



# ST. PETER'S CHURCH

## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL PARISH



270 South Chongqing Road, Shanghai 200025

1st Sunday of Lent, March 5, 2017

### BISHOP

We pray for Bishop Aloysius Jin, who returned to the Lord on April 27, 2013.

### PASTOR

Fr. Anthony Chen  
1391-778-6322  
franthonychen@hotmail.com

### INTERNATIONAL MASSES ENGLISH

Saturday 5pm Sunday 11am  
First Friday Mass Apr. 7 7:30pm

### GERMAN

Sunday Mar. 5 & 19 3pm

### KOREAN

Sundays 5pm

### RECONCILIATION

30 minutes before Mass and by appointment

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

9am – 8pm Daily  
Adoration Chapel (Room 111)



### ST. IGNATIUS CATHEDRAL

158 Puxi Road, Xujiahui  
English Mass Sunday 12 noon



### ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

36 S. Sichuan Road  
English Mass Sunday 11am



### SACRED HEART CHURCH

151 Hong Feng Road, Pudong  
English Masses  
Saturday 5pm Sunday 10:30am



### DAILY READINGS

Mar. Reading	Psalm	Gospel
5 Gn 2:7-3:7 Rm 5:12-19	Ps 51:3-17	Mt 4:1-11
6 Lv 19:1-18	Ps 19:8-15	Mt 25:31-46
7 Is 55:10-11	Ps 34:4-19	Mt 6:7-15
8 Jon 3:1-10	Ps 51:3-19	Lk 11:29-32
9 Est C:12-25	Ps 138:1-8	Mt 7:7-12
10 Ezk 18:21-28	Ps 130:1-8	Mt 5:20-26



*"A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me.*

*Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me."*

Ps 51: 12-13

*"The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."*



We have begun the most sacred season of Lent. It began as a time of preparation for baptism for catechumens. Soon, the entire Church made it a time of preparation for Easter and a renewal of their own baptism commitment.

As catechumens face the scrutiny of their faith and choices, the baptized also need to constantly scrutinize their faith. Lent is a time of renewal and conversion.

In this liturgical year, the Gospel readings on the five Sundays of Lent are beautiful and significant, each of them calling us to renewal and conversion. In the First Sunday, Jesus enters the desert to spend forty days in prayer and fasting to discern and purify his calling and mission. On the Second Sunday, the Transfiguration reveals Jesus' glorious self, but he has left that glory behind to walk with us in our path of suffering.

Next, we have the story of Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan Woman. An encounter with Christ inspires us to conversion. On the Fourth Sunday, Jesus heals the blind man.

We are called to ask in what way do we continue to be blind and in need of healing. Finally, on the Fifth Sunday, we hear the story of the raising of Lazarus. It is a prefigurement of Jesus' resurrection and of our own.

The desert is a desolate place. There is no food, no water, no shelter, no sound. Jesus enters the desert not to torture himself, but to free himself from every distraction to discern the mission that his Father is giving him.

In this place of silence and emptiness, Jesus squares up to the temptation to make his mission not about the service of others but for his own glory. Lent is a time of discernment — a time to be alone with God in the desert... to ask ourselves if we are listening to God, trusting in God and worshipping God alone.

The Church has three traditional practices to help us achieve this end — *prayer, fasting and almsgiving.*

**Prayer** – Jesus does not enter the desert to ask God for what he wants. Rather, Jesus enters into a time of silent prayer to listen to what God is asking of him.

**Fasting** – is not just about giving up something we like as a form of punishment. It is removing the distractions in our life — food, drink or a form of entertainment or technology — to learn to trust in God alone.

**Almsgiving** – The desert is a symbol of poverty and simplicity. When we are generous to those in need and simplify our lives, we free ourselves to worship God alone.

As we begin this sacred season, may all our prayer, fasting and almsgiving help us to grow in faith. May it help us renew our commitment to Christ.

*"Lent is a time of discernment – a time to be alone with God in the desert... to ask ourselves if we are listening to God, trusting in God and worshipping God alone."*



**Fr. Gerard Louis, C.Ss.R.**  
Redemptionist Community, Singapore  
*Written specially for international Catholics in Shanghai*

Lenten Acclamation Before the Gospel  
**"Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory."**  
 Reminder: during Lent the Gloria and Alleluia are not sung.

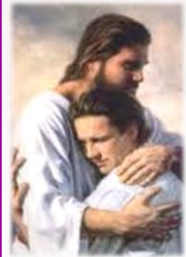
**"Lent is the time to grow in friendship with the Lord"**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God "with all their hearts" (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord.



**"Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return."**



Lent is a favorable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take.

Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter.

**"May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God's word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need."**

From Pope Francis' Lent 2017 Message at <http://tinyurl.com/jxomp2r>



**Valuable New Ways to FAST During Lent**

Along with prayer and almsgiving, FASTING is the third pillar of Lent. Do we understand the purpose of Lenten fasting? A time-honored practice of believers over many centuries, fasting during these 40 days of

Lent helps keep our focus on Jesus as we try our best to return wholeheartedly to God. Here's how the Catholic Relief Services explains it:

**"We fast, or give things up, as a reminder to remove things in our lives that get in the way of our relationship with God. When we feel hungry or choose not to eat the things we like, we are reminded that everything we have is a gift from God."**

**1. Fast from Noise - Silence is a rare gift!** David Haas reiterates the words of Isaiah when he sings "I will come to you in the silence... I have called you and you are mine." Fasting from noise over the course of 40 days in an intentional and prayerful way can serve as an invitation to hearing God's word, God's voice and God's love. **To be continued**

<http://tinyurl.com/jbjp2ya>

**TWO WAYS OF LIFE**

**A Lenten Meditation on God's Love**

I was watching a homily about Christ's Passion the other day, and the priest said, "He has given us everything: His body, his heart, his life, his whole being. He has nothing left to give."

My first thought was: "What? Nothing left to give? This is so unfair. There are still so many things that I need, that I want Him to give me. Sure, it's nice that He forgave my sins, but I also need other things for my life and future..." And yet, the priest's words echoes those of St. Paul: *If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all — how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things* (Rom 8:31b-32).

As I reflected on this, I realized that the reason we Christians are often anxious, fearful or angry is because we do not realize that we are constantly being presented with two choices, two ways of life to choose from: **That of the world, and that of Christ.** **To be continued**

By Audrey YU Jia Hui, a member of St. Peter's International Parish. SPICES can see the original essay with references at <http://tinyurl.com/AudreyYU>



**Return to me with your whole heart** **PARISH EVENTS** **Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned**  
**March 4 - 11**  
**COMING SOON**  
**ROSARY** Saturdays 4:30pm Sundays 10:30am  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES** Sundays 9:30am  
**CHILDREN'S LITURGY AGES 4-6** Sundays During Liturgy of the Word  
**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Sundays 12 noon to 12:30pm Starting MARCH 5 - COME PRAY TOGETHER!  
**BIBLE STUDY** Tuesdays 10:30am & 7pm Room 113  
**YOUTH VISIT NURSING HOME** March 12 12:30pm - 5pm (see below)  
**YOUTH MASS March 18 5pm** YOUTH, please sign up now to serve!  
**Just+YOUTH GATHERING 6pm** Join in the great FUN & FELLOWSHIP!  
**MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM** 1st SESSION MARCH 19 1pm Room 113 Engaged couples, please sign up now!  
 All registrations @ the Help Desk or [stpetersintl@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersintl@gmail.com)

**Just+YOUTH TO VISIT NURSING HOME**  
**Open to All Youth Ages 12 to 18**  
**Next Sunday (March 12)**  
**Leave St. Peter's 12:30pm Return by 5 pm**  
 We welcome donations of hotel toiletry kits (soap, shampoo, etc.), to be distributed to the nursing home residents.  
 For more information, contact Darryl at [darryljuinio@gmail.com](mailto:darryljuinio@gmail.com)

**Pray with Pope Francis in March**  
**For persecuted Christians:** That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

**A Prayer for Lent**  
 Heavenly Father, by the good commandment of love. God of love, bring me back to You. You inspire, help me to love, love, bring me back to You. discipline my body and to be renewed in spirit. Without You, Send Your Spirit to make me strong in faith and active in good works. May my acts of penance bring me Your forgiveness, open my heart to Your love and prepare me for the coming feast of the Resurrection of Jesus. Amen.  
[www.catholic.org/prayers](http://www.catholic.org/prayers)

**Church Tour and Introduction to the Sacraments**  
 On February 25, candidates for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, along with their parents and teachers, were delighted to see Father's colorful vestments and all the sacred vessels used in the Mass. The children were excited at being in the Sanctuary and even asked to hold the tabernacle; they tried stepping onto the ambo, touching the altar table and sitting on the priest's chair!  
**SPECIAL THANKS to Fr. Anthony, First Holy Communion teachers and loving parents!**

**2017 YOUTH RALLY MARCH 24-25**  
**ST. PETER'S YOUTH, come together with Catholic Christians from all over Shanghai and discover:**  
**"Who is Jesus to Me?"**  
**Concordia (CISS), 999 Mingyue Road, Pudong**  
**6:30-9pm Friday, March 24 & 9am-3:30pm Saturday March 25**  
 For more information, contact Lisa D'Souza at [lisaareneedsouza@gmail.com](mailto:lisaareneedsouza@gmail.com)