

16 December 2012 - 3rd Sunday of Advent (Year C)

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than halfway in the Advent season, today the liturgy repeatedly invites us to rejoice. Although we have many reasons to be sad because of so much suffering, violence, and hatred throughout the world, both the prophet Zephaniah and the apostle Paul tell us that the reasons to rejoice are even greater.

In all these trials we are not on our own: **THE LORD IS NEAR!**

He is near not as an impotent friend but as a mighty Savior. He is near us not as an indifferent onlooker, but as a loving brother who comes to share our burden of sorrows in order to make us share in his inheritance of eternal happiness.

In response to this heart-warming message, we are expected to do our part. In practical terms, following the invitation of John the Baptist, this means we have to be generous to our needy neighbor, to be fair in our dealings with others, and to be instruments of God's loving care for all.

Let this be the commitment we renew in the Eucharistic celebration.



We take this opportunity today to welcome all our brothers and sisters who are visiting us this joyful season. Although you may not be able to visit us regularly, we are happy that you are with us during these Special Days and we hope that you will visit your spiritual home of THE FILIPINO CATHOLIC MISSION OF MONTREAL more often. Be assured of our fraternal prayers for all of you!



SIMBANGGABI 2012- Everyone is invited to assist at the **SIMBANGGABI 2012**, the central feature of the Filipino Christmas Celebration from December 15 –23, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. Those who are interested to sponsor any of the 'Aguinaldo' Masses are requested to contact Mrs. Susie Alejandro, Mrs. Luming Silverio or the FCMM Office.

REMINDER: Aguinaldo Mass' sponsorship has a minimum donation of \$25.00. (Tax Receipt eligible)

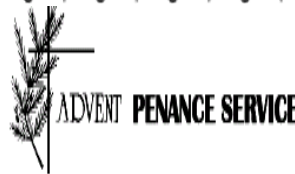


Raise funds for the FCMM every time you shop!

Shopping cards for many local stores, gasoline stations, and supermarkets are now available to all who wish to support our church. Cards are available in amounts from \$25.00 to \$100.00. **5% of your purchase goes to support our parish!**

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO PUT IN YOUR ORDERS TO BE ABLE TO GET THEM IN TIME BEFORE CHRISTMAS !

For more information and details see Ms. Marites Quirapas



Our **ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE** will be held on Sunday, December 23rd before the 11:30 a.m. Mass and at 7:00pm. before the Simbanggabi Mass. There will be a number of priests in attendance. This celebration is one of the best ways for each of us to prepare for the Feast of Christmas. Please find time to attend !



YEAR 2013 ENVELOPES will be available for pick-up starting December 23. Please contact Mr. Mel Villanueva or the FCMM Office for inquiries.



Where do we begin to grow in our knowledge and experience of faith during this Year of Faith? It is a simple question with a seemingly simple answer. Begin with the [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) or take some time to read the actual documents from [Vatican Council II](#). After all the Year of Faith began on October 11, 2012, which was the 50th anniversary of the beginning of Vatican II and the 20th anniversary of the release of the *Catechism*. In light of these significant milestones shouldn't one begin there?

We certainly can, but let us turn it over to Pope Benedict XVI himself for the answer to the question: "**But where do we find the essential formula of faith? Where do we find the truths that we have been faithfully transmitted and which are the light for our daily life? The** answer is simply: in **the Creed, in the Profession of Faith or Symbol of the Faith**, we reconnect to the original event of the person and history of Jesus of Nazareth, it makes concrete what the Apostle of the Gentiles said to the Christians of Corinth: 'For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures' ([1 Cor 15:3](#)).

The Holy Father shared these words at his first [General Audience](#) following the beginning of the Year of Faith, announcing that the Creed would be the focus of a new series of catechesis at his weekly audiences.

This exercise, however, needs to be more than just an "educational" activity. He reminds us that this is about an encounter with an event – with a person – Jesus Christ. Therefore we should approach the Creed in prayer anticipating that in reflecting on the words we will "reconnect" with the Savior of the world. Pope Benedict XVI emphasized this when he said: "Even today the Creed needs to be known, understood, and prayed. Above all it is important that the Creed is, so to speak, 'recognized'. In fact, knowing it, could only be an intellectual operation, while 'recognizing' it means the need to discover the deep connection between the truths we profess in the Creed and our daily lives, so that these truths may truly and effectively be – as they always were – light for the steps to our living, water that irrigates the scorching heat of our journey, life that conquers certain deserts of contemporary life."

We have taken up the Holy Father's challenge and has decided to go back to the roots of our Christian faith – our *Credo*. Ultimately such a reflection of our Profession of Faith, enhanced by our additional studies and prayer, will draw us into a more intimate relationship with the Lord of all life, Jesus Christ.



This year's Christmas Novena Masses will take the theme proposed by the Holy Father as its own : **REDISCOVERING THE CREED : OUR FORMULA OF FAITH.**

This year's SIMBANGGABI will help us prepare to renew and strengthen the joy of our faith, understanding that it is not something alien, disconnected from real life, but it is its very soul. It is to be a path of discovery, of catechesis and of celebration of God's gift for the life of the world and a Faith in a God who is love,

and who came close to man, taking on his flesh and giving Himself on the cross to save us and open the gates of heaven to us once more, brightly indicating that the fullness of man is found only in love the love of God.



SIMBANGGABI 2012

DECEMBER 15- 23 – 7:30 P.M.

Each of the Novena Masses will carry a sub-theme that will help us explore the Creed in greater depths.

- Dec.15 (SATURDAY) - **INTRODUCTION : FAITH AS PERSONAL and ECCLESIAL RESPONSE TO GOD**
- Dec. 16 (SUNDAY) - **GOD THE FATHER**
- Dec. 17 (MONDAY) - **JESUS CHRIST, THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD, BECOME MAN: HIS INCARNATION**
- Dec. 18 (TUESDAY) - **JESUS CHRIST: HIS LIFE AND TEACHINGS and HIS HEALING MINISTRY**
- Dec. 19 (WEDNESDAY) - **JESUS CHRIST: HIS PASSION, DEATH AND RESURRECTION- APEX OF REDEMPTION and HIS ASCENSION AND SECOND COMING**
- Dec. 20 (THURSDAY) - **THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE LORD AND GIVER OF LIFE**
- Dec. 21 (FRIDAY) - **THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST - A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS and THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS**
- Dec. 22 (SATURDAY) - **THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS**
- Dec. 23 (SUNDAY) - **THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY and LIFE EVERLASTING**

We hope you could come and join in this opportunity to pray together and strengthen our bond and perceive the relation of all the themes and see in their explanations the chance to celebrate in a deeply spiritual way this year's Christmas, with the eagerness to share the Filipino traditional Christmas festivity.



ONCE MORE... THANK YOU VERY MUCH to everyone who made last week-end's celebration of our 23rd Anniversary **A BIG SUCCESS !**
MABUHAY ang Simbahang Pilipino ng Montreal !



STEWARDSHIP - "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God."
- Philippians 4:6-7

Your Offerings for the week ending
December 9, 2012 totaled
\$ 1, 465. 00



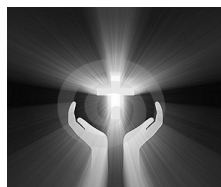
Thank you for your continuing generosity
God bless you always!!!

WHAT IS A REASONABLE WEEKLY DONATION MY PARISH?

One suggestion that we make is to consider donating the equivalent of your **"First Hour of Work"** each week to the Lord.



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As the commemoration of our Lord's Birth is at our doorstep, let us remember the billions of people for whom Christmas will be like any other day. Jesus still has to be born in their hearts. Let us pray for them:
"O RADIANT DAWN, SPLENDOR OF ETERNAL LIGHT, SUN OF JUSTICE, SHINE ON THOSE WHO DWELL IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH."



The **SANCTUARY LAMP** this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** and **AS THANKSGIVING** offered by **CARING, BUTCH, BABY LYNN and LAIZA.**

