

SAINT PIUS X PRIORY
SINGAPORE

WEEKLY BULLETIN
& MASS SCHEDULE

3 MARCH 2019
QUINQUAGESIMA
SUNDAY

Confessions: 30 minutes
before Sunday Masses;
Thursdays and Fridays: 17:45;
Saturdays: 11:00.

2nd Collections:

1st Sunday of the month *for the chapel loan reimbursement.*
3rd Sunday of the month *for the chapel/priory maintenance.*

Children's Catechism on Saturday:

Pre Confirmation: 14:00-14:45
Post Confirmation: 14:00-14:45
1st Communion: 14:45-15:30

Post Confirmation: 14:00-14:45
Older Group (13-18 years): 14:45-15:30

Mass Stipends:

One Mass: \$25
Novena: \$250
Gregorian Masses: \$1,000

SUN 3 March	Quinquagesima Sunday <i>2nd Class, violet</i>	7.30 – Rosary 8.00 – Low Mass 9.30 – Rosary 10.00 – Sung Mass
MON 4 March	St. Casimir <i>Confessor, 3rd Class, white</i>	18.30 – Rosary 19.00 – Low Mass
TUE 5 March	Feria <i>4th Class, violet</i> <u>Monthly Requiem Mass</u>	07.15 – Low Mass 18.30 – Rosary 19.00 – Low Mass (<i>Requiem</i>)
WED 6 March	 Ash Wednesday  <i>1st Class, violet</i>	7.00 – Blessing of Ashes & Low Mass 11.30 – Low Mass & <i>Imposition of Ashes</i> 18.30 – Rosary 19.00 – Low Mass & <i>Imposition of Ashes</i>
THU 7 March	Feria <i>3rd Class, violet</i> <i>St. Thomas Aquinas, Doctor (comm.)</i>	07.15 – Low Mass 18.20 – Rosary & <i>Benediction</i> 19.00 – Low Mass
 FRI 8 March	Feria <i>3rd Class, violet</i> <i>St. John of the Cross, Confessor (comm.)</i>	07.15 – Low Mass 18.20 – Stations of the Cross 19.00 – Low Mass
SAT 9 March	Feria <i>3rd Class, violet</i> <i>St. Frances of Rome, Widow (comm.)</i>	07.15 – Low Mass 11.30 – Low Mass
SUN 10 March	1 st Sunday of Lent <i>1st Class, violet</i>	7.30 – Rosary 8.00 – Low Mass 9.30 – Rosary 10.00 – Sung Mass

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Archconfraternity of St. Stephen. On Sunday, 3 March, there will be a ceremony of enrolments of altar boys.

Faithfuls' Library. You may now borrow books from the library located in the cry room.

Parish Picnic on Sunday, 31 March. Come join two of our priests for a fun-filled sea-front experience for both children and adults at the Changi Civil Service Club, culminating with a BBQ. Two-way transport will leave the Priory at 2.30pm and bring all back to the Priory by approx. 8pm. Please sign up after both Masses on 24th Feb and 10th March 2019. A donation of \$20 per adult is recommended. If you are interested to sponsor / donate any amount for this event, please let us know during sign up. Thank you very much!

Banns of marriage. Mr. Ben Yeo and Miss (Mikaela) Shariel Ng Huan Tin intend to get married on May 1, 2019. If you know any impediment to this wedding, contact Fr. Wailliez promptly.

SOCIETY OF SAINT PIUS X - DISTRICT OF ASIA

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Rev. Fr. P. Summers (District Superior), Fr. B. Wailliez (Prior & District Assistant), Fr. E. Demornex (District Bursar)

Donations to SSPX by cheque: make it payable to "Friends of the SSPX"



THE MONTH OF SAINT JOSEPH

In 1852, 7 courageous “Loretto Sisters” left the safe, secure and civilized state of Kentucky and began the arduous journey to Santa Fe (New Mexico), to answer the call of Bishop Jean-Baptiste Lamy in need of sisters for his diocese.

Loretto Chapel

The sisters did not speak Spanish when they arrived; nevertheless, supported by Bishop Lamy, they started the school the following year in 1853, “*for the education of young ladies*”.

Through tuitions, donations, inheritances, and dowries from their families, they built the convent, chapel and school (titled the Loretto Academy of Our Lady of Light).

Bishop Lamy brought the architect Antoine Mouly from Paris to build his cathedral. As an architect, he had been involved in the renovation of the Ste. Chapelle in Paris, France in the early 1800s. When asked by the Loretto Sisters to design their chapel, he fashioned it in a beautiful Gothic style after the Ste. Chapelle.

Skilled craftsmen and artisans from France and Italy were brought to assist the qualified local builders for the bishop’s cathedral. They also helped with the sister’s chapel. The entire design and craftsmanship were executed majestically but not at a large expense the sisters could not afford.

A problem

The chapel was built with a choir loft but installing stairs was a problem. During the fourth year of the chapel’s construction the sisters faced a dilemma. The school was growing with more students each year. A typical staircase would use too much floor space thereby limiting seating in the chapel. On another hand, using a ladder to ascend the loft would be terrifying and unfitting for the sisters and the girls. Mother Magdalen called in many carpenters to try to build a stairway; but each, in his turn, measured, thought, and then shook his head sadly saying, “*It can’t be done, Mother*” (“*No se puede, Madrecita*”).

These sisters though were ladies of great faith! They decided to entrust the difficulty to the one they had placed the construction of their chapel under: St. Joseph. So, sisters and students together began a 9-day novena to St. Joseph, asking for his intervention. It was not surprising therefore when on the 9th and final day of the novena, there appeared at the school an old, gray-haired and bearded man with a donkey and a tool chest; a carpenter who offered to build the needed staircase. He was hired and proceeded to go to work.

Answer to a prayer

One would not pay an itinerant craftsman until after the job was completed. Mother Magdalen wrote she didn’t

even ask the name of the mysterious carpenter. During these times it was considered immodest for the sisters and the girls to carry on a conversation with a male laborer. They just remembered that the only tools he had were a hammer, a saw and a T square. And he worked during more than 6 months. When the work was completed, Mother Magdalen went to pay him, but he had vanished. She went to the local lumber yard to pay at least for the wood, but they knew nothing of the matter there!



Wonder of construction

The winding stairway that St. Joseph left for the sisters and their students is a masterpiece of beauty and wonder. It makes two complete 360 degree turns. There is no supporting pole up the center as most circular stairways have. This means that it hangs without support, and the transferred weight is solely on the base. Until now, no consensus among engineers having reached to give a scientific explanation.

The short pieces of wood 3 to 5 feet in length were put together only with hundreds of square wooden pegs used with great precision and exceptional craftsmanship. There are no nails, screws nor glue. The assembled structure is comprised of approximately 93 pieces of wood divided amongst 10 for the outside stringer, 8 for the inside stringer, as well as 33 steps and 33 risers.

The perfection of the stringers’ curves is baffling; the wood is spliced along the sides of the stringers and each piece is perfectly curved.

Another mystery of this staircase was the type of wood used. Though the treads have been constantly walked on and were used daily by the sisters and children for over 100 years, nonetheless, only the edges show signs of wear. The wood also appears not to be native to the state of New Mexico, and is in fact, an unknown variety.

This magnificent staircase was St. Joseph’s answer to the sisters’ and students’ prayers. And Devotees of Christ’s Foster Father understood that the humble, silent, generous and exceptional craftsman was St. Joseph himself.