



# ST. PETER'S CHURCH

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL PARISH



270 South Chongqing Road, Shanghai 200025

Second Sunday of Lent, March 12, 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. 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



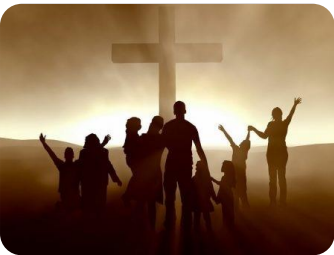
**SACRED HEART CHURCH**

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



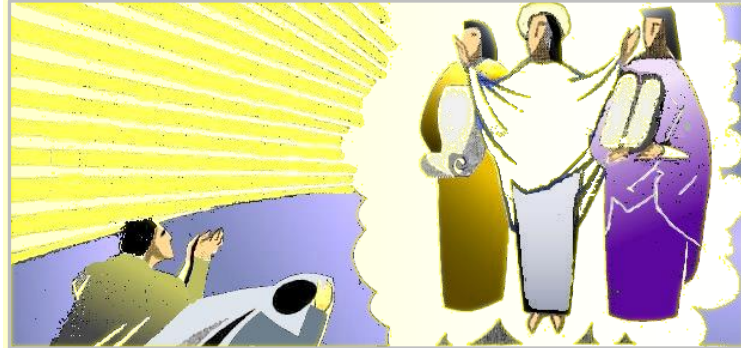
**DAILY READINGS**

Mar. Reading	Psalm	Gospel
12 Gn 12:1-4 2 Tm 1:8-10	Ps 33:4-22	Mt 17:1-9
13 Dn 9:4-10	Ps 79:8-13	Lk 6:36-38
14 Is 1:10-20	Ps 50:8-23	Mt 23:1-12
15 Jr 18:18-20	Ps 31:5-16	Mt 20:17-28
16 Jr 17:5-10	Ps 1:1-6	Lk 16:19-31
17 Gn 37:3-28	Ps 105:16-21	Mt 21:33-46
18 Mi 7:14-20	Ps 103:1-12	Lk 15:1-32



*"Our soul waits for the LORD, who is our help and our shield. May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us who have put our hope in you."*  
Ps 33:20,22

*"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."*



When God told Abraham to leave home, God was asking a lot of him. The world was not a global village then. Travel wasn't easy; there were no planes, taxis or hotels. Furthermore, leaving home was a decisive break with all the good of home, because going back for a visit was difficult or just out of the question entirely.

So leaving home then was a loss that we can't imagine well anymore in our era of video calls and texting.

Still, when God told Abraham to leave, Abraham went.

Why did he go? Presumably because he wanted what God offered him. If Abraham left, God told him, then Abraham would become a great nation, and all the communities of the earth would find blessing in him. That is a fairly stunning reward.

So Abraham, who had a great desire for that reward, obeyed God, left what was familiar and beloved to him, and wandered off as a stranger in a strange land.

And then notice what happened.

Abraham lived a very long time after this promise of God's and he stayed faithful to God's commands his whole life.

But by the time Abraham died, this is all he had: one son to carry on his posterity under this promise and two grandchildren.

By anybody's estimation, this is a very small family. Certainly, one son and two grandsons is not a great nation.

Furthermore, hardly any

communities knew Abraham at all, let alone found a blessing in him.

The idea that all the communities of the earth would find blessing in him really would have been completely laughable at that time, wouldn't it?

Of course, as we now see it, all Jews, Christians and Muslims are the Abrahamic peoples. Many great nations are included among the Abrahamic peoples. All of them know Abraham and think that they find blessing in him.

And so God's stunning promise to Abraham has been completely fulfilled.

But notice that he did not live to see it. He had to take the fulfillment of God's promise to him on faith.

So maybe Abraham is the father of faith because he was willing to stake his life on a promise whose fulfillment did not come in his lifetime on earth.

In this, he is not only the patriarch of the family of faith but also a pattern to follow for all those in his family.

*"Abraham is the father of faith because he was willing to stake his life on a promise whose fulfillment did not come in his lifetime on earth."*

**Eleonore Stump**  
Professor of Philosophy,  
Saint Louis University  
Used with Permission

Lord, your commandment of love is so simple and so challenging. Help me to let go of my pride, to be humble in my penance. I want only to live the way you ask me to love, to love the way you ask me to live. I ask this through your son, Jesus, who stands at my side today and always.  
—Creighton Online Ministries

## Transfiguration: A Sign of HOPE

Today we move from Jesus' retreat into the desert to his Transfiguration. The transfiguration of Jesus is to us a model and a sign of hope.

The man Jesus was really the Lord Jesus. His true and deepest self showed for a brief moment. What we are meant to be in our deepest selves will become apparent if we let Jesus change us and become, with him, people who live for others.

*"Lord Jesus, in our darkness and trials, may you give us the courage to listen to your voice and carry out your plans."*

<https://tinyurl.com/zpne7vp>

Transformation



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS



The Way of the Cross is a way of prayer. One walks, in spirit, with Jesus on His journey to Calvary and meditates on His suffering and death. Each meditation can be a personal meeting with Christ and a new discovery of His presence in one's life. Each meditation can be deeply personal by recalling specific persons places and experiences in one's own life.

30+ Parishioners praying Stations of the Cross on the First Sunday of Lent, using new prayer books! Please do join us!

All parishioners are encouraged to join in! Stations of the Cross Every Sunday, 12 noon to 12:30pm Meet in front of the altar

## Valuable New Ways to FAST During Lent

Fasting during these 40 days of Lent helps keep our focus on Jesus. Here are more new ways to remove things in our lives that keep us away from God:

**2. Fast from Gossip** - Fasting from gossip requires us to pay attention to our words and our motivation for what we share with others in conversation. We ought to soften our hearts and in turn our tongues, too. A community with less gossip, is one that is more loving, empathetic, caring and Christian.

**3. Fast from a Creature Comfort** - Fasting from a "creature comfort" (e.g., air conditioning or a hot shower) during Lent can make us a bit uncomfortable, reminding us in a tangible way of the discomforts many people face on a daily basis. It also reminds us to thank God for a simple gift like heat and to pray for those who are not able to pay their utility bill or who feel cold because they lack love and support in their own lives.

<http://tinyurl.com/jbnp2ya> To be continued



## TWO WAYS OF LIFE

A Meditation on God's Love - Part 2

The world, in its ignorance of God's Love, is constantly bombarding us with the message that our lives don't really matter unless we have or achieve certain things, or do things in a certain way.

That is why those who follow this way are always **unfulfilled and uncertain**. They need to always calculate their plans and make sure they're up to par. They may pray to God, but only as a means of "increasing their chances" of happiness or success. As long as they feel in control of their lives, surroundings and future, they have some measure of comfort.

Christians who wish to abide in Christ's Love and bear lasting fruit must no longer live this way. **There is another way: Christ's Way, the way that leads to Love and life.** To be continued

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



**Return to me with your whole heart**

# PARISH EVENTS

**March 11 - 18**

**Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned**

**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  
**COME PRAY TOGETHER!**

**YOUTH VISIT TO NURSING HOME**  
March 12 12:30pm - 5pm (see below)

**BIBLE STUDY**  
Tuesdays 10:30am & 7pm Room 113

**YOUTH MASS March 18 5pm**  
YOUTH, please sign up now to serve!  
**JUST 4 YOUTH GATHERING 6pm**  
Join in the great FUN & FELLOWSHIP!

**COMING SOON**

**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 4 YOUTH VISIT TO NURSING HOME

**Open to All Youth Ages 12 to 18**

**THIS 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)

## "Go Directly to Confession... Don't Wait"



Lent is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Lord offers us.

+ "Even just on a human level in order to vent, it's good to speak to a brother, confessing to the priest the things that weigh so heavily on your heart."

### ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

+ "Sometimes when you're in line for confession, you feel all sorts of things, especially shame, but when your confession is over, you'll leave free, great, beautiful, forgiven, clean, happy — this is what's beautiful about confession."

**Jesus will be there and he's even nicer than the priest."**

[www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1400689.htm](http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1400689.htm)

## Why Do Catholics Go for Confession?

The Gospels provide numerous examples of Jesus' mission to forgive sins. While only God can forgive sins, the Church is his instrument of forgiveness on earth. On Pentecost Jesus shared with the Apostles his power to forgive sins:

*"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."*

[www.foryourmarriage.org/why-do-catholics-go-to-confession/](http://www.foryourmarriage.org/why-do-catholics-go-to-confession/)

*"No, I say to you: unless you do penance, you shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3*

## 2017 YOUTH RALLY MARCH 24-25

6:30-9pm Friday & 9am-3:30pm Saturday

ST. PETER'S YOUTH, come together with Catholic Christians from all over Shanghai and discover:

**"Who is Jesus to Me?"**



VENUE: Concordia (CISS), 999 Mingyue Road, Pudong  
For more information, contact Lisa D'Souza at [lisareneedsouza@gmail.com](mailto:lisareneedsouza@gmail.com)