

SAINT PIUS X PRIORY
SINGAPORE

WEEKLY BULLETIN
& MASS SCHEDULE

15 DECEMBER 2019

THIRD SUNDAY
OF
ADVENT

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
Saturdays:**

14:00-14:45
Post 1st Communion I (Eiko)
Pre Confirmation (Catherine)
Post Confirmation (Father)

14:45-15:30
Post 1st Communion II (Catherine)
Older Group (Father)

Mass Stipends:

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

SUN 15 December	3 rd Sunday of Advent <i>1st Class, rose</i>	8:00 — Low Mass 9.30 — Rosary 10:00 — Sung Mass
MON 16 December	Saint Eusebius <i>Bishop & Martyr, 3rd Class, red</i> Feria of Advent (<i>Comm.</i>)	7.15 — Low Mass 18.30 — Rosary 19.00 — Low Mass
TUE 17 December	Feria <i>2nd Class, violet</i>	7.15 — Low Mass 11.30 — Low Mass
WED 18 December	Ember Wednesday <i>2nd Class, violet</i> <i>Fast & Abstinence for SSPX members</i>	7.15 — Low Mass 11.30 — Low Mass
THU 19 December	Feria <i>2nd Class, violet</i>	7.15 — Low Mass 18.20 — Benediction 19.00 — Low Mass
 FRI 20 December	Ember Friday <i>2nd Class, violet</i> <i>Fast & Abstinence for SSPX members</i>	7.15 — Low Mass 18.20 — Stations of the Cross 19.00 — Low Mass
SAT 21 December	Saint Thomas <i>Apostle, 2nd Class, red</i> Ember Saturday (<i>Comm.</i>) <i>Fast & Abstinence for SSPX members</i>	11.30 — Low Mass
SUN 22 December	4 th Sunday of Advent <i>1st Class, violet</i>	8:00 — Low Mass 9.30 — Rosary 10:00 — Sung Mass

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maintenance 2nd collection. 3 weeks ago, we had to replace the aircon near the organ. It costed more than \$3k to replace. We also had to fixed the roof in the entrance.

Last month 2nd collection was less than \$650... Be generous in contributing to the chapel maintenance. **TY Christmas Schedule.** The midnight Mass will start at midnight (yes!) and the low Mass of the day at 9.00 (instead of 8 and 10 o'clock).

Christmas gifts. Christmas gifts items for sale at the bookshop.

Calendars 2020. The new calendars are now available in the bookshop. \$8 for one, \$15 for two pieces.

Children's Catechism. The catechism with the Fathers will resume in January.

2020 Lourdes Pilgrimage. The District of Asia organises a pilgrimage to France from Monday, 19th October 2020 to Wednesday, 28th October 2020 (10 days / 9 nights). The cost, based on 50 passengers, is the following: EUR1,345 (trip and accommodations within France) + EUR786 (Singapore Airlines round trip plane ticket) = EUR2,131 (or roughly SGD3,250).

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)

Donation: "Friends of the SSPX" (cheque and bank transfer) - 0039073844 (DBS bank acct) - 1433004952 (UOB bank acct)



THE STORY OF THE FIRST NATIVITY SCENE

St. Francis of Assisi had a special devotion to the Child Jesus, and he is credited with creating the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve of the year 1223. It is believed that St. Francis was first inspired by this idea after visiting the historical place of Christ's birth on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land—the humble stable in a Bethlehem cave.

St. Francis recreated the scene of Christ's birth in a special ritual and Mass he held inside of a cave in Greccio, Italy, inviting both his fellow friars and the townspeople to join in the celebration.

Later he told a friend why he desired to create the first nativity scene in his town:

"I want to do something that will recall the memory of that Child who was born in Bethlehem, to see with bodily eyes the inconveniences of his infancy, how he lay in the manger, and how the ox and ass stood by."

He set up an empty manger (the feeding trough of farm animals which served as Jesus' crib) inside a cave, and even included a live ox and donkey beside the manger just as it was believed to have happened on that first Christmas night. Through these visual aids he wanted everyone to impress more deeply into their understanding how Christ came into the world in such poverty and simplicity. This was a typical perspective of St. Francis' unique charism of simple, poverty-centered spirituality.

St. Bonaventure (1221 - 1274), a disciple and contemporary of St. Francis, has given us a complete account of the night of the first live nativity scene:

"It happened in the third year before his death, that in order to excite the inhabitants of Greccioto commemorate the nativity of the Infant Jesus with great devotion, [St. Francis] determined to keep it with all possible solemnity; and lest he should be accused of lightness or novelty, he asked and obtained the permission of the sovereign Pontiff. Then he prepared a manger, and brought hay, and an ox and an ass to the place appointed.

The brethren were summoned, the people ran together, the forest resounded with their voices, and that venerable night was made glorious by many and brilliant lights and sonorous psalms of praise.

The man of God [St. Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears



and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem."

The first nativity scene is also associated with an apparition of the Baby Jesus to those gathered with St. Francis on that day. This must have been Jesus' way of giving his praise and blessing to the nativity scene, which was a novelty in its time and had never been done before.

Again, St. Bonaventure continues the story, "A certain valiant and veracious soldier, Master John of Greccio, who, for the love of Christ, had left the warfare of this world, and become a dear friend of this holy man, affirmed that he beheld an Infant marvellously beautiful, sleeping in the manger, Whom the blessed Father Francis embraced with both his arms, as if he would awake Him from sleep.

This vision of the devout soldier is credible, not only by reason of the sanctity of him that saw it, but by reason of the miracles which afterwards confirmed its truth. For example of Francis, if it be considered by the world, is doubtless sufficient to excite all hearts which are negligent in the faith of Christ; and the hay of that manger, being preserved by the people, miraculously cured all diseases of cattle, and many other pestilences; God thus in all things glorifying his servant, and witnessing to the great efficacy of his holy prayers by manifest prodigies and miracles."

<https://www.getfed.com/story-francis-assisi-first-nativity-scene-5955/>