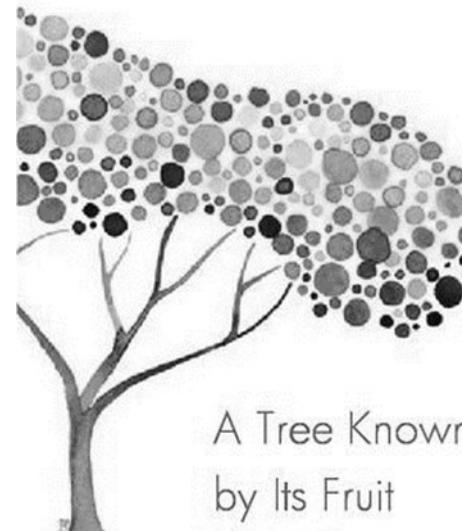


**Thursday, March 8: Saint John of God**

*John was born in Portugal on March 8, 1495. He worked as a soldier of fortune, an overseer of slaves, a shepherd, a crusader, a bodyguard and a peddler. Wracked by guilt over his wasted life, he sought the counsel of John of Avila, who helped him dedicate himself to the care of the sick and the poor. Others joined him and they became known as the Order of Brothers Hospitallers or Brothers of St. John of God. John died on his birthday in 1550 and was canonized in 1690. He is a patron of hospitals and the sick.*



**8th Sunday in Ordinary Time**



**ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER**

**3 March 2019**

**Special Mass Schedule of Ash Wednesday (6 March 2019)**

Mass will be held at 7.45am, 6pm and 9pm on Ash Wednesday, 6 March 2019.

Ashes will be given out during **7.45am, 6pm & 9pm.**

All faithful aged 14 are to abstain from meat, and those aged between 18 and 60 are obliged to fast.

**Lent — Stations of the Cross**



During the season of Lent, we will have the Stations of the Cross in the parish every **Wednesday and Friday** after the 6:00pm Mass.

**Gospel-Luke 6:39-45**

Jesus told his disciples a parable, "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,' when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye.

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks."

**ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH 37 GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG**

T: (852) 2522-3992 F: (852) 2537-7463 W: <http://www.stjosephs.hk> E: [saintjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:saintjoseph@gmail.com)

**Eucharistic Celebrations**

Weekdays: 7:45 a.m., 12 noon & 6:00 p.m. Anticipated Sunday Masses: Saturday 6:00 p.m.  
Sundays: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Tagalog Masses: 1, 2:30 & 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday School Mass at St. Joseph's College, 7 Kennedy Road, Hong Kong 9 a.m.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS

In today's parable, Jesus reminds his disciples about the right conduct toward recognizing the faults of others. Jesus does not prohibit correcting those who err or are in a sinful state. The governing thought of Jesus is that passing judgment should be done in the spirit of prayer, great humility, compassion, and love. Hypocrites are concerned only with the splinter of one's eye and do not recognize their own self-blinding plank. Do we humbly recognize our sins and errors? Do we pass judgment with arrogance and pride? Let us ask Our Father for forgiveness... *I confess...*

## HEADINGS FOR READINGS

**Sirach 27:4-7** - The need for being wise in words and actions.

**1 Corinthians 15:54-58** - Death no longer has effect for those who believe in the Resurrection of Jesus.

**Luke 6:39-45** - A good person out of the goodness in his heart produces good.

## SCRIPTURE NOTE

In today's readings we hear Jesus speaking in Galilee as well as a Jewish sage named Sirach writing in Jerusalem more than a century earlier. The two of them touch upon a single truth: The words that come out of us make known the hidden thoughts within us. Speech reveals the secrets of the heart.

Sirach teaches that speaking is "the test of men" and their character. One who is upright will utter words that are truthful and encouraging to others. But one whose heart is cluttered with "refuse" will be exposed, since the "fruit" of his mouth speaks volumes about the "tree" that produces it. Sirach also compares the testing of our words to clay fired in a kiln — if properly prepared, a useful vessel emerges; but if the clay is not fully dried, it will break apart in the extreme heat.

In a similar way, Jesus insists that a person speaks "out of the abundance of the heart". He too compares our speech, whether good or bad, to what grows on a tree: "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit".

Both readings urge us to make wholesome speech a habit. After all, much about who we are is brought to light through what we say. But there's an additional step: The Lord is asking us to look inward, to examine our hearts and fill them with the "good treasure" that God desires.

Why do purity of heart and speech matter so much? Because, as Jesus declares elsewhere: "by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned". They matter because they help to decide our final judgment, and this is where the Second Reading comes in. Paul reminds us that God will destroy death forever, and if we are to share in this victory and live forever with the Lord, then we must take all steps necessary to give our hearts and lips to what is good. (Scott Hann)

The  
**WORD**  
by name  
is Jesus Christ

## Calendars



### Monday, March 4: Saint Casimir

*Casimir was born in Poland in 1458, the son of Casimir IV, King of Poland. Involved in government affairs, he was renowned for his sense of justice and his care for the poor. He died of tuberculosis when he was 26 and was buried in Vilnius, Lithuania. Casimir is the patron saint of Lithuania and one of the patrons of Poland.*

### Wednesday, March 7: Saint Perpetua & Saint Felicity

*Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, a slave, were killed for their faith on March 7, 203, in Carthage. Perpetua's diary and accounts by eyewitnesses provide a vivid picture of the martyrs' experiences.*

*During the persecution of Christians by Emperor Severus, several catechumens were arrested, among them Perpetua with her infant son and the pregnant Felicity. They were baptized while under arrest.*

*After being flogged, the Christians were led to the amphitheatre, exposed to the wild beasts, and beheaded.*

