

**Reflection:** Nehemiah was a prophet (after Ezra) active during the first exile. The 1<sup>st</sup> reading showed us the encouragement Ezra offered to his people. Reading further, the people celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for 7 days & on the 8<sup>th</sup> day gather in penitence to recall past sins (especially of mixed marriages). Jesus's ministry took place when the Jews were under Roman rule. The parallels of Jesus, are similar to Ezra-Nehemiah: first a celebration of his birth, and then his mission of repentance.



**Entrance:** 567 God We Praise You

**Entrance Ant.:** *O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.*

**Ordinaries:** *Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII*

**Psalm:** *Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.*

**Gospel Acc.:** *The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives.*

**Offertory:** 647 Lord Of All Hopefulness

**Communion Ant.:** *Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.*

**Communion:** **The Lord's My Shepherd (Bro James Air)**

**Recessional:** 569 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

**Marian Anthem:** Alma Redemptoris Mater

**Conductor:**

**Cantor:**

**Organist:**

**On Leave:**

## Announcements

### 1. Saturday, February 16, 2019, 1pm – 3pm

#### SPP CHOIR Annual General Meeting & Dinner

We would like to invite you to share with us how your chorister & ministry journey has been for 2018. Please also let us know any issues or topics that you would like to raise so that we can cater time for addressing any of these issues that we may not have been aware of.

Please leave your feedback at <http://bit.ly/sppc2018review>

After AGM & Mass, we shall adjourn for dinner together as a ministry. Details to be confirmed.

### 2. SPP CHOIR Calendar for 2019

Please take note of dates in the calendar for 2019 and let Chris / Kenneth know if you would like to offer your assistance to any of the events. Any contribution of your time and service will always be greatly appreciated.



# January 2019 (Year C)



## STS. PETER & PAUL CHOIR

### Liturgical Appreciation

Why is *Baptism of the Lord* (Jan 13) celebrated before the *Presentation of the Lord* (Feb 2)?

The “Presentation of the Lord” dates back to the Jewish feast of *purification* for the woman who had given birth. And since Jesus was the first born, as a child, he too would need to undergo the ritual to be redeemed in the temple. This takes place about 40 days after the child is born. Hence, February 2 marks the date for the “Presentation of the Lord”.

There used to be celebrations for an octave for major solemnities. Epiphany had its own octave. But in 1955, this practice underwent reform in the Liturgical calendar. The Baptism of the Lord is an Eastern Church tradition which was later adopted by the Roman Church. And it was placed in the octave of Epiphany for the Roman Church (Jan 13, a week after Epiphany's Jan 6)

In 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted a separate liturgical commemoration of the Baptism of the Lord. Pope John Paul II initiated a custom whereby on this feast, the Pope baptizes babies in the Sistine Chapel.

In the years leading up to Vatican II and the years shortly after, the issue of “outside the Church there is no salvation” (Pope Gregory XVI, *Summo Iugiter Studio*, 1832) was heavily discussed. The Church's traditional stand that baptism is a significant sacrament toward Salvation was taught by earlier Church Fathers in various councils, namely Innocent III (Synod of Lateran IV, 1215), and Eugene IV (Council of Florence, 1439)

The scripture that reinforces this: “unless we are born again of water and the Spirit, we cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven” (John 3:5)

Hence, by Jesus' own baptism, he shows the example for all of us to follow. That through the first Sacrament of Initiation, then may we enter into a life with God.

## Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> December: The Holy Family

**Reflection:** It must seem strange that Hannah would give up the child she had petitioned God for so many years, in service of Him when she offered Samuel to the Lord through Eli. The virtue that Hannah displayed, was faithfulness to God – a response to the faithfulness that God had granted her by answering her prayer. And in the Gospel, we see the same faithfulness displayed in Jesus when he stayed in the temple. The story shows how perplexed his parents were, not to show how irresponsible Jesus, but that if one relies on earthly instinct, it would be easy to be anxious without faith.



**Entrance:** 327 Once In Royal David's City

**Entrance Ant.:** *The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.*

**Ordinaries:** Mass VIII (de Angelis)

**Psalm:** *O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways..*

**Gospel Acc.:** *Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son.*

**Offertory:** 332 Angels From the Realms of Glory

**Communion Ant.:** *Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.*

**Communion:** 335 In The Bleak Midwinter

**Recessional:** 303 Joy to the World

**Marian Anthem:** Alma Redemptoris Mater

**Conductor:**

**Cantor:**

**Organist:**

**On Leave:**

## Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> January: Baptism of the Lord

**Reflection:** The Nativity at the manger; the revelation to the Magi; the Baptism of the Lord, and then the Presentation of the Lord. These major milestones mark the hierarchy of the revelation of Christ to humanity. From his revelation to his people (Christmas), to the revelation to the world (Epiphany), the Baptism of the Lord represents his revelation of endorsement by God as his heavenly Father. From the 1<sup>st</sup> reading, Isaiah exhorts that God himself will show himself in his glory to his people. And the people waited about 700 years for the prophecies to be realized.



**Entrance:** 462 All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name

**Entrance Ant.:** *After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*

**Ordinaries:** Mass VIII (de Angelis)

**Psalm:** *Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.*

**Gospel Acc.:** *Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*

**Offertory:** 638 Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring

**Communion Ant.:** *Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.*

**Communion:** Puer Natus Est

**Recessional:** 590 Sing Praise To God Who Reigns Above

**Marian Anthem:** Alma Redemptoris Mater

**Conductor:**

**Cantor:**

**Organist:**

**On Leave:**

## Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> January: Epiphany

**Reflection:** The Father has sent Jesus as Light of the world so that all nations may be saved. Jesus' light is a light which the darkness will never overcome (John 1:5). It is man's innate reflex to move towards areas of brightness and light. But in our shame, weakness and guilt, sometimes we prefer to hide in the habit of darkness. Since the Light of Christ has been revealed to us, choose to bask in His light, and take up the challenge to also be the light of the world for others. Arise and shine out, for your light has come.



**Entrance:** 332 Angels from Realms of Glory

**Entrance Ant.:** *Arise Jerusalem and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting*

**Ordinaries:** Mass VIII (de Angelis)

**Psalm:** *All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.*

**Gospel Acc.:** *We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage.*

**Offertory:** 304 God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

**Communion Ant.:** *We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.*

**Communion:** 335 In The Bleak Midwinter

**Recessional:** 313 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**Marian Anthem:** 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater (Chant)

**Conductor:**

**Cantor:**

**Organist:**

**On Leave:**

## Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> January: 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Sunday

**Reflection:** The themes of marriage in today's 1<sup>st</sup> reading and Gospel highlight to us the social- cultural themes that humanity chooses to parallel God's relationship with us. God wants to marry us – and thus, he allows us to experience earthly marriages as a foretaste of our own marriage with Christ as the bridegroom of the Church. It is also interesting to see how the Gospel of the Wedding at Cana is featured here right after the "revelation" readings of past weeks. Jesus reveals himself as the provider of the wine – the cup of his passion, his blood – everything in relation to his marriage with us.



**Entrance:** 567 God We Praise You

**Entrance Ant.:** *All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!*

**Ordinaries:** Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII

**Psalm:** *Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.*

**Gospel Acc.:** *Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life.*

**Offertory:** 647 Lord Of All Hopefulness

**Communion Ant.:** *You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.*

**Communion:** **The Lord's My Shepherd (Bro James Air) (\*new)**

**Recessional:** 569 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

**Marian Anthem:** Alma Redemptoris Mater

**Conductor:**

**Cantor:**

**Organist:**

**On Leave:**