and Thursday evenings from 14 January by Fr Ferdinand Purnomo, OCD – The Wisdom Books at bit.ly/34FRX3C

Tuesday evenings from 12 January by Fr Eugene Vaz – The Gospel of Mark at bit.ly/370RQjq

Wednesday evenings from 13 January by Msgr Ambrose Vaz – The Books of Judith, Tobit and Esther at bit.ly/33b9lqN

Friday mornings from 15 January by Msgr Ambrose Vaz – The Books of Samuel at bit.ly/2HuJ44u

Jointly Organised by:

families unite
against
OCD

AN ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP FOR
CAREGIVERS WITH LOVED ONES AFFECTED
BY OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDER

SESSION 6: SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT REFUSES
TREATMENT FOR OCD. WHAT CAN YOU DO?

23 JANUARY 2021
(EVERY 4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH)
2PM - 4PM, VIA ZOOM
MORE DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED AT A LATER DATE
FEES: FOC

To register, scan the QR code
or visit:
tinyurl.com/familiesuniteagainstocd
Registration closes on 20 Jan, 23:59

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